

was a reaction. This sprang up from various sides, but that which supervened and gradually attained the foremost place in German thought and certainly reached the widest circle, was that of the exact and natural sciences. They joined hands with the rationalising tendency of Hegelian thought.

For those who, like the author of this "Fragment," became acquainted with German philosophy shortly after the middle of the century, three schools of thought claimed special attention, and all three could be traced back to Hegel. These three schools may be identified with the names of Feuerbach, David Strauss, and Karl Marx. They represented severally or jointly materialism, destructive criticism, and purely economic Socialism, and agreed in their anti-religious bias.

These most prominent results of Hegelian rationalism created in the minds of those who strongly disapproved of the doctrines a marked prejudice, amounting almost to an aversion towards Hegelianism;¹ and this in the case of the author led to a study and appreciation of the only two original philosophies which could at the time be said to possess a living force. These were the philosophy of Schleiermacher, a rival of Hegel, and that of Lotze.

The current popular philosophy of materialism had the advantage of being put forward in a clear and simple style which contrasted favourably with that of Hegel.

¹ This attitude was further encouraged by the impression which, rightly or wrongly, existed in many minds that Hegel had identified himself with the detested police system of Prussian Government, which earned for the latter the name of *Polizei-Staat*.