

FIRST
PRINCIPLES.

BY
HERBERT SPENCER.

FIFTH EDITION.

(EIGHTH THOUSAND).

Containing an Appendix.

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PREFACE TO THE FOURTH EDITION.

To the first edition of this work there should have been prefixed a definite indication of its origin; and the misapprehensions that have arisen in the absence of such indication, ought before now to have shown me the need for supplying it.

Though reference was made in a note on the first page of the original preface, to certain Essays entitled "Progress: its Law and Cause," and "Transcendental Physiology," as containing generalizations which were to be elaborated in the "System of Philosophy" there set forth in programme, yet the dates of these Essays were not given; nor was there any indication of their cardinal importance as containing, in a brief form, the general Theory of Evolution. No clear evidence to the contrary standing in the way, there has been very generally uttered and accepted the belief that this work, and the works following it, originated after, and resulted from, the special doctrine contained in Mr. Darwin's *Origin of Species*.

The Essay on "Progress: its Law and Cause," coextensive in the theory it contains with Chapters XV., XVI., XVII., and XX. in Part II. of this work, was first published in the *Westminster Review* for April, 1857; and the Essay in which is briefly set forth the general truth elaborated in, Chapter XIX., originally appeared, under the title of "The

Ultimate Laws of Physiology," in the *National Review* for October, 1857. Further, I may point out that in the first edition of *The Principles of Psychology*, published in July 1855, mental phenomena are interpreted entirely from the evolution point of view; and the words used in the titles of sundry chapters, imply the presence, at that date, of ideas more widely applied in the Essays just named. As the first edition of *The Origin of Species* did not make its appearance till October, 1859, it is manifest that the theory set forth in this work and its successors, had an origin independent of, and prior to, that which is commonly assumed to have initiated it.

The distinctness of origin might, indeed, have been inferred from the work itself, which deals with Evolution at large—Inorganic, Organic, and Super-organic—in terms of Matter and Motion; and touches but briefly on those particular processes so luminously exhibited by Mr. Darwin. In § 159 only, (p. 447) when illustrating the law of "The Multiplication of Effects," as universally displayed, have I had occasion to refer to the doctrine set forth in the *Origin of Species*: pointing out that the general cause I had previously assigned for the production of divergent varieties of organisms, would not suffice to account for all the facts without that special cause disclosed by Mr. Darwin. The absence of this passage would, of course, leave a serious gap in the general argument; but the remainder of the work would stand exactly as it now does.

I do not make this explanation in the belief that the prevailing misapprehension will thereby soon be rectified; for I am conscious that, once having become current, wrong beliefs of this kind long persist—all disproofs notwithstanding. Nevertheless, I yield to the suggestion that unless I state the facts as they stand, I shall continue to countenance the misapprehension, and cannot expect it to cease.

With the exception of unimportant changes in one of the notes, and some typographical corrections, the text of this edition is identical with that of the last. I have, however, added an Appendix dealing with certain criticisms that have been passed upon the general formula of Evolution, and upon the philosophical doctrine which precedes it.

May, 1880.

PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION.

THE fresh supply from time to time printed from the stereotype-plates of this work, has been, in some cases, entirely like the preceding supply; while, in other cases, the plates have undergone more or less alteration. Hence the number of the edition does not correspond with the number of the thousand. In pursuance of an ordinary practice of the book-trade, which I disapprove because it is misleading, the title Third Edition was, without my knowledge, given to one of the thousands which differed in no way from the preceding thousand.

This, however, is really a Third Edition. Besides some minor alterations which I need not specify, there have been extensive changes in the Chapters on the "Indestructibility of Matter," "The Continuity of Motion," and "The Persistence of Force." Originally written in 1861, when the doctrine respecting the quantitative relations of the physical forces had not reached its developed form, these chapters have now been re-written for the purpose of harmonizing them with that doctrine as it is at present understood: some differences of conception and terminology, being, however, intentionally retained.

October, 1875.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

WHEN the First Edition of this work was published, I supposed that the general theory set forth in its Second Part, was presented in something like a finished form; but subsequent thought led me to further developments of much importance, and disclosed the fact that the component parts of the theory had been wrongly put together. Even in the absence of a more special reason, I had decided that, on the completion of the *Principles of Biology*, it would be proper to suspend for a few months the series I am issuing, that I might make the required re-organization. And when the time had arrived, there had arisen a more special reason, which forbade hesitation. Translations into the French and Russian languages were about to be made—had, in fact, been commenced; and had I deferred the re-organization the work would have been reproduced with all its original imperfections. This will be a sufficient explanation to those who have complained of the delay in the issue of the *Principles of Psychology*.

