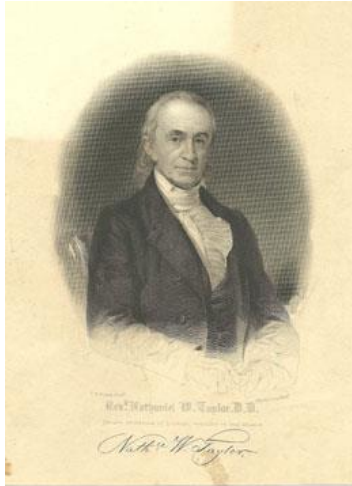**The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary,
Columbia University in the City of New York**

Union Theological Seminary Archives 1

Finding Aid for

Nathaniel W. Taylor Lectures [1822]

Portrait of Nathaniel W. Taylor. From the Yale Divinity School Library's 2013 Digital Exhibit,
"Yale Divinity School Milestones, 1822-2012".

Summary Information

Creator:	[Nathaniel W. Taylor, 1786-1858]
Title:	Nathaniel W. Taylor
Inclusive dates:	[1822]
Bulk dates:	[1822]
Abstract:	Lecture notes taken by a student (possibly Joshua Leavitt) in Professor Taylor's courses in 1822. Includes one manuscript volume of Taylor's "Mental Philosophy".
Size:	1 box, 0.5 linear feet
Storage:	Onsite storage
Repository:	The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary
3041 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Email: burkespecial@library.columbia.edu

Administrative Information

Provenance: The exact provenance of this collection is unknown, but appear to be the course notes of a student named Joshua Leavitt, written while taking one of Nathaniel W. Taylor's courses around 1822. The manuscript of Taylor's "Mental Philosophy" included here likely came to the Burke's archives from Auburn Theological Seminary. These materials were among a large group of unprocessed materials that were organized in 2017 with the support of the Henry Luce Foundation and the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation.

Access: Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to burkespecial@library.columbia.edu, or by postal mail to The Burke Library address on page 1, as far in advance as possible
                    Burke Library staff is available for inquiries or to request a consultation on archival or special collections research.

Access Restrictions: The collection is unrestricted to readers. The notes and bound volume are brittle, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying.

Preferred Citation: UTS1: Nathaniel W. Taylor Lectures, [1822], series #, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography

Nathaniel William Taylor was a prominent Protestant theologian, professor, and founder of Yale Divinity School. Born on June 23, 1786 in New Milford, Connecticut, Taylor occupied an influential place in Protestant history in New England during his time as well as the history of religious studies at Yale University. After graduating from Yale College in 1807 (he had entered when he was only fourteen years old), Taylor became a pastor at the First Church of New Haven in 1912. Taylor eventually returned to Yale and, under the mentorship of college president Timothy Dwight, founded a Theological Department at the university, which would later become Yale Divinity School. Upon the school's creation in 1922, Taylor became the seminary's first Dwight Professor of Didactic Theology. Taylor was very admired in his role both as a teacher and leader within the new seminary, excelling in blending rhetorical skills with philosophical ideas.Taylor also presided over the School's rhetorical society, which brought together students for evening debates that were moderated and judged by Taylor. Many of these debates centered on the "peculiar institution" of slavery and its maintenance in American society at that time, with Taylor often judging in favor of the institution, a stance he would later recant.

Taylor was an early supporter or revivalist theology during the Second Great Awarkening, and played a major role in repudiating Calvinistic leanings across several denominations, particularly the concept of determinism in "Old Calvinist" camps. Taylor and Dwight's concomitant embrace of this aspect of revivalism (which prioritized human freedom over omnipotent led to the formation of New Haven Theology, also called Taylorism. Taylor and Dwight's leanings were complimented by the theology of significant figures in the Awakening such as Charles Finney, and animated the trend of theological liberalism across New England congregations during his lifetime.

Nathaniel W. Taylor was the author of a number of lectures, books, and practical sermons, all published posthumously. He died on March 10, 1858 at the age of 71.

Collection Scope and Content Note
The Nathaniel W. Taylor Papers comprise six folders of loose handwritten notes taken from Taylor's lectures. Legacy documentation suggests that these notes were written by a student named Samuel Leavitt in 1822, though this is unconfirmed. File titles were taken from headings provided in the notes themselves. This collection also includes a bound manuscript of Taylor's "Mental Philosophy" – the transcriptionist is unknown, but this volume is bind in library boards and is impressed with an Auburn Theological Seminary bookplate, suggesting this volume came from that seminary's special collections.

Processing
Materials were placed in new acid-free envelopes and an archival document box.

Further Sources

"Nathaniel W. Taylor". In *Yale, Slavery and Abolition* [online]. Retrieved from
http://www.yaleslavery.org/WhoYaleHonors/taylor.html

Chisholm, Hugh (ed.). "Taylor, Nathaniel William". *Encyclopaedia Britannica vol. 26* [online]. 1911.https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/1911_Encyclop%C3%A6dia_Britannica/Taylor,_Nathaniel_William

Contents list

Series 1: Lectures and Writings [1822]