

much to mould contemporary public opinion on a vast variety of social and political topics as John Stuart Mill. His positions and arguments are always assumed or expounded with no other end in view than the diffusion of truth and the improvement of society. He has popularized and fused together into a single system of political economy the views and principles of Malthus, Ricardo and other successors of Adam Smith; and the clever satire which sparkles on the page of almost every social reformer of to-day owes its inspiration to a volume which has found neither fitting supplement nor adequate refutation, whether the views insisted upon in it are considered right or wrong. As an ethical philosopher Mill has the merit of freeing Utilitarianism from the grossness it assumes in the hands of Hobbes and Paley; while, in the expression of his views, he seems to combine the strong intellect and incisive logic of the former with the charming simplicity of the latter, adding a grace, and even a poetic flavour, which are all his own. His "System of Logic Ratiocinative and Inductive" stands on a level with the systems of Locke and Sir William Hamilton; and while the older metaphysician is notoriously prolix and verbose, the style of Mill compares by no means unfavourably with that of Hamilton, even in those qualities that have, as much as anything else, built up the reputation of the latter—force, clearness, and conciseness. The noble treatise on "Liberty" is, perhaps, the best known, as it is certainly the most eloquent of his works; but the celebrated inaugural address which he delivered when elected Lord Rector of a Scottish University may well be regarded as the most singular, considering that the almost encyclopedic learning of the author, which shines on every page, was acquired without the advantages of a collegiate education and during a life of physical suffering which racked and tortured the insignificant looking frame of the invalid philosopher. Although a Radical of the most pronounced type, whose opinions, diffused in the form of books and Review articles, have done much to educate the Liberal party for over thirty years, Mill was never afraid of opposing anything which would not square with his principles. Equally unconcerned about the resentment of alienated friends and the violent opposition of foes, provoked by his imperturbable good humor, dispassionate manner, keen sarcasm, and great intellectual acumen, he was the most thoroughly independent party man since the days of Halifax, the Great Trimmer, so lovingly depicted in the pages of Macaulay. Well would it be for the country, and for the success of responsible government and representative institutions, if party men in general could be found willing to display the same spirit of genuine independence. With men in Parliament actuated by his spirit, which they might all be, even if they lacked his deep insight into the principles which underlie the current topics for discussion, the science of politics would be divested of all that miserable chicanery which has