

PSYCHOLOGY: THE COGNITIVE POWERS

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Psychology: the cognitive powers by James McCosh

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JAMES MCCOSH

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POWERS**

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PSYCHOLOGY

THE COGNITIVE POWERS

BY

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OF THE MIND," "LAWS OF DISCURSIVE THOUGHT,"
"EMOTIONS," "PHILOSOPHIC SERIES," ETC.



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PREFACE.

FOR the last thirty-four years I have been teaching Psychology by written lectures to students in Ireland and America. From year to year I have been improving my course, and I claim to have advanced with the times. As Uncle Toby's stockings were so often darned that he was not sure whether there remained a single thread of the original fabric, so my prelections have been so constantly mended that I do not know that a single sentence remains of my early lectures.

I certainly wish this little work to be used as a text-book, and would thus widen and prolong my teaching power. But people say "dull as a text-book." In physical science and in literature they illuminate their books (as in the old missals) by figures. We cannot do this in mental science, as our thoughts have not forms nor colors. I maintain, however, that they have livelier features. I have sought to avoid dryness by illustrating mental laws by examples taken from human nature. As general laws are drawn from particular cases, so they are best understood by concrete facts coming under our experience.

It will be shown in this work that the honest and care-

ful study of the human mind in an inductive manner undermines the prevailing philosophic errors of this age; saves us from Idealism on the one hand and Agnosticism on the other; and conducts us to Realism, which in a rude state was the first philosophy, and when its excrescences are pruned off will be the last.

Following the example set by several distinguished writers, I have carried out my exposition of the faculties by instructions as to their improvement.

I hope to add to this little work another on the Motive Powers of the Mind, including the Conscience, Emotions, and Will. I have already so far anticipated this by my work on the Emotions.

I have to express my obligations to my former pupils: to Professor Macloskie for diagrams, and to Dr. Starr and Mr. J. M. Baldwin for the exposition of certain points which they have studied carefully.

PRINCETON COLLEGE, *June, 1886.*

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