

**CHAPTERS IN LOGIC; CONTAINING  
SIR WILLIAM HAMILTON'S LECTURES  
ON MODIFIED LOGIC, AND  
SELECTIONS FROM THE PORT ROYAL  
LOGIC. WITH PREF. BY S.S. NELLES**

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Chapters in logic; containing Sir William Hamilton's Lectures on modified logic, and selections from the Port Royal logic. With pref. by S.S. Nelles by Sir William Hamilton

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# CHAPTERS IN LOGIC;

CONTAINING

SIR WILLIAM HAMILTON'S LECTURES ON  
MODIFIED LOGIC,

AND SELECTIONS FROM

## THE PORT ROYAL LOGIC.

WITH PREFACE

BY THE

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## P R E F A C E.

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THIS little volume is a reprint of Sir WILLIAM HAMILTON'S *Lectures on Modified Logic*, and of the most valuable portions of the famous *Port Royal Logic*, translated by T. S. BAYNES. The design of the publication is to provide, in cheap and convenient form, a Manual or Text-Book, on what Hamilton calls "Modified or Concrete Logic," but what others have variously designated as Applied or Practical Logic.

Whatever may be thought of the propriety of including this department of study within the science of Logic, there can be no doubt of its very great importance, and just as little doubt of its having been sadly neglected. Those who have not mastered the elements of formal or technical Logic, as well as those who have, may derive immense advantage from a careful perusal of these pages.

The merits of Sir William Hamilton are so well known, that it is perhaps unnecessary here to say anything in commendation of that part of the volume which was written by him. It may, however, be well to mention,

that his *Lectures on Modified Logic* are here given in full, without alteration either of the arrangement or the text. From the nature of their topics, they form a distinct discussion in themselves, and suffer nothing in being separated from the other lectures in which the eminent author has so ably treated of the formal laws of thought.

The other work,—the *Port Royal Logic*,—is less generally known, but is regarded by high authorities as one of the very best of the many books extant on the science of Logic. “The treatise,” says Mr. Baynes, “is characterised throughout by a vigor of thought, a vivacity of criticism, a freshness and variety of illustration, an honesty and love of truth, and withal a human sympathy, which rendered it a work not only of specific scientific value, but of general interest and instruction. Logic was thus redeemed from the contempt into which it had fallen, and placed on a level with the advancing philosophy of the time.”

To this may be added the testimony of Baron de Gerando, as cited by Mr. Baynes. Speaking of the parts which especially merit praise, he says,—“Above all, that beautiful Dissertation on the Origin of Prejudices, and their influence on the vices of reasoning in civil life. This Dissertation, indeed, constitutes, of itself, an entirely new Logic—one almost sufficient, and far more important than all the apparatus of the peripatetic Logic; and it must be recorded to the praise of the Port Royal writers that this is a part of their work which is peculiarly their own.”



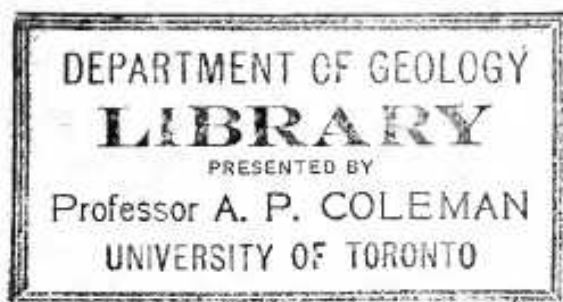
Dugald Stewart, also, in his *Dissertation on the Progress of Philosophy*, speaks of the *Port Royal Logic* as "a treatise of which it is hardly possible to estimate the merits too highly." And again:—"No publication certainly, prior to *Locke's Essay*, can be named, containing so much good sense and so little nonsense on the science of Logic; and very few have since appeared on the same subject which can be justly preferred to it in point of practical utility. If the author had lived in the present age, or had been less fettered by a prudent regard to existing prejudices, the technical part would probably have been reduced within a still narrower compass; but even there he has contrived to substitute, for the puerile and contemptible examples of common logicians, several interesting illustrations from the physical discoveries of his immediate predecessors; and has indulged himself in some short excursions, which excite a lively regret that he has not more frequently and freely given scope to his original reflections. Among these excursions, the most valuable, in my opinion, is the *Twentieth Chapter of the Third Part*, which deserves the attention of every logical student, as an important and instructive supplement to the enumeration of sophisms given by Aristotle."

The Editor of this compilation has confined his selections from the *Port Royal Logic* to this "twentieth chapter," which is given entire (with the exception of a few lines), and to those portions of the Preliminary Discourse which

are of general application. These selections make a suitable introduction to the Lectures of Hamilton on *Modified Logic*, and the two together furnish about the best instruction that can be had on this important branch of the science of Logic.

We live in times remarkable for the awakening and emancipation of thought. This is matter of rejoicing; but freedom of thought brings responding dangers and responsibilities, and we cannot do too much to aid the inquiring multitudes in the proper use of that right of private judgment of which we are so justly proud. Works like the one here presented may serve to show that all intellectual activity has its laws, the violation of which brings invariable and heavy penalties; may teach us to beware of the immoralities of the intellect; may put those who are trying to think, in the way of thinking soundly, by furnishing them with the best rules and cautions known to the world's great thinkers; and may help us forward to that "good time coming," when in moral, political, and religious affairs, men shall proceed with something like the steadiness, precision, and certainty, which have already begun to mark the pursuit of mathematical and physical science.

VICTORIA COLLEGE,  
March 31st, 1870.



## THE PORT-ROYAL LOGIC

1853

### CHAPTER I.

PRELIMINARY—IN WHICH THE DESIGN OF THIS NEW LOGIC IS SET FORTH.

THERE is nothing more desirable than good sense, and accuracy of thought, in discriminating between truth and falsehood. All other qualities of mind are of limited use ; but exactness of judgment is of general utility in every part, and in all the employments of life. It is not alone in the sciences that it is difficult to distinguish truth from error, but also in the greater part of those subjects which men discuss in their every-day affairs. There are, in relation to almost everything, different routes—the one true, the other false—and it is reason which must choose between them. Those who choose well, are they who have minds well-regulated ; those who choose ill, are those who have minds ill-regulated : and this is the first and most important difference which we find between the qualities of men's minds.

Thus the main object of our attention should be, to form our judgment, and render it as exact as possible ; and to this end, the greater part of our study ought to tend. We