

THE GOSPEL FOR AN AGE OF DOUBT.

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The Yale Lectures on Preaching form one of those annual courses to which we look forward as the high water mark of thought in their department. The series for last session delivered by Henry Van Dyke, of the Brick Church, New York, has lately been issued by Macmillan. Its typography and arrangement make it one of the most handsome books of the year. Paragraph headings, printed on part of a wide margin, revive an ancient custom much to be commended. There is no affectation of the partially antique type which tires the eye in some of the best printed books of to-day. The clear-cut English letters, to which we have been accustomed from boyhood, stand out clearly from a highly polished page, giving an impression of richness and dignity. The only blemish in the outward form of the book is the art linen in which it is bound; and which, although it seems a fad of the aesthetics of to-day, has to some eyes a plebeian and unfinished look.

The author in his "foreword" declares his desire to speak tidings of gladness, a real permanent gospel, to a wider audience than that which greeted him in the divinity hall of Yale, that is, to the men and women who, amidst the seething currents of unsettled opinion, still care for the vital problems of faith.

He characterizes the present time as an age of Doubt. Everything is questioned, not with the light-hearted frivolity and jubilant triumph of last century, but with a sad and pain-drawn face, heavy with grief and dark with apprehension. With self-satisfaction, science too often declares that there is no other sphere of reality than that which its methods have been framed to investigate. Over the popular life-philosophies of to-day, imaginative scepticism hangs like a cloud, now