

polarized light, the spectrum, colour-blindness, magnetism, and chemistry. As he advanced his teachers formed the highest opinion of his intellectual originality and force. Subsequently he passed on to the consideration of rolling curves and the compression of solids, and in 1849 (he was then nineteen) Professor Kelland read a paper written by him for the Edinburgh Royal Society, on the "Equilibrium of Elastic Solids." The Academy lectures interested him greatly, and from Sir William Hamilton he received an impulse which never lost its effect. His boundless curiosity was fed by the Professor's inexhaustible learning. His geometrical imagination predisposed him to accept the doctrine of "Natural Realism," while his mystical tendency found some satisfaction in the distinction and relations between knowledge and belief. In his frequent excursions into the region of speculative thought during the following years, the ideas received from Sir William were his habitual vantage-ground, whence he started and to which he returned. At the same time it was impossible that young Maxwell should listen to speculations about the first principles of things—speculations, too, which, like all Scottish philosophy, turned largely on the *reality* of the external world—without eagerly working out some problems for himself.

From Edinburgh to Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1850. There he soon made troops of friends in spite of eccentricities, for he lent new life to all the intellectual pursuits of his associates. And he was loyal to early religious convictions, for he took his place among those young men who retained the religious faith with which they had been brought up, and many of whom were, as he was, interested in the preaching of the present Bishop of Carlisle. Referring to the neglect, if not repudiation, of the Old Testament, he writes: "Compare the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob with the God of the Prophets and the God of the Apostles, and however the Pantheist may contrast the god of nature with the 'dark Hebrew God,' you will find them much liker each other than either like his." He was always a regular attendant at the services of God's house, and a constant communicant in the