

out";¹ society, as it were, exacting a certain proportion of crime, as it does of suicide, poverty, physical and mental disease, for the maintenance of its equilibrium and as an "alarming"² tribute to its stability. The extreme consequences which seemed to flow from this doctrine were not drawn by Quetelet, who believed in a gradual though slow development of human society, and in moral as well as physical causes and influences. They were drawn, however, by what we may term the mathematical school of social philosophers, who relied greatly upon the figures collected by Quetelet and confirmed by others. In this country the statistical labours of Quetelet were made known by Sir John Herschel in a brilliant article³ in the 'Edinburgh Review' on the "Translation of Quetelet's Letters to Prince Albert on the Theory of Probabilities." They do not seem to have been regarded as detrimental to the moral aspect of human history till Henry Thomas Buckle, in his celebrated 'History of Civilisation,'⁴ made use of Quetelet's statistics in sup-

23.
Buckle.

¹ 'Sur l'Homme,' vol. ii. p. 241.

² Cf. vol. ii. p. 262; also 'Système Social' (1848), p. 95, and the 'Mémoire sur la Statistique Morale' (1848).

³ Vol. xcii. p. 18.

⁴ The 'History of Civilisation,' vol. i., appeared in 1857, and was very soon translated in Germany, running in a short time through five editions. There the statistical theories of Quetelet had not made that impression which they made in some other countries. This is explained by the fact that the philosophy of Kant, to which Buckle himself referred in a long passage in his "Introduction," had long before Quetelet accustomed

thinkers to abandon the popular conception of freewill, which sees in it merely the absence of causal determinateness, in favour of the causal connection of so-called free actions with the motives and the moral character. The subject has been very fully discussed by F. A. Lange in his well-known 'History of Materialism' (Eng. trans. by Thomas, vol. iii. p. 196, &c.) Lange refers to a remark of the well-known political economist, Prof. Adolph Wagner, who, in his work 'Die Gesetzmässigkeit in den scheinbar willkührlichen menschlichen Handlungen' (Hamburg, 1864, p. xiii, &c.), mentions the fact that Quetelet's writings had