AN INVESTIGATION OF
THE PRINCIPLES OF KNOWLEDGE

and of the Progress of Reason,
from Sense to Science and Philosophy

Volume 2

James Hutton
PARTICULAR CONTENTS

OF

VOLUME II.

SECTION III.

Of the Progress of Mind reasoning in the natural course of Science.

CHAP. I.—Of Reason as operating in order to form Principles of Science, being Judgments of abstract Relations


CHAP. II.—Of Reasoning Scientifically in order to form Principles which belong to Philosophy

PARTICULAR CONTENTS.


CHAP. III.—How far the Natural Capacities of Man are sufficient to enable him to Judge of Scientific Truths page 34


CHAP. IV.—Of Equality and Inequality, and the Difference of Judging in Science, on the one hand, and according to the Common Sense of Mankind, on the other 43

PARTICULAR CONTENTS.

CHAP. V.—The preceding Doctrine Illustrated, in the Explanation of Positive and Negative Judgments, of Absolute and Apparent Truths — — — page 49


CHAP. VI.—The Distinction of Knowledge, the necessary Condition of Reason, and Reason, the immediate Cause of Knowledge — — — page 58


CHAP. VII.—Of Doubting as a Scientific Operation of Mind page 75

1. Question concerning doubt. 2. Doubting not instinctive; 3. as may be judging. 4. Doubting

CHAP. VIII.—A Summary View of the Progress of Mind, by Conscious Reason to Design


CHAP. IX.—Concerning the Reason of Things, the Knowledge of Order, and the Order of our Knowledge

PARTICULAR CONTENTS.


SECTION IV.

Of Time and Space as Scientific Principles.

CHAP. I.—Purpose of this Inquiry — — page 121
1. Question in relation to the reality of space and time. 2. First supposition. 3. Second supposition. 4. How to be determined.

CHAP. II.—From whence arise the Conceptions of Time and Space page 123

CHAP. III.—Application of the Ideas, Space and Time, for the Knowledge of Velocity in Moving Bodies, or Material Things — — — — page 129

CHAP. IV.—Reflections with regard to Quantity of Matter, to the Idea of Motion, and to the Infinity of Space and Time — — — — page 132
1. No proper relation betwixt motion and the quantity of matter in a body. 2. The same proposition extended to resistance. 3. Consequence of this doctrine. 4. Motion
PARTICULAR CONTENTS.

5. From the information of sense. 6. Distinction of motion and reality. 7. The generals of space and time indefinite. 8. Infinity, what. 9. Conclusion.

SECTION V.

Of Unity and Number as Scientific Principles.

CHAP. I.—Use of Number in Science

1. Motion and velocity require quantity and proportion. 2. More and less require unity and number. 3. These proper to man. 4. How necessary to our notions of external things. 5. Space and time divisible by number. 6. Number required for comparing the parts of space and time. 7. How this is done. 8. Necessity of number for the purpose of science.

CHAP. II.—How the Conceptions of Unity and Number are attained


SECTION VI.

Of Cause and Effect.

CHAP. I.—Being General with respect to Knowledge, and Introductory with respect to the Subject, Cause and Effect

PARTICULAR CONTENTS.


CHAP. II.—Theory with regard to our Knowledge of Cause and Effect


CHAP. III.—Illustration of the Theory in comparing it with that of others

PARTICULAR CONTENTS.

SECTION VII.

Concerning Experience.

Introduction

1. Nature and purpose of experience. 2. How the subject is to be treated of.

CHAP. I.—Experience considered with regard to those Cases in which it does not advance the Knowledge of Mankind

1. In sensation. 2. In perception. 3. But no progress in knowledge. 4. What experience gives. 5. Dr Reid's opinion upon this subject. 6. Conclusion with regard to this species of experience.

CHAP. II.—Experience considered as the Cause of Knowledge, or as an Operation in which the human Intellect is made to proceed

1. The scientific operation of the human mind different from experience. 2. The knowledge of cause and effect how to be considered in relation to experience. 3. The connection of cause and effect not learned from experience. 4. What experience may do. 5. Illustrated. 6. How science may employ experience. 7. How experience is employed in the formation of theory. 8. Use of experiment. 9. Conclusion. 10. Of similar causes having similar effects. 11. Several operations of mind. 12. Distinct effects of experience. 13. Summary of the doctrine.

SECTION VIII.

Concerning the proper evidence of things, and the nature of Philosophical Principles.

Introduction

1. How philosophy proceeds. 2. Philosophy useful, though subject to error. 3. How far
PARTICULAR CONTENTS.

far it admits of being perfect. 4. First principles to be examined. 5. Consequence of reasoning from just principles. 6. Importance of examination. 7. Subject of this section.

