

of the age which formed, starting from Fichte, their original programme.

In his later activity, both as an eminent preacher in the Established Church of his country and as an ardent promoter of the union of the two Protestant Churches;¹ in his philosophical and theological works; and, lastly, in his influential position as an academic teacher, Schleiermacher brought out more clearly the differences which separated him as much from the pantheism of Spinoza as from the subjectivism of the romanticists, and also from the ethical rigorism and formalism of Kant. Apart from the marked originality of his genius and unique personality, it was no doubt the fact that he was a practical teacher and preacher within an existing religious community which gave to his religious and ethical speculations a distinct and well-defined character. For although, as already stated, religion was not, by Schleiermacher, identified with ethics, and could not in his view be built upon a foundation of purely

¹ "On the 27th September 1817 the King explained to the Consistories that he would, on the centenary of the Reformation, attend the Communion Service together with the Lutherans, expressed the hope that this would find a response with his subjects, and left it to the wisdom of the clergy, the synods, and the Consistories to find the form for such a union. Schleiermacher was the President of the first United Berlin Synod and the author of the Declaration in which the latter expressed itself to the communities regarding the intended common Communion Service on the occasion of the festival of the Reformation. According to

this the celebration was to lead to neither liturgical nor dogmatic uniformity. On the 31st of October, in the Church of St Nicholas, sixty-three of the Berlin clergy, all the theological doctors and professors of the University, and many high officials, partook together of the Communion; before the altar the theological colleagues, Schleiermacher, the Reformed, and Marheinecke, the Lutheran, joined hands. And Schleiermacher, in the sequel, conducted also the literary defence of the Union." (Dilthey, *Art. Schleiermacher, 'Allgemeine Deutsche Biographie,'* vol. xxxi. p. 442.)