

OUTLINES OF COSMIC PHILOSOPHY.

VOLUME I.

OUTLINES OF COSMIC PHILOSOPHY
BASED ON THE DOCTRINE OF EVOLUTION,
WITH CRITICISMS ON THE POSITIVE
PHILOSOPHY

BY

JOHN FISKE

*L'univers, pour qui saurait l'embrasser d'un seul point de vue, ne serait, s'il est permis
de le dire, qu'un fait unique et une grande vérité. — D'ALEMBERT*

Καὶ τὸ ἅλον τοῦτο διὰ ταῦτα Κόσμον καλοῦσιν, οὐκ ἄκοσμον. — PLATO

IN TWO VOLUMES

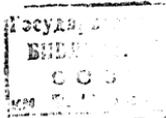
3) VOLUME I.



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TWENTIETH IMPRESSION

To
GEORGE LITCH ROBERTS,
IN REMEMBRANCE OF
THE GOLDEN DAYS WHEN, WITH GENEROUS AIMS IN COMMON,
WE STUDIED PHILOSOPHY TOGETHER,
AND IN CONSECRATION OF THE LIFELONG FRIENDSHIP
WHICH HAS BEEN
AN UNFAILING SOURCE OF JOY AND STRENGTH
TO US BOTH,
I Dedicate this Book.



PREFACE.

THE present work is based upon lectures given at Harvard University in the autumn of 1869 and spring of 1871, and afterwards repeated, wholly or in part, in Boston, New York, Milwaukee, and London.

At the outset these lectures were designed to include only a criticism of the Positive Philosophy, and I had no intention of publishing them in anything like the shape in which they were originally written. It was only when—at the suggestion of Dr. E. L. Youmans, and through the kindness of Mr. Marble—the lectures were reported in the *New York World*, and seemed to meet the wants of a large number of readers, that I decided upon publishing them, and upon so enlarging the course as to make it include a somewhat complete outline-sketch of the new philosophy based on the Doctrine of Evolution. In coming to this decision, I was at first but carrying out a project, formed several years earlier, of writing a series of essays illustrative of Mr. Spencer's philosophy. But the work has grown on my hands, and in its present shape is something more than it was originally intended to be. For while it does not, as a whole, lay any claim to the character of an original work, it has nevertheless come to contain so much new matter, both critical and constructive, that it can no longer be regarded as a mere reproduction of Mr. Spencer's thoughts. The new con-