

The influence of Comte as well as his own studies led Mill, moreover, a step further in the direction of modern ethics. He arrived at the recognition of progress, not only in public morality under the influence of law and society, but likewise in the individual moral character. This marks the intrusion of the idea of development even in that province where other thinkers or systems of morality have been wont to set up the doctrine of unalterable standards of good and right.<sup>1</sup>

Instead of following the further course which ethical thought took in this country after Mill, it will for the moment be more interesting to glance at the development which Kant's ideas underwent in Germany. This development was at that time, and for more than a generation after, quite independent of what took place in the neighbouring countries. For though the prominent thinkers in Germany up to and including Kant had come under the influence of contemporary English and French thought, this influence for the time being ceased completely with Kant on the one side, and with the original productive power which showed itself in general literature and criticism on the other. Kant succeeded in giving to philosophical thought in general, and to ethical speculation in particular, quite a new character. But this came out fully and clearly only as Kantian

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from Kant.

<sup>1</sup> A very important passage in Mill's 'Utilitarianism' is that in which he speaks of the interest in a state of security; "to every one's feelings the most vital of all interests . . . this most indispensable of all necessaries after physical nutriment cannot be had, unless the machinery for providing

it is kept unintermittently in active play" ('Utilitarianism,' pp. 79, 80). Compare what was said above at the beginning of this chapter on the existence and maintenance of order and the accompanying sense of security in this country as compared with the Continent (*supra*, pp. 129 *sqq.*).