

and hieroglyphics were made known to the learned world through his French contemporaries. Dalton,¹ Charles Bell,² Faraday, Darwin, and Maxwell, no less than Bentley and Gibbon,³ have furnished the text for lecture-courses in German universities, and created a whole literature of pamphlets and scientific memoirs.⁴ English societies may sometimes honour and admire, but they do not support, their great representatives, and these themselves often refuse to be tied by exclusive academic duties, still more by official restrictions. Two characteristics have marked most of them: they have, at all expense and sacrifice, guarded their individual freedom of thought, and they have almost always shown a great desire to combine some application with their abstract researches, to take part in the great practical work of the nation. Continental thinkers, whose lives are devoted to the realisation of some great ideal, complain of the want of method, of the erratic absence of discipline, which is peculiar to English genius. The fascination which practical interests exert in this country appears to them an absence of full devotedness to purely ideal pursuits.⁵

25.
Individual
character
and practi-
cal tendency
of English
science.

¹ See above, p. 245, note.

² See above, p. 193, note.

³ See above, p. 169, note.

⁴ Germany may be said to have produced *Darwinismus* in this century as France created *Newtonianisme* in the last. Huxley writes ('Life of Darwin,' vol. ii. p. 186): "None of us dreamed (in 1860) that in the course of a few years the strength (and perhaps I may add the weakness) of *Darwinismus* would have its most extensive and most brilliant illustrations in the land of learning." Quite recently Prof. Boltzmann at Munich, and M. Poincaré, have published courses

of lectures on Maxwell's electric theories.

⁵ What appears irksome to an English genius—the red tape of academic restrictions, the barriers of officialism, and the duties of the teacher—melted away in the glow of enthusiasm and love of truth which animated the great leaders and founders of university culture abroad; as Goethe has told us that the rigid form of the sonnet melts in the fervour of the love-song:

"Das Allerstarrste freudig aufzuschmelzen
Muss Liebesfeuer allgewaltig glühen."
—Sonette No. 14.