

# ÆSTHETIC PRINCIPLES

BY

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## PREFACE.

ONE of the kindly critics of my book on *Pain, Pleasure, and Æsthetics* has compared the task of its reading with the effort required in walking over a ploughed field after a heavy rain; although in the end, I am glad to say, he finds the labour healthful, and looks back upon the effort with pleasure. I have thought it worth while to try to show to such readers a way across this ploughed field which will not involve so much arduous labour on their part; and I think this possible because the explorer of a field is often able to guide others with ease in a path already trodden and therefore familiar, being able in places to take a straighter course than that at first necessary, because it is no longer needful to search for the path.

In this small volume I do not attempt to cover the whole subject discussed in my former work above referred to; but I do attempt to sketch out the results which are of greatest interest and of most practical value in reference to the study of *Æsthetics*.

If this book meet the eye of some scientific psychologist, I must beg him to remember that it is written for less critical readers, and that I have at times, in the interests of clearness, abandoned the strictest accuracy in verbal expression where this accuracy would have involved too technical a phraseology. I must beg him to judge me rather by my larger work.

The reader who is not a psychologist may find the second chapter tedious; if so, it may be passed over without loss of the drift of the argument so far as it relates to æsthetic problems; still, I hope he will not pass it over without a trial.

This book, already under consideration, was hastened to completion in consequence

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of the kind request by the Trustees of Columbia College, New York, that I deliver a course of lectures upon the subject of Æsthetics under their auspices. The reader who happens to have been present at those lectures, delivered during November and December, 1894, will notice that the substance of them is contained in the pages that follow, although the topics are here somewhat differently arranged and are more fully treated.

NEW YORK, February, 1895.