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REVIEW SECTION.

I.—CANON LIDDON.

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HENRY PARRY LIDDON presents the half pathetic case of a man, in some important respects well endowed to be a great preacher, pitting himself heroically against hostile circumstance and—not failing, but not splendidly succeeding. For, comparatively eloquent and comparatively famous for eloquence though Canon Liddon undoubtedly was, he fell below the mark that by merit was properly his, both in the degree, and in the renown of the degree, that as pulpit orator he achieved. St. Paul's Cathedral was too much for him; as it will always be, since it *must* always be, too much for any man that tries to produce in it the just effect of preaching. Three-quarters of Liddon's never excessive physical force was absorbed and lost in the exhausting effort to overcome the pitilessly adverse conditions of the place, and merely and barely get himself heard by his audience—if audience can fairly be called an unorganized multitude of people disposed and dispersed as people must be in that vast edifice resplendent for show and fatal for oratory. It was a cruel altar, however richly decorated, on which to sacrifice such precious gifts, always so rare, as his.

The present writer thus speaks, not from personal observation of Canon Liddon preaching in St. Paul's. The privilege of such observation he never enjoyed. But he speaks with the utmost confidence nevertheless. He has seen the place, and he has heard, sometimes rather has failed to hear, sermons preached in it. Besides this, intelligent sympathetic report of the physical cost at which Canon Liddon did his preaching there satisfies him that he keeps within bounds in estimating at three-fourths the waste of power exacted by the relentless spirit of the spot, from that eminent preacher, before he was permitted to enjoy, in any faintest degree, the orator's necessary privilege of feeling that his words were taking effect. I quote in confirmation a passage of description, which will be felt to constitute its own sufficient accreditation, from an anonymous observer writing in the *British Weekly*: