

**SWEDENBORG'S
SERVICE TO
PHILOSOPHY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649300686

Swedenborg's Service to Philosophy by S. . Eby

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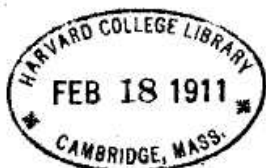


PEORIA, ILLINOIS

PUBLISHED BY J. W. FRANKS AND SONS

1891

C8468.91



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PREFACE.

SOME months ago I was requested to write a paper on Swedenborg and his relation to philosophic thought for the American Akadémè, a society at Jacksonville, Ill., first formed for the reading and study of Plato. In compliance with this request, I wrote the following essay (now somewhat expanded), having in view simply the passing use that might be served by its delivery before this society.

Subsequently some friends urged that the essay be published for the benefit of others who might be interested in the subject. I have been somewhat diffident about doing this, because I have a lively sense of the limitations and shortcomings of my brochure as compared with the possibilities of the theme, and because I have for a long time cherished the hope of some day writing an extended treatise on the Philosophy of Swedenborg. But, whatever advantage may lie in the concise and brief treatment of the present essay would probably disappear in a

more mature work. Therefore, I give it to the reader with the hope that it may stimulate his curiosity concerning the rich treasures of thought and perception to be found in Swedenborg's books.

I have not entered into a discussion of the Philosophy of Swedenborg as a whole, but rather have designedly brought into prominence those aspects of his doctrines that touch on the topics habitual to speculative philosophy in every age.

PROBIA, ILL., *April 15, 1801.*





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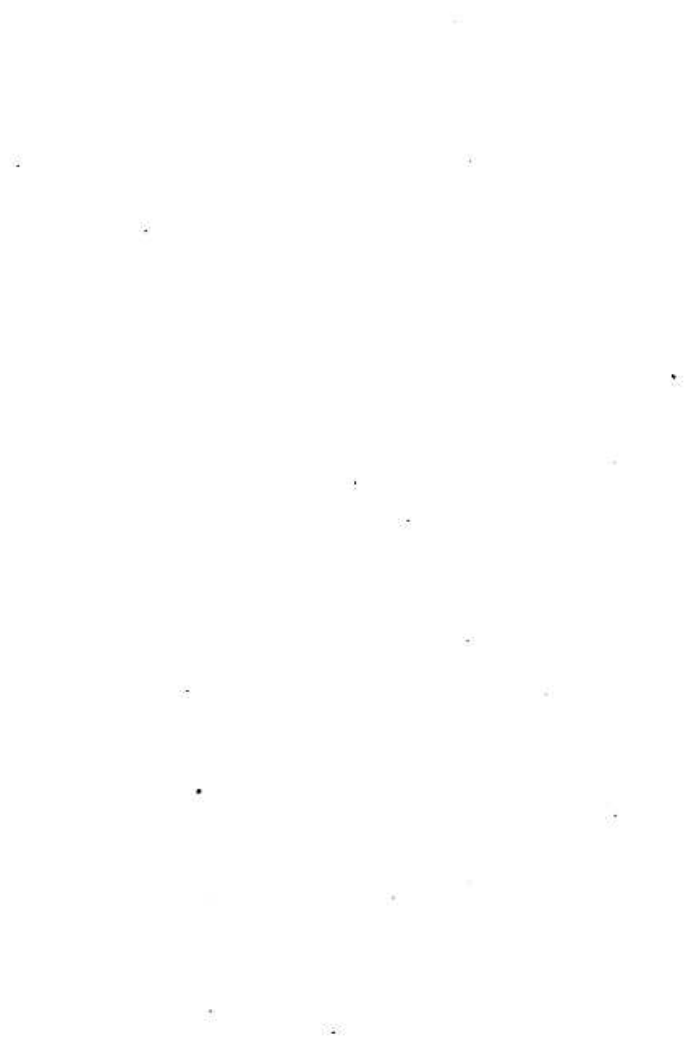


Figure 1: A 3D scatter plot showing the relationship between the number of species (S) and the number of individuals (N) for 10 different species. The x-axis is labeled 'Number of individuals' and ranges from 0 to 100. The y-axis is labeled 'Number of species' and ranges from 0 to 10. The z-axis represents the species index from 1 to 10. Each species is represented by a different colored dot. Species 1 (red) has approximately 100 individuals and 1 species. Species 2 (orange) has approximately 80 individuals and 2 species. Species 3 (yellow) has approximately 60 individuals and 3 species. Species 4 (light green) has approximately 40 individuals and 4 species. Species 5 (green) has approximately 20 individuals and 5 species. Species 6 (teal) has approximately 10 individuals and 6 species. Species 7 (blue) has approximately 5 individuals and 7 species. Species 8 (purple) has approximately 2 individuals and 8 species. Species 9 (dark purple) has approximately 1 individual and 9 species. Species 10 (black) has approximately 1 individual and 10 species. The plot shows a clear inverse relationship between the number of individuals and the number of species.



Swedenborg's Service to Philosophy.

1.

Swedenborg as a Philosopher.

SWEDENBORG is not ordinarily thought of as a philosopher even by those who have some acquaintance with his writings. In the handbooks, when he is recognized at all, it is usually as a theosophist or mystic of great genius lying outside of the historical course of philosophy. It has to be confessed that as yet, a century after his death, he has made but slight impression upon the works of professional philosophers and philosphizers.

The sphere of philosophy is the realm of causes, and its genius is the understanding of the reason in the universe. Hence philosophy is not like science. The last treatise on any special science ought and is likely to be the best, because the author has only to compile, sift, and conserve the vast store of external knowledge accumulated by his predecessors, and to add the similar fruits of his own labors. But true philosophy is essentially subjective. Every man who makes any real advancement in this study