MORAL FREEDOM RECONCILED WITH CAUSATION, BY THE ANALYSIS OF THE PROCESS OF SELF-DETERMINATION. THE MORAL BASIS OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

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Moral Freedom Reconciled with Causation, by the Analysis of the Process of Self-Determination. The Moral Basis of Social Science by Henry Travis

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HENRY TRAVIS

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WITH A POSTSCRIPT ON CO-OPERATION.

BY

HENRY TRAVIS, M.D.

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FREE WILL AND CAUSATION.

CHAPTER I.

The Writer's Experience.—The Necessitarian Views.—Opponents Unconvinced.—Facts Examined.—Importance of the Subject.

THE solution of the great problem of Free Will is the result of many years of study of the subject. The writer has felt deeply interested in it ever since his attention was first directed to it. Up to the age of about twenty, he, like all who have not made a particular study of mental science, had never very attentively considered the subject of free will. He consequently had grown up in the ordinary vague popular idea, that we make our own opinions, feelings, and volitions, (that these, in fact, are free mental *acts*,) and that we form our own character, and that, consequently, it is "our own fault" if these are not what they ought to be.

When he first heard the necessitarian opinion stated and maintained, he, of course, felt confident that it could not be correct. But by reading, and still more by arguing with himself, he became convinced that the doctrine was correct—that our