

PREFACE.

The groundwork of these Essays was laid when I was a member of the Senior Division of the Class of Logic and Metaphysics in the University of Edinburgh. They are chiefly compiled from the notes of the class lectures, from the works of Bishop Berkeley, edited by A. C. Fraser, late Professor of Logic and Metaphysics, and from the study of various authors.

I have revised, rewritten, and brought the conceptions down to the present day. I have never had the courage to give them to the public, because I felt sure that erstwhile some noted Scotch Metaphysician would arise and vindicate the character of Mr. Hume, from the stigma placed upon it by the churchmen; but, so far as I can learn, nobody has yet done so, though many philosophical scholars have written elaborately on the theories of Berkeley and Hume, making comprehension still more incomprehensible to the mind of the ordinary thinking Being.

The Original Essays were competitive, read and discussed before the students' association; they caused not a little sensation at the time, owing to the views contained in them, not quite agreeing with the views of the leading Physical Scientists, who, since that day, have come to take a more moderate view of Locke's Theory, and the Evolution Theory of Darwin.