

forget that in the many larger and smaller German States much was done by enlightened Rulers, as well as Ministers of State, to improve the economic and social condition of the people, not so much by sweeping reforms such as were carried later on by men like Stein in Prussia, as by faithful attention to detail in more restricted areas.<sup>1</sup>

So far as ethical thought is concerned, the spirit of free inquiry—variously termed Rationalism, Aufklärung, or Enlightenment—went down to the metaphysical foundations and presuppositions of morality, mostly in a way that was friendly to the traditional religious doctrines, desiring to throw upon them the light of Reason and to conceive of Revelation as a process not confined to a single historical fact, but as a necessary force in the progress and education of humanity. To this must be added the belief in an underlying harmony that was inherited from the philosophy of Leibniz<sup>2</sup> and the spirit of compromise and mutual concession among various forms of religious faith which sprang from it. The

7.  
Free inquiry  
into meta-  
physical  
foundations  
of morality.

<sup>1</sup> Interesting information on this point will be found in Cl. Th. Perthes' 'Politische Zustände und Personen in Deutschland, zur Zeit der Französischen Herrschaft,' 1862. This volume refers to the South and West of Germany. A second volume referring to Austria was published posthumously in 1869. Especially as to popular education consult the third and fourth volumes of Karl Schmidt's 'Geschichte der Pädagogik' (3rd and 4th ed. by W. Lange, 1876 and 1883); and for higher education, F. Paulsen's well-known work referred to *supra*, vol. iii., note,

p. 116.

<sup>2</sup> In this direction the influence of Shaftesbury on German thinkers was probably quite as important as that of Leibniz, as is clearly shown in the writings of Herder, who attached a translation of Shaftesbury's 'Hymn' to one of his theological writings, and planned a treatise which should exhibit the three thinkers, Spinoza, Shaftesbury, and Leibniz in parallel, considering that Shaftesbury's rhapsody "contains the Spinozistic-Leibnizian philosophy in the most beautiful and select extract." See R. Haym, 'Herder,' vol. ii. p. 269.