

**INDICATIONS OF THE CREATOR.
EXTRACTS, BEARING UPON
THEOLOGY, FROM THE HISTORY
AND THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE
INDUCTIVE SCIENCES**

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Indications of the Creator. Extracts, Bearing upon Theology, from the History and the Philosophy of the Inductive Sciences by William Whewell

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WILLIAM WHEWELL

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EXTRACTS,
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FROM
THE HISTORY AND THE PHILOSOPHY
OF THE
INDUCTIVE SCIENCES.

By WILLIAM WHEWELL, D.D.,
" MASTER OF TRINITY COLLEGE,
AND PROFESSOR OF MORAL PHILOSOPHY IN THE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

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14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

BL181
W42

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
DEDICATION.....	v
PREFACE	vii

ASTRONOMY.

The Copernican System.....	1
The Nebular Hypothesis	8

PHYSIOLOGY.

Recognition of Final Causes in Physiology	20
The Plans of Animal Forms.....	22
Use of Final Causes in Physiology	29
Question of the Transmutation of Species	53
Hypothesis of Progressive Tendencies.....	57

GEOLOGY.

The Question of Creation as related to Science	62
--	----

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THE PHILOSOPHY OF BIOLOGY.

	PAGE
The Idea of Final Causes	72

PALÆTIOLOGY.

Nature of Palætiology.....	96
Doctrine of Catastrophes and of Uniformity	103
Relation of Tradition to Palætiology	123
Of the Conception of a First Cause	150
Of the Supreme Cause	162

DEDICATION.

TO

WILLIAM SMYTH, Esquire,

PROFESSOR OF MODERN HISTORY IN THE UNIVERSITY
OF CAMBRIDGE.

MY DEAR PROFESSOR SMYTH,

I KNOW that you have always felt a peculiar interest in the contemplation of Indications of the Creator, drawn from the Creation in which we live, and from the Philosophy which we are led to frame concerning it: and I think that you will be pleased to see a contribution to this train of thought offered at the present moment. It will be a gratification to me, if, in publishing it, I am allowed to inscribe it to you.

One who, like myself, has for many years enjoyed your friendship, and witnessed your influence in this University, may well rejoice at having an opportunity of offering an open tribute of admiration and regard to the virtues and kindly affections

by which we have so long profited; and of expressing his gratitude for the pleasure and instruction you have so long diffused among us. And I am happy to be able to add that, now, the wider public also has, in your published Lectures, the means of judging of our obligations to you. All may there see that you have, throughout your labours, been zealous and consistent in inculcating those principles of justice and mutual forbearance, of moral purpose in political designs, and moderation in political action, which, so far as they prevail, make the world of human history a more visible representation of the will of its Divine Ruler.

That you may long enjoy the recollection of these your past benefits to us, and of our gratitude to you, is the cordial wish and prayer of,

My dear Professor Smyth,

Your affectionate Friend,

W. WHEWELL.

Trinity College, Cambridge,

Feb. 14, 1845.

PREFACE.

THE following EXTRACTS are now published from a persuasion that they may be interesting to many persons who would be unlikely to read the larger works from which they are taken. The *Philosophy of the Sciences* is necessarily a series of somewhat abstruse dissertations, and is likely to be acceptable only to thoughtful students. The *History of Science* is a subject of a more popular character, yet when the history is carried through all the epochs of all the material sciences, probably but few will accompany the historian through a plan so extensive. But lessons of Natural Theology always find a large class of willing readers, when there is anything of novelty in their form. The reflections which the following pages contain, being those which result from a review of the whole progress of science, and of the principles and processes which have been concerned in that progress, necessarily differ in many respects from those of other writers on Natural Theology.