The First Part remains almost untouched: two verbal alterations only, on pp. 43 and 99, having been made to prevent misconceptions. Part II., however, is wholly transformed. Its first chapter, on "Laws in General," is omitted, with a view to the inclusion of it in one of the latter volumes of the series. Two minor chapters disappear. Most of the rest are transposed, in groups or singly. And there are nine new chapters embodying the further developments, and serving to combine the pre-existing chapters into a changed whole. The following scheme in

which the new chapters are marked by italics, will give an idea of the transformation:—

FIRST EDITION.	SECOND EDITION.
Laws in General.	<i>Philosophy Defined.</i>
The Law of Evolution.	<i>The Data of Philosophy.</i>
The Law of Evolution (continued).	
The Causes of Evolution.	
Space, Time, Matter, Motion, and Force.	Space, Time, Matter, Motion, and Force.
The Indestructibility of Matter.	The Indestructibility of Matter.
The Continuity of Motion.	The Continuity of Motion.
The Persistence of Force.	The Persistence of Force.
	<i>The Persistence of Rebutious among Forces.</i>
The Correlation and Equivalence of Forces.	The Transformation and Equivalence of Forces.
The Direction of Motion.	The Direction of Motion.
The Rhythm of Motion.	The Rhythm of Motion.
	<i>Recapitulation, Criticism, and Re-commencement</i>
The Conditions essential to Evolution.	<i>Evolution and Dissolution.</i>
	<i>Simple and Compound Evolution.</i>
	The Law of Evolution.
	The Law of Evolution (continued).
	The Law of Evolution (continued).
	<i>The Law of Evolution (concluded).</i>
	<i>The Interpretation of Evolution.</i>
The Instability of the Homogeneous.	The Instability of the Homogeneous.
The Multiplication of Effects.	The Multiplication of Effects.
Differentiation and Integration.	Segregation.
Equilibration.	Equilibration.
	<i>Dissolution.</i>
Summary and Conclusion.	Summary and Conclusion (Rewritten).

Of course throughout this re-organized Second Part the numbers of the sections have been changed;

and hence those who possess the *Principles of Biology*, in which many references are made to passages in *First Principles*, would be inconvenienced by the want of correspondence between the numbers of the sections in the original edition and in the new edition, were they without any means of identifying the sections as now numbered. The annexed list, showing which section answers to which in the two editions, will meet the requirement:—

First Edit.	Second Edit.	First Edit.	Second Edit.	First Edit.	Second Edit.	First Edit.	Second Edit.	First Edit.	Second Edit.
§13	§119		107	§72	§58	§92	§81	§121	§161
44	117		108	73	59	93	82	122	162
45	118		109	74	60	94	83	123	163
46	120		110	75	61	95	84	124	164
47	121	§56	111	76	62	96	85	125	165
48	122		112	77	66	97	86	126	166
49	123		113	78	67	98	87	127	167
50	124		114	79	68	99	88	128	168
51	125		115	80	69	109	149	129	169
52	126	61	46	81	70	110	150	130	170
53	128	62	47	82	71	111	151	131	171
54	129	63	48	83	72	112	152	132	172
	55	64	49	84	73	113	153	133	173
		65	50	85	74	114	154	134	174
		66	52	86	75	115	155	135	175
		67	53	87	76	116	156	136	176
		68	54	88	77	117	157	137	177 183
		69	55	89	78	118	158	144	
		70	56	90	79	119	159	144	193
		71	57	91	80	120	160	145	194

The original stereotype plates have been used wherever it was possible; and hence the exact correspondence between the two editions in many places, even where adjacent pages are altered.

London, November, 1867.

PREFACE.

THIS volume is the first of a series described in a prospectus originally distributed in March, 1860. Of that prospectus, the annexed is a reprint.

A SYSTEM OF PHILOSOPHY.

MR. HERBERT SPENCER proposes to issue in periodical parts a connected series of works which he has for several years been preparing. Some conception of the general aim and scope of this series may be gathered from the following Programme.

FIRST PRINCIPLES.

PART I. THE UNKNOWABLE.—Carrying a step further the doctrine put into shape by Hamilton and Mansel; pointing out the various directions in which Science leads to the same conclusions; and showing that in this united belief in an Absolute that transcends not only human knowledge but human conception, lies the only possible reconciliation of Science and Religion.

PART II. LAWS OF THE KNOWABLE.—A statement of the ultimate principles discernible throughout all manifestations of the Absolute—those highest generalizations now being disclosed by Science which are severally true not of one class of phenomena but of *all* classes of phenomena; and which are thus the keys to all classes of phenomena.*

* One of these generalizations is that currently known as "the Conservation of Force;" a second may be gathered from a published essay on "Progress: its Law and Cause;" a third is indicated in a paper on "Transcendental Physiology;" and there are several others.

