

THREE GREAT PREACHERS.

(VINET, LIDDON AND NEWMAN.)

— BEING —

THE OPENING LECTURE OF THE THEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

At the recent opening of the session of the Theological Department of Manitoba College, Rev. Principal King delivered the following lecture:—

Among the too numerous subjects assigned to the chair of the Principal of Manitoba College, Homiletics, at least since the Rev. Mr. Pitblado's regretted departure, has had to have a place. In dealing with this branch of preparation for the ministry, my plan has been to state and expound with as much fulness as possible the more important principles of the Science or the Art (it is both); and in addition to pass in review some of the more eminent preachers, both of earlier and of later times, with the view of ascertaining their distinctive merits and of fixing attention on the sources of their power.

In pursuance of the latter part of this plan, and as also supplying a subject which may not be without interest to the Christian public, who have favored us with their presence, I desire to speak to you this evening of an illustrious triad of preachers; Vinet, Liddon and Newman. Superficially viewed, they may appear to have very little in common, more closely regarded they will be found to have much; I am not concerned, however, to justify their combination in this lecture by any other consideration than this, that they have all been, in very different degrees indeed, helpful to myself in exercising the ministry; more, perhaps, than any other preachers, whose acquaintance has been made simply through their published writings. Of the three, one spoke in French, the other two in our English tongue. The former ended his career almost half a century ago, the grave has just closed over the two latter. Exercising their gifts in spheres wide apart, and amid very different surroundings, it will be found that in their hearts they adored the same Saviour, and by their eloquence vindicated the same essential and eternal verities.