

It glanced along the gleaming brine
 And Helle's wave beholds it shine
 Where fast and far the sparkles sweep,
 Macistus! from thy tower-crowned steep.
 Macistus sleeps not, streaming higher
 Through midnight speeds the courier fire.
 And lo! by Euripus the gleam
 Is kindled on the winding stream.
 Each mountain feeds the fiery breath
 Of Victory, with pine and heath.

In vain! for silently and soon
 Career like a broadened moon,
 Asopus! past thy fields they came
 And steep Cithæron streamed with flame.
 The warders have wakened, and lo! they raise
 Bolder and broader the signal blaze.
 Goyopus marks the meteors track,
 Her mere has flashed the tidings back,
 And wafts to Hellas and to thee
 The Herald fires of Victory.

ESSAYS ON MODERN ENGLISH LITERATURE.

No. 1.—SHELLEY.

We have selected the Poetry of Percy Bysshe Shelley, as the first subject of a series of essays on the leading writers of our time; both because Shelley's poetry stands with Wordsworth's, as the direct progenitor of much of the best poetry of our own day, as on account of the attention that has been drawn to this subject by the animated discussion on Shelley and his works, at the "Union" debating societies of Oxford and Cambridge.

And in writing of Shelley, there is one subject that must be met *in limine*,—what has been called his atheism. On this subject we do not hesitate to avow our opinion, that to Shelley this word has been wrongly applied both by himself and others. To Shelley's childhood, Christianity was presented as it had been before to Cowper's manhood, only under the repulsive form of a rigid Calvinism. What was called by themselves and many others the "Evangelical school," was then dominant. We know what this school has done to all that is beautiful, tender or winning in the forms of Christianity. We do not perhaps realize how horrible its conception of the Divine character must have appeared to a nature so loving, so gentle and just as Shelley's, or how such a motive must have shrunk from the Calvinistic conception of a Supreme Being, who, to use John Wesley's