

**THE MATERIALISM OF THE
PRESENT DAY: A CRITIQUE
OF BÜCHER'S SYSTEM**

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The Materialism of the Present Day: A Critique of Bücher's System by Paul Janet

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THE
MATERIALISM OF THE PRESENT DAY.

BY PAUL JANET.

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THE MA^TERIALISM

OF

THE PRESENT DAY.

A CRITIQUE OF DR. BÜCHNER'S SYSTEM.

BY

PAUL JANET,

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PARIS FACULTÉ DES LETTRES.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH

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TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

41x
Since the time when the late M. Royer-Collard dealt in France the first blow at the philosophy of the Condillac School, the Sorbonne has never lacked spirited and eloquent advocates to maintain the true principles of metaphysical science against the inroads of Sensationalism and Materialism. M. Victor Cousin, M. Damiron, M. Jouffroy may be named amongst the most distinguished; the hand of death has recently struck down M. Ad. Garnier and M. Saisset; but their places are already filled, and the standard of sound teaching is still borne aloft, despite the transient favour which the followers of Hegel and of Auguste Comte enjoy at the present time.

It is impossible to deny that doctrines considered as finally exploded are once more reappearing, favoured

by the extraordinary progress accomplished in the various branches of Natural Philosophy during the last half-century. But the very circumstances amidst which we are placed have brought forward fresh champions of the truth, and the following pages, on this account, cannot but prove interesting to our English readers.

The author, M. P. Janet, Member of the French Institute (*Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques*), and Professor of Philosophy at the Paris *Faculté des Lettres*, is well known on the other side of the Channel by various works on ethical and metaphysical science. His admirable volume *La Famille*, published in 1857, brought him at once into reputation; and, since that time, he has never ceased, by his pen, or in the lecture-room, protesting against the errors of the modern materialist school.

It is obvious that the questions discussed in the present critique are of universal importance; they appeal to serious students everywhere, and the refutation which M. Janet gives us of M. Darwin's theory on the Origin of Species will, no doubt, be particularly noticed.

The utmost care has been taken to render this

translation as accurate as possible, and I have ventured to add, here and there, a few supplemental notes, exclusively of a biographical character.

GUSTAVE MASSON.

Harrow-on-the-Hill.

