

into the foreground by English thinkers of very various shades of opinion. In this regard it is interesting to read the discussion which was started in the second number of the first volume of the most prominent and original of modern English Reviews, 'The Nineteenth Century' (April 1877). This Review, which formed during the last generation the arena of intellectual combat, with champions from all sides, was characteristically started with a prefatory poem by Tennyson.<sup>1</sup>

64.  
Discussion  
in 'Nineteenth  
Century':  
Martineau.

The discussion I referred to deals with "the influence upon morality of a decline in religious belief." It was termed "A Modern Symposium" (evidently after the Attic Symposium of Plato), and was started by Sir James Stephen. Some of the foremost thinkers belonging to very different schools took up the question. The most masterly piece of writing was by James Martineau (1805-1900), a thinker who had independently worked for many years at the higher philosophical problems, notably the ethical and religious problems, and whose writings, the more important and systematic of which, however, only began to appear five years later,<sup>2</sup> might have had a greater influence upon the thought of his countrymen had it not been for two reasons. The first was that he occupied a position as a religious minister and a theological teacher. This disqualified his philosophy in the eyes of a party

<sup>1</sup> Quoted already in a former chapter, see *supra*, vol. iii. p. 530, where the date was erroneously given as 1875.

<sup>2</sup> 'Types of Ethical Theory,' 2

vols., 1882. 'A Study of Religion,' 2 vols., 1888. 'The Seat of Authority in Religion,' 1890. All three works have appeared in new editions.