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Social Sciences

## FALSE PROPHETS.

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# LECTURE

BY REV. D. D. MCLEOD, BARRIE, ONT.

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*"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit: but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."—MATTHEW, VII., 15—21.*

This passage, which meets us in the course of Lectures we have been engaged in on the Sermon on the Mount, like all the other words of our Lord, has a message in it for every age. It was a warning which was needed in his own day, and in the days of the Apostles. There were men rising up from time to time, claiming without any authority, to be the servants of God, and to have a special message from God to the people, while they were at heart bitter enemies of the truth. They came to the people in "sheep's clothing." That is, speaking and acting as if they were the genuine, divinely appointed teachers; so that ignorant observers were easily deceived. All the while they were seeking their own selfish and wicked ends. "Inwardly," they were "ravening wolves." Such our Lord does