

idealist. He defends the Calvinistic doctrine of determinism by the following argument : It is impossible that what is by its very nature indifferent to any determined choice, could *spontaneously* become determined. This, it may be remarked, is admitted by Thomists, who base on it the necessity of the determining intervention of God in every voluntary act (*premotio physica*). The great merit of Edwards' work was that it awakened speculation. The chief characteristic of his and contemporary philosophy is its subordination to the Puritan theology ; this indeed kept up a tradition of sound philosophy but lessened the freedom of speculation.

With the revolutionary period in America history begins the era of Scottish influence on philosophy. In 1768 John Witherspoon (a descendant of John Knox) was called from Scotland to be president of Princeton. He introduced Scottish philosophy into America. The Puritan spirit which was essentially religious had no sympathy with the prevalent English deism and French scepticism which were attacking the Christian idea. So Americans utilized the Scottish "common sense" school to defend religion. From the beginning of the century it was the dominant philosophy in the United States—a position it held, at least in the educational institutions, till the sixties, and even to-day it has many partisans, especially in the denominational colleges.

The first writer of importance is L. P. Hickok, (1797-1888) president of Union College, Schenectady. His aim is to establish solidly on demonstrative and rational bases, the philosophic conceptions which revelation supposes. Though he has some Kantian ideas he upholds strongly a sane realism, and believes in a perfect accordance between the subjective and objective world. His works on Rational and Empirical Psychology and Rational Cosmology, are, according to an able critic, the most original, complete and important movement that American thought had till then (1854) given birth to.

When in 1868, one century after Witherspoon, John MacCosh (1811-1894) like him, assumed the presidency of Princeton, Scottish philosophy in America was giving way to German and evolutionary systems. MacCosh wrote strongly against German idealism, attacking it with the common sense argument. He is