

# The Doctrine of Necessity Examined.

In the Monist for January, 1891, I endeavored to show what elementary ideas ought to enter into our view of the universe. I may mention that on those considerations I had already grounded a cosmical theory, and from it had deduced a considerable number of consequences capable of being compared with experience. This comparison is now in progress, but under existing circumstances must occupy many years.

I propose here to examine the common belief that every <sup>single</sup> fact in the universe is precisely determined by law. It must not be supposed that this is a doctrine