

has to be founded on a philosophy is prominent in the field of literature before the thinker in philosophy takes it up. It is in this wide and varied, and accurate acquaintance with literature that the student becomes acquainted with himself in the first place, and then with his fellows, and so with the race. Thus he is in a position to investigate the unities that lie at the basis of society. So does literature and philosophy.

II. We now ask : *How is the study of literature helped by the study of philosophy ?*

1. It must be said in the first place *that philosophy supplies the assumptions of all studies and so to the study of literature.*

All studies, all sciences, have their assumptions. Astronomy, for example, which is generally regarded as one of those most pure and separate of all assumptions, involves the ideas of space and time and matter at its basis and those ideas philosophy gives.

Says Robert Flint : " The scientist often fancies that he is a man who takes nothing on trust ; in reality, he takes everything on trust, because he accepts without question or reservation thought itself as naturally truthful and its laws as valid. Whatever a multitude of superficial scientists may suppose to the contrary, the fact is that the entire procedure of science and philosophy, in so far as it is simply a generalization of science, is assumptive and dogmatic. At bottom, science, which is so often contrasted and opposed to faith, is mere faith, implicit faith, and in the view of a serious and consistent scepticism must be a blind faith."

These assumptions are presupposed in the science of history, of psychology, of sociology and of ethics.

And as literature touches every side of human living and as it gives a picture of life it is full of the same assumptions which philosophy examines, so the student of literature cannot really investigate these literary specimens without investigating the principles of philosophy.

Thus while literature furnishes the materials for philosophy, the principles of philosophy must be a constructive force in literature.

As your architect is powerless without the building materials, and yet you cannot see the real meaning of your materials until your architect has put them in their places, so you cannot see the beauty and significance of the matter of literature until you know the philosophy at its basis.

You must therefore know something, at least, of the philosophy of the time to understand its literature. *In Me*