

Reply to the Necessitarians.
Part I. Rejoinder to Dr. Cairns.

§1. In the Monist for January, 1891, and in ^{the number} that
for April, 1892, I attacked the doctrine that
every event is precisely determined by law. Like
everybody else, I admit there is regularity: I go further,
I maintain the existence of law as something real
and general. But I hold there is no reason to
think that there are general formulae to which
the phenomena of nature always conform, or to
which they precisely conform. At the end of
my second paper, the partizans of the doctrine
of necessity were courteously challenged
and besought to attempt to answer my
arguments. This, so far as I can learn, Dr.
Cairns alone, in the Monist of July and October,
1892, has publicly vouchsafed to do. For this,
I owe him my particular thanks; it would
and a careful rejoinder.