

background than that of many other recent thinkers who, though much inferior to him in subtlety and originality of thought, have more directly and straightforwardly attacked the burning problems of the age. The history of philosophical thought, however, must recognise in his many-sided speculations and discussions, not only the first comprehensive application of the critical principle to all the great and abiding philosophical problems, but also the first distinct evidence of that philosophical tendency of our age which has, under the modern watchwords of voluntarism and pragmatism, notified its break with the more contemplative and abstract philosophy of the past. Modern thought is fully realising what was only suggested by Lotze, that Ethics must precede Metaphysics, that the practical problem is more important than the theoretical, that it has in fact been solved to a large extent by anticipation in the existing codes of practical morality. The genesis and history of these must, according to one largely prevailing notion, be made the basis of all theoretical reasoning on the subject; a definite ethical creed or conviction must, according to another view, stand at the entry of all useful speculation.

49.
Evidence
of recent
tendencies.

This conviction that Practical Reason or the Will, as Kant had already stated and Fichte more strongly urged, is the primary factor, not only in human culture, but likewise in abstract thought, was put forward also by Schopenhauer, though from a different point of view and with very different logical consequences. There is also no doubt that Schopenhauer's philosophy was much influenced by Fichte, although he himself would

50.
Schopen-
hauer's
doctrine of
the primacy
of the Will.