

MORAL INFLUENCES.

It is not contended that the British Association has been the originator of all those steps of mental, material, and social progress that have characterised the half-century. But it has originated many, and has fostered and encouraged still more. If it has not opened, it has at least enlarged the openings of, the fountains of knowledge. It has 'cleared the ways, and removed the obstacles from the paths of science.'¹ And beyond these material influences, it has had beneficial moral effects on its members that cannot be over-valued. Let us tell this in the eloquent language of Sir John Herschel, which will heighten the sentiment. He says, 'Let selfish interests divide the worldly; let jealousies torment the envious; we breathe a purer Empyrean. The common pursuit of truth is of itself a brotherhood. In these meetings we have a source of delight which draws us together,

¹ Professor John Phillips.