

CHAPTER XV.

Again, we repeat, Bishop Berkeley, after his Intellectual, Mathematical, Metaphysical, and Theological Assaults on the Material World, became confused and stranded at the four intersecting paths: 1, Agnosticism; 2, Gnosticism; 3, Faith; and 4, Scepticism; not knowing which path to take, became despondent, and did not venture further. In this quandary, Mr. Hume found him, and undertook to lead him, if he would allow him to choose his own path, to which the Bishop consented. So by carefully leading, cautiously examining, and expeditiously exploring every nook and cranny of the path selected, he led the Bishop until he landed him over the precipice into the abyss, as an Unconscious Sceptic; not a Universal Sceptic. For that is a person who attempts to act, without the structure of his mind, and by other laws than those to which nature has subjected the operation of his mind; in short, to reason without assenting to the principles on which reasoning is founded, is not unlike an effort to feel without nerves, or to move without muscles. No man can be allowed to be an opponent in reasoning, who does not admit the *a priori* principles; without the admission of such principles it is impossible to reason.

The achievements of "Physical Science" at the present day is based upon "Three Hypotheses or Postulates, viz. First:—The Molecular Theory of