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## REMARKS ON PROFESSOR BOOLE'S MATHEMATICAL THEORY OF THE LAWS OF THOUGHT.

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BY GEORGE PAXTON YOUNG, M. A.,  
INSPECTOR OF GRAMMAR SCHOOLS FOR UPPER CANADA.

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In a recent issue we announced the death of Professor George Boole, of Queen's College, Cork, a man of varied and profound acquirements, and of singular originality of mind. The work on which his fame will mainly rest is undoubtedly his "Investigation of the Laws of Thought, on which are founded the Mathematical Theories of Logic and Probabilities." We have long purposed to call attention to this remarkable production, though various circumstances have hitherto prevented us from doing so. The present seems a suitable occasion for testifying our admiration of the genius of the deceased philosopher, and, at the same time, endeavouring to give a brief account, inadequate as it must necessarily be, of what may be termed his Mathematico-logical speculations.

The primary, though not the exclusive, design of the "Investigation," is to express in the symbolical language of a Calculus, the fundamental Laws of Thought, and upon this foundation to establish the science of Logic and construct its method.

The elementary symbols of Professor Boole's Calculus are of three kinds: 1st. Literal symbols, as  $x$ ,  $y$ , &c., representing the objects of our conceptions; 2nd. Signs of operation, as  $+$ ,  $-$ ,  $\times$ ; and 3rd,