

found likewise, that I could do no good to his mind, and that all the good he could do to mine he did by his books."¹

Mill's later contributions to the solution of the social problem were various and important, but he never advanced to the conception of sociology as a whole as Comte had done, and this probably for two reasons. First, political economy had, since the time of Adam Smith, and greatly through the influence of James Mill and his friends, Malthus and Ricardo, become an independent science. Hence among social questions the economic question was mainly studied, while other equally important social questions received only scant attention. The existing political Order in this country with its enviable constitution,—considered by many foreign philosophers as a model of political organisation to be imitated by the aspiring peoples of the Continent,—relieved English thinkers from dealing with fundamentals or answering the abstract question of what society is or should be; and secondly, the comparative stability and constitutional order of English society and politics suggested a variety of practical problems in legislation and administration, and to these Mill applied himself with conspicuous success. But Mill himself was far from satisfied with the stagnant condition of the intellectual atmosphere which surrounded him;² he

¹ See 'Autobiography,' p. 211.

² "Where there is a tacit convention that principles are not to be disputed, where the discussion of the greatest questions which can occupy humanity is considered to be closed, we cannot hope to find that generally high scale of mental

activity which has made some periods of history so remarkable. Never when controversy avoided the subjects which are large and important enough to kindle enthusiasm, was the mind of a people stirred up from its foundations, and the impulse given which raised even