

THE FOUNDER OF TYCHISM, HIS METHODS, PHILOSOPHY, AND CRITICISMS.

IN REPLY TO MR. CHARLES S. PEIRCE.

INTRODUCTORY AND PERSONAL.

SOON after I had received Mr. Peirce's manuscript he wrote me in a private letter as follows :

"You have not found, I trust, that in my rejoinder I have anywhere overstepped the limit of amiable disputation. If anything of that kind did, unconsciously to me, in the heat of composition, slip from my pen, I am most anxious to have it pointed out to me, so that there may be no feeling in the matter of a disagreeable kind. For if you should not mention it, I should at some future time discover it, and it would be a source of real unhappiness to me."

This is a very amiable disposition of mind. Mr. Peirce presses me very hard in the struggle for truth : he does not hesitate to take advantage of even the smallest weak point which he espies or rather which he believes he espies. He does not shrink from using plain terms, such as "absurd," "unthinking," "weak," "hasty," "irrational." Yet he preserves in the heat of the controversy a friendly spirit towards his antagonist, which I cannot but appreciate and wish publicly to acknowledge. But I would not have him change a word or soften the language of his article in the least, *for my sake*. If Mr. Peirce is wrong, I will take care of myself ; if he is right, let the truth come out.

We are both, as it were, by profession champions of truth ; so we need not mind an occasional fling if in the end the cause of truth be promoted. Especially, in the present case, I need not mind the