

**PSYCHOLOGY, THE  
MOTIVE  
POWERS: EMOTIONS,  
CONSCIENCE, WILL**

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Psychology, the Motive Powers: Emotions, Conscience, Will by James McCosh

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**JAMES MCCOSH**

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PSYCHOLOGY

THE MOTIVE POWERS

EMOTIONS, CONSCIENCE, WILL

BY

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## GENERAL INTRODUCTION.

### DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE COGNITIVE AND MOTIVE POWERS.

FROM a very old date there was a distinction drawn, more or less loosely, between the powers of mind which give knowledge and those which stir up feeling and lead to action. In the Hebrew Scriptures we read on the one hand of "understanding," "comprehension," "imagination," "reins," and on the other hand, of bowels of pity and compassion. The word "heart," in the Old Testament and in the New, seems to include all that is in the mind prior to action, all "thoughts," "devices," "imagination." Plato and the Greeks generally had, on the one hand, such powers as *αἰσθησις*, *νοῦς*, *λόγος*, *δόξα*, *πίστις*, on the one hand, and *πάθη*, *θυμὸς*, *ἐπιθυμητικόν*, on the other. Aristotle drew the distinction between the Nostic power on the one hand, and the Orective power on the other, and this was more definitely expressed by his commentator, Philoponus.<sup>1</sup> This last phrase was translated into Latin and called the Appetent or Motive. Cicero says, "Motus animorum duplices sunt; alteri cogitationes, alteri appetitus,"<sup>2</sup> the one inquiring into truth,

<sup>1</sup> Aristotle, III 10; Philoponus's *Proem*: in *Lib. de Anima Aris.* See Monboddo's *Ancient Met.* B. II 7, where great importance is attached to the distinction.

<sup>2</sup> Cic., *De Offic.* I. 29.