

**THE PROCESS OF
ARGUMENT; A
CONTRIBUTION TO LOGIC**

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The process of argument; a contribution to logic by Alfred Sidgwick

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ALFRED SIDGWICK

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THE PROCESS OF ARGUMENT

"Je pris garde que, pour la logique, ses syllogismes et la plupart de ses autres instructions servent plutôt à expliquer à autrui les choses qu'on sait, ou même, comme l'art de Lulle, à parler sans jugement de celles qu'on ignore, qu'à les apprendre ; et bien qu'elle contienne, en effet, beaucoup de préceptes très-vrais et très-bons, il y en a toutefois tant d'autres mêlés parmi qui sont ou nuisibles ou superflus, qu'il est presque aussi nuisisif de les en séparer que de tirer une Diane ou une Minerve hors d'un bloc de marbre qui n'est point encore ébauché."—DESCARTES.

"Verus experientiae ordo primo lumen accendit, deinde per lumen iter demonstrat, incipiendum ab experientia ordinata et digesta et minime praepostera aut erratica, atque ex ea educendo axiomata, atque ex axiomatibus constitutis rursus experimenta nova."—BACON.

THE
PROCESS OF ARGUMENT

A CONTRIBUTION TO LOGIC

BY

ALFRED SIDGWICK

AUTHOR OF

"FALLACIES," "DISTINCTION," AND "THE CRITICISM OF BELIEFS," ETC.



LONDON

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1893

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PREFACE

THIS book, like my former ones, has for its aim the extension of a knowledge of the more useful parts of Logic. It is written for those who are interested rather in the war against fallacy than in the grammatical inquiries which form so large a part of the Logic taught in the text-books.

Some care has therefore been taken to use words as far as possible in their everyday sense. Wherever it has seemed more convenient to depart at all from the commonest custom, reasons are given and the departure is left optional. No attempt is made to force the reader to accept hard doctrines or strange definitions, which are not yet his own.

It is specially in regard to the meaning of technical terms that this negative mode of treatment shows itself. In Logic, as in other subjects, the leading terms are capable of better and worse definition, and it is not unusual to find that doctors differ on the question which definitions are best. In all such cases the aim of this book is to help the beginner to improve his own first notions for himself, rather than to get him to accept any ready-made ones which happen to seem satisfactory to some particular school of thought.

Appendix A is part of an article contributed to *Mind*, which the Editor kindly allows me to reprint. Special thanks are due to Mr. Carveth Read for the many improvements he has helped me to make throughout.

JULY 1893.



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