

**OUTLINES OF METAPHYSIC:
DICTATED PORTIONS OF THE
LECTURES OF HERMANN LOTZE: 1ST
(PP. 1-73), 2ND (PP. 77-126) AND 3RD
PRINCIPAL DIVISION (PP. 130-164)**

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Outlines of Metaphysic: Dictated Portions of the Lectures of Hermann Lotze: 1st (pp. 1-73), 2nd (pp. 77-126) and 3rd Principal Division (pp. 130-164) by George T. Ladd

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GEORGE T. LADD

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LOTZE'S
OUTLINES OF PHILOSOPHY
I
METAPHYSIC

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OUTLINES
OF
METAPHYSIC

DICTATED PORTIONS
OF THE
LECTURES OF HERMANN LOTZE

TRANSLATED AND EDITED BY
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BOSTON:
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1886.

EDITOR'S PREFACE.

THE name of Rudolph Hermann Lotze, philosopher, has already been made familiar to a large number of readers in this country, and no little interest has been awakened in his opinions upon various philosophical and religious themes. But thus far the number who have attained any trustworthy knowledge as to what those opinions are, has remained exceedingly small. Until very recently all his most important published works have been inaccessible to every one unable to cope with voluminous philosophical German. Within the present year, creditable translations of the two large volumes on *Logic* and *Metaphysic*, which constitute all of his *System of Philosophy* that the author lived to publish, have appeared in England; and a translation of his *Mikrokosmos* (three volumes in German) is promised soon to appear. These works, however—especially the two former—are not only large but technical and difficult; few are likely to attempt their mastery who are not already trained in the reading of German phi-

losophy. Yet there is scarcely any other recent writer on philosophical subjects whose thoughts are so stimulating for their breadth, penetration and candor; or with whom an acquaintance is so desirable for purposes of general culture through the philosophic way of considering life, with its interests in not merely pure thought, but also in morals, religion, and art.

It affords me, therefore, the pleasure that comes from the hope of being useful to a wide circle of persons, to announce that I have arranged to translate and edit several, if not all, of those little books called 'Outlines' which have been given to the public in Germany since the death of their lamented author. These 'Outlines' cover the entire ground of Lotze's mature teaching in the University upon the subjects of Logic, Metaphysic, Philosophy of Nature, Psychology, *Æsthetics*, Moral Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion, and History of German Philosophy since Kant. A word of explanation as to the origin of these books will suffice to assure the reader that he is to be put into communication with the thoughts of this philosopher in a way which he can trust both as to substance and form of expression. The German from which the translations are to be made consists of the dictated portions of his latest lectures (at Göttingen,

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and for a few months at Berlin) as formulated by Lotze himself, recorded in the notes of his hearers, and subjected to the most competent and thorough revision of Professor Rehnisch of Göttingen. The 'Outlines' give, therefore, a mature and trustworthy statement, in language selected by this teacher of philosophy himself, of what may be considered as his final opinions upon a wide range of subjects. They have met with no little favor in Germany.

I have used such competence and diligence as I could command in translating this first one of the Lotze series which it is proposed to publish. As far as seemed consistent with a desirable accuracy, technical language has been avoided, and the work presented with an English expression. Some of the terms employed in the original, however, do not admit of exact and elegant representation in our language; nor has it been possible — had it been deemed desirable — wholly to disguise the savor of the class-room.

The Metaphysic was selected as the first one of the series for translation, because the views of the author on this subject were always regarded by himself as being, and in fact are, fundamental and initiatory to his views on all the other subjects to be treated. No one can make any progress what-

ever in understanding the philosophical system of Lotze, or even in seeing the true bearing of his observations on æsthetic, ethical and religious matters, who has not mastered his *metaphysical* notions. This little book, then, should be regarded as furnishing the key and door to all the rest.

Two principal objects have been before my mind as motives for undertaking these translations. I wish, in the first place, to further the work of teaching philosophy by their use. Such condensed, orderly, and mature statements of conclusions on a wide range of philosophical questions will be found exceedingly valuable for both teacher and pupil. They furnish a *scheme* for all the instruction which the teacher is able to give in presenting and answering these questions. When skilfully used, they may be made to introduce the pupil to the widest fields of philosophy under the guidance of a great master, and in an interesting way. They present the applications of Metaphysic to art, religion, nature, and human conduct;—and they thus open regions of reflection into which the instruction of our colleges and universities scarcely takes their students at all,—regions, however, which are precisely the ones where such students both desire and need to go.

I wish, in the second place, to have these

thoughts of Lotze do their legitimate work in liberalizing, expanding and elevating the culture of those persons who are wont to be styled the 'educated class.' Perhaps, since what is here offered to them is presented in so compact and manageable form, not a few will be glad to look on life,—in its widest extent, human and divine,—with quickened powers of reflection under the stimulating words of this teacher from another nation. With such an object in view, it may be regretted that the first number of the series should be the most abstract, and seemingly foreign to practical interests, of them all. But, then, as I have already said, it is introductory and fundamental.

It is not my purpose to attempt to defend, refute, or even characterize the opinions which these books will, for themselves, sufficiently set forth. Two or three remarks, however, will help to guard the uninstructed reader against certain misapprehensions of the author which might otherwise easily arise. The philosophy of Lotze is a remarkable combination of elements from the school and from real life. The elements which come from the school are both directly philosophical, and also only indirectly so through the physical and natural sciences. In the same year of his