

PREFACE.

IN presenting to the reading public this little work, and the one on "Knowledge by Perception and Reasoning," which is intended to accompany it, we are not aware that any apology is either due or necessary.

They are got up in the form of Tracts, for the simple reason that we were unable to publish them in any other,—seconded by the consideration that if not found worth reading in this form, they would not be worth publishing in a more expensive one. Their method of presentation to the public, then, is modest enough.

In regard to the matter of both Tracts,—as it was evolved from the study of the human mind itself, rather than from the mere servile study of the text-books on the subject,—it is probable that some of the principles maintained, as well as their methods of treatment, will be found to differ from those of other works on the same subject. Though we have read other works freely, we have a persuasion that the human mind itself, ever at hand, is the best of all text-books on this subject; and we have studied it closely; yet we are far from pretending to infallible accuracy in our knowledge of all that this text-book teaches.

Be this as it may—as all students of a subject wish to know one another's opinions—we submit the results of our study to their examination with all cheerfulness.

We are aware that there is very much in both the matter and its treatment which is imperfect; but having now on our hands a pastoral charge that requires very much of our time and attention, we have concluded to consign both Tracts in their present state to the public. The Tract on "Knowledge by Perception and Reasoning," which is intended to accompany this one, is really the elder of the two by several years. It was, at one time, our intention to make some alterations in its matter and method; but with some few additions in the form of notes, etc., it goes to the public in its original shape.

As to the style in which both Tracts are written, all that has been chiefly cared for has been just to convey clear ideas respecting the subjects which we have discussed.

In conclusion, we commit both to the public, in the hope that they may be useful, asking no other favour than just a careful and candid reading of their contents.

ALEX. NICOL.

Ayton, 1882.