

out his whole career as an academic and popular teacher an equal love for the most abstract reasoning and for the practical application of his ideas. The two subjects which evidently interested him most were the highest form of a science which should furnish the foundation and principles of all other scientific reasonings, a kind of first philosophy or organon of thought; and in the second place the foundation of practical philosophy which to him presents two distinct but equally important aspects, that of the Right and that of the Good. To both problems, the abstract one and the practical one, he continually recurs. Not only among German thinkers, but perhaps even among European thinkers, he is the first to grasp the practical problem in its full social meaning and gravity, and in the various aspects which it has since presented, the theoretical, the historical, and the actual. Also, what is still more remarkable considering the surroundings in which he lived, he recognised the importance of industrialism in the modern state. Among the long line of writings, of popular addresses and academic lectures, which he devotes to the social problem, there stands in the middle a short tract entitled 'The Closed Industrial State' [1800]. Of this title he gives a short preliminary explanation as follows:<sup>1</sup> "The juridical state is formed by a closed number of persons who live under the same laws and the same highest controlling power. This number of persons is now [*i.e.* in this tract] to be limited to mutual commerce and

81.  
Fichte's  
"closed  
industrial  
state."

<sup>1</sup> The tract was published towards the end of the year 1800 as an appendix to the 'Rechtslehre,' and is reprinted in the 'Collected

Works,' vol. iii. pp. 387-513. The extract given in the text is printed on the reverse side of the title-page.