CHAP. I.—Concerning Evidence and Doubt — page 225

1. Equalities of things conditional. 2. Physical truths undoubted. 3. Use and absurdity of scepticism. 4. How the principles of philosophy are established. 5. Of what importance to examine scientific principles.

CHAP. II.—Neither Sense nor Reason properly Deceitful in their Nature — page 228

1. Information of sense perfect and true. 2. Absurdity of supposing sense fallacious. 3. That common error. 4. Illustrated in an example. 5. Judgment subject to imperfection. 6. How we reason erroneously. 7. Unjust ideas a scientific error. 8. What it is to reason ill. 9. Error in science no absolute imperfection. 10. Doctrine illustrated. 11. Error only occasional.

CHAP. III.—Concerning Maxims or general Principles — page 236

1. Maxims should have neither obscurity nor doubt. 2. Universal maxims only found in mathematics; 3. and even a restriction in this maxim. 4. In natural things no maxim universal, however general it may be. 5. Illustrated. 6. An example. 7. Physical truths different from those of mathematics. 8. Mathematical truths only conditional. 9. Physical truths absolute in their nature. 10. Example. 11. How scientific maxims may be tried in science of a higher order. 12. Necessity for this. 13. The doctrine illustrated. 14. Further illustration, in showing that a thing may be in more places than one, and that a physical body may act where we suppose it not to be. 15. Impropriety of forming physical maxims from mathematical ideas.

CHAP. IV.—Different methods of proceeding in Scientific Knowledge — page 249

1. In physics, first principles are particular, but, in mathematics, they are general; hence different methods of proceeding in those two sciences. 2. How physical principles cannot afford a foundation for reasoning a priori. 3. How, in mathematics,
PARTICULAR CONTENTS.


CHAP. VI.—Of Truth and Probability

1. What probability is in regard to truth and error. 2. Principles of truth. 3. Truths founded on observation. 4. Do not naturally become dubious. 5. Doctrine illustrated. 6. Truths proceed on principles.

CHAP. VII.—Of Analogy, and Human Testimony


CHAP. VIII.—Of Ratiocination and Argument, as Means for the Discovery of Truth; or, the Distinction of Reason and Argument, of Science and Superstition, of Prejudice and Scepticism

1. Human reasoning in science subject to error; 2. therefore principles always to be tried.
PARTICULAR CONTENTS.


CHAP. IX.—Of the importance of accurate Scientific Principles, for the investigation of Philosophic Truths page 303

PARTICULAR CONTENTS.

CHAP. X.—The Distinction of Actual and True, of Real and Imaginary, when applied to Knowledge — page 313

1. Terms variously applied. 2. Actual, as a term of affirmation, applicable to things, and not to the operations of our mind. 3. Real and imaginary used synonymously with true and false. 4. How imaginary comes to imply a falsehood. 5. Illustrated in an example. 6. Nature of madness. 7. Reality in action. 8. Rest not like motion real. 9. Importance of this explanation of action and inactivity. 10. Motion, though real, no external thing.

CHAP. XI.—Mathematical and Physical Truths compared with regard to Evidence — page 320

1. Importance of the examination. 2. Difference betwixt matter of fact or certainty, and axiom or evidence. 3. Deductions from certainty always true. 4. Mathematical and physical investigations equally just, though not equally real. 5. Reality, what. 6. The mathematical conclusions conditional. 7. Physical conclusions absolute. 8. What physics judges of.

CHAP. XII.—A Justification of Physical Principles, in comparing them with Mathematical Truths — page 324

1. The subject how to be considered. 2. First principles only to be examined. 3. First axiom in mathematics. 4. An equal axiom in physics. 5. In both sciences the conclusions equally just. 6. The reason of a false opinion concerning the science of physics. 7. The science of physics has other principles to be examined in relation to certainty, besides those that relate to magnitude and figure. 8. Colour, heat, and cold, are physical principles. 9. The received system of philosophy considered in relation to those principles. 10. Difference with regard to the system now proposed. 11. How the certainty of physical principles is established by the common sense of mankind. 12. Question with regard to the reality of physical things. 13. A certain distinction in our knowledge necessary in order to understand nature. 14. The certainty of proceeding to philosophy with scientific principles.

SECTION
SECTION IX.

Concerning the apparent Inactivity commonly, but erroneously, attributed to Material Things.

