

THE HOMILETIC REVIEW.

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REVIEW SECTION.

I.—THE PREACHER AND THE PREACHING FOR THE PRESENT CRISIS.

By D. S. GREGORY, D.D., LL.D, EX-PRESIDENT OF LAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY, AND LATE MANAGING EDITOR OF THE STANDARD DICTIONARY.

VI. THE PREACHING FOR THE TIMES.

Some Means of Direct Effectiveness.—What, in general, is the character of the preaching demanded by the times in which we live? The answer must be: *Direct and effective Gospel-preaching for the immediate salvation of men.*

It is evident on common-sense principles, that preaching to be effective must take wise account of the conditions and tendencies of the age to which it is addressed. The present time is characterized by remarkable activity of the scientific spirit; by an extraordinary rage for novelty; and by a constant demand for utility, usually of the baser sort. In such an age the preacher must present God's truth in its practical bearings, with special artistic form, and with power, for the grand end of saving and elevating men.

It would be easy to show, did space permit, that present conditions render it absolutely necessary that the preacher should form for himself a more correct, complete, and consistent theory of rhetoric or the art of oratory, and that he should conform his practise to that theory. The presentation of such a theory would embrace the statement of the practical ideas in man to which the preacher's message is to be addressed and attached, and of the rhetorical principles of invention and style, by which, as the vehicle, the message is to be borne to its destination, and to secure its aim. It would be necessary to exhibit the required conformity to this theory in the matter, the manner, and the spirit of the preaching, if the desired results, in the conversion of sin-

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