

NEWMAN AND MATTHEW ARNOLD.

AMONG the strange, many strange, relationships, contrasts, extremes, resemblances, and very pronounced incongruities all at once, are those Oxford glories, the strangest thing being the fact that Oxford the Conservative did, indeed, produce "Newman the Romanizer, and Arnold the Rationalizer." Newman, a believer in indulgences, a devout suppliant at the Blessed Virgin's Shrine, &c., and Arnold, who attempted nothing less than to dissolve Revelation, who recognises sadly that there is no *knowable* God, no means of salvation except reason; who preaches, from his many volumes of essays, that the only resurrection is from selfishness to unselfishness. None the less it is not an incongruity to study these two men together. "Lead, kindly Light" tells us all Newman had to tell of himself. Arnold's pathetic endeavours to reach "sweetness and light" also tell of secret soul ache. The style of both men is singularly lucid, sweet, strong and irresistible; but how easy it is to feel the difference between the luminosity of Newman's style and that of Arnold? How gentle, too, both writers seem to be in their reaching out to our souls; how cleverly both men use the double-edged blade of irony! Can we not say of both that they are great witnesses of the power of religion? Newman, by his overcoming the objections to his faith; Arnold, by his efforts at filling the void with shadows, impressive and majestic shadows, but only shadows. The influence of both is far-reaching, Newman having sounded the foundations of doctrine as held in his beloved Oxford, found them unavailable and said so. He went back to the past as a refuge against the shallowness of the present. Arnold seeks to find in the *zeit geist*, the time-spirit, the solution that must satisfy each generation. Newman's influence to-day is as great as, if not greater than, in the full flood of the Tractarian movement; he impresses upon one, as he felt it himself, that there are but two things in the whole universe, "God and our own soul." Turn from Newman's clear firm utterance to Arnold's sad, would-be certainty. He says: "Let us all do all we can with streams of