

pied and with which it will continue to wrestle. This is none the less true when it is admitted that philosophy is critically analytic and synthetic in its method, and postulates, as Lotze says, "the existence in the world at large of a truth which affords a sure object for cognition" and also assumes a unitary Ground of all that is, whatever its nature may be. Remember that it is the mind approaching its materials to relate them all, according to its own modes of action, into a consistent whole in relation to some ultimate, unitary Ground of all that is.

At this point, I can only state several great truths. One is that the materials which the mind seeks to bring into a comprehensive, consistent whole are all that is known and experienced with reference to the universe and to life.

Another is that philosophy is final truth only for its particular time. Why? Because philosophy is the formal expression of the collective knowledge of a given age. This knowledge, or material for synthesis, having its origin largely in the continual advance of the sciences, is constantly changing. Therefore, a philosophy which synthesizes the whole cannot be final, but has in it rather premises which another age with its fresh discoveries may have to correct; or, premises whose legitimate conclusions only other and later thinkers will be able to recognize and set forth.*

Descartes did not teach a final philosophy, whatever he himself may have thought of it. It was corrected and improved by Spinoza. The rationalists and empiricists preceding Kant were in conflict. Kant mediated between them. Darwin, in the laboratory, unfolded the laws of development, survival of the fittest and variation. A new philosophy, a new statement of old problems, was demanded, which should do justice to this newly discovered principle. Herbert Spencer attempted to meet the need with his Synthetic Philosophy.

These are only a few illustrations of the fact that a given philosophy is final truth only for its particular time, and the men who seize upon and give formal expression to newly discovered principles become the philosophers of their generation.

I would emphasize the fact that philosophy is reason's grasp upon all its materials of knowledge rather than any particular

*Erdmann, *History of Philosophy*, Introduction. Also Windelband.