

# THE HOMILETIC REVIEW.

VOL. XXI.—JUNE, 1891.—No. 6.

## REVIEW SECTION.

### I.—CANON LIDDON.—No. II.

BY PROF. WILLIAM C. WILKINSON, D.D., TARRYTOWN, N. Y.

Evangelical—printing the word without quotation marks, for, from being of the “evangelical” party he was far enough removed—I pronounce Canon Liddon as preacher. Not only did he not obliterate the preaching office with the overlying forms and ceremonies of the priestly, but he was very impatient of those who preached in the pulpit anything short of the saving gospel of Christ. He did not shrink from using the old-fashioned gospel terms, but he used them with a meaning that filled them full—terms, which, in use that empties them of their original meaning, have been justly ridiculed as cant. Hear him, talking to a university audience at Oxford, describe the sort of minister that the minister of the gospel should *not* be; for my own part, I am not able not to think of the late Dean Stanley, as I read :

“His thought will drift naturally away from the central and most solemn truths to the literary embellishments which surround the faith; he will toy with questions of geography, or history, or custom, or scene, or dress; he will reproduce, with vivid power, the personages and events of long past ages, and this, it may be, with the talent of a master artist; he will give to the human side of religion the best of his time and of his toil, and in doing this, he may, after the world’s measure, be doing good work. But let us not deceive ourselves; he will not be saving souls. Souls are saved by men who themselves count all things but dung, that they may win Christ, and be found in Him; and who, even if they be men of refined taste, and of cultivated intellect, know well how to subordinate the embellishments of truth to its vital and soul-subduing certainties.”

The utterer of these words, for all that he was in grain the priest that I have described him, was not less also, perhaps was even more also, the called, the consecrated, the apostolic preacher of the gospel. Liddon was, in base of character, preacher. This base of character in him was simply penetrated and modified, by no means overcome and cancelled, by the quality of priest. It was fit, therefore, that his career should be, as it was, preëminently a career of the pulpit. No doubt, he would have made an admirable bishop, but admirable bish-