

**PHILOSOPHIES ANCIENT
AND MODERN. COMTE
AND MILL, PP. 1-89**

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Philosophies Ancient and Modern. Comte and Mill, pp. 1-89 by Thomas Whittaker

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THOMAS WHITTAKER

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COMTE AND MILL

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By

THOMAS WHITTAKER

AUTHOR OF

'THE NEO-PLATONISTS,' 'THE LIBERAL STATE,' ETC.



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COMTE AND MILL

CHAPTER I

ANTECEDENTS

THE two thinkers who have been brought together as the subjects of this volume spring out of what is broadly the same movement of modern thought. If within it they are in some respects antithetic, this makes them all the better adapted for simultaneous treatment. Both, on the intellectual side, were adherents of the philosophy called in general experiential; and with both alike the whole effort of thought was inspired by a social aim. The difference is that by the younger of the two the experience regarded as the ground of knowledge was supposed to be explicable by impressions on the individual mind; whereas the elder had transcended 'individualism' in this sense, and conceived of knowledge as fundamentally a social product. For Mill, the individual human being is a component of society known prior to the composition. For Comte, he cannot be known as