

THE BRITISH MONTHLIES.*

BLACKWOOD.—JANUARY AND FEBRUARY.

This eldest of the monthlies is always attractive and sterling.

'*A Monti's Visit to the Confederate Headquarters,*' conveys a favourable impression of the stuff of which the Confederate army is composed. Such men are not to be beaten by "mobs of Irish and German mercenaries." The heart and soul of the South is in the war; and there appears to be a unanimous opinion in the South, that nothing but foreign mediation can ever end the war.

'*Caxtoniana*' is a series of essays on Life, Literature and Manners, and has already reached Part XII.

'*Progress in China,*' points to a unity of action between the people, officials, and rulers, in their relations with the foreigner. There is a disposition shown to take advantage of European inventions and knowledge. Steam vessels have been purchased; officers and men, from Western Europe, are now engaged in teaching the Chinese to handle them. China is, in fact, progressing, and a new and most important era is about to dawn upon this self-sufficient and arrogant race, and English influence will be supreme.

'*Mr. Thomas Trollope's Italian Novels,*' are criticised, illustrated and praised; they have a merit apart from works of fiction; they give an insight into Italian life, and more especially into the temper and character of the lower stratum of society, and the manner in which the religious teaching of the Italian priesthood affects the morality of the people.

'*A Sketch from Babylon,*' continued through two numbers, is a well-told story, not uncommon in London life. A vulgar wife of a rich city banker, is desirous of shining in society, and marrying her daughters to titled names. A foreign Count is a successful lover. He is, however, found out to be an impostor. His associate, a *soi-disant* Hungarian Countess, who escaped from Haynau, perhaps unfortunately, and took to the millinery business in London, receives both sympathy and employment from the highest nobility—makes money by pandering to the foolish and vulgar mother. The daughter finally marries the man who exposes the Count, and pays the bills incurred by the mother. It turns out that the young lady was willing to sacrifice herself to serve her mother, who has plunged herself deeply into debt. Instead of becoming a sad though willing sacrifice, under which, however, her heart would have broken, she is won by the man she really loves, and who has saved her from the foreign "Count."

'*Lady Morgan's Memoirs*' will be uninteresting to many; for although they are severely handled by the writer of the criticism, as well as their versatile author, there is too much self-conceit, vanity and worldliness about Lady Morgan, for people to sympathise with her. The authoress was formerly a

* THE BRITISH MONTHLIES, including *Blackwood* (American reprint), *Cornhill*, *Temple Bar*, *The S. James's Magazine*, *Good Words*, *London Society*, *The Churchman's Magazine*, *The Exchange*, &c., &c., can be procured each month at Messrs. Rollo and Adam's, Toronto.