

bring together again into a system what was in danger of being lost—and what was in many individual instances actually lost—the intellectual achievements of the age, to gather up the many suggestions into a comprehensive whole, to find a uniting principle and a method by which it could be traced in its many-sided workings, by which it could also be communicated as a great truth to young and aspiring minds. To do this required a last and supreme effort. For such an effort, for its reception and appreciation, the age was fully prepared. This effort was made by Hegel; and the foregoing remarks are merely intended to explain how his work gained that enormous influence which to us, who have again descended to a lower and more prosaic level, might well-nigh seem inexplicable.

26.
Hegel.

The writings through which Hegel made his mark and defined his position in philosophical literature belong to the first decade of the nineteenth century. He was then over thirty, having been born in 1770, five years before Schelling. He had spent fully ten years in maturing his ideas. The greater part of what he wrote during those years, but did not publish, has since come to light, partly in the 'Life' by Rosenkranz, published in 1844; more fully in quite recent times.

A most instructive analysis of these preparatory studies has been given to us by Dilthey, with that fulness of knowledge and deep insight into the history of thought so characteristic of all his works. Hegel did not wait as long as Kant had done before he published his greatest work. The 'Phenomenology of the Human Mind' thus exhibits more of youthful inspiration and