

the circle of studies—which Ritschl and others viewed not without apprehension that the method might suffer—was assisted by the much larger circle of interests which from the beginning characterised the programme of F. A. Wolf. The multitude of problems involved in the vast study of antiquity, which embraced archæology, history of ancient art, palæography, the study of ancient commerce, industry, and administration, &c., counteracted in many instances that concentration of talent and ingenuity upon which the older criticism of texts prided itself so much. The enormous material had a tendency to lead to that kind of erudition which was represented in earlier ages by the great French school of philologists of which Joseph Justus Scaliger (1540 - 1609) was considered the most prominent representative, but it also encouraged premature generalisations with the legitimate desire to grasp the vast material and to bring some kind of unity into studies which would otherwise have fallen asunder. A similar influence came from an entirely different quarter, mainly through the growth of comparative philology. This can be said to take its beginning with the introduction of the study of Sanscrit. It is marked by the appearance, in the year 1816, of F. Bopp's work, 'On the System of Conjugation of Sanscrit compared with that of the Greek, Latin, Persian, and Germanic Languages.' In the year 1819 Jacob Grimm published at Göttingen the first part of his German Grammar. A. F. Pott's etymological researches followed in 1833, Benfey's Grecian Root-lexicon in 1839. But the first to utilise these researches for the purposes of class-

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