

**OF THE CONDUCT  
OF THE  
UNDERSTANDING**

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Of the Conduct of the Understanding by John Locke

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**JOHN LOCKE**

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OF THE CONDUCT OF THE  
UNDERSTANDING.



“ Quid tam temerarium, tamque indignum sapientis gravitate atque constantiâ, quàm aut falsum sentire, aut quod non satis exploratis perceptum sit et cognitum sine ullâ dubitatione defendere ? ”

CICERO, *De Naturâ Deorum*, lib. 1.

OF THE CONDUCT OF THE  
UNDERSTANDING,  
BY JOHN LOCKE.



EDITED BY  
BOLTON CORNEY, M.R.S.L.



LONDON:  
BELL AND DALDY, FLEET STREET,  
1859.

*265. c. 46.*



### ADVERTISEMENT.

**T**HIS small volume requires no elaborate preface. The venerated name of its author, the nature of its subject, and the opinions of competent critics, attest its claims to the earnest attention of all aspiring students.

Of the critical opinions on record, two specimens may suffice. Lord King, the biographer of Locke, pronounces it to be "one of the most useful and practical of his works;" and Hallam, albeit a chary eulogist, thus forcibly recommends it: "I cannot think any parent or instructor justified in neglecting to put this little treatise in the hands of a boy about the time when the reasoning faculties become developed."

Its utility, however, is not limited to the period of youth: it is of universal application. Whatever be said in favour of syllogistic logic, which



our author pointedly censures, a deficiency of argumentative power, as observable in public and social life, and in the field of literature, is perhaps less frequent than inattention to the "moral discipline of the intellect"—of which it is the primary object of this treatise to unfold the principles and enforce the practice.

As some of the incidental remarks which it contains require us to consider the date of its composition, the prominent events in the life of the author must be briefly stated.

He was born at Wrington, in Somersetshire, in 1632; educated at Westminster-school; and elected thence to Christ Church, Oxford, where he obtained a studentship. He was created B. A. in 1656, and proceeded M. A. in 1658. At college he wrote verses, studied physic, and gave lectures on Greek and rhetoric. In 1668 he was elected F. R. S.—and in 1675 was admitted B. M. He passed more than three years in France, chiefly for the benefit of his health, and about six years in Holland—gratifying his curiosity, and increasing the number of his friends. In 1689 he returned to England, and was appointed a Commissioner of Appeals. In 1690 he published his *Essay on the Human Understanding*, which

*ADVERTISEMENT.* vii

soon established his fame, and his *Thoughts concerning Education*. He also wrote on toleration, government, finance, etc. In 1696 he was appointed a member of the Council of Trade and Plantations. After an active and irreproachable career, he died in 1704.

The treatise now reprinted was first published in the *Posthumous Works of Mr. John Locke*, which form an octavo volume, in 1706. Its subsequent fate deserves a remark. No separate edition of it is noticed in the *Bibliotheca Britannica*; nor is there any separate edition of it in the British Museum, or in the Bodleian Library. I need not search for additional arguments in defence of this re-impression, nor of my desire to ensure its fidelity and correctness.

BOLTON CORNEY.

The Terrace, Barnes,  
6 May, 1859.

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