

plain this new movement in Germany without admitting the religious element; and they are clumsy dissectors of the spiritual life who fail to discover manifest signs of this intense inward experience. Ritschlianism is a revival of personal religion, not a completed system of thought.

But let us return again to the biography and continue our observations of Ritschl's student life; and as we do so, I think we can discover two characteristics which distinguished him and which became important factors in the construction of his system. These are, first, his intense passion for the practical, and second, his dislike of sentiment.

(1). The early years of Ritschl in college were years of great religious questionings. Thrown among companions who differed from his way of thinking in that they followed the orthodoxy of Hengstenberg, he was compelled to work out his own self-defence. More especially was this the case in his friendly antagonism with Julius Diedrich, who subsequently gained celebrity as a leader in the old Lutheran movement. These two had been friends at school, but had lost count of each other for some time; Diedrich having chosen as his college, Berlin, where he was much impressed by Hengstenberg. On renewing the acquaintance, Ritschl was at once struck with the complete change which this experience had produced in his friend. There was a fixity of purpose, and an absence of that aggressive spirit which he had formerly observed. Many a night these friends, who lived off the same stairway at Bonn, discussed the problems of the soul and of personal conviction. Ritschl at moments would grow despondent as he failed in the discovery of that rest and faith which his friend so much enjoyed. This period was Ritschl's time of fermentation. He could obtain no certitude. He even contemplated the adoption of an ascetic form of life in the hope of finding peace, and was only restrained from this by the want of an example. In referring to this at a later time, he wrote, "Many of my fellow students, although as firmly convinced of the supernatural as I, lived with that delight in existence which is to be expected