

the necessity of giving a correcter answer was felt already by Mill, and notably by Lewes; but a definite answer was not given before Herbert Spencer treated comprehensively the fundamental problems of philosophical Thought in his 'First Principles.' It is interesting to see how he made use of the argument of Sir William Hamilton, the same which had led Mansel to a re-assertion of that body of positive doctrine with which the school of Mill had broken long before. Huxley gave the popular name of Agnosticism to Spencer's philosophy of the Unknowable, though it is doubtful whether he himself remained satisfied with the position it assumed. Another great popular influence which did much to urge the necessity of a deeper study of the fundamental problems, showing at the same time the uncertainty which had taken hold of the foremost thinkers of the Age, was the appearance in 1875 of a new Periodical which professed to offer an arena for the discussion of important questions to writers of all shades of opinion.<sup>1</sup> The 'Fortnightly Review' had started ten years before as the organ of independent thought;<sup>2</sup> it

67.  
Popular in-  
fluences:  
the new  
monthly  
Reviews.

<sup>1</sup> This is finely expressed in Tennyson's Prefatory Poem ('Nineteenth Century,' No. I., March 1877):

"Those that of late had fled far and  
fast  
To touch all shores, now leaving to the  
skill  
Of others their old craft seaworthy still,  
Have charter'd this; where, mindful of  
the past,  
Our true co-mates regather round the  
mast;  
Of diverse tongue, but with a common  
will  
Here, in this roaring moon of daffodil  
And crocus, to put forth and brave the  
blast;  
For some, descending from the sacred  
peak

Of hoar high-templed Faith, have leagued  
again  
Their lot with ours to rove the world  
about;  
And some are wilder comrades, sworn  
to seek  
If any golden harbour be for men  
In seas of Death and sunless gulfs of  
Doubt."

<sup>2</sup> The 'Fortnightly' may be considered to have been the organ of what on the Continent is sometimes termed English Positivism. Since the time when Lord Morley, as second editor of the Review, repudiated the designation of it as "positivist," a term objectionable also to Huxley and Spencer, the