

OUR TABLE.

MISS MARTINEAU'S LETTERS ON MESMERISM.

These Letters—which were originally addressed to the Editor of the Athenæum, and are now published in a separate form—have excited considerable interest in the literary and scientific circles at home, and have attracted additional attention to the subject of which they treat.

The claims of Mesmerism to be ranked as a science, and the degree of credence to be given to the facts (or fancies) on which it rests these claims, have set the learned world by the ears for the last half-century—and to little purpose either, as it would seem. *Adhuc sub iudice lis est*; the question still remains undecided. Despite the innumerable experiments, the profound pamphlets, the learned harangues, on one side or the other, that have been brought before the public since the days of Mesmer and Puysegur, we find the supporters of Animal Magnetism as zealous and persevering, its opponents as inflexible and unconvinced, as ever. "Who shall decide when Doctors disagree?" is an oft-quoted saying, and one we will not venture to infringe in the present instance; but this we may be permitted to say, that the powers attributed to Mesmerism so far exceed what we meet with in the ordinary course of nature, that one may refuse it credit, unless on the incontrovertible testimony of their own senses, and yet not be chargeable with any very great incredulity. Such testimony, however, Miss Martineau considers herself to have received, and the facts of her case having been made partially known through the newspapers, she thought it her duty to come forward with a full statement of the circumstances. Hence the Letters now before us, which were published, as already intimated, in the London Athenæum, during the months of November and December last.

That Miss Martineau is herself firmly persuaded of the truth and reality of those peculiar manifestations which she records, we do not for a moment hesitate to admit; but she has altogether failed in producing the same impression on our mind, and,—if we may trust the periodical press, generally a very accurate thermometer of popular feeling,—the same result has followed amongst the great body of her readers at home. Many of the circumstances, which, to her mind—naturally, no doubt, strong and vigorous, but suffering then under the inevitable lassitude and enervation of long illness—appeared unaccountable and miraculous, admit, we think, of very simple explanation; and the utmost we can say of any is, that we are not acquainted with all the circumstances necessary to explain them.

LA REVUE CANADIENNE.

We take shame to ourselves for not having taken previous notice of this new candidate for public favor, but we rejoice that the delay enables us to announce, not only its establishment, but its continued and increasing success. Our fellow-colonists of French origin have not the same access to literary and political intelligence from the land of their fathers, as is possessed by their brethren of British descent—limited and scanty as that in many instances is. It was to be expected, therefore, that a Colonial Journal which presented them, not only with such information as we have alluded to, but also with many excellent specimens of Canadian literature, and an ample *resumé* of the news of the day, would be cordially welcomed;—and this, we are happy to say, has been the case. The work has been auspiciously launched, and, under the guidance of its talented and energetic Editor, we can safely predict for it a long and prosperous voyage.

Ere this number can reach our readers, they will have learned, from other sources, that His Excellency, the Governor General of this Province, is now: "BARON METCALFE, OR FERRISILL."

We have studiously endeavoured, since this Magazine was first started, to avoid all questions of, or allusions to, party politics; nor do we consider that we are in the slightest degree trenching upon that resolution, by avowing the high gratification with which we have seen the official announcement of Sir Charles Metcalfe's elevation to the Peerage. Long years of active usefulness in the service of his country, in both the Eastern and Western Hemisphere, had brought His Excellency fame and fortune sufficient to have warranted this step, even before, the time when, at the unsolicited request of the British Minister, he assumed the Government of Canada. It must, however, be a peculiar source of pleasure and gratification to the people of this Province, that it was during his residence among them that this high dignity—a dignity bestowed with so sparing a hand for the last few years—has been conferred upon him. The ennobling of our present Governor, we consider not less an honour to the country by which it is conferred, and the Colonies in which he has held so distinguished a position, than to the Noble Lord himself.

Whenever it may be that Lord Metcalfe takes his seat in the House of Lords, we rest satisfied that his name will be hailed by the Noble Members of that August Senate, as a worthy addition to the long list of illustrious Statesmen which already graces their roll.