

P R E F A C E

TO THE

F O U R T H E D I T I O N .

THE Author has learnt from the Publishers (and he may add the Proprietors) of this "Discourse," that a fourth Edition of it is now struck off. Had he seen the sheets during their passage through the Press, he might, perhaps, have made a few verbal corrections of the text.

For many years it has been the habit of English writers, more especially those who have been trained at Cambridge, to apply the term *philosophy* only to those branches of exact science that are designated on the Continent by the name of *physics*. As this local use of a general term may lead to a misapprehension of the writer's intentions, it would be well if, in the following pages, the words *inductive philosophy*, and other like phrases, were accompanied with some word limiting their application to the exact physical sciences.