CHAP. I.—Aristotle’s definition of Motion examined, and Dr Berkeley’s doctrine, with regard to Moving Powers

1. Definition either logical or scientific. 2. Aristotle’s definition of motion not logical. 3. Nature of logical definition. 4. Nature of scientific definition. 5. Aristotle’s definition does not simplify the subject, but exemplifies it. 6. He makes it general and abstract without utility. 7. Motion an idea not simple, therefore may be resolved. 8. Aristotle’s definition of motion promotes not science. 9. Motion applicable only to bodies. 10. Dr Berkeley’s notion in relation to this subject refuted.

CHAP. II.—The Action of Moving Things Investigated

1. Motion either real or ideal. 2. Idea of motion various in relation to quantity, quality, and degree. 3. Reality applied to motion. 4. Real motion. 5. Motion thus either a cause or an effect. 6. What real motion is not. 7. How motion is not anything external. 8. Use of this theory. 9. How we may thus extend our science in generalizing action; 10. and understand the laws of matter.

CHAP. III.—Of Action and Reaction

PARTICULAR CONTENTS.

CHAP. IV.—Of Moving and Resisting Powers


CHAP. V.—Of Momentum and Velocity in actual things


CHAP. VI.—Living and dead Bodies considered in relation to Activity


CHAP. VII.—Inactivity not proper to Material Things

PARTICULAR CONTENTS.

SECTION X.

Nature of Matter; as the principles of perceived objects or external things.

Introduction - - - - - - - - - page 383.

1. Actual things not known. 2. Errors to be corrected.

CHAP. I.—Of Power as a judgment in our Mind - - page 384.


CHAP. II.—Of Power as a Cause - - - - page 386.


CHAP. III.—Of Power as residing in Substance, and of Substance as supporting Qualities - - page 389.


CHAP. IV.—Of the Balance of Powers, or that State of Things which is considered as Rest - - page 396.

PARTICULAR CONTENTS.

CHAP. V.—Of the Relation that is to be found between Power and Matter, in order to understand the meaning of these terms  - - - - page 399


SECTION XI.

Of that which, in the Language of Science, is termed Nature.

CHAP. I.—Nature, as a term, Examined  - - - . page 408


CHAP. II.—What is to be understood by the system of Nature page 417

SECTION XII.

The ideas of Matter and Motion, as principles in the explanation of natural appearances, examined.

CHAP. I.—Principles of Natural Body

1. Thing proposed. 2. Rest, what. 3. Connected with power. 4. Solid body. 5. Real body. 6. Actual body. 7. Natural body.

CHAP. II.—Application of the Doctrine to the case of actual things

1. Inactivity of natural body a supposition. 2. Moving power in bodies. 3. False ideas corrected. 4. Consistency with the science of physics.

CHAP. III.—General Ideas of Intensity in Power, and of Velocity in Motion


CHAP. IV.—General Ideas with regard to Quantity in Motion, and Momentum in Bodies

SECTION XIII.

General views and reflections with regard to Science, as the progress of the human Intellect.

CHAP. I.—Science a necessary step to Wisdom


CHAP. II.—The doctrine illustrated, in considering that wisdom of conduct which is peculiar to Man


CHAP.
PARTICULAR CONTENTS.

CHAP. III.—Human Wisdom Exemplified, in Man's employing the
Powers of Nature for the Purpose of his Economy
and Pleasure  —  —  —  —  page 497

i. Subject proposed.  2. Nature of reproduction.  3. Purpose of nature in feminal va-

CHAP. IV.—A General View of the Progress of Intellect by Science
to Philosophy, considered as the Perfection of the Hu-
man Mind  —  —  —  —  page 506

i. Natural and artificial oeconomy of man.  2. Artificial oeconomy.  3. Man wise in
forming a system of morals.  4. This conduct in perfect wisdom;  5. and founded
upon science.  6. Not found in the oeconomy of animals.  7. Excellency of hu-
proper to mankind.  11. The doctrine reconciled to the common opinion.  12. Philosophy the knowing of wisdom.  13. This illustrated.  14. Examplified in the
solar system.  15. The intellectual system.  16. How to be understood.  17. Su-
perior species of wisdom.  18. Importance of this scientific progress.  19. View to
22. Illustrated.  23. Difficulty of investigating the steps of mind.  24. Purpose of
wisdom.  25. Pleasure and happiness.  26. How wisdom operates.  27. Distinc-
tion of real and ideal in this case.  28. Human error and animal deception.  29.
Reason for a general review.  30. Progress of mind.  31. In what the mind be-
gins.  32. First stage of mind.  33. Unconscious state;  34. not proper to man.
35. Common sense what.  36. Such opinions not dubious;  37. but limited in ap-
lication.  38. Science, its use and misapplication  39. Comparison of science and
common sense seldom fair or just.  40. How wisdom employs science.  41. Ex-
ample.  42. Philosophy teaches wisdom.  43. Artificial science often useless.  44.
Different stages of knowledge.  45. How the mind of man acquires principles.
46. Progress of the human mind from simple knowledge to perfect understanding.
47. Distinction of the reasoning animal and the rational being.  48. Those two
united in one person.  49. Man thus arrives at voluntary action.  50. Principle of
freedom in election.  51. Wise election.  52. What philosophy is.  53. More than
science;  54. and infinitely above the animal capacity.  55. Disord.rs in the human
understanding.  56. Idiotism and folly.  57. Madness.  58. Compound characters.
59. Man what by science.  60. What by philosophy.  61. An example.  62. Man
PARTICULAR CONTENTS.

