

represents nineteenth century thought more fully than any other, who influenced men's minds more lastingly, and gave them certainly a higher flight, that of Goethe, sympathised with almost every fruitful line of thought and aspiration except the mathematical. And in England also the wisdom of Bacon was blind to the power of the mathematical methods. Thus it comes that what was wanting in the theories of knowledge in the school of Mill and had to be supplemented by his later followers was an appreciation of just that factor which dominated French thought, being reflected in the best style of some of the classical French writers. But the clearness, simplicity, and elegance which this dominant trait imparted to French thought misled it also into the belief that psychological theories, in which English and German philosophy abounded, were superfluous for the attainment of exact knowledge, even in the region of morals, economics, and politics. It led to that neglect or contempt of logic and psychology which is characteristic of the positivism of Auguste Comte, whose ideal

and Universities; he was an academician, not a professor, and passed a great part of his life outside of Germany. And as concerns Gauss, he stood outside and above the general current of German thought. His earliest and most original mathematical work was written in Latin, and was practically unknown in Germany. He was a younger contemporary of Goethe, and, alongside of him, probably the greatest German intellect of the age. Personally they seem to have been unknown to each other, nor is there any reference, so far as I know, in the writings of either of them to

the other. The mathematical precision which Wolff gave to his philosophical writings was purely formal, as was also that of Spinoza, after the manner of Euclid. The modern analytical methods of Leibniz, developed and perfected by mathematicians such as the Bernoullis and Euler, and most successfully applied by French physicists, remained, as it seems, unknown to the majority of German mathematicians, and possibly also to Kant. Even the study of the 'Principia' would hardly reveal to him the power of the analytical method.