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REVIEW SECTION.

I.—APOLOGETICS IN THE PULPIT.

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THE question, Ought apologetics to have any place in the pulpit? is one I should without hesitation answer in the affirmative, but not without preliminary explanations. In the first place, I should stipulate that the apologetic must be of the right sort; not the wooden, dry, hard, unconvincing kind of argumentation with which some apologetic treatises make us familiar, but helpful, suggestive thoughts fitted to show to earnest minds the reasonableness of faith—such thoughts as one can find in abundance in Bishop Butler's "Analogy," for example. Then, in the second place, pulpit apologetic should be of an occasional, not of a systematic character. It would be wholly out of place to turn the pulpit into a professor's chair, and deliver lectures on apologetics to a congregation as if it were a class of theological students. A special course of apologetic lectures on Sunday evenings, intended for the benefit of special audiences, may be admissible; but in ordinary preaching the apologetic element will appear to best advantage in the form of an occasional head of discourse, or short paragraph, or pithy, sententious saying.

An apologetic element wisely used will be found very serviceable to the great ends of the ministry, and cannot be dispensed with without detriment to these. Let me state briefly the grounds of this opinion:

1. The preacher must play the part of an apologist at times *if he would be true to the spirit of the Scriptures and a faithful follower of inspired models*. There are apologetic elements in the Bible, though it be a Book having throughout a practical religious aim—viz., to make the man of God perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. In various parts of the Bible we find difficult religious problems stated and vigorously grappled with. For example, the fundamentally important question is put, Is God really *good*; does He care for the right; is He on the side of the pure in heart? For psalmists and prophets it was a hard question, for they saw so much that seemed to give