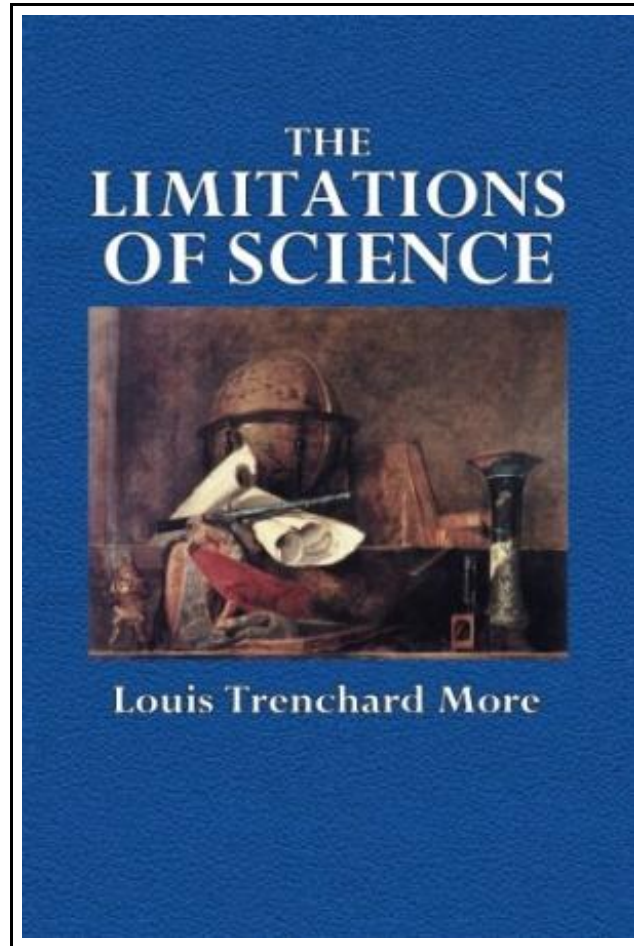


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Createspace, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.An excerpt from the beginning of the first chapter. It has grown to be an axiom in modern thought, that the hope of discovering the laws of nature and our relation to them by metaphysical reasoning is impossible. The term metaphysical reasoning will be used consistently to mean the method introduced by the Greek philosophers who, however they might differ in minor matters, were pretty well agreed in looking upon what we call nature as something which could be investigated subjectively; that is, things are as we think them to be. It is thus directly contrary to the physical method, which maintains natural phenomena and laws to be entirely objective and independent of our thought; according to this method no theory or fact can be established unless it is completely verified by experimental tests. So little in the long years since Plato and Aristotle has been done by the metaphysical philosophers to add to our positive knowledge, that they themselves are abandoning their former methods for that of the psychologist, who studies even the faculties and the emotions of the mind objectively by means of the physical or experimental method. Many will frankly admit that metaphysical studies are chiefly valuable now as a history of the development of thought, and agree with Renan that Science, and science alone, can give to humanity what it most craves, a symbol and a law. If this be really the case, if the attainment of our desire for an accurate and real knowledge of our environment, its phenomena and the causes of actions, rests with science alone, then it becomes necessary to consider whether this hope also must prove to be fallacious....

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