

**BOSTON MONDAY LECTURES.
TRANSCENDENTALISM, WITH
PRELUDES ON CURRENT
EVENTS**

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Boston Monday Lectures. Transcendentalism, with Preludes on Current Events by Joseph Cook

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JOSEPH COOK

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By JOSEPH COOK.

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"They who reject the testimony of the self-evident truths will find
nothing surer on which to build."—ARISTOTLE.

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1878.

INTRODUCTION.

THE object of the Boston Monday Lectures is to present the results of the freshest German, English, and American scholarship on the more important and difficult topics concerning the relation of Religion and Science.

They were begun in the Meinaon in 1875; and the audiences, gathered at noon on Mondays, were of such size as to need to be transferred to Park-street Church in October, 1876, and thence to Tremont Temple, which was often more than full during the winter of 1876-77.

The audiences contained large numbers of ministers, teachers, and other educated men.

The thirty-five lectures of the last season were stenographically reported in the Boston Daily Advertiser, and most of them were republished in full in New York and London.

The lectures on Biology oppose the materialistic, and not the theistic, theory of Evolution.

The lectures on Transcendentalism contain a discussion of the views of Theodore Parker.

The Committee having charge of the Boston Monday Lectures for the coming year consists of the following gentlemen:—

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| HIS Excellency A. H. RICE, Governor of Massachusetts. | Prof. EDWARDS A. PARK, LL.D., Andover Theological Seminary. |
| Hon. ALPHUS HARDY. | Right Rev. BISHOP FOSTER. |
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| E. M. McPHERSON. | M. R. DEMING, <i>Secretary</i> . |

HENRY F. DURANT, *Chairman*.

Boston, September, 1877.

PUBLISHERS' NOTE.

IN the careful reports of Mr. Cook's Lectures printed in the Boston Daily Advertiser, were included by the stenographer sundry expressions (applause, &c.) indicating the immediate and varying impressions with which the Lectures were received. Though these reports have been thoroughly revised by the author, the publishers have thought it advisable to retain these expressions. Mr. Cook's audiences included, in large numbers, representatives of the broadest scholarship, the profoundest philosophy, the acutest scientific research, and generally of the finest intellectual culture, of Boston and New England; and it has seemed admissible to allow the larger assembly to which these Lectures are now addressed to know how they were received by such audiences as those to which they were originally delivered.

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**INTUITION, INSTINCT, EXPERIMENT, SYLLOGISM,
AS TESTS OF TRUTH.**

**THE FIFTY-NINTH LECTURE IN THE BOSTON MONDAY LEC-
TURESHIP, DELIVERED IN TREMONT TEMPLE, JAN. 1.**

"He would be thought void of common sense who asked on the one side, or, on the other, went to give, a reason why it is impossible for the same thing to be and not to be." — LOCKE: *Essay*, Book i, chap. iii.

"There is here a confession, the importance of which has been observed neither by Locke nor his antagonists. In thus appealing to common sense or intellect, he was in fact surrendering his thesis, that all our knowledge is an isdact from experience. For in admitting, as he here virtually does, that experience must ultimately ground its procedure on the laws of intellect, he admits that intellect contains principles of judgment, on which experience being dependent, cannot possibly be their precursor or their cause. What Locke here calls common sense he elsewhere denominates intuition." — SIR WILLIAM HAMILTON: *Reid's Collected Writings*, vol. ii. p. 784.