

## THE PHILOSOPHICAL REVIEW.

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### THE CONFLICT OF ABSOLUTISM AND REALISM.

THERE was a time not so long ago when Idealism, at least in England, seemed to have reduced its antagonists to silence, except for a few obscure mutterings, which no one took very seriously. Those halcyon days are gone, and now it is Idealism, or at any rate that form of it advocated by Mr. Bradley with the powerful support of Mr. Bosanquet, which is on its defence. Not only has Absolutism been subjected to the vigorous assaults of the late Professor James, but even less determined opponents are disposed to regard Mr. Bradley as the leader of a forlorn hope, however they may admire his subtlety, resource in defence, and "single-minded devotion to philosophy." Realism now has the floor, and no one, not even Mr. Bertrand Russell, has done more to commend it to English readers than Professor Alexander. I am well aware that

"'Tis dangerous when the baser nature comes  
Between the pass and fell incensèd points  
Of mighty opposites";

but perhaps one who cannot accept without reservations either Mr. Bradley's Absolutism or Professor Alexander's Realism may do something to "redd the marches."

In his stimulating volumes on *Space, Time, and Deity*, Mr. Alexander does not long leave us in doubt that for him the secret of a true philosophy lies in realising that the universe presents itself to us as, and in fact is, a differentiation of one fundamental "stuff" which he calls Space-Time. Starting from this conception, he goes on to argue that to suppose reality to be spaceless and timeless, as Mr. Bradley does, is to make all knowledge