

inction to the philosophical view, and another which elaborated what it termed exclusively the critical methods,¹ not without a certain suspicion regarding those who showed a desire to roam into outlying fields which did not permit of equally strict discipline and treatment. So far as this refers to the purely historical sciences, I shall revert to the subject when I come to treat of the principles which underlie and guide this line of studies. At present I am concerned with the growth and diffusion of the exact scientific spirit and its methods.

No one did more to spread the ideas and methods of French science in Germany than Alexander von Humboldt. He himself had done original scientific work² be-

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Alexander
von Humboldt.

these extensive fields were afterwards found not so much in philosophical canons as in a love of detail and observation, and in the exercise of an unbiassed criticism of facts and records. For the relations of philosophy to history in respect of this, see Wegele, 'Geschichte der deutschen Historiographie,' München, 1885, 5th book, p. 975, &c. Equally important are—Gervinus, 'Grundzüge der Historik,' Leipzig, 1837; the 'Nekrolog auf Schlosser,' Leipzig, 1862, including the whole literature which it provoked; and O. Lorenz, 'Die Geschichtswissenschaft,' Berlin, 1886, especially the first chapter.

¹ On the Critical school of philology, and the wider and narrower sense in which the aims and methods of the science of antiquity were defined, see Bursian, 'Geschichte der classischen Philologie in Deutschland,' München und Leipzig, 1883, p. 665, &c.; also O. Ribbeck, 'Friedrich Ritachl,' Leipzig, 1879 and 1880. Further, the essays on Böckh, K. O. Müller, and Georg Curtius in the third volume of Ernst Curtius,

'Alterthum und Gegenwart,' Berlin, 1889; and, finally, the chapter on "Klassische Philologie" by Wilamowitz-Möllendorf in Lexis, 'Die deutschen Universitäten,' vol. i. p. 457, &c.

² Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859) published in 1797, shortly after Galvani's great discovery, his 'Versuche über die gereizte Muskel- und Nervenfasern.' In the history of science his name will live as that of the man who organised that "scientific conspiracy of nations" which is peculiar to our century, and without which the study of geography, meteorology, astronomy, the phenomena of tides and magnetic disturbances—called by him magnetic storms—could not effectually be carried on. The fact also that on his return from his great travels he became next to Napoleon Bonaparte the most famous man in Europe, did more than anything else to raise the natural sciences in the popular mind to that eminence which earlier belonged to polite literature.