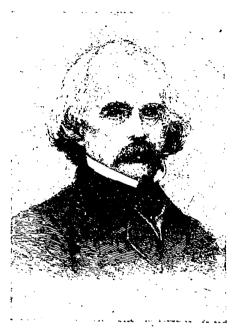
NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE AS A PREACHER.*

BY REV. R. OSGOOD MORSE.



Nathanil Hawthorus.

The frame of the first Puritan church built in Salem, Mass., still This church was built in stands. 1634, during the pastorate of Roger Williams. The old frame has now a new covering. The old church contains the writing-desk of Nathaniel Hawthorne, upon which it is said he wrote part of "The Scarlet Letter."

This is peculiarly appropriate. The old church is the reminder of colonial Puritanism; the table, of the modern romancer who has re-

constructed Puritan life in the literature of our own day. . But Hawthorne is more than the romancer of Puritanism. He is also a great Puritan preacher.

To Hawthorne's literary genius While we owe a double debt. with Emerson and Carlyle he compels our intellectual homage. with Longfellow and Charles Lamb he wins our hearts. we deal now with Hawthorne as a preacher. Great as was the literary man, the teacher of moral

truth was greater.

The preacher has to deal with the conscience and the will as related to moral evil and moral Here Hawthorne is supremely great. This greatness is apparent in his message. Hawthorne has been called the Shakespeare of American letters. while Shakespeare sweeps the whole gamut of human passions, Hawthorne plays upon a single But the note sounded is worthy of Shakespeare. thorne is the exponent of conscience as related to moral evil. He strove to rouse a self-righteous age to the awful fact of human sin, its deep-rootedness, and its effect upon character. His romances and sketches are lurid with this message.

Hawthorne's name brings one book before every reader-"The This is a most Scarlet Letter." fearful, because a most masterly,

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William Briggs. The above portrait is kindly loaned by the publishers.