alone susceptible of happiness. 63. Upon what principle happiness proceeds. 64.
Doctrine illustrated. 65. Accomplishment of the human mind. 66. Perfection of
human nature.

CHAP. V.—The preceding doctrine illustrated, in distinguishing Nature and Art, Wisdom practical and that which is perfect, Minds merely animal and those that are rational, Instinct, Science, and Philosophy — page 552

1. Art what. 2. Science from nature. 3. Also from art. 4. What is required for
being taught science. 5. Art and science mutually promote each other. 6. What
science terminates in. 7. Wisdom not absolute. 8. Wisdom acquirable. 9. Reason
and wisdom distinct. 10. Philosophy the science of wisdom. 11. Distinctions
How human intellect may be rated. 18. Philosophy infinite compared with natural
Nature of man to know himself. 22. Benevolence an object of philosophy. 23.
Philosophy communicated. 24. Happiness of two kinds. 25. Two principles in
man. 26. Two common errors. 27. The doctrine confirmed in the common
opinion of men. 28. Brute mind not calculated to arrive at science. 29. Reason
of our error in this matter. 30. A false analogy employed. 31. Man and brute
not comparable. 32. False views in this comparison. 33. The superiority of man
demonstrated from his folly. 34. No complete resemblance in the human mind
and that of brutes. 35. The question submitted to experience. 36. Rationality
of brutes refuted. 37. An example in the science of physics. 38. The science of
man indefinite, that of the brute as nothing. 39. No limiting of nature. 40.
Distinctions to be made. 41. Definition of the term instinct. 42. Man begins
with instinct; 43. but proceeds to science. 44. Illustrated. 45. Mind proceeds
on conscientious. 46. Man proceeds to know the operations of his intellect; 47.
and thus arrives through science at the perfection of his wisdom. 48. Summary
view of the three states of human knowledge. 49. Philosophy ultimate as leading
to intellectual enjoyment.
PARTICULAR CONTENTS.

CHAP. VI.—Different Spheres to be distinguished in general Science, as well as several Branches in one particular Sphere


APPENDIX

To PART II. SECT. II.


Introduction — — — — — — — — — — page 624

1. Difficulty of seeing the scientific nature of writing. 2. Art of government without writing. 3. Cause of that phenomenon. 4. Difficulty of judging. 5. The singular case of China. 6. Method to be pursued.
PARTICULAR CONTENTS.

CHAP. I.—Nature of written Language as the sign of Speech


CHAP. II.—Science of the Alphabet

1. A perfect alphabet. 2. What it requires. 3. Should be absolutely simple; and have a character conformed. 4. Effect of this analytical progress. 5. How far practicable. 7. Vowels seven in number. 8. These specified; 9. and illustrated. 10. How far perfect. 11. Element of speech. 12. Perfection of speech. 13. Vowels to be described. 14. Nature of i and u, and how the sound of i is formed; 15. of e and eta; 16. of a; 17. of u; 18. of upsilon and o. 19. Three fixed points in the formation of vowels. 20. How all the vowels may be distinguished. 21. Limit of the vocal alphabet. 22. Speech from these vocal elements alone. 23. How vowels form the radical alphabet of speech. 24. A consonant to be described upon principle. 25. Distinction in consonants of liquids and mutes. 26. How vowels are to be articulated by the consonants; 27. and thus expressive sounds multiplied. 28. How consonants are to be distinguished. 29. Five definable positions of the mouth. 30. Letters of the first position how formed. 31. Distinction of perfect and imperfect mutes. 32. The theory confirmed in the examination of the second position; 33. as also in that of the third. 34. The fourth position. 35. Five modifications of the organ. 36. Each of these considered. 37. Why
PARTICULAR CONTENTS.


CHAP. III.—General Reflections with regard to this Doctrine of the Alphabet.

1. What sounds to be admitted. 2. Argument in support of the doctrine. 3. Principles of a perfect alphabet. 4. Example in illustration. 5. Conclusion.

CHAP. IV.—Advantages arising from the Science of the Alphabet.


SECTION