[In logical order should here come the application of these *First Principles* to *Inorganic Nature*. But this great division it is proposed to pass over: partly because, even without it, the scheme is too extensive: and partly because the interpretation of *Organic Nature* after the proposed method, is of more immediate importance. The second work of the series will therefore be—]

THE PRINCIPLES OF BIOLOGY.

VOL. I.

PART I. THE DATA OF BIOLOGY.—Including those general truths of Physics and Chemistry with which rational Biology must set out.

II. THE ANTECEDENTS OF BIOLOGY.—A statement of the leading generalizations which Naturalists, Physiologists, and Comparative Anatomists, have established.

III. THE EVOLUTION OF LIFE.—Concerning the speculation commonly known as "The Development Hypothesis"—its *à priori* and *à posteriori* evidences.

VOL. II.

IV. MORPHOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT.—Pointing out the relations that are everywhere traceable between organic forms and the average of the various forces to which they are subject: and seeking in the cumulative effects of such forces a theory of the forms.

V. PHYSIOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT.—The progressive differentiation of functions similarly traced: and similarly interpreted as consequent upon the exposure of different parts of organisms to different sets of conditions.

VI. THE LAWS OF METAMORPHOSIS.—Generalizations respecting the rates of reproduction of the various classes of plants and animals; followed by an attempt to show the dependence of these variations upon certain necessary causes.*

* The ideas to be developed in the second volume of the *Principles of Biology* the writer has already briefly expressed in sundry Review-Articles. Part IV. will work out a doctrine suggested in a paper on "The Laws of Organic Form," published in the *Methodist Eclectic Review* for January, 1850. The germ of Part V. is contained in the essay on "Transcendental Physiology;" See *Essays*, pp. 280-56. And in Part VI. will be unfolded certain views crudely expressed in a "Theory of Population," published in the *Westminster Review* for April, 1852.

THE PRINCIPLES OF PSYCHOLOGY.

VOL. I.

PART I. THE DATA OF PSYCHOLOGY.—Treating of the general connexions of Mind and Life and their relations to other modes of the Unknowable.

II. THE INDUCTIONS OF PSYCHOLOGY.—A digest of such generalizations respecting mental phenomena as have already been empirically established.

III. GENERAL SYNTHESIS.—A republication, with additional chapters, of the same part in the already-published *Principles of Psychology*.

IV. SPECIAL SYNTHESIS.—A republication, with extensive revisions and additions, of the same part, &c. &c.

V. PHYSICAL SYNTHESIS.—An attempt to show the manner in which the succession of states of consciousness conforms to a certain fundamental law of nervous action that follows from the First Principles laid down at the outset.

VOL. II.

VI. SPECIAL ANALYSIS.—As at present published, but further elaborated by some additional chapters.

VII. GENERAL ANALYSIS.—As at present published, with several explanations and additions.

VIII. COROLLARIES.—Consisting in part of a number of derivative principles which form a necessary introduction to *Sociology*.*

THE PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY.

VOL. I.

PART I. THE DATA OF SOCIOLOGY.—A statement of the several sets of factors entering into social phenomena—human ideas and feelings considered in their necessary order of evolution; surrounding natural conditions; and those ever complicating conditions to which Society itself gives origin.

II. THE INDUCTIONS OF SOCIOLOGY.—General facts, structural and functional, as gathered from a survey of Societies and their changes: in

* Respecting the several additions to be made to the *Principles of Psychology*, it seems needful only to say that Part V. is the unwritten division named in the preface to that work—a division of which the germ is contained in a note on page 54, and of which the scope has since been more definitely stated in a paper in the *Medico-Chirurgical Review* for Jan. 1859.

other words, the empirical generalizations that are arrived at by comparing different societies, and successive phases of the same society.

III. POLITICAL ORGANIZATION.—The evolution of governments, general and local, as determined by natural causes; their several types and metamorphoses; their increasing complexity and specialization; and the progressive limitation of their functions.

VOL. II.

IV. ECCLESIASTICAL ORGANIZATION.—Tracing the differentiation of religious government from secular: its successive complications and the multiplication of sects; the growth and continued modification of religious ideas, as caused by advancing knowledge and changing moral character; and the gradual reconciliation of these ideas with the truths of abstract science.

V. CEREMONIAL ORGANIZATION.—The natural history of that third kind of government which, having a common root with the others, and slowly becoming separate from and supplementary to them, serves to regulate the minor actions of life.

