

16.  
Contempor-  
ary record  
of Thought  
more faith-  
ful.

of twilight, dazzled as he must be by the blaze of the risen sun? We who live in the expectation of the light which is to come, surrounded by the shadows, difficulties, and obstacles; we who belong to the army, and are not leaders, who live in, not after, the fight,—we claim to be better able to tell the tale of endless hopes and endeavours, of efforts common to many, of the hidden intellectual and moral work of our age.<sup>1</sup>

17.  
Events of  
the imme-  
diate past.

How far back we who have lived during the second half of the present century may extend the period of which we claim to have a personal knowledge, is a point of further interest. Certain it is that in our parents and immediate forefathers we have known the representatives of a generation which witnessed and laboured in the interests of the great Anti-Slavery, the Reform, and the Anti-Corn-Law movements, who experienced the revolutions worked by the introduction of steam-power and gas, who took part in the great work of national and popular education abroad and in the reform of school-life in England. They themselves went through the enthusiasm of the anti-Napoleonic Revolution in Germany, came under the influence of Goethe's mature manhood, were fascinated by the stories from the pen of the Wizard of the North, par-

<sup>1</sup> Compare what A. de Tocqueville says, 'Œuv. comp.,' vol. viii. p. 170 : "Nous sommes encore trop près des évènements pour en connaître les détails. Cela paraît singulier, mais est vrai. Les détails ne s'apprennent que par les révélations posthumes, contenues dans les Mémoires, et sont souvent ignorés des contemporains. Ce qu'ils savent mieux que la postérité, c'est le

mouvement des esprits, les passions générales du temps, dont ils sentent encore les derniers frémissements dans leur esprit ou dans leur cœur; c'est le rapport vrai des principaux personnages et des principaux faits entre eux. Voilà ce que les voisins des temps racontés aperçoivent mieux que ne fait la postérité."