

hypotheses would be "the Becoming Hypothesis," for it is only the fact of "becoming" that they affirm; and both Hegel and Schelling conceive that the problem of existence is one of "becoming." What kind of a chemistry should we have if acids, alkalies, and salts, sulphates, carbonates, and nitrates had only one name? Why should there not be a terminology, as exact as that of chemistry, found in every department of scientific thought?

The list of definitions wanted might be greatly extended, and illustrations given of the hopeless confusion that arises from their absence, but the want of space prevents it. Enough has been said to show that something must be done, but what? How are we to obtain such a general consent in the use of leading terms as shall make misunderstanding difficult, and thus get some hope of mental progress, of diminishing the number of controversies, and of realising more clearly the great agreements that underlie our differences. Surely this is a consummation devoutly to be wished. Would it be possible to have a conference of the leading men of different schools of thought—a sort of temporary happy family—who for once should agree to differ, who would meet to determine in what sense certain words should for the future be employed. It might be difficult to divest some of these terms of the different, or opposite, meanings they have borne, and of a consequent teaching power they possess; but as in every phrase of argument there is some ground common to all, this might decide the usage, and disputed points be represented by words employed as algebraic symbols, carrying in themselves no controversial significance. Be this as it may, there cannot be any doubt that much might somehow be done towards lifting the fog. It has been said, and with some truth, that "there are too many conferences already;" but these are mostly on minor matters, and do not bar the way for one on a subject of such moment as this—and there can be little doubt that earnest thinkers on all sides would welcome anything that tended to bring them nearer, both as students and as men.

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