

**A DEFENCE OF
PREJUDICE:
AND OTHER ESSAYS**

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A Defence of Prejudice: And Other Essays by John Grier Hibben

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BOOKS BY JOHN GRIER HIBBEN, Ph.D.

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A
DEFENCE OF PREJUDICE
AND OTHER ESSAYS

BY
JOHN GRIER HIBBEN, Ph.D., LL.D.
Stuart Professor of Logic, Princeton University

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MOSES TAYLOR PYNE
A FRIEND FOR WHOM
MY PREJUDICE NEEDS NO DEFENCE



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I

A DEFENCE OF PREJUDICE

WHAT is prejudice? Is it always something unreasonable? Is it to be regarded necessarily as an intruder among the more sober activities of the mind? Is it the enemy of clear thinking? Is it the counterfeit of a true judgment? There are many who would give an unqualified assent to these characterizations of the nature of prejudice. I am persuaded, however, that there is a certain form of prejudice that admits of a rational defence. In this defence, moreover, I am not taking merely the part of a devil's advocate; but, on the contrary, I am profoundly convinced that there is a prejudice which has a proper place in the processes of the mind, and must be reckoned with as a natural factor in our thinking, and is not to be regarded in any sense as an abnormal and disturbing element. It is very easy to insist that reason should be free from all taint of prejudice; but no one