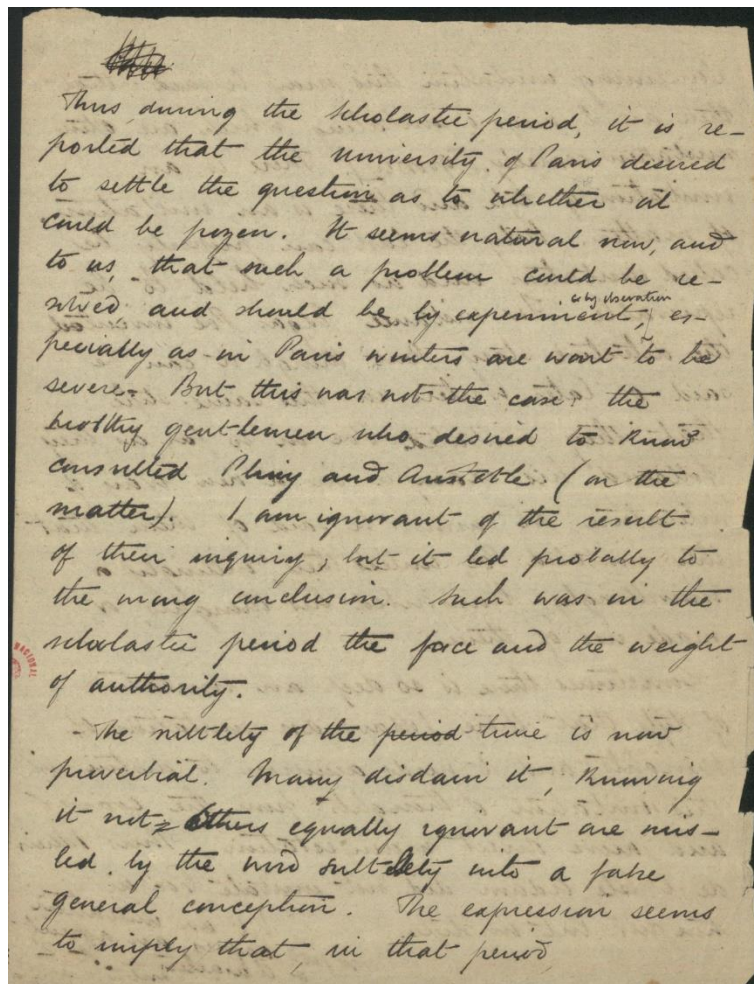


Concerning imitation this may be said: that there are 2 ways of imitating which are often mistaken coarsely <sup>/[grossly]\</sup>. There is an imitation of style and there is an imitation of matter. Only the last can properly be called imitation and as such held to be reprobable. For instance, Edgar Poe invented the detective story. But though it can be said of later writers in this same style that they imitated Poe in so far as they followed his example in a new literature, it cannot be said of them that they imitated Poe, unless they, willingly or unwillingly, transcribed his thoughts, or made use of them.

Sometimes there is so deep an imitation of style that there follows an imitation of thoughts; and it needs acumen to distinguish this imitation of thoughts from the coarser and more direct manifestation. Yet an imitation so good argues an affinity of characters in the 2 writers, imitator or imitated. Thus Villiers de l'Isle Adam did not imitate Poe in thoughts but in style.



## Case

Thus, during the scholastic period, it is reported that the university of Paris desired to settle the question as to whether oil could be frozen. It seems natural now, and to us, that such a problem could be resolved and should be by experiment, or by observation especially as in Paris inventors are wont to be severe. But this was not the case, the worthy gentleman who deserved to know consulted Pliny and Aristotle (on the matter). I am ignorant of the result of the inquiry, but it led probably to the wrong conclusion. Such was in the scholastic period the force and the weight of authority.

The subtlety of the ~~period~~ time is now proverbial. Many disdain it, knowing it not. Others equally ignorant are misled by the word subtlety into a false general conception. The expression seems to imply that, in that period, {...}



145-26a  
But many of these abstruse speculations regarding the nature of God, and other questions of the like wisdom, which seem to us idle and even foolish have a deeper and a more sad explanation. It is this, that these minds, living when they did, as they did, must perforce be plunged in inquiries pointless and minute. Their schoolmistress, Tradition, had locked the door upon them, and, however much they could gamble, they gambled ever in a limited and restricted space. The great dialecticians of Elea, whose masterly speculations, charm and convince by their wide scope and metaphysical extension - had these been born in these days of slavery, they had had to <sup>use</sup> waste their not-doubted subtlety, not on pure problems such as those of movement and of reality, but in questions and quodlibeta concerning the nature of God, and the attributes and affections of him. It was a pitiful waste of intellect, a misuse of reasoning which must be deplored.

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## DIREITOS ASSOCIADOS

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