

**THE MATERIALISM OF THE  
PRESENT DAY.  
A CRITIQUE OF DR.  
BÜCHNER'S SYSTEM**

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The Materialism of the Present Day. A Critique of Dr. Büchner's System by Paul Janet & Gustave Masson

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**PAUL JANET & GUSTAVE MASSON**

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# THE MATERIALISM

OF

## THE PRESENT DAY.

A CRITIQUE OF DR. BÜCHNER'S SYSTEM.

BY  
*Alexandre Paul*  
PAUL JANET.

MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTE OF FRANCE, PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY  
AT THE PARIS FACULTÉ DES LETTRES.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH

BY GUSTAVE MASSON, B.A.

UNIV. GALLIC., ASSISTANT-MASTER OF HARROW SCHOOL.

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MATERIALISM OF THE PRESENT DAY.

BY PAUL JANET.

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*The following Works, translated from the French,  
will be published in this Library :—*

H. TAINE.—English Positivism. Study on J.  
Stuart Mill.

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Thomas Carlyle.

CH. DE REMUSAT.—Religious Philosophy.

AUG. LAUGEL.—The Problems of Nature.

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*Also Now Ready.*

H. TAINE.—The Philosophy of Art.

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10-5-38

### TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

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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

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TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

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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.

