

## X.

### DOES DEATH END ALL?—BAIN'S MATERIALISM.

#### PRELUDE ON CURRENT EVENTS.

CHARLES DICKENS, toward the close of his "American Notes," says, that, when in the United States on his first visit, he was often forced by sheer amazement to ask why dishonesty, conjoined with high intellectual capacity, received so much reverence from Americans. "Is it not a very disgraceful circumstance," Dickens would inquire, "that such a man as So-and-so should be acquiring a large property by the most infamous and odious means, and, notwithstanding all the crimes of which he has been guilty, should be tolerated and sheltered by your citizens? He is a public nuisance, is he not?" — "Yes, sir." — "A convicted liar?" — "Yes, sir." — "He has been kicked and cuffed and caned?" — "Yes, sir." — "And he is utterly dishonorable, debased, and profligate?" — "Yes, sir." — "In the name of wonder then, what is his merit?" — "Well, sir, he is a smart man." [Applause and laughter.] Dickens says he held this dialogue a hundred times (*American*