

Humboldt's championship of the natural sciences—entirely changed. The expectancy which up to that time had characterised the attitude of all younger and ardent spirits, the waiting for the new light, after having suffered a first shock through Strauss and Feuerbach, was, for the last time, roused into prominence when Schelling delivered his inaugural lecture (15th Nov. 1841) before a crowded audience. Only for a short time did this eager expectancy last. His brilliant audience included many of the intellectual leaders of the age. There they sat: "one more learned than the other and they understood—nothing."<sup>1</sup>

To this has to be added the second or personal circumstance that Schleiermacher was by profession a religious teacher,<sup>2</sup> and that it was generally understood that he had no sympathy with the metaphysical treatment of the religious problem as it had found expression in Hegel's system, and that even less sympathy existed on the part of Hegel and his followers with Schleier-

<sup>1</sup> Ernst Curtius in a Letter dated Jan. 1842 (see his 'Letters' published by Friedrich Curtius, Berlin, 1903, p. 283). On the whole dramatic interest (equalled in modern times probably only by M. Bergson's Lectures at the Sorbonne and elsewhere) see Kuno Fischer, *loc. cit.*, p. 343, *sqq.*; further, K. A. Varnhagen von Ense, 'Tagebücher,' vols. i. and ii., 1861, in which also the gradual waning of this interest and the growing disillusion and reaction are reported by a critical onlooker.

<sup>2</sup> A somewhat similar fate has befallen the philosophical writings of James Martineau in this country. Whereas in Scotland

some of the leading teachers came to philosophy out of the Church, the English Unitarian, Martineau, was debarred from filling the important position of a philosophical teacher at University College, which had been promoted as a non-sectarian centre of higher teaching and scholarship mainly by representatives of that school of emancipated thought which centred in Bentham and James Mill. There is no doubt that Martineau's philosophy, with such an opportunity of leading younger minds, would have occupied, much earlier, the prominent place in British thought which it intrinsically merits.