

## Philosophy as the "Science of Sciences."

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I believe it is customary for the professor to whom it falls to deliver the Introductory Address, to take advantage of this opportunity to explain, in general and somewhat popular terms, the nature and claims of his own special subject, as well as its relation to other departments of academic study. And while I should naturally, on the ground of precedent alone, be led to adopt a similar course, I do so the more willingly because of the peculiar position and fortune of Mental Philosophy. Here, if anywhere, there is need of explanation, and possibly even of defence. It is, indeed, significant of the irresistible claims of Philosophy that its right to a place in the academic curriculum is seldom, if ever, openly questioned. While the scientific and practical mind of this century has no hesitation in questioning the value of a classical education, it seldom ventures upon an open and avowed attack on the equally old-world and unpractical study of Philosophy. Still there is a widespread scepticism, none the less real because it is ashamed to express itself, as to the intrinsic value and present interest of philosophical study. It is allowed to retain its place by sufferance, as it were, as an interesting survival of the ancient and mediæval world, and a useful intellectual gymnastic. None, perhaps, who pretend to culture, and none without such a pretension dare intermeddle with questions of