

Dr. Bucke was a man of scholarly tastes and habit, and the proud possessor of one of the most extensive libraries in Canada, a man of wide cultivation and grasp of mind, a man in whom were united intellectual and moral forces not often found combined. A realist as regards all the details incident to the proper discharge of his official duties, he was nevertheless deeply tinged with mysticism and lived in a world of his own mental creation. The natural powers of a strong mind were in him refined by literary culture, his work never preventing his devoting a certain portion of the day to reading. In this way he kept in touch with all that was going on in the world, and had an intimate knowledge of most of the new works in literature and science. The wielder of a facile pen, he was one of the original Fellows of the Royal Society of Canada, having been chosen by its founder, the Marquis of Lorne, Governor-General of the Dominion, now the Duke of Argyle, as a representative on the English Literature Section.

In addition to his earliest work, "Man's Moral Nature," published in 1879, wherein he traces the development of the moral nature and contends that its physical basis is the great sympathetic nervous system, Dr. Bucke was the author of a large number of papers dealing directly or indirectly with the subject of mental evolution. Throughout all of them is maintained the opinion that the human mind has been slowly evolved by a species of unfolding, or growth, extending over millions of years, and that, in process of time, new faculties, even new senses, will probably be evolved.

His latest work, "Cosmic Consciousness," published in 1901, Dr. Bucke inscribed in touching terms to his eldest son, Maurice, a young man of great promise as an essayist and mining engineer, to whom he was tenderly attached, and whose accidental death in Montana, in 1899, was a great shock to him. This dedication forms an excellent index to the heart and mind of a very remarkable man. The volume is an epitome of the Doctor's many writings on mental evolution—the product of thought and work extending over a period of nearly thirty years. In it he describes and traces the origin of a new faculty, now in course of development in the human race, to which faculty he gives the name "Cosmic Consciousness." As he himself puts it, the object of the work is to show, "That the human mind is now in the very act