

had a very clear perception that there were existing in this country, *inter alia*, two distinct needs which would have to be supplied before a great reorganisation could be attempted or hoped for.

The study of Comte's premature constructive efforts probably helped to convince him that there was needed, first, an effort towards the general education and enlightenment of the mass of the People; and secondly, a greater harmony among philosophers as to the main articles of a reasoned creed enabling them to become the intellectual leaders of society in the manner that Saint-Simon and Comte proposed and Mill essentially approved of. For Mill was one of those thinkers in this country who thought an adherence or a return to the traditionally accepted beliefs impossible.

The fact that these two needs had been felt on the Continent, and notably in Germany, long before they presented themselves clearly to the mind of Mill in this country, was probably one of the various causes which created here an interest in the intellectual life of Germany; directing the glance of many prominent

persons of the most ordinary intellect to something of the dignity of thinking beings. Of such we have had an example in the condition of Europe during the times immediately following the Reformation; another, though limited to the Continent and to a more cultivated class, in the speculative movement of the latter half of the eighteenth century; and a third, of still briefer duration, in the intellectual fermentation of Germany during the Goethean and Fichteian period. These periods differed widely in the particular opinions which they developed; but were alike in this,

that during all three the yoke of authority was broken. In each, an old mental despotism had been thrown off, and no new one had yet taken its place. The impulse given at these three periods has made Europe what it now is. Every single improvement which has taken place either in the human mind or in institutions, may be traced distinctly to one or other of them. Appearances have for some time indicated that all three impulses are wellnigh spent; and we can expect no fresh start until we again assert our mental freedom." (Mill 'On Liberty,' pp. 62-63.)