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THE PHILOSOPHIC STANDPOINT OF THE DAY.

WHILE we may say truly that the philosophic problem is as old as the dawn of speculative thought, and cannot be changed, philosophic thought has its history. Philosophy itself is a progress requiring us to determine where we are philosophically in the times on which our lot has been cast. History has its own philosophy, and there is a philosophy in the history of philosophy itself. No pulling down or rebuilding of theories is fruitless. These processes are like the change in buildings constantly taking place in a great city. These are not simply for the sake of change,—certainly not for the sake of giving work to those who depend on such employment. As such changes mark progress in the city, so it is with the building and reconstruction of theories in the history of speculative thought. Changes of form are constantly appearing, but it is the inner and often hidden advance of thought which is of chief interest at every point, as it is the great reality involved.

For the study of this progress we need to ascertain the standpoint of the day, to find the position whence we can command a view of the contending forces at work. We shall thus be able very readily to determine the form of the philosophic problem with which our age is dealing. The changing phase of the