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REVIEW SECTION.

I.—LITERATURE AND LIFE.

BY REV. FRANK C. HADDOCK, BRUNSWICK, MAINE.

THE value of thought is its relation to life. Ideas which neither genuinely reflect life nor appeal to life soon die. The survival of any literature is therefore its justification. The highest works, which may seem to be most widely separated from the masses of men, possess a quality of living humanity. This quality preserves them. It is the vital germ, taking from and imparting to each age something peculiar to both.

This suggestion will hold good of religious systems. If religion has to do with civilization, an age in which the loftiest as well as the commonest doctrines, the most supernatural as well as the most rationalistic phases of belief, are recognized as definitely related to practical activity, gives us the best evidences both of its own right and the right of that religion to go on. Religion and literature cannot be divorced from each other. Religion and literature ought not to be divorced from life. Both find their right to be in what they can do for living society.

There have thus been some phases of religious history whose greatest right to be was their capacity to change. When, for the most part, the generation of the Son and his metaphysical essence, the procession of the Spirit, predestination and limited salvation, a real or symbolic Presence in the Eucharist, passivity or activity at conversion, and so on, have called learned people into battle, the common people have not been eminent for piety. On the other hand, too, periods of excessive attention to the moral precepts of Christ, of slurping those stupendous truths which make Christianity at once mysterious and practical, of rationalism in the true province of faith, are equally uninspiring. Always there is a vast difference between the importance of interpretations of any truth to a church or a school and the importance of those interpretations to mankind. There is also a great difference between the importance of doctrines to the perpetuity of Christianity and the importance of those doctrines to the