

of view which have themselves outrun criticism, being the spontaneous outcome of the inspired and divining genius.

40.
Broader
view of his-
tory since
Niebuhr.

This has notably been the case in the treatment of larger historical subjects, and is probably the reason why the historical literature of Germany till within recent times cannot be compared with that of France and of Great Britain. It is only since the time of Niebuhr, who was followed by Ranke and his school, that Germany has produced historians who have had great influence outside of Germany: this reputation rests not so much and perhaps not mainly upon the critical preparation of the material with which they dealt, as upon the general aspects from which their histories were written. These were not gained exclusively through critical studies, but were imported, as it were, from outside and combined with vast erudition, which itself was acquired through academic training. To mention only a few examples: Fr. Chr. Schlosser (1776-1861) wrote the history of a period, the eighteenth century, from a philosophical point of view. He was one of the first who, on a large scale, showed the connection and mutual influence of politics and literature as it characterises the period of enlightenment, the philosophical century. Schlosser's point of view was adopted and enlarged by his disciple G. G. Gervinus, who was the first to conceive the idea of writing the history of the poetical genius of a nation, treating of the same in its spontaneous development and its dependence upon external conditions: a conception which could only have grown up under the inspiration