

FANTINE

AFTER THE FRENCH OF VICTOR HUGO.

PROLOGUE.

As long as there shall exist three paradoxes, a moral Frenchman, a religious Atheist, and a believing sceptic ; so long, in fact, as booksellers shall wait—say twenty five years—for a new gospel ; so long as paper shall remain cheap and ink three *sous* a bottle, I have no hesitation in saying such books as these are utterly profitless.

VICTOR HUGO.

I.

To be good is to be queer. What is a good man? Bishop Myriel.

My friend, you will possibly object to this. You will say you know what a good man is. Perhaps you will say your clergyman is a good man, for instance.

Bah ! you are mistaken ; you are an Englishman, and an Englishman is a beast.