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ON

THE PLATONIC ETHICS.

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ἐν οὐρανῷ ἴσως παράδειγμα ἀνάκειται.

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ΦΙΛΟΠΛΑΤΩΝ

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INTRODUCTION.

The following essays on the Republic, Protagoras, Meno, Gorgias, and Philebus, are taken altogether from the text of Plato. They develop views diametrically opposed to those of Mr. Grote. But, as the opinions of the great historian are identical with the tenets, which Plato spent his life in opposing, and as they exhibit modern Positivism in its most improved form, the admirer of Plato will not regret Mr. Grote's critique:

> One stroke he aims,
> That may determine, and not need repeat
> As not of power.

And we may be tolerably certain, that if Mr. Grote's exposition, which is professedly derived from the text of Plato, pure and simple, can be answered without exceeding the same limits, the Academy need fear no new assault. It has been thought advisable to limit the discussion to the Dialogues specified, as they contain all that is necessary for understanding the Ethics of Plato.

Some repetitions, which are essential to the logical coherence of the discussion, have been found unavoidable. Lawyers and Mathematicians repeat their formulæ, as often as is necessary, because they address a specially educated audience only. Metaphysicians would do the same, were it not for a notion, somewhat prevalent, that every one, who can read, is a metaphysician. But, to suppose that anyone, without some natural capacity and special training, can understand a metaphysical treatise, is as absurd as to imagine him mastering Fearne's Remainders in a railway carriage.

I have to thank the Board of Trinity College for their liberality in assisting the publication of these essays, and the President of this College for the interest he has taken in the work.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, GALWAY.
August, 1870.