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REVIEW SECTION.

I.—SYMPOSIUM ON THE PULPIT: "IS THE PULPIT DECLINING IN POWER? IF SO, WHAT IS THE REMEDY?"

NO. I.

BY BISHOP A. CLEVELAND COXE.

It may be assumed that the question we are called to discuss is presumptive evidence that it is not gratuitously raised. In this country nobody would have thought of such an inquiry, save as a mere paradox, in the days before the War. Since that epoch, a new state of society has been created; the world itself has been new-fashioned; a new literature has been made and a new generation has come into the forefront, intoxicated with its inheritance and firmly convinced that it is much wiser than its fathers, while it forgets that it was the fathers who have created all it so boastfully calls its own.

Nor is this spirit of our times peculiar to America. It is the spirit of the age in Europe, as well; nay, fresh movements in India even among the Brahmins, whether for good or ill, belong to the same class. We must include all Asia in the claim, not forgetting Japan, nor doubting that there are elements of new life in Syria and Asia Minor. Perhaps there is to be an awakening in Africa, but as yet Egypt does not respond to the genius of universal renovation.

For a long time the pulpit has "stood acknowledged," to quote the "Task: "

"The most important and effectual guard,
Support, and ornament of virtue's cause."

Cowper was a contemporary of Wesley and Whitfield, the apologist of the latter but the satirist of the former, as he was of the cold mechanical preaching these great messengers were sent to