

PRINCIPLES OF NATURAL THEOLOGY

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Principles of Natural Theology by Robert Anchor Thompson

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ROBERT ANCHOR THOMPSON

**PRINCIPLES OF
NATURAL
THEOLOGY**

PRINCIPLES
OF
NATURAL THEOLOGY.

BY THE SAME AUTHOR,

CHRISTIAN THEISM:

**THE TESTIMONY OF REASON AND REVELATION
TO THE EXISTENCE AND CHARACTER
OF THE SUPREME BEING.**

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PRINCIPLES
OF
NATURAL THEOLOGY.

BY
ROBERT ANCHOR THOMPSON, M.A.

"The invisible things of God are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His Eternal Power and Godhead."

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PREFACE.

THIS work is an inquiry into the origin of our knowledge of the Being and Attributes of the Deity. It professes to demonstrate that this knowledge is a product of the spontaneous action of the Mind, but can be verified on strict principles of Reason.

Its *Method* of argument is that which I have already employed in a larger treatise; where I also discussed the principal theories of Atheism, and some of the modern objections to the Theism of the Sacred Scriptures. The present work is confined to the positive argument, and aims at stating it more systematically, and under a form in which, I believe, it will not be difficult for the attentive reader to follow the connexion of the parts, and to see the purpose of the whole.

The want of such an argument, strictly and formally applied to establish the full doctrine of Theism, will be

admitted by those who are acquainted with the questions raised by Atheists, or with the history of speculative philosophy. It will be doubted by many, and by Theists as well as Atheists, whether such an argument be possible. But this scepticism, however unfounded, is one which only time can confute. The possibility of a progress of philosophy will be shown by the progress itself: and it may, one day, prove to have been an epoch in human progress, when the Reason came to an understanding with itself on the questions and difficulties, which had long obscured its relations to Religion. But however this may be, the distrust of Reason, shown whether by the Theist or by the Atheist, which represents the highest truths as open to unanswerable objections, or as discredited by a close analysis, can be nothing less than an indignity to human intellect, and a scepticism of the Divine Wisdom. The faculties fitted for the pursuit of truth, and the aspirations directed to its attainment, have been imparted by that same Marvellous Wisdom, which has ordered all things, and adapted all things to their position in the universe.

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