

## CHAPTER XIII.

ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF MATHEMATICAL THOUGHT DURING  
THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

IN venturing upon the last and most abstract portion of the great domain of Scientific Thought of the century, it may be well to remind the reader that it is not a history of science but a history of thought that I am writing. When dealing in the foregoing chapters with manifold discoveries, drawn promiscuously from the various natural sciences, I have done so only to show how the scientific mind has, in the course of the period, come to regard the things of nature from different points of view, and to think and reason on them differently. Such changes have frequently been brought about by the discovery of novel facts, but this alone has not generally sufficed to mark also a change in the manner of reasoning on and thinking about them. The increase in the number of natural species, of the chemical elements or of the smaller planets, has not necessarily made us think differently about these things in themselves: the theory and point of view may change without any change in the object towards which they are directed,

1.  
History of  
thought.