

77.
Problems of
the Spirit
and of
Human
Society.

which have grown out of the problem of the Good and which lead back to it: the problem of Humanity or human society on the one side, the problem of the spiritual world, or the Spirit, on the other. The latter is the older of the two; for although the problems of human society have always been before the minds of law-givers, statesmen, and reformers, it is only since the nineteenth century began that the sciences of Sociology and Anthropology have received special attention and been placed upon an independent basis. The other problem, that of the Spirit, or as we may also call it, the religious problem, is, as has been said, much older, at least so far as its systematic and philosophical treatment is concerned. In fact it has been observed with some justice, that an exclusive occupation with things of another world, with transcendent problems, has at times unduly diverted the attention of foremost thinkers from the important questions which lie immediately in front of them; the solution of these having frequently been left in the hands of casual and untrained thinkers who, through premature conclusions, through startling, plausible theories, attained popular favour and passing notoriety. It is only since the great popular movement, which began with the Reformation and culminated in the French Revolution, has brought into the foreground the rights, the demands, and the interests of the masses, as against those of the aristocracy on the one side, and the literary and learned on the other, that a systematic attempt has been made to understand, to define, and to solve the social problem. In the two following chapters I shall accordingly deal with these two distinct problems, first with the older, and, as it seems to