

SOCIOLOGY

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649211258

Sociology by John Bascom

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JOHN BASCOM

SOCIOLOGY

BY THE SAME AUTHOR.

- I. The Philosophy of English Literature.** Lectures delivered before the Lowell Institute, Boston. 12mo, cloth, \$1.75
- II. The Principles of Psychology.** 12mo, cloth . . . 1.75
- III. Comparative Psychology; or, The Growth and Grades of Intelligence.** 12mo, cloth 1.75
- IV. Science, Philosophy, and Religion.** 12mo, cloth . 1.75
- V. The Philosophy of Religion; or, The Rational Grounds of Religious Belief.** 12mo, cloth 1.75
- VI. The Principles of Ethics.** 12mo, cloth 1.75
- VII. The Principles of Natural Theology.** 12mo, cloth, 1.75
- VIII. Philosophy of Rhetoric.** 8vo, cloth 1.75
- IX. Science of Mind.** 8vo, cloth 2.00
- X. Words of Christ.** 8vo, cloth 1.75

G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS, NEW YORK.

SOCIOLOGY

BY

JOHN BASCOM

AUTHOR OF "POLITICAL ECONOMY," "ETHICS," ETC.

NEW YORK & LONDON
G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS
The Knickerbocker Press

COPYRIGHT BY
G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS
1887.

Press of
G. P. Putnam's Sons.
New York.

gr.

H M
51
B293s

THIS VOLUME, GLEANED AMID THE LENGTHENING SHADOWS OF
LIFE, IS AFFECTIONATELY INSCRIBED TO
ARTHUR LATHAM PERRY,
WITH WHOM, IN THE FIRST ENTHUSIASM OF EFFORT, I
OPENED MY INQUIRIES INTO THIS CLASS OF
SUBJECTS.

1491071



PREFACE.

THOUGH the work here offered the public is termed Sociology, it does not promise a full and systematic discussion of the subject. Its aim is more simple and narrow. It passes familiar principles, and principles to which the author can make no important additions, and concentrates attention on points at which he is best able to reward it; and this with only secondary reference to general symmetry. There is in the book a constant unwillingness to accumulate material of no new value.

The work is, however, a sociology in the fact that all its discussions tend to outline the entire field, and to give, in their relation to each other, the distinct departments which it embraces. While theoretical completeness is by no means a matter of indifference in this treatise, there is a predominant interest in questions of immediate moment to society. Not much is attempted by way of formal inductive proof. The mind is easily misled by the appearance of this proof, when it is really wanting. The facts of society cover so large a field, and are so flexible in interpretation, that it is not difficult to marshal them in considerable numbers in behalf of any fairly rational statement. Falstaff's ragged regiment can be picked up by the roadside. These promiscuous facts have more effect on the mind than properly belongs to them.

No proof can rest ultimately on simple facts as facts. It must lie in their interpretation, their rational rendering. That view which broadly covers human experience, and

gives to it the light of fitting ideas, is thereby proved. It, and it only, addresses itself to rational insight and satisfies it. A good deal, therefore, which to the empirical mind may seem to be proof is not proof, and much that seems to it simple assertion carries with it the most complete authority. What we have to say will occasionally come under this condemnation of lacking proof, simply because the proof we rely on is the coherent connection of ideas, and the suitability of these ideas to the facts which they cover. This suitability will not show itself as a contact established here and there with human experience, but as a broad conformity to it over wide surfaces. Whether the idea offered gives light, each man must decide for himself; and if it gives light it will not be necessary often to say: Behold, this and this are now visible.

Our facts will be chiefly used as illustrations, making the idea more plain. The proof must stand forth in its own light, and in the reflected light of the manifold things illuminated by it. While we believe most devoutly in an empirical method as bringing to speculation its only safe lines of thought, and its only sufficient corrections within those lines, we must still think that the mind is satisfied only with its own fruits; that the ultimate is made ultimate by the mind itself, is the simple assurance of intellectual vision. Light so opens the world that we have only occasion to see by means of it; and if we see, we shall ask no farther proof of the light which makes the revelation.

In this work I have again done what I have already been criticised for doing: I have covered a large field suggestively, rather than a narrow field exhaustively. Something is due to one's habit of mind in choice of method. I think also that this method is often to be