

**ON MAN'S POWER OVER
HIMSELF TO PREVENT OR
CONTROL INSANITY**

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On man's power over himself to prevent or control insanity by John Barlow

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JOHN BARLOW

**ON MAN'S POWER OVER
HIMSELF TO PREVENT OR
CONTROL INSANITY**



Small Books on Great Subjects.

EDITED BY A FEW WELL WISHERS
TO KNOWLEDGE.



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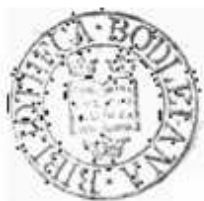
ON MAN'S POWER
OVER HIMSELF TO PREVENT OR
CONTROL INSANITY.

COMMUNICATED TO THE MEMBERS AT
THE ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN, ON
FRIDAY EVENING, MAY 29TH, 1843.

BY THE REV. JOHN BARLOW, M.A.
OF TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.
SECRETARY OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN, F. R. S. ETC.



LONDON:
WILLIAM PICKERING.
1843.



ADVERTISEMENT.

THE history of this little book is identical with that of "The Connection between Physiology and Intellectual Philosophy," which I published last year.

Each of these volumes contains the substance of a communication made to the Members of the Royal Institution, at one of their Friday evening Meetings.

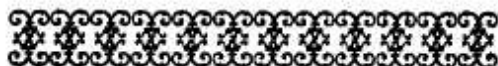
Both are offered to the public at the desire of many who were present on those occasions; and I may add with respect to the work now in the Reader's hands, that the President of the Institution was pleased to require its publication.

Both this book and its predecessor owe not only their origin, but large contributions of material, and great assistance in their composition and arrangement, to a Society of intimate friends with whom I

have the honour to be connected. Both may therefore be regarded as the effects of a confederacy whose object, as already declared (vid. Advertisement to "Connection, &c." p. vi.) is "to bring philosophy into a form that might benefit the mass of mankind, instead of being the mere luxury of a few learned men."

For whatever success may have attended the former publication, I cannot but be much indebted to the favourable judgment pronounced upon it by the most eminent physiologists of this country, to whom I desire to express, on behalf of those with whom I am allied, as well as on my own, our sense of the encouragement afforded by them to our enterprise.

*Henrietta Street, Cavendish Square,
London, June 19, 1843.*



ON MAN'S POWER OVER HIMSELF
TO PREVENT OR CONTROL
INSANITY.

I.

1. **T**WO years ago, I had the honour of submitting to you some views with regard to intellectual science, which appeared necessarily to result from recent discoveries in anatomy.—Now it is the property of all scientific views if true, that they announce a few simple principles which admit of an extensive practical application; and I endeavoured to apply this test to the theory I then brought forward as to the dual nature of man. I asked myself how it bore on that most terrible of all diseases connected with the brain—madness; and I found that wise and good men, even without thinking of the theory, had practically applied it in the treatment of maniacs; whose intelligent will they had roused to a certain degree of self-control by a system of kind and rational treatment, instead of the