VI. INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION.—The development of productive and distributive agencies, considered, like the foregoing, in its necessary causes: comprehending not only the progressive division of labour, and the increasing complexity of each industrial agency, but also the successive forms of industrial government as passing through like phases with political government.

VOL. III.

VII. LINGUAL PROGRESS.—The evolution of Languages regarded as a psychological process determined by social conditions.

VIII. INTELLECTUAL PROGRESS.—Treated from the same point of view: including the growth of classifications; the evolution of science out of common knowledge; the advance from qualitative to quantitative prevision, from the indefinite to the definite, and from the concrete to the abstract.

IX. ÆSTHETIC PROGRESS.—The Fine Arts similarly dealt with: tracing their gradual differentiation from primitive institutions and from each other: their increasing varieties of development; and their advance in reality of expression and superiority of aim.

X. MORAL PROGRESS.—Exhibiting the genesis of the slow emotional modifications which human nature undergoes in its adaptation to the social state.

XI. THE CONSENSUS.—Treating of the necessary interdependence of structures and of functions in each type of society, and in the successive phases of social development.*

THE PRINCIPLES OF MORALITY.

VOL. I.

PART I. THE DATA OF MORALITY.—Generalizations furnished by Biology, Psychology and Sociology, which underlie a true theory of right living: in other words, the elements of that equilibrium between constitution and conditions of existence, which is at once the moral ideal and the limit towards which we are progressing.

II. THE INDUCTIONS OF MORALITY.—Those empirically-established rules of human action which are registered as essential laws by all civilized nations: that is to say—the generalizations of expediency.

III. PERSONAL MORALS.—The principles of private conduct—physical, intellectual, moral and religious—that follow from the conditions to complete individual life: or, what is the same thing—those modes of private action which must result from the eventual equilibration of internal desires and external needs.

VOL. II.

IV. JUSTICE.—The mutual limitations of men's actions necessitated by their co-existence as units of a society—limitations, the perfect observance of which constitutes that state of equilibrium forming the goal of political progress.

V. NEGATIVE BENEFICENCE.—Those secondary limitations, similarly necessitated, which, though less important and not cognizable by law, are yet requisite to prevent mutual destruction of happiness in various indirect ways: in other words—those minor self-restraints dictated by what may be called passive sympathy.

* Of this treatise on Sociology a few small fragments may be found in already-published essays. Some of the ideas to be developed in Part II. are indicated in an article on "The Social Organism," contained in the last number of the *Westminster Review*; those which Part V. will work out, may be gathered from the first half of a paper written some years since on "Manners and Fashion;" of Part VIII. the germs are contained in an article on the "Genesis of Science;" two papers on "The Origin and Function of Music" and "The Philosophy of Style," contain some ideas to be embodied in Part IX.; and from a criticism of Mr. Bain's work on "The Emotions and the Will," in the last number of the *Medico-Chirurgical Review*, the central idea to be developed in Part X. may be inferred.

VI. POSITIVE BENEFICENCE.—Comprehending all modes of conduct, dictated by active sympathy, which imply pleasure in giving pleasure—modes of conduct that social adaptation has induced and must render ever more general; and which, in becoming universal, must fill to the full the possible measure of human happiness.*

In anticipation of the obvious criticism that the scheme here sketched out is too extensive, it may be remarked that an exhaustive treatment of each topic is not intended; but simply the establishment of *principles*, with such illustrations as are needed to make their bearings fully understood. It may also be pointed out that, besides minor fragments, one large division (*The Principles of Psychology*) is already, in great part, executed. And a further reply is, that impossible though it may prove to execute the whole, yet nothing can be said against an attempt to set forth the First Principles and to carry their applications as far as circumstances permit.

The price per Number to be half-a-crown; that is to say, the four Numbers yearly issued to be severally delivered, post free, to all annual subscribers of Ten Shillings.

* Part IV. of the *Principles of Morality* will be co-extensive (though not identical) with the first half of the writer's *Social Statics*.

This Programme I have thought well to reprint for two reasons:—the one being that readers may, from time to time, be able to ascertain what topics are next to be dealt with; the other being that an outline of the scheme may remain, in case it should never be completed.

The successive instalments of which this volume consists, were issued to the subscribers at the following dates:—Part I. (pp. 1—80) in October, 1860; Part II. (pp. 81—176) in January, 1861; Part III. (pp. 177—256) in April, 1861; Part IV. (pp. 257—344) in October, 1861; Part V. (pp. 345—416) in March, 1862; and Part VI. (pp. 417—504) in June, 1862.*

London, June 5th, 1862.

* These dates and pagings of the divisions as originally issued, of course do not apply to the volume as it now stands, beyond page 123.

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