

48.  
Attitude of  
Mill to  
German  
thought.

leaders of thought towards that country and giving added importance to the literary movement which had originated in Coleridge and was carried on by Carlyle. In fact, Mill himself clearly recognised in English thought two distinct movements which he identified with the names of Bentham and Coleridge, and emphasised also in his appreciative Review of Carlyle's 'French Revolution.' It cannot be maintained that Mill himself was ever a sympathetic student of German transcendentalism.<sup>1</sup> A taste for this sprang up in Oxford after Mill's great influence was there on the decline, but it is interesting to note that among the few leaders of German thought singled out by Mill for special notice there stand Pestalozzi, the father of the education of the People; Wilhelm von Humboldt, the leader of academic education and culture; Fichte, the independent exponent of Kant's ethics; and lastly, Goethe, who has been termed the apostle of inner freedom.

The need of a general system of popular education and uplifting of the Masses, and various attempts in the direction of a reasoned creed, have both increasingly occupied the attention of British legislators and thinkers since the time of Mill. Continental schools have been visited and reported on, and philosophical creeds have been formulated both in the direction suggested by Comte and in that suggested by Kant and Hegel. But what was done on the Continent, notably in Germany, cannot be imitated in this country. The work of

<sup>1</sup> Even his knowledge of Kant | when he wrote his 'Examination of  
seems to belong to the late period | Sir William Hamilton's Philosophy.'