

then as professor—exerted his great influence in the famous *École Polytechnique*, in the *Sorbonne*, in the *Collège de France*.¹ In contrast with Gauss—who was self-contained, proud, and unapproachable, whose finished and perfect mathematical tracts were, even to those who worshipped him, an abomination,² owing to their unintelligible and novel enunciation, who hated lecturing—Cauchy possessed the enthusiasm and patience of the teacher,³ spent hours with his pupils, and published his lectures on the foundations of the Calculus for the benefit of the rising mathematical generation. Thus he has the merit of having created a new school of mathematical thought—not only in France but also abroad, where the greatest intellects, such as that of Abel,⁴ expressed themselves indebted to him for having pointed out the only right road of progress. It will be useful to define somewhat more closely wherein this new school differed from that preceding it, which culminated in the great names of Euler, Lagrange, and Laplace.

The great development of modern as compared with ancient mathematics may be stated as consisting in the in-

¹ See Valson, 'La Vie et les Travaux du Baron Cauchy,' Paris, 1868, vol. i. p. 60 *sqq.*

² "On disait que sa manière d'exposer était mauvaise, ou encore qu'il faisait comme le renard, qui efface avec sa queue les traces de ses pas sur le sable. Crelle dit, selon Abel, que tout ce qu'écrivait Gauss n'est qu'abomination (Gräuel), car c'est si obscur qu'il est presque impossible d'y rien comprendre" (Bjerknes, 'Niels Henrik Abel,' Trad. française, Paris, 1885, p. 92).

³ "C'est que Cauchy alliait au

génie des Euler, des Lagrange, des Laplace, des Gauss, des Jacobi, l'amour de l'enseignement porté jusqu'à l'enthousiasme, une rare bonté, une simplicité, une chaleur de cœur qu'il a conservées jusqu'à la fin de sa vie" (Combes, quoted by Valson, vol. i. p. 63).

⁴ See Bjerknes, 'N.-H. Abel,' p. 48 *sqq.*; p. 300. Cauchy's 'Cours d'Analyse' appeared in 1821; the 'Résumé des leçons sur le calcul infinitésimal,' to which Abel refers in a letter to Holmboe, dated 1826, appeared in 1823.