

ways very laudable toy, than as a tremendously potent instrument for the origination or the revolutionizing of opinion. Some of our great lawyers could make sharp speeches, about two years ago, against what they termed the misrepresentations of "Bleak House," evidently regarding it, as they well might, as the most formidable series of pamphlets against the abuses of Chancery, and the less justifiable practices of the legal profession, that ever appeared. We are by no means sure, however, that the Church is as thoroughly awake to the tendencies of his present work, as members of the legal faculty, wise in their generation, were to the design of his last.

Most of the novelists have been hostile to virtue of a high or severe kind in general ; and there were few of eminence produced in our own country that did not leave on record their dislike of evangelism in particular. We are afraid Byron was in the right in holding that Cervantes laughed away the chivalry of Spain : Spain produced no heroes after the age of Don Quixote. As for Le Sage, Vinet is at least as just in his criticism as Byron in his, when he says that "his novels do not contain a single honest character,—nothing but knaves and weaklings, and even the very weaklings are far from being honest." "In a word," we find the critic again remarking, "'Gil Blas' is but a paraphrase of the celebrated maxim of Rochefoucauld—'Virtue is only a word ; it is nowhere found on the earth ; and we must be resigned.'" Most of the modern novelists of France stand on a still lower level than that of their great master, Le Sage. *He* did not inculcate virtue, and they teach positive vice. Nor is Goethe a safer guide. The "Sorrows of Werter," and "Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship," are both very mischievous books. The novelists of our own country have been more mixed in their character. Defoe we must regard as, with all his faults, a well-meaning man, who had been an object of persecution