

Before the methods of exact science were introduced into Germany under English and French influences, the Germans possessed many scientific methods. There was the science of philosophical criticism, established by Kant; the science of historical criticism, of Biblical criticism; the science of philology: all these professed to have methods as definite, aims as lofty, and a style as pure, as the exact sciences brought with them.

At present a tendency of thought may exist in Germany, akin to the positive philosophy in France and England, which aims at introducing the methods of the natural sciences so as to cover the whole ground of research, and to allow of no other methods. Should it succeed, it will destroy the essential features of the German university system, and with it the ideal of *Wissenschaft* as it has existed in all the leading minds of Germany during the last hundred years.

I intend to come back to this subject later on, and to define more clearly what the German ideal of science—what *Wissenschaft*—is. That which we are occupied with at present is the diffusion of the scientific spirit, in the narrower sense, as it was firmly established in France through the great mathematicians and scientists at the

the studies of classical antiquity"; he maintained that philology, as science, not the barren training of a pedagogic seminary, is the only right thing for future masters. "The good teacher must, even for teaching purposes, have and know, both in quantity and quality, more than he requires for immediate progress; the portion he requires for immediate communication, for practical teaching purposes, must be delivered out of the fulness and

the depth of knowledge; it must, even in its circumscribed nature, contain the germs of further mental development. Such depth, such fructifying power, comes only from science" (*Wissenschaft*). See Ribbeck, 'Leben Ritschl's,' vol. ii. p. 277. And as every mode of thought, if clearly felt and active, finds its expression in language, so Ritschl was fond of characterising his scientific method by the word ἀκριβεία.