

## NOVELS AND SCIENCE.

NOVEL writers are becoming prolific, and in their eager anxiety to catch the eye and ear of the reading public are seeking subjects in new and interesting fields. Heretofore the field of scientific discovery and fancy has been the sport of that imaginative and curious writer, Jules Verne. Herbert E. Chase, however, has lately entered the field as a rival, and we can venture to predict that there will be more to follow. Fiction is interesting, but fact is more so; and the queer, quaint and curious characters that stand out isolated and apart afford histories, some sad and sorrowful, others interesting and delightful, and all true but apparently incredible. There are some writers, however, who take delight in trying to improve upon nature, and thereby mar their pictures. Chase has written a romance entitled, "A Double Life; or, Star Cross. An Hypnotic Romance." The *Literary World*, in a criticism, thus refers to one of the characters:—

"We have left little room to narrate how this young prodigy of magnetic power and vivisection is discovered and recovered by his father, a Professor Barlow, or to describe Professor Barlow himself, with his still more wonderful magnetic and clairvoyant gifts, his command of electricity, his chamber of marvels if not of horrors, and the magical if not almost supernatural gifts of which he is the consummate master. In this Professor Barlow centres all possible occult applications of the scientific knowledge of the hour. He enslaves the wills of whom he chooses; he turns his servants into clairvoyants at pleasure; he adorns his reception-room with petrified human bodies in place of statues, as natural as life; the pictures on his walls come and go like slides in the stereoscopic camera; flowering shrubs grow right up through his carpeted floor; he draws his light from an unseen source; he entertains his visitors with inexplicable music; he enters to greet them like an apparition; he lifts a fifty-pound weight as if it were a feather, thus annihilating gravitation; and he is on the point of effecting