

thought in our century: their position towards this thought is indeed instructive, but it is frequently unsafe.

Philosophical reasoning either precedes or succeeds the labours of the scientific thinker; it rarely accom-  
 panies them. In the history of earlier times, during the first centuries of the modern period, we find some of the foremost philosophers, such as Descartes, Bacon, Leibniz, occupied in attempting to lay down the correct lines on which science should proceed, or to find general ideas which could serve as supreme principles of scientific truth. It is a rare thing to find that they have succeeded in either of these attempts. In more modern times, ever since Locke started on a different track, it has been, especially in this country, the endeavour of philosophers to abstract out of the existing volumes of scientific research the leading ideas which have proved so helpful, and to explain their origin, their bearing, and their value. Perhaps they have been more successful than their predecessors: it has, however, frequently happened to them, that whilst they were elaborately analysing some process of reasoning, or some prevailing scientific principle, science has meanwhile adopted some entirely different line, and presented an entirely unexpected development.

7.  
Philosophy  
and science.

In this respect they resemble that school of historical politicians which in the middle of our century in Germany<sup>1</sup> attempted to read the signs of the times, and to

<sup>1</sup> This is the school represented by the historians Dahlmann and Gervinus. A good account, with a somewhat severe criticism of the aims of this school, will be found in Karl Hillebrand, 'Zeiten, Völker und Menschen,' vol. ii. pp. 205-290. "The State and Literature had

grown in Germany alongside of each other without coming into contact, the former active, reticent, modest, the latter declaiming, noisy, pretentious. It appeared as if all our life had become intellectual; Gervinus himself thought so and blamed us. In reality it was