

feature is expressed as the rise of Naturalism, followed by Materialism and Industrialism. We have now seen how this spreading tide of naturalistic thought showed, towards the end of the century, signs of going down, giving way to a counter current which promises to be idealistic and spiritual. Should this promise be fulfilled, as seems to be an increasing hope in all the three countries, the historian of Thought will be entitled to take an opposite view, and to look upon the whole process as a development of Idealism, in the course of which Naturalism, with its concomitant features, formed only an episode.

26.
New phase
of Idealism.

This view can, at present, only be maintained by showing not merely how the principles of Naturalism, Positivism, and Materialism have failed to justify themselves before the scrutiny which the critical spirit has applied to them, but emphatically also by showing where the positive beginnings of a new phase of Idealism are to be found.

27.
The
episode of
Pessimism.

Before tracing more clearly the renewal of this hopeful and promising spirit which seems to be gaining ground in the region of philosophy, we must point to another episode which occupies a prominent place in the development of philosophical speculation, and which has had, next to Naturalism, the most marked influence on general literature and on the popular mind, especially in Germany. This is the appearance of Pessimism. The pessimistic phase of thought showed itself in poetry and literature before it was recognised that it had received a philosophical setting in the now celebrated system of Schopenhauer. This phase of thought is by no means