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REVIEW SECTION.

I.—EUGÈNE BERSIER.

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(Concluded from page 396.)

BERSIER'S text for the present sermon is that familiar classic place of the eighth psalm, "What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?" A fit and noble text, exactly introducing the theme of the sermon, without strain of ingenuity on the preacher's part to effect an adjustment.

The sermon commences with the remark that one of the most recurrent objections to Christianity, an objection common to ancient and modern thought, is the insignificance of man in the universe and the consequent improbability of man's being the subject of a divine providential care and of a divine redemptive grace such as the Bible pretends to exhibit in exercise on his behalf.

He quotes a lively appropriate passage from the ancient heathen Celsus, which states the obvious objection strikingly. A remark closely following, illuminated by an instance from astronomy, composing a fine rhetorical climax, to the effect that late science, by its discoveries and its guesses, has given keener apparent point to the objection, with, then, an illustration or two appealing to universal human experience such as will bring the objection home to every hearer's heart,—and the subject of discussion is effectively introduced.

The climax just now mentioned closes with the statement of a prodigious conclusion, reached by the English astronomer Herschel, as to the distance from the earth of one of the stars in the Milky Way :

"Before these formidable figures" [exclaims the preacher] "we recoil dismayed; we say, with Pascal, 'The solitude of those infinite spaces terrifies me; our infantile confidence gives way, God escapes us, and the saying of the psalm spontaneously springs to our lips, 'What is man, that thou art mindful of him? What is the Son of Man, that thou visitest him?'"