

**SOME PROBLEMS OF  
PHILOSOPHY: A BEGINNING  
OF AN INTRODUCTION TO  
PHILOSOPHY**

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Some problems of philosophy: a beginning of an introduction to philosophy by William James

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**WILLIAM JAMES**

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TO PHILOSOPHY**

**BY  
WILLIAM JAMES**



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**1911**

*' . . . he [Charles Renouvier] was one of the greatest of philosophic characters, and but for the decisive impression made on me in the seventies by his masterly advocacy of pluralism, I might never have got free from the monistic superstition under which I had grown up. The present volume, in short, might never have been written. This is why, feeling endlessly thankful as I do, I dedicate this text-book to the great Renouvier's memory.'* [165]

## PREFATORY NOTE

FOR several years before his death Professor William James cherished the purpose of stating his views on certain problems of metaphysics in a book addressed particularly to readers of philosophy. He began the actual writing of this 'introductory text-book for students in metaphysics,' as he once called it, in March, 1909, and to complete it was at last his dearest ambition. But illness, and other demands on his diminished strength, continued to interfere, and what is now published is all that he had succeeded in writing when he died in August, 1910.

Two typewritten copies of his unfinished manuscript were found. They had been corrected separately. A comparison of the independent alterations in the two copies showed few and slight differences of phrase and detail, and indicated no formed intention to make substantial changes; yet the author perhaps expected to make some further alterations in a final revision if he could finish the book, for in a memorandum dated July 26, 1910, in which he directed the publication of the manuscript, he wrote: '*Say it is fragmentary and unrevised.*'

This memorandum continues, '*Call it "A begin-*

## PREFATORY NOTE

*ning of an introduction to philosophy." Say that I hoped by it to round out my system, which now is too much like an arch built only on one side.'*

In compliance with the author's request left in the same memorandum, his pupil and friend, Dr. H. M. Kallen, has compared the two versions of the manuscript and largely prepared the book for the press. The divisions and headings in the manuscript were incomplete, and for helpful suggestions as to these grateful acknowledgments are also due to Professor R. B. Perry.

HENRY JAMES, JR.

CAMBRIDGE, March 25, 1911.



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