

BRIEF EXPOSÉ  
OF  
M. AUGUSTE COMTE'S  
THREE STAGES OF THOUGHT,

BEING

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE STUDENTS' LITERARY  
AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY AT BOMBAY  
ON 3RD MARCH 1873.

BY

FRAMJEE R. VICAJEE.

---

BOMBAY:  
PRINTED AT THE  
EDUCATION SOCIETY'S PRESS, BYCULLA.

1873.

## PRELIMINARY NOTE.

---

No pretension is made in the following Paper to approach the Law of the historical analysis of thought from a new or original view-point. But I have attempted, as best I humbly could, so to collate and summarise the statement of the Law, its main characteristics, examples, and objections to it, as to present it in a sufficiently organic shape, though freed of, and distinct from, its technical bearings on Comte's general system. I have based the Paper entirely on the materials, not excepting even the illustrations, supplied by two of the most leading living expounders of the Law, namely, Mr. John Stuart Mill in his work on *Auguste Comte and Positivism*, and Mr. George Henry Lewes in his *History of Philosophy*, Vol. 2, and also his volume on *Comte's Philosophy of the Sciences* in Bohn's Scientific Library. Incidentally, I have consulted M. E. Littré's lucid account of *Auguste Comte et la Philosophie Positive*,

Miss Harriet Martineau's *Positive Philosophy of Auguste Comte*, Bain's *Mental and Moral Science*, and Dr. William Whewell's chapter in his *Philosophy of Discovery* on the furthest advance of the sensational school. If the Paper will tend to set the Law in the "dry light," so to speak, of the great mind which originally discovered it, unaffected with the "moist humours" of my own discoloured and distorted interpretations of it, it will have fulfilled its intended purpose.

*Bombay, March 1873.*

---

---

COMTE'S  
THREE STAGES OF THOUGHT.

---

## CONTENTS.

---

	PAGE
SUBJECT DEFINED .....	9
INTRODUCTORY TERMS REFERRED TO .....	10
STATEMENT OF THE LAW .....	12
THE THEOLOGICAL STAGE .....	14
THE METAPHYSICAL STAGE .....	17
THE POSITIVE STAGE .....	19
EXAMPLES .....	21
OBJECTIONS.....	22
CONCLUSION .....	26