

and eclecticism. Moreover, all these, and many others among their associates and followers, were active politicians or popular lecturers commanding large and representative audiences. On the other side, Comte, though a founder of the science of politics, was not a politician, and was rather a teacher in a class-room than an elegant lecturer. The wave of poetry, romance, and oratory which then ran very high in his country, both in politics and literature, left him out of sight and unrecognised. He had to wait till it had spent its force or till others, largely inspired by him, added the charm of language and diction to the solid ideas which he had elaborated.

46.  
Greater  
appeal of  
some of  
Comte's  
qualities to  
English  
readers.

But the very absence of some of those qualities of style which are so prominent in the great models of French literature and thought and so seductive to the French public, was a recommendation in the eyes of such sober and methodical thinkers as then formed the utilitarian school of thought in this country, with John Stuart Mill as its principal exponent. The rhetorical side of French speculation has never appealed to the British mind. It is difficult to translate, being foreign to the idiom of the English language. If rendered in this it is apt to appear thin and trite or even ludicrous. Now it is, *inter alia*, a remarkable fact that the English translation of such writings of Comte as the early Tract referred to above exhibits few traces of its foreign origin, and reads much more like the exposition of an English writer, such as, for instance, Buckle. To these somewhat external qualities, through which no doubt Comte's writings found favour with