

Rousseau, that of the earlier poetry of the English naturalistic school and that of Herder, combined, as it were, to form the mental environment in which Goethe's original genius grew up; they found expression in his intuitive comprehension of nature, which forms such a prominent characteristic of his poetical genius. The speculative philosopher who came most under the influence of this twofold interest in nature and natural things, the scientific and the poetical, was Schelling. He was, after Wieland and Schiller, the third great personality in whom the South of Germany made its contribution to the assembly of representative minds which formed the circle at Weimar and Jena. Herder and Fichte came from the North and East of Germany, whence also had come the influence of Lessing and Kant.

It appears that, in the case of Schelling, the scientific interest in nature succeeded the artistic or poetical interest, and that the latter remained always the dominant one.

20.  
Schelling.

In spite of the more matured labours of Kant and the more comprehensive and systematic speculations of Hegel, Schelling deserves to be looked upon as the central figure during the idealistic period of German philosophy,<sup>1</sup> and this for several reasons. In the long

21.  
His central  
position in  
German  
Idealism.

<sup>1</sup> This is being more and more recognised and brought out by the latest historians of philosophy in Germany. The standard work on Schelling is still that of Kuno Fischer, forming the 6th vol. of his *History* (1st ed. 1872). And yet, even this monumental work stops short of an adequate and complete

comprehension of Schelling's philosophic development: the last phase of his philosophy is not treated. The reason of this is that forty years ago, when Kuno Fischer completed this section of his *History*, that phase of Schelling's thought appeared to stand outside of the historical progress of German philo-