

THE
Montreal Diocesan Theological College
MAGAZINE.

VOL. 7.

MONTREAL, MARCH, 1899.

No. 5.

ONE ASPECT OF HUMAN CHARACTER.

SERMON BY THE REV. W. P. R. LEWIS, B.A., RECTOR OF
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, HUNTINGDON.

St. Matthew xiii. 43. "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father."

This is an individual promise of Christ our Lord, a prophecy with reference to the future life. The believer and worker in His vineyard is to take it as an incentive to continual diligence, to persevering emulation of the Righteous One. The *righteous*, that is, the righteous part of a man, his intrinsic worth of character, what is divinely and utterly truthful in him will find its altogether congenial sphere and due recognition in the unlimited inheritance of the saints in light.

Human life everywhere, always and in all men is conditioned. It seems a thing of chance; of unforeseen, uncontrolled, unexplained circumstances; to the casual eye there appears no purpose, no guiding genius, no spirit of light and leading in the midst of the conflicting and irreconcilable elements of the world. The great political, social and intellectual movements, so widely separated by time and space, seem to have no connection with each other, no common bond of knowledge and so no sympathy between them. Has Cosmos dethroned Chaos in the material world only, and left the moral world with an unfinished and unsatisfied sense? A life flickers out into the dark leaving a blank. Yet, and notwithstanding all this, we know everything is working to one complete and perfect consummation. God holds the threads of life in His hands, weaving them to an inevitable, a distinct and righteous conclusion. It is certain that then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the Kingdom of their Father.