

THE INAUGURAL LECTURE.

The following short sketch of the very interesting lecture, delivered by the Rev. L. N. Tucker, alumnus of the College, and assistant Minister to St. George's, Montreal, may be of interest to our readers. As has been elsewhere stated the idea of opening each term with a public lecture on some subject of general interest, took practical shape last January, and it is intended to continue the practice in future every session.

Mr. Tucker chose "preaching" as his subject, and began his remarks by saying that it is not necessarily the case that the best models are always the best critics, or vice versa. He proposed to give his audience the benefit of the experience derived from his own shortcomings, as well as some of the views of those who have been counted among the most successful preachers. As preaching is the institution of Christ, as the voice is the most powerful means of moving men, the sermon was deserving of the concentrated energy of all the minister's faculties.

The subject is the Word of God, which contains all that a man need know as a citizen of the Kingdom of God; not the written Word merely, but the Incarnate Word, the Son of God in the power of His endless life.

Many of the qualifications of the preacher are gifts, which can be cultivated by studious and careful attention, and as there is no place like College for such preparation, the almost total neglect of it in our training schools is not only wholly inexplicable but a matter of profound regret. But apart from these the preacher must be a *man* whose life is in harmony with the message he delivers, and who has for himself drunk deeply of the spirit of the Word. He who seeks to know the mind of God and to convey it to his hearers cannot be a wholly unsuccessful preacher. Likewise must he be an earnest student of Theology. Habits cultivated in the early days of ministry, will cling through life and build up a foundation invaluable in after years, when the multiplicity of outside duties unfit the mind for abstract thought. Among personal qualifications, sympathy is of primary importance. "Be Fathers," said Fénelon; "nay more, be mothers to your people." A wide and close contact with our fellow-men is also indispensable, as Phillips Brooks has said. "The preacher who is not a pastor grows remote, the pastor who is not a preacher grows petty. The two things are not two, but one. "Be both; for you cannot really be one unless you also are the other."

With regard to the quality of the sermon itself it must be instructive, but also hortatory. It must be apologetic, but also a life-giving message. But above all it must retain that nameless qualification essential to all sermons,—what Brooks calls, "the quality, that kindles at the sight of men," what Cicero calls, "the instinct, that can discern the thoughts and feelings of an audience," what Dupanloup calls, "the feeling of contact with your hearers."