

# VALUE OF THE THINKERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES OF INDIA.

SIR,—If your correspondent "Disciple" has not seen the following remarks, which I have taken from a leading London journal received by last Mail, on Mr. Darwin's last work, he will no doubt be glad to read them in your columns, as will I am sure many others :

"Though confined to the fertilization of plants, and indeed of flowering plants, Mr. Darwin's book is really of the very widest interest, for there can be no question that, making allowance for the differences of circumstances, the same general principles apply in the case of all living creatures. The social philosopher, the statesman, and the political economist, will do well therefore to make themselves familiar with the leading results of Mr. Darwin's experiments. It may seem at first sight far-fetched, if not absurd, to bracket together the health, the welfare, and the multiplication of nations and of the human race generally, with such seemingly insignificant questions as the visits of a butterfly to a cabbage-garden, the number of peas in a pea-pod, or the size and vigour of the juvenile seedlings. It admits of no doubt, however, that the same conditions which are of vital consequence to the multiplication of plants and the production of vigorous offspring, are of equal importance in questions affecting the welfare and perpetuation of the human race. From this point of view it must be conceded that Mr. Darwin and his followers are rendering, and have rendered, practical services to humanity, beyond what the metaphysicians have ever been able to accomplish. While much even that the statesman and social reformer do is necessarily only of temporary importance, the work of the natural philosopher will be of advantage throughout all time."

If this class of thinking be "low," as the religious journal of Bombay tells us it is, it would be interesting to know what thinking is high in his estimation? Some of your readers will, in this connection, remember the pertinent questions put by J. S. Mill—"Is it astonishing that great minds are not produced in a country where the test of a great mind is, agreeing in the opinions of the small minds? Were ever great minds thus formed? Never. The few great minds which this country has produced have been formed in spite of nearly everything which could be done to stifle their growth."

MILQ,