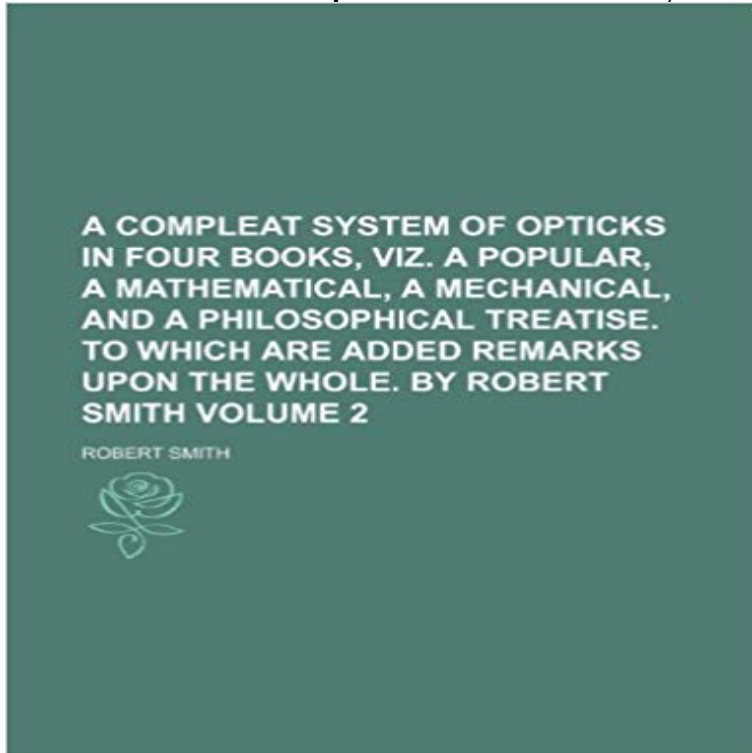


# A compleat system of opticks in four books, viz. A popular, a mathematical, a mechanical, and a philosophical treatise. To which are added remarks upon the whole. By Robert Smith Volume 2



This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1738 Excerpt: ...blind, and nonu Human adult, and taught by his touch to distinguish beUnder-tneven a cube and a sphere of the same metal, and standing. nighly of the same bigness, so as to tell when he Book x. j-efr one an(j ffa oier which is the cube, luhieb Sctf \$9 Jpbere. Suppose then the cube and sphere pla ced on a table, and the blind man to be made to see. Qu?re, whether by his fight, before he touched them, he could nonu difiinguijb and tell, which is the globe, which the cube. To which the acute and judicious Proposer aniwers: Not. For though he has obtained the experience of, how a glebe, how a cube affccls his touch; yet he has not yet obtained the experience, that ivhat ofsitls his touch so orso, must tiffed his fight so or so; or that a proti.bcrant angle in the cube that pressed his hand unequally, shall appear to his eye as it does in the cube. I agree with this thinking gentleman, whom I am proud to call jny friend, in his answer to this his problem; and ym of opinion, that the blind man, at first sight, would not be able with certainty to fay which was the globe, which the cube, whilst he only saw them; though he could unerringly name them by Jiis touch, and certainly distinguish them by the difference of their figures felt. So far Mr. Locke, 163. Here it is to be observed that by Mr. Molyneux, the blind man now made to sec, is debarred of no other help towards distinguishing which is the globe and which the cube, except only that of touching those bodies. He is left at full liberty to make use of his sight as he pleases, to look at them again and again, and to view their several fides by walking round them j as likewise to use his memory and his reason, if they can any way.liist him. These last arc so far from

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