

of subsistence everywhere can afford. This principle Spencer had already recognised in his earliest work, 'Social Statics' (1851). He terms it there the "discipline of nature," and he brings it home to his readers through a quotation from Shakespeare's "Winter's Tale":—

"Nature is made better by no mean,
But nature makes that mean : so, over that art
Which you say adds to nature, is an art
That nature makes."

The importance of this view probably grew upon him as the principle received a mechanical definition in the formula which Darwin found for it.

69.
Antithesis
between
Individual
and the
State.

The question then arises, not only as to what are the units among which selection takes place, but, in the case of society, the further question: is this selection carried on for the benefit of the individual members or for that of the aggregate, the State? If the latter, then we come back to a view which prevailed among the classical nations of antiquity, where man was considered to be subordinate to the State; if the former, then we are led to that individualism, peculiar to Mill and Spencer, which manifests itself in the objections they urged against the revival of ancient and mediæval absolutism in Comte's system of positive politics. It has also been pointed out, by English as well as by foreign critics, that in human society there exist forces of a different kind from those that are at work in nature. This existence of intellectual and moral forces, constituting the ideal element, which should govern, and has in an increasing degree governed, the collective life