# THE HOMILETIC REVIEW.

## REVIEW SECTION.

### I.—FALLACIES OF HIGHER CRITICS.

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AN apostle tells us that " the law is good if a man use it lawfully."
The maxim is of universal application. Good things are liable to
abuse; and the more beneficial they are, the more injurious they may
become. The greatness of their power for good is the measure of
their capacity of inflicting evil. It is thus with the forces which na-
ture places at man's disposal, and with the implements contrived for
human use. They are good, if properly used and rightly directed.
They may prove dangerous and destructive, if used improperly.
Dynamite, whose enormous energy is indispensable in vast engineer-
ing operations, is likewise a tremendous agent in scattering terror and
death; and it is as awful in unskilful hands as when employed by
designing men bent on destruction. It wrecks edifices and destroys
lives with like resistless fury, whether exploded by an accidental spark
or by a fuse deliberately applied. Widespread mischief may be unin-
tentionally and even unconsciously wrought by friendly hands, as well
as purposely effected with criminal intent by artful and malicious foes.

The Higher Criticism as an instrument for investigating ancient
writings is of inestimable value, if it be handled aright. It institutes
inquiries respecting:

1. Their author, and the time and circumstances of their produc-
tion.

2. Their integrity: whether they are in form and contents just what
they were as originally written; or if they have been altered in any
respect by omissions, interpolations, or changes of any sort to discover
the fact and restore them, if possible, to their pristine purity.

3. Their trustworthiness, whether they are reliable and correspond
with what is true and right. And

4. Their structure and relations: of what several parts do they
consist, and how articulated, and how do they stand related to other
antecedent and subsequent productions?

In prosecuting these inquiries every available source of information