

**NATURAL HISTORY
OF INTELLECT: AND
OTHER PAPERS**

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Natural History of Intellect: And Other Papers by Ralph Waldo Emerson

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RALPH WALDO EMERSON

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BY

RALPH WALDO EMERSON



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1894



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PREFATORY NOTE.

THE first two pieces in this volume are lectures from the "University Courses" on philosophy, given at Harvard College in 1870 and 1871, by persons not members of the Faculty. "The Natural History of the Intellect" was the subject which Emerson chose. He had from his early youth cherished the project of a new method in metaphysics, proceeding by observation of the mental facts, without attempting an analysis and coördination of them, which must, from the nature of the case, be premature. With this view, he had, at intervals from 1848 to 1866, announced courses on the "Natural History of Intellect," "The Natural Method of Mental Philosophy," and "Philosophy for the People." He would, he said, give anecdotes of the spirit, a calendar of mental moods, without any pretense of system.

None of these attempts, however, disclosed any novelty of method, or, indeed, after the opening statement of his intention, any marked difference from his ordinary lectures. He had always been writing anecdotes

of the spirit, and those which he wrote under this heading were used by him in subsequently published essays so largely that I find very little left for present publication. The lecture which gives its name to the volume was the first of the earliest course, and it seems to me to include all that distinctly belongs to the particular subject.

The lecture on "Memory" is from the same course; that on "Boston" from the course on "Life and Literature," in 1861. The other pieces are reprints from the "North American Review" and the "Dial."

J. E. CABOT.

September 9, 1893.

NATURAL HISTORY OF INTELLECT.

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
NATURAL HISTORY OF INTELLECT	7
MEMORY	55
BOSTON	73
MICHAEL ANGELO	97
MILTON	121
PAPERS FROM THE DIAL	147
I. THOUGHTS ON MODERN LITERATURE	149
II. WALTER SAVAGE LANDOR	168
III. PRAYERS	177
IV. AGRICULTURE OF MASSACHUSETTS	183
V. EUROPE AND EUROPEAN BOOKS	187
VI. PAST AND PRESENT	197
VII. A LETTER	206
VIII. THE TRAGIC	216