

**AN INQUIRY INTO SPECULATIVE AND
EXPERIMENTAL SCIENCE: WITH SPECIAL
REFERENCE TO
MR. CALDERWOOD AND PROFESSOR
PERRIER'S RECENT PUBLICATIONS, AND
TO HEGEL'S DOCTRINE**

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An Inquiry Into Speculative and Experimental Science: With Special Reference to Mr. Calderwood and Professor Perrier's Recent Publications, and to Hegel's Doctrine by A. Vera

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AN INQUIRY
INTO
SPECULATIVE PHILOSOPHY.

AN INQUIRY
INTO
SPECULATIVE AND EXPERIMENTAL
SCIENCE,

WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO

MR. CALDERWOOD AND PROFESSOR FERRIER'S RECENT
PUBLICATIONS, AND TO HEGEL'S DOCTRINE.

By A. VERA,

DOCTEUR-ÈS-LETTRES OF THE FACULTY OF PARIS, AND FORMERLY PROFESSOR
OF PHILOSOPHY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF FRANCE.

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TO

RICHARD MONCKTON MILNES, ESQ., M.P.,

WHOSE NAME IS VALUED

BY ALL WHO LOVE FREEDOM, ARTS, AND SCIENCE,

These Pages are respectfully Inscribed

BY

THE AUTHOR,

AS A MARK OF SYMPATMY WITH HIS HIGH ENDOWMENTS OF

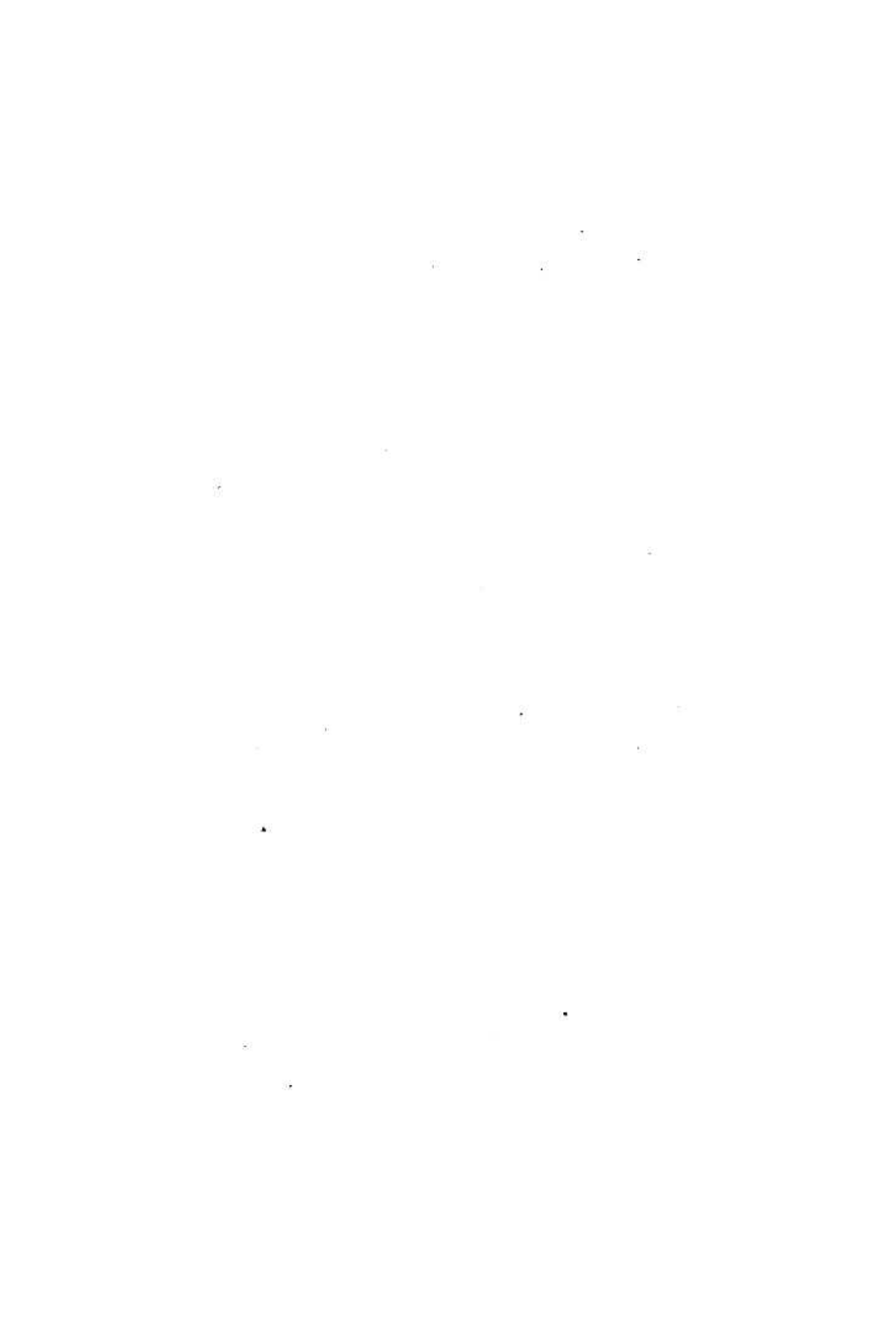
HEART AND MIND,

AND OF GRATITUDE FOR THE KIND ENCOURAGEMENT

HE HAS MET FROM HIM IN HIS PURSUITS

SINCE

HIS ARRIVAL IN THIS COUNTRY.



PREFACE.



THIS small Paper was originally intended as a contribution to some Periodical that would have done me the honour of inserting it. But having been told that its contents would be too technical, and of too speculative a character for the usual readers of such publications, I have thought proper to give it in a separate volume, leaving it as it was originally written, except the few verbal alterations that the difference between a book and a contribution to a Periodical requires. The objection of its being too metaphysical, instead of deterring me from publishing it, has been, I must confess, my chief inducement to lay it before the Public; for, the present languishing and unpromising state of philosophical studies is, in my opinion, to be principally attributed to the neglect of Metaphysics, the consequences of which may be traced also in other de-

partments of Science, and even in that of the Fine Arts.

But it has of late become a sort of fashion to despise Metaphysics and what is termed German Rationalism, as useless and dangerous; and the dread of these speculations has been carried to such a climax as to excite, in the mind of some, more anxiety and suspicion than what they call Romish Idolatry.

Whatever may be the causes which have brought such discredit upon Metaphysics, be it want of an adequate philosophical training, or some other not quite disinterested motive, my opinion is, that, by the disparagement of speculative inquiries, Science and Truth, and Religion itself, are lowered,—nay, are called into question; and nothing will be left but materialism,—a materialism disguised perhaps under a less repulsive form and softened by a milder name, but not differing in reality from actual materialism. For I do not see how not only Science, but Religion—and even positive Religion—can stand without Metaphysics, if it be true that the object of Metaphysics, that is, the Eternal and the Absolute, is the very soul of all religious creed, however different may be the way by which Philo-