

still, beyond a doubt, it was called forth by it, and it bears the marks of great haste in the preparation. The contrast in the two articles cannot fail to impress the reader's mind.

Bibliotheca Sacra (Jan.) "The Moral Condition of Germany," by Prof. Hugh M. Scott, 27 pp. The picture here given is certainly a very dark one. "Never before in German life was the prevalent spirit of the people so mercantile, greedy, and of the earth earthy as now; never was the learning of the nation so devoted to physical science and so ready to draw the coarsest conclusions for morals and society from fixed laws and atoms; and never before has the land had so many criminals, or such aggravated offences against common decency, or so many men crying 'Down with the priests,' as well as 'Down with all order, for the time of the proletariat has come,' as during the present generation. In 1876 the eminent economist and liberal, Schulze-Delitzsch, said: 'Any man, who is not in the deepest valley of ignorance of German affairs, will admit that the whole social and moral condition of things has reached a point where they threaten to dash into an abyss of ruin.' Socialists and sober theologians agree in their diagnosis of the diseased body politic." The rapid growth of Socialism is an alarming symptom. In the field of science the prevailing currents run towards materialism. There is also a rank growth of pessimistic views of life. Intemperance is on the increase: "Germany drinks more than four times as much beer, and three times as much brandy as France." The prevalence of crime is astounding. Prostitution has reached a point that threatens the destruction of the family, the brothel taking its place. Divorce rages like a contagion. "The favorite dramas in Germany now come from France, and 99 per cent. of them hinge upon matrimonial infidelity." A great part of the German people, especially the educated, and those in cities, have become estranged from the Church. The writer, however, notes some signs of a reaction: and we should infer as much from the admirable papers which Dr. Stuckenberg, of Berlin, is contributing to the pages of this REVIEW.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The British Quarterly Review (Jan.) "Memories of an ex-Minister." Lord Malmesbury was not a great statesman, but he held important political offices; and he not only mixed in the best society in England and France for nearly half a century, but was intimate with many of the chief personages who have left their mark on the history of our time. During this long and remarkable period he kept a diary of all that he thought noteworthy in politics, in the affairs of the day, and in contemporary social life; and the present work is the faithful record of these varied and rich experiences. The book is deficient in thought and insight as a commentary on the mighty events which the world has seen in the last fifty years; and the author seems to have had no conception of the significance

and ultimate bearings of the revolutions and gigantic wars which have agitated the Continent and the United States from 1830 to the present time, and of the less striking but most important changes which have transformed England in the Victorian era. Lord Malmesbury, however, has described very well, and occasionally with a graphic touch, many incidents of this wonderful epoch; and his remarks on them, if never profound, are often acute, judicious and shrewd. Nevertheless the real value of the work consists in its simple but life-like portraiture of many of the chief actors on the stage of Europe in a stirring and extraordinary age, and in its rapid, vivid and telling sketches of the national and social life of the time, especially in the upper world of London and Paris; in this province the author has turned great opportunities to excellent account, and has proved himself to be a keen observer. The "Memoirs," of course, will possess far greater interest to Englishmen than to Americans. Still, this sketch is racy and full of anecdotes, and gives an insight into European affairs in one of the most remarkable epochs of history.

The Westminster Review. "Madame Necker and Madame Récamier." This interesting paper is chiefly valuable as showing the immense change which has come over French society since the reign of Louis XIV. began. It traces with a graphic pen the rise and influence of the institution known as the *Salon*, which became supreme in national politics, as well as in social life, and had much to do in bringing about the Revolution and the age of the *Encyclopedie*. With Madame Necker and Madame Récamier, the powerful dynasty of female potentates—a dynasty which had ruled with despotic sway over the literary and philosophical innovators of the pre-revolutionary period; over the revolutionists themselves; and, finally, over those who struggled impotently to resuscitate the old social forms in their most refined, fastidious and exclusive expressions—became extinct. Even before the death of Madame Récamier the literary and political influence of the *Salon* was gone; it had a name and nothing more. It had deeply imbued French society with that exquisite taste of politeness which never fails to elicit the admiration, and not infrequently the envy of the world. Much of this fascinating polish, however, has for some time been wearing out and passing into a mere tradition. It was a special product of the times, developed, in great part, from a combination of accidental social and political causes. It is, nevertheless, so congenial to the French character, that no undermining or opposing influences are ever likely very perceptibly to bedim it, much less to obliterate its traces. The *salon* had, moreover, presumed to initiate fashion, and guide the intellectual agencies destined to mould the character of the age which began with the *petits soupers*, and ended with the Revolution. But in the nineteenth century there is no fitting place for such an in-