

**NEW THEMES CONDEMNED:  
OR, THIRTY OPINIONS ON  
"NEW THEMES" AND ITS  
"REVIEWER"**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649657483

New Themes Condemned: Or, Thirty Opinions On "New Themes" and Its "Reviewer" by L. M. B.

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Cover @ 2017

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**L. M. B.**

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**NEW THEMES CONDEMNED.**

# NEW THEMES CONDEMNED:

OR,

## THIRTY OPINIONS

UPON

"NEW THEMES," AND ITS "REVIEWER."

WITH ANSWERS TO

1. "SOME NOTICE OF 'A REVIEW BY A LAYMAN.'"

2. "HINTS TO A LAYMAN."

3. "CHARITY AND THE CLERGY."

"Whose condemnation is pronounced."

KING HENRY V.

"Bring me their opinions of success."

CORIOLANUS.

"Now I perceive they have enjoined, all Three."

MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM.

"I will do what I can for them, all Three."

MERRY WIVES.

2 by Allibone, S. A. J.

PHILADELPHIA:

LIPPINCOTT, GRAMBO & CO.

1853.

## PREFACE.

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IF ever a volume was rebuked by the indignant condemnation of those best qualified to judge in the premises, "New Themes for the Protestant Clergy," has certainly suffered this punishment.

If a jury could be empanelled of one hundred individuals, whose personal visitation of the poor, and general knowledge of charitable operations, peculiarly fitted them to sit in judgment upon the topics discussed in "New Themes," we predict that, not ten of the hundred, in concurring in a sentence of "guilty," would even "recommend" the book "to the mercy of the public." To use the language of the "NEW YORK OBSERVER,"—when commending the Review—"We can

hardly persuade ourselves that any intelligent Christian could be misled by the errors in judgment and fact, into which the author of the 'Themes' has fallen."

Yet we do not deem the present volume a work of supererogation. Unfortunately, "intelligent Christians" do not compose the whole of the reading public. If intellectual strength, and moral health, and philanthropic vigilance, were the attributes of all, we should not fear the sophistries of "New Themes," any more than we do the subtleties of the "School-men;" but, unhappily, "many are weak and sickly among us, and many sleep." To such, from causes as various as their infirmities, or their errors, "New Themes" will prove a dangerous volume. There are also many, who may be called "*ad captandum*" readers, who judge of a book, as they do in other cases, from the sign which it displays.

If the volume be plentifully interspersed with Scripture texts, and sufficiently take to



task the short-comings of the world at large, and Christians in particular, these excellent individuals conclude, as a matter of course, that a book so recommended must be a good one.

There is, also, we understand, a small class—very small, so far as our experience extends—of persons, unexceptionable in every respect, who profess to approve of “New Themes;” but with so many reservations, that the “faint praise” of the poet, immediately occurs to our mind.

There may be some individuals who endorse “New Themes” throughout. We have met with none such. We cannot deny that we have heard of such authorities; but we have too much respect for the author of the volume so endorsed, to give the names of these endorsers. Merchants consider that even an *endorsement* may, in some cases, not only fail to strengthen, but may entirely destroy, the credit of the depreciated document.

But not alone for the benefit of the classes

above enumerated, do we offer to the public, the formidable array of weighty "OPINIONS" contained in this volume. If "New Themes" should, unfortunately, descend to "our children, and our children's children," we wish to show them, that their predecessors were not recreant to that solemn duty which called upon them to stamp with their earnest indignation, and heartfelt abhorrence, the manifold errors and evil tendencies of "New Themes for the Protestant Clergy."

PHILADELPHIA, February 1, 1858.

## A FEW WORDS

RESPECTING

“SOME NOTICE OF ‘A REVIEW, BY A LAYMAN, OF  
NEW THEMES FOR THE PROTESTANT CLERGY.’”

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IN a brief article under the above title, the author of “New Themes” has seen proper to take some notice of our “Review.” It is properly entitled a “Notice,” for *reply*, it neither is, nor professes to be. For this he is not to blame: for, to use the words of one of the author’s intimate friends,—“the Review is *unanswerable*.” We take no great credit to ourselves in this matter; for, indeed, it required but a very limited amount of talent or information to confute “New Themes.”\* Before we proceed to a

\* So little opportunity had we in the few pages of the “Review of New Themes” to fully represent the errors, inconsistencies, and contradictions, of that singular pro-