

PROSPECTUS
OF THE
ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA,
NINTH EDITION.

*Edited by THOMAS SPENCER BAYNES, LL.D., Professor of
Logic, Rhetoric, and Metaphysics, in the University of St. Andrews.*

IN submitting to the Public the PROSPECTUS of a New Edition of the ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA, it is almost needless to explain that during the interval which has elapsed since the publication of the Eighth Edition, great advances have been made in every department of knowledge, and particularly in the Arts and Sciences. It has accordingly been found necessary to adopt a scheme of very extensive alteration in the preparation of the NINTH EDITION, amounting virtually to a reconstruction of the entire work. Thus, while the general character of the ENCYCLOPÆDIA will remain substantially unchanged, the whole of the matter retained from the last Edition will be subjected to thorough revision, and the necessary additions (estimated at considerably more than half the whole work) provided for from the best sources. The utmost care will be taken in selecting headings and deciding on methods of treatment, so as to embody the greatest amount of general information in the most accessible form. The more important topics will be dealt with systematically and at length, and particular attention will be given to all subjects of general and popular interest. The object aimed at is the production of a work which shall possess the highest character and value as a Book of Reference adapted in all respects to the circumstances and requirements of the time.

One of the distinctive features of the ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA has always been the large number of original articles contributed by specialists in their respective departments.

It is now upwards of a century since the ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA made its first appearance. The FIRST Edition, in Three volumes quarto, published in 1771, was little more than a Dictionary of Arts and Sciences; the SECOND (1778-1783), in Ten volumes, introduced the branches of Biography and History. The THIRD Edition (1797) extended to Eighteen volumes, to which a supplement of Two volumes was added. The FOURTH (1810), in Twenty volumes, was reproduced in a Fifth and Sixth with little alteration; and a very important addition was made, between the years 1815 and 1824, in a Supplement of Six volumes. The two subsequent Editions, the SEVENTH (1830-1842) and the EIGHTH (1852-1860), each in Twenty-one volumes, were in every respect greatly superior to their predecessors, and adequately supplied the demand for general information at the time of their publication.

It is proposed that the Ninth Edition shall be on the same scale as the Eighth, namely, in Twenty-one Volumes quarto, of about 800 pages each. Numerous engravings on wood and steel will illustrate the text. The work is to be issued at the rate, as far as practicable, of three Volumes per annum.

Volumes I. to VI. are now ready.

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