

with the "Intellectual Awakening" of Hume, and with the direction taken by his thoughts. Hume in his turn set Modern Thought on the lines on which we find it at the present day. Hume asserts that Berkeley's writings form the best lessons in scepticism which are to be found among the Ancient or Modern Philosophers (Bayle not excepted), thus transforming Berkeley into "an Unconscious Sceptic."

I have endeavoured in these brief and concise Essays to give the reader, and especially the young student of Logic and Metaphysics, a "Bird's Eye View" of Mr. Hume's position.

- (a) How he came to take such a position;
- (b) His Method of Combatting his position, and
- (c) The Vindication of his position.

If I succeed in removing the mist and veil of words, from the minds of those people who look upon Mr. Hume as a pronounced Sceptic, I will feel satisfied.

I hate the term "Sceptic," because the Greek word *skeptikos* meaning: "A Thoughtful Person" from what seemed an innocent and harmless Being has grown up into a most dangerous and unphilosophical monster. But as the mass of men rush to conclusions with haste and assert them with far more positiveness than their knowledge warrants, the discerning few of clearer vision are often brought into collision with popular beliefs, especially in Religion. Thus it is that in common parlance a "Sceptic" has come to mean a person who does not believe in a First Cause or Deos, call it what you may; but the field of Thought in which the Sceptic so-called pre-