

Beck & Co.

Aug 12 1890

My dear Sir

I should have written
before this to thank you
for your paper on Paulsen's
view of Kant & for the
kind expressions with which
you accompany it. I have
so much to do in these
directions at present that I
am not able to write about

the subject, as you kindly invite
me.

As to my opinion of the
Controversy — I should rather
compare Kant to Socrates than
to Plato. Socrates like Kant
professes ignorance, & wishes to
confine philosophy to "human things";
but, like him, he applied a
point of view ~~from which there~~
~~necessarily~~ which made possible a
-great effort of idealistic philosophy
(in Plato and Aristotle) to comprehend
the world.

It is easy as you show to

adduce many passages in which Kant
(like Souther) speaks of the limitations
of knowledge. But

"He thinks he has doth protest too
much." :

and Kant, especially in his Kritik
of Judgment, is continually taking
new liberties with these limitations,
keeping always with a new assertion
of them.

In any case the position of
one who holds that mere
Entia rationis are yet "necessary
preconditions of human reason" is
a position of ~~not~~ unstable equilibrium,

which his followers were certain
to abandon, some of them in
favour of one of these views &
some in favour of the other.

I think Ken had meant
is one of the greatest of
Metaphysicians — subject to the
qualification that he constantly
denied the possibility of
Metaphysics. Butcher and

With kindest regards

Yours truly

Edward Caird