

Pluckenberg.
Berlin, Bülow St. 18, Dec. 13 1886.

2864

Highly esteemed Professor.

Your letter of Nov. 23^d did not reach me till last Saturday, other wise you should have had an earlier answer. That you are not a stranger to me is evident - from my reference to you in Final Science; but it was a great surprise to learn that you know that I wrote that book. I have tried to keep the secret, but - think it useless to do so any longer. If, therefore, you will, as you suggest, announce my name "in minimem wissenspflichtigen Journal", I shall be greatly obliged. Please inform me in which journal.

Of course I do not attach the slightest blame to you for suspecting that Mr. T. wrote the book; my only surprise is that you discovered that I am the author.

Your letter as well as the note in your book are highly gratifying, and I thank you for both. My little volume was written in the hope of helping earnest-seekers after truth. I myself had felt the deadening influence of materialism; but by thinking through it I learned that the spirit need only be made conscious of itself in order to shake off the incubus. Materialism can only master us so long as we fail to master it; therefore I wanted to help others to see its logical consequences, which land us in the grossest absurdities. The book has been a great help to thoughtful minds, and it is not

a little satisfaction to know that it has
gained your approval.

Your "Neue Grundlegung der
Metaphysik" I have taken pleasure in
recommending to American friends,
and I also want to direct attention to
your "Religionsphilosophie." In this
"Zeitalter der Naturwissenschaft" we
who want to be just to natural science
but not unjust ^{to} spiritual science must
work together. When specialization
comes to mean narrowness, we must
protest against its exclusiveness in
the name of philosophy. Depth without
breadth may be as dangerous as
shallow breadth, but the worst
possible tendency is the union of
shallowness and narrowness among
the imitators in science — the mere
apes of a master who is worthy of
honor, but who should be used inde-
pendently and critically, instead of

being unconditionally followed.

I am the more pleased with your kind letter and commendatory note, because I am convinced that we have the same great aim and that we recognize the same common enemies of true science, profane philosophy, and genuine religion.

Yours with sincerest respect,
J. H. W. Sturkenberg.