

to the darkness and confusion in which the sensible was enveloped. What seems to be needed now is just the opposite: so firmly is the soul attached to the earth, that an equal force is required to lift it to the things above. The spirit is so poor, that, like the traveller in the desert, who thirsts for a simple draught of water, it seems to long but for the bare feeling of the divine to refresh it. When the spirit can be satisfied with so little, we can easily estimate how great has been its loss. . . . But, in truth, spiritual force is to be measured by its expression: its depth is only so deep as it dares to expand and to lose itself in its manifestations. When those who claim that truth is revealed in an immediate intuition pretend that they have penetrated to the very heart of reality, and that they alone are the exponents of a true and pious philosophy, they are unaware that, instead of offering up their desires to God, by their contempt for precise and definite ideas they are in reality the victim of their own arbitrary conceits. Because they envelope their self-consciousness in mist, and forego the use of