

CHAPTER VIII.

OF THE GOOD.

I.

THE province of philosophical thought with which I propose to deal in this chapter, is one which, more perhaps than any other, has been cultivated by thinkers of this country. If any philosophical science may claim to be called pre-eminently a British science, it is the Science of Ethics; or—as it used to be more generally termed—Morality, in its theoretical and applied aspects. It is even more so than Political Economy, which, owing mainly to the great name of Adam Smith, is usually considered to have its birthplace and home in this country. But political philosophy or economics formed an important subject of discussion and independent research in France during the age which in Britain produced the works of Hume and Adam Smith. Yet, whereas in France political economy was limited mainly to the discussion of problems suggested by the economic condition of the country, political economy in this country started as a province or a sister science of moral philosophy. It may therefore be said that up

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