

The Examination of Mr. J. S. Mill's Philosophy, a reply to Mill's all too successful two-volume savagery *An Examination of Sir William Hamilton's Philosophy*. A case that Darwin's new theory of natural selection and religion are compatible. Sympathetic expositions of the Scottish School of Common Sense that includes Reid, Stewart, and Hamilton and definitely excludes Hume. This potboiler entitled *Philosophy of Reality: Should it be Favored by America?* saying that Hume "was undermining all natural and moral truth" (PR: 43). Scholars among you immediately recognize the author of these works as the Scottish philosopher James McCosh who came to America to be president of the College of New Jersey, which, during his tenure, became Princeton University. Our speaker this evening is the McCosh Professor of Philosophy at Princeton University. He has an interesting educational history, many influential publications, and a record of appointments at major universities in four continents. You can learn much more about him the way you learn about everything. By consulting Google, however, you might miss some things about McCosh.

The anonymous author of the entry on McCosh in the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 11th edition, says "... though he added little to original thought, he clearly restated and vigorously used the conclusions of others. In his controversial writings he often failed to understand the real significance of the views which he attacked, and much of his criticism is superficial" (Vol. XVII: 206). If McCosh's philosophical accomplishments are so dicey, why did anyone think it was a good idea to bestow a chair bearing his name on our speaker? This is only a guess, but perhaps someone nurtured the hope that the chair's holder would produce work of value that so greatly exceeds that of the chair's namesake that it would thereby finally redeem the department's reputation. If that was the hope, our speaker fulfills it bountifully. It gives me great pleasure to introduce Michael Smith.