

# What Evidence Do We Have That Frances Wright Personally Was An Epicurean?

Post by "Cassius" of September 23, 2020 at 9:09 PM

I found some time tonight to do some word searches through Frances Wright's "Course of Popular Lectures." Here is an excerpt with unmistakable similarities to Epicurus:

The screenshot shows two pages of text from a video player. The left page is titled "79 DIVISIONS OF KNOWLEDGE. [LECT. III." and contains the following text: "The proof comes with the assertion; the fact constitutes the truth. But, you will say, there is other evidence than the physically tangible—other truths than those admitted through the senses. There is the more immediate and the more remote testimony of our senses; nothing more, nothing less. Will you appeal to numerical and geometrical truth? Had we no senses, could we know any thing of either? Were there no objects, no substances and existences around you, how could you conceive of number or of form? If the child see not four things, how shall he understand the meaning of four? If he see not two halves, put them together, divide them, compare them, measure, weigh them, how shall he know that two halves are equal to a whole? or a whole greater than its part? These are the simple". The right page is titled "LECT. III.] DIVISIONS OF KNOWLEDGE. 79" and contains the following text: "sensations and applies his experience to others, and sympathises in the pain or the pleasure he conceives them to feel. But, here are our moral truths also based upon fact. There is no test of these but experience. That is good which produces good; that evil, which produces evil; and, were our senses different from what they are, our virtue and our vice would be different also. Let us have done with abstractions! Truth is fact. Virtue is beneficial action; vice, mischievous action; virtuous feelings are those which impart pleasure to the bosom; bad feelings, those which disturb and torment it. Be not anxious in seeking your rule of life. Consult experience; your own sensations, the sensations of others. These are surer guides than laws and doctrines, and when". The video player interface at the bottom shows a progress bar at 85/249 and various control icons.



Course of Popular Lectures as Delivered by Frances Wright: With Three Addresses on Various ...



That came from here:  
<https://archive.org/details/coursepopularle00wriggoog/page/n84/mode/2up?q=Pleasure>

<http://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/1700-what-evidence-do-we-have-that-frances-wright-personally-was-an-epicurean/?postID=9092#post9092>

Another version: <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uiug...&view=1up&seq=7>

But it is so odd -- in there is a reference, not to Epicurus, but to "Pestalozzi"?????

Were there no objects, no substances and existences around you, how could you conceive of number or of form? If the child see not *four things*, how shall he understand the meaning of *four*? If he see not two halves, put them together, divide them, compare them, measure, weigh them, how shall he *know* that two halves are equal to a whole? or a whole greater than its part? These are the simple truths conceived by the philosopher of nature, Pestalozzi. Here are the leading beauties of that system of experimental instruction which he so long strove to put in practice, and which time may enable others successfully to develop.