

premises of the Hegelian philosophy. In him a conclusion or consummation of a certain line of thought was attained similar to that which Auguste Comte had reached about the same time and from quite different beginnings in France. What Feuerbach did not see as clearly as Comte did, was the necessity of establishing, on this new anthropocentric foundation, the whole edifice not only of theoretical but also of practical philosophy. For this purpose his writings contain only hints but no attempt towards systematic completeness. He was too much a child of the age of the German Revolution ; this was characteristically much less a political than an intellectual revolution ; for in the same degree as the former was incomplete and abortive, the latter has turned out to be consummate and radical, a complete subversion of the older foundations, a " revaluation," as it has been termed, of all existing values. And this has been popularly brought about not so much by a slow process of critical sifting and mental discipline such as always had its home in the German universities, as by the hasty steps and brilliant flashes of an extra-academic literature, by writers who addressed mature as well as immature intellects, and did not feel the responsibilities imposed upon the teachers and educators of young and impressionable minds. Thus we find that a large portion of the philosophical labours within the universities has, during the last third of the century, been directed against the pernicious effects of a popular philosophy influenced and inspired by otherwise, and deservedly, celebrated names, such as Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, and Haeckel.

44.  
Feuerbach  
and Comte  
compared