

**ELEMENTS OF LOGIC:
COMPILED FOR THE
USE OF YOUTH INDIA**

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Elements of Logic: Compiled for the Use of Youth India by John Leechman

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JOHN LEECHMAN

**ELEMENTS OF LOGIC:
COMPILED FOR THE
USE OF YOUTH INDIA**

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ELEMENTS OF LOGIC.

COMPILED

FOR THE USE OF YOUTHS IN INDIA,

BY

JOHN LEECHMAN, A. M.

FROM THE SERAMPORE PRESS.

1836.

PREFACE.

THE following work is intended as a part of that series of original elementary treatises now publishing at the Serampore Press for the use of Youths in India.

The subject is confessedly unpopular. It has been selected, however, not merely from personal predilection, but from a real conviction of its utility. The misconceptions and prejudices that prevail respecting Logic are too deeply rooted to be easily or speedily eradicated; but were the Science known in its true principles and application, it could not fail to obtain a prominent place in every system of liberal education. It is not only recommended by its venerable antiquity, and the universal dominion which it once exercised over the learned world; but it is intimately connected with the philosophy of language, and the philosophy of the human mind; it forms and cultivates some of our most valuable

mental habits; and its intimate relation to daily practice can scarcely be denied.

Works on Logic are not easily procurable in India; and those that are most common are calculated rather to bewilder than to direct the youthful student. To remedy this evil is the object of the following treatise. It is intended as a convenient introduction to this branch of study, adapted for the use of Schools in India, and is more particularly suited for those who are entering on the study of Mental Philosophy. It traces the history of the Science of Reasoning from the earliest period to the present time; it unfolds its fundamental principles and rules, accompanied with appropriate illustrations; and points out, at considerable length, its application to practical purposes. The limits of the work rendered it necessary that brevity should be as much as possible studied. It is hoped, however, that nothing really essential to the subject has been overlooked.

In compiling this work the Author has availed himself most freely of the labours of his predecessors. He has consulted several Compendiums of Aristotle's Logic which are used as Class-Books in the Universities of Europe. He has taken without scruple from the works

of Bacon, Campbell, Reid, Stewart, Jardine, Duncan, and other writers on Logic and Mental Philosophy, whatever appeared most suitable to his purpose. To the admirable work of Dr. Whately he acknowledges, in a particular manner, his obligations. Some parts of the following treatise may be viewed almost as an abridgement of that standard work. The compilation, however, is original; and a considerable portion of it was composed several years ago, before the Author had an opportunity of consulting *Whately's Elements*. He has, however, in preparing the work for the press, borrowed from that work both valuable remarks and numerous illustrations. This has been the case particularly in the Chapter on Fallacies, which the Archbishop has discussed with uncommon ability.

When availing himself of the help of others, the Author has thought it unnecessary to point out particularly the sources whence he has derived his information. In many cases this would have been impossible, as the truths brought forward have been so long familiar to the mind that the sources whence they were originally derived have been forgotten. In any case to have brought forward authorities would have been of no service.

What has once been communicated to the world has become public property; and it is only with regard to new or debatable opinions in literary and scientific matters that authorities are of any value. The language of an able writer, in reference to another department of science, may be applied to the subject now before us; "The advanced state of a science is but the accumulation of the discoveries and inventions of many: to refer each of these to its author is the business of the history of the science, but does not belong to a work which professes merely to give an account of the science as it is; all that is generally acknowledged must pass current from author to author."*

NERAMPORE,
2d May, 1836.

* Brett's Principles of Astronomy, p. v.

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