

**ELEMENTS OF THOUGHT: OR, CONCISE
EXPLANATIONS (ALPHABETICALLY
ARRANGED) OF THE PRINCIPAL TERMS
EMPLOYED IN THE SEVERAL BRANCHES
OF INTELLECTUAL PHILOSOPHY**

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Elements of Thought: Or, Concise Explanations (Alphabetically Arranged) of the Principal Terms Employed in the Several Branches of Intellectual Philosophy by Isaac Taylor

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ISAAC TAYLOR

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CONCISE EXPLANATIONS

(ALPHABETICALLY ARRANGED)

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PRINCIPAL TERMS EMPLOYED IN THE SEVERAL
BRANCHES OF

INTELLECTUAL PHILOSOPHY.

BY

ISAAC TAYLOR.

NEC MANUS NUDA, NEC INTELLECTUS
SIBI PERMISSUS, MULTUM VALET.

A NEW EDITION.

LONDON:
HOLDSWORTH AND BALL,

AMEN CORNER, PATERNOSTER ROW.

1833.

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

THE design of this volume is to impart, in a familiar form, elementary explanations and instructions on subjects connected with the intellectual faculties; to afford gradual and easy exercises to the powers of abstraction; and thus to conduct the young reader, by an *accessible* path, into that region of thought where the mind acquires force, accuracy, and comprehension.

A writer who invites the attention of young persons to subjects which demand a continued effort of thought, is tempted to win that attention by some promise of amusement; or to profess that he has the art of communicating knowledge without the cost of labour on the part of those who receive it. No such promise or profession can be offered in the present instance. The author

believes that when the object intended is to give tone and vigour to the understanding by exertion, trivial digressions and gaieties of style should be avoided. Relaxation from efforts of attention is perhaps always better provided for away from books than in them; or at least it should be entirely disjoined from serious studies.

The writer, therefore, does not treat his young readers as children, who must be allured by the promise of entertainment to advance in the course of mental improvement, and to whom knowledge must be administered, like a nauseous drug concealed in a sweetmeat. On the contrary, he boldly claims their undiverted attention; he invites them to THINK, and suggests no inducements beside the proper pleasures and advantages of intellectual cultivation. He has indeed endeavoured to make this introduction to the study of the mind as familiar and intelligible as possible, and has presumed upon no higher qualifications in his young reader than an ordinary measure of intelligence—a moderate proficiency in the several branches of education, together with a deliberate and efficient desire for the improvement of the mind.

In explanation of the form into which these elementary instructions are thrown, it may be

proper to say, that the writer has been guided by the opinion that comprehensive and systematical books are little adapted to the purpose of initiation in studies of the kind to which this volume relates. A treatise on any branch of intellectual philosophy, if it be *complete* and *systematical*, must include many topics which no simplicity or perspicuity of style can render easily comprehensible. One portion of the book may be readily understood, while another portion, though not less lucid in its style, may baffle the efforts of the unexercised faculties; and thus perhaps may occasion to the youthful reader final discouragement and disgust. The writer, therefore, has not aimed to compose regular elements either of Metaphysics or of Logic, believing that the first book which is put into the hands of a young person with the view of inviting his attention to objects purely intellectual, should be rather select than comprehensive in its topics.

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TO THE PRESENT EDITION.

IN sending this little volume again to the press, after the lapse of several years, the author has been induced to rewrite it; and although he has retained portions of the original work, has superseded more, and has thrown the whole into a new form.

The volume is now offered to the public, first, as

A BOOK OF REFERENCE,

to which recourse may be had by those who are not fully and familiarly conversant with Intellectual Philosophy, when explanation is needed of those abstract and scientific words which occur in the course of reading the best authors, and which find a place, more or less frequently, in the conversation of the educated classes. It is especially with a view to facilitate *this* use of the book, that the articles have been placed in alphabetic order.

The author has, furthermore, borne in view the advantage of those, who, although neither their tastes nor their opportunities may admit of their engaging in the study of Intellectual Philosophy, or of their perusing larger works, would gladly acquire some general knowledge of these subjects, such as should be at once correct, precise, and easily retained. The author is not aware that any modern work, except his own, is to be met with adapted to the use of the class of readers he is now speaking of; and he has especially endeavoured to suit his style to the range of such persons. The method he recommends them to pursue, in availing themselves of his labours, is, after perusing the preliminary synthetical explanation of terms, to read each article of the vocabulary in the order in which it occurs in the synthesis; by which means the whole will present itself as a connected system (though brief indeed) of the three principal branches of Intellectual Study, and so form a compendious

SUMMARY OF MENTAL SCIENCE.

There is yet another, and a very important purpose to which the author would fain believe his little volume may be found applicable; he means