

THE PHILOSOPHICAL REVIEW.

THE NATURE OF THE COMMUNITY.

A DEFENSE OF PHILOSOPHIC ORTHODOXY.

MAN is always interested in the community because he lives in it. He is interested in its nature because he usually wishes to change it, to mould that which he considers 'a sorry scheme of things' 'nearer to the heart's desire.' He is especially interested in it at the present time because, say what we may, life within the community and relations between communities have become strangely difficult and unsatisfactory. The community as we have known it is rapidly becoming unrecognizable. The state is no longer the state as we have understood it, but tends to dissolve into labor unions, conventions, boards of conciliation and conferences. As in all such times of practical change and reconstruction, theoretical questions have again become uppermost.

What is this thing, society or community? What is its matter and its form? Is it something made or does it grow? or is it partly a growth and partly a construction? What are the limits of its modifiability? Is it a collection, an organism, or a person? Which is more ultimate, individual, society, or group? What of the *communitas communitatis* or state? What is its relation to other communities or groups? Is it omni-competent and omnipotent, or is it but one among equally sovereign groups? Such are some of the specific questions now being asked with new and greater insistency. But underneath them all is a deeper and more fundamental question which may perhaps be