

are happily blended, he essayed in the evening of life to unroll before the gaze of his readers a picture of the grand features of nature as his mind had viewed them from the elevated regions of scientific study, and his eyes from the heights of Chimborazo.

29.  
Lotze's 'Mi-  
crocosmus.'

In the great picture of the world, in the vast changes of the universe, where is man with his life and his interests? In the huge Kosmos where is the Microcosmus? This question naturally presented itself to the mind of Lotze. "It is not," he tells us, "the all-embracing 'kosmos' of the universe which we wish to describe again on the model which has been given to our nation. As the features of that great world-portrait sink deeper into general consciousness, so much more vividly will they lead us back to our own selves, suggesting anew the question, What significance belongs to man and human life with its lasting characteristics and the changing

long period in the life of its author. Goethe's 'Faust' deals with the individual problem, Herder's 'Ideen' with the problem of the race or mankind, Humboldt's 'Kosmos' with the same problem as referring to the world, the universe. In the preface Humboldt confesses "that the image of his work had stood before his mind's eye in undefined outlines for nearly half a century": cf. what Goethe says in the dedication to 'Faust' (written probably after 1797):—

"Again ye come, ye hovering forms; I  
find ye  
As early to my clouded sight ye shone,"  
&c.

—Transl. B. Taylor.

The view of the universe which was given in Humboldt's 'Kosmos' was prepared by his own publication,

'Die Ansichten der Natur' (1808); also by Georg Forster (1754-1794), who wrote an account of the second voyage of Captain Cook round the world, whom he accompanied with his father. "He conceived of nature as a living whole; his account is almost the first example of the glowing yet faithful description of natural phenomena, which has since made the knowledge of them the common property of the educated world" (R. Garnett in 'Ency. Brit.,' art. "Forster"). Humboldt confesses to have received from him "die lebhafteste Anregung zu weiten Unternehmungen" ('Kosmos,' vol. i. p. 345, also vol. ii. p. 65, and especially vol. ii. p. 72, where incidentally also Darwin's narrative of the "Adventure" and "Beagle" is mentioned).