

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

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Introduction to sociology by Arthur Fairbanks

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ARTHUR FAIRBANKS

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TO SOCIOLOGY**

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BY

ARTHUR FAIRBANKS.

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PREFACE

IN the present state of the science of sociology it is rash to venture beyond the monograph on some special topic, to discuss the subject as a whole. The present volume is not intended as a systematic reconstruction of the principles of sociology, even in outline. Its aim is rather practical. Several classes of students to-day are directing more and more attention to the science of society, with the purpose of finding a more scientific basis for their work. The minister would infuse religion into the social relations of every-day life, and seeks to understand society, which he would make Christian. Touched with a deep sense of human woe, "ethical" reformers find that material aid and education, and even friendship, cannot meet the wants of the individual, but that they must learn to know society, and work through society, in order to help the man. The effort to administer charity wisely; the effort to make criminals into men, and to prevent men from becoming criminals; the effort to develop a sounder municipal life in our cities, and a truer political sentiment in our nations—these are but some of the lines of work in which men to-day are driven to study the science of society, in order that they may not do harm where they would do good. Moreover, students of politics, of economics, of psychology and philosophy, of history, are turning more and more

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attention to the sociological basis of their work. It has been my aim to furnish a brief introduction to the subject, which would make plain to the reader something of its scope and importance, and, it may be, aid him in farther study. That the specialist in sociological investigation will find much here to advance the knowledge of the science, is not my expectation.

It has seemed to me unwise to burden the page with many foot-notes. To take the place of these, both in directing the reader to farther material and in making general acknowledgement to scholars to whose works I have been indebted, I have added at the end of the book a bibliography, arranged in detail according to the chapters in the body of the work. I have received many suggestions in particular from Professor Giddings' papers; and regret that his *Principles of Sociology* only came into my hands when the present work was already in type. Finally, I desire to express my obligation to three friends and former colleagues—Professors Colby, J. K. Lord, and Wells, of Dartmouth College—for their help and encouragement.

ARTHUR FAIRBANKS.

YALE UNIVERSITY,

April 22nd, 1896.

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