

KANT

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Kant by William Knight

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WILLIAM KNIGHT

KANT

Philosophical Classics for English Readers

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K A N T





Immanuel Kant geb. 22^{ten} April 1724
wohnte bei Buchhändler Kantel von 1766 bis 1769
wurde für dessen Laden gemalt im August 1768
von Portraitmaler Becker. starb 1804 den 22^{ten} Februar.

KANT

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PREFACE

A FEW words stand here by way of explanation and acknowledgment.

The biography (in which the quotation of authorities or reference to them would have necessitated a doubling of the allotted space) is founded on Schubert's life of Kant, and on the early memoirs, which have been largely corrected and added to in accordance with more recent information. Special mention on this head is due to Professor Benno Erdmann's essays on Knutzen and the 'Kritik;' to Dr Emil Arnoldt's sketch of Kant's early life; and to several articles in different numbers of the 'Altpreuussische Monatschrift.' For the communication of the last I am indebted to the kindness of Dr Rudolf Reicke of Königsberg, whose devotion to Kant is known to all brethren of the craft, and whose promised edition of the philosopher's correspondence will enable the last thirty years of his life to be written with more fulness than heretofore.

The account of Kant's philosophy is founded directly on his own works. Chapter viii. gives glimpses of his scientific theories; chapter ix. notes the more salient points in his metaphysical views up to 1766; chapter

xi. analyses the first quarter of the 'Kritik der reinen Vernunft'; chapter xii. sums up the results of the rest of that work; chapter xiii. deals with the first part of the 'Kritik der Urtheilskraft,' the second part of which is connected in chapter xiv. with the two chief ethical treatises. The 'Prolegomena' and the 'Metaphysische Anfangsgründe der Naturwissenschaft' are passed by; the 'Religion innerhalb der Grenzen der blossen Vernunft' is briefly alluded to in the life; and the later essays, like the lectures, are only mentioned.

There have within the last five years been published in England many works on Kant. The present little book has been partly shaped by the desire not to tread more than was inevitable on ground they had already occupied with greater plenitude. Those who wish to study Kant more profoundly will find a penetrating exposition of his central doctrine in Dr Hutchison Stirling; an eloquent and suggestive account of the first 'Kritik' in Professor Caird; a well-reasoned *résumé* of the theoretical and moral philosophy in Professor Adamson; and an able and elaborate review of current English opinion on Kant in Professor Watson. And these are only the works of larger dimensions on this topic. Those who may wish to read Kant in translations may be safely referred (in addition to older versions by Semple, Heywood, and Meiklejohn) to Professor Mahaffy's translation of the 'Prolegomena,' &c.; to Professor Abbott's rendering of the Moral treatises; and to Professor Max Müller's centenary translation of the first edition of the 'Kritik.'