

**EXAMINATION OF  
GILLESPIE, BEING AN  
ANALYTICAL CRITICISM OF  
THE ARGUMENT A PRIORI**

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Examination of Gillespie, being an analytical criticism of the Argument A Priori by Thomas Squire Barrett

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**THOMAS SQUIRE BARRETT**

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GILLESPIE, BEING AN  
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THE ARGUMENT A PRIORI**



*In the Press. By the same Author.*

DEMY 12MO.

A NEW VIEW OF CAUSATION:

BRING AN INQUIRY INTO

THE EXISTENCE AND NATURE OF

CAUSATION;

AND AN ANALYSIS OF OUR IDEA OF

NECESSARY CONNECTION.

WITH A CLASSIFICATION OF THE OPINIONS  
OF MODERN METAPHYSICIANS.

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PROVOST & Co., 36, HENRIETTA STREET, COVENT GARDEN.

EXAMINATION  
OF  
GILLESPIE.

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T. S. BARRETT.



# EXAMINATION OF GILLESPIE:

BEING

AN ANALYTICAL CRITICISM OF

## THE ARGUMENT *A PRIORI*

FOR THE EXISTENCE OF A GREAT FIRST CAUSE,

AS DEVELOPED BY MR. W. H. GILLESPIE IN HIS  
"NECESSARY EXISTENCE OF GOD."

BY

THOMAS SQUIRE BARRETT,

ASSOCIATE IN ARTS, OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD; MEMBER OF THE  
ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF GREAT BRITAIN AND  
IRELAND; AND MEMBER OF THE LONDON  
DIALECTICAL SOCIETY.

"The reasonings which would demonstrate his [God's] being, are called *a priori*:  
Those which give probable evidence, only, for his being, *a posteriori*."

SECOND EDITION



LONDON:

PROVOST & CO., 36, HENRIETTA STREET, COVENT GARDEN.

1871.

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"If *necessity* do concern things in themselves, *necessity* is yet no predicate of a thing, any further than it expresses a certain quality of our conceptions regarding the existence of the thing. In fine, *necessity* lies not so much in the *objective* reality, as in the *subjective* mind."—

W. H. GILLESPIE.

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"A weak, imperfect proof of the existence of God, when it does not leave the attentive mind in the exact condition in which it was found, will incline it—if any direct effect whatever be produced—to take the first step in the road to atheism. And the reader need not be told, that a bad argument, for a Great First Cause, must confirm and encourage the atheist in his disbelief."

W. H. GILLESPIE.