

Here the real direction of the studies of the members takes place and it is in some ways the most important feature of the scheme. At the end of the course an examination is held and certificates are awarded on the joint results of the examination and the paper work done during the course. It will be seen that our courses at Trinity stand as it were between the course of isolated popular lectures and the fully developed scheme as it is working in England. We have a unity in the subjects of the lectures and a certain amount of direction of reading, but no written work and no class. This is impossible so long as a course is taken by more than one lecture, but it is to be hoped that as we feel our way these important features will be added. It will probably be found that the scheme as it works in England cannot be adopted in its entirety to Canada, but here it must develop in accordance with the very different conditions. The lack of great centres of population will be a difficulty very hard to overcome if there is any hope of the movement extending throughout the Dominion. It is to be hoped that whatever changes are found necessary the real object of the scheme will not be forgotten, which is not simply to please an audience for a time, but to encourage regular study and systematic work.

REPORTS AND REPORTING. THERE are two or three ways of reporting such things as lectures. It depends partly on your own conscientiousness and partly on other considerations. One old-fashioned mode of operation is to send some one to take notes and give his impressions upon it. But there are serious disadvantages in this method; the reporter is heavily handicapped by facts, he cannot let his fancy play airily round his subject, which then becomes more certainly *his*—unless he is willing to incur the charge of falsehood. For such is human nature that a substratum of fact gives an air of intentionality to the lies that are worked in, while a total romance is pardonable—at least if it is amusing. No one complains even if they do not fulsomely praise a solid, though perhaps dull report, but when a man begins to report what didn't take place at all, he had better be a bit lively. There was a man once in England—and is still there, we presume—who was a good deal more clever than scrupulous. This man employed a very pretty trick when he was out electioneering. You need not ask which side he was on; of course he was a red-hot radical, Gladstonian, and everything else which is contrary to sound doctrine, and had trained himself up thereto by backing "the claimant" when his famous trial was on, and Dr. Kenealy after that; but to the point—he made a great hit at a political meeting by a brilliant criticism of a certain Conservative poster, which he described. He treated it unmercifully, held every detail up to unending ridicule, and the audience felt much the better for it. When some of them went out to search the place for the aforesaid poster, it was nowhere to be seen then, nor indeed ever had been, for it came to pass that he had invented the entire thing inside his head. That was a good thing in its way, but to come to matters nearer to ourselves. There was a lecture delivered not so very long ago, in a town not many hundred miles from this, on the English Reformation, and a report of the lecture duly came out in the *Republican*, one of the town papers. We have been at some pains to compare notes on the subject, as one who, meeting with a fresh M.S. of some classical author, collates it with care, and weighs its merits with a view to deciding vexed questions of the text, and have reluctantly come to the conclusion that it throws but little light upon the actual utterances of our respected friend. It would be ungracious even to hint that our contemporary had not a representative there, but it is not a little curious how singularly

he seems to have been misled as to the substance of the lecture. What can we think of the mental condition of a man who gives a sketch of a historical address, distinguishing what facts were thoroughly explained, and what were lightly touched on, when in reality the whole thing was devoted to an elucidation of principles, with the barest allusions to the facts of history and no explanation of them? We dare say that it was very wrong not to have given the reasons for the dissolution of the monasteries, but no one can be expected to say everything on so large a subject in one hour. Perhaps he ought to have dwelt at length on the religious movement which found its expression in Wycliffe and its influence in England; but as a fact he did show that the principal effect of this was found abroad, and not in England at all. And when the reporter says that the lecturer stated his views about Henry VIII.'s divorce, it was hardly kind of the lecturer himself barely to mention it by accident. The table of contents on any handbook on Church History will give one plenty of instances of papal aggression and resistance to it, and as this was one of the subjects mentioned in the syllabus of the course, which has been already printed and distributed, it is a real pity that our investigator should have selected quite the wrong ones, that is to say, that his selection should not have corresponded with the lecturer's. How are these incongruities to be accounted for? The hasty reader will say it is nothing more than editorial sloveliness, which not having got a genuine report is obliging enough to make up an imaginary one with the aid of syllabus and hand book. But for a work of pure fiction the account is so dull, so much like what might reasonably have been expected, that we are inclined to reject this hypothesis and go deeper for the truth. We are convinced that the *Republican* has his own views about Church History and wishes to give vent to them—that he feels them so strongly that he goes so far as to find fault with the methods of others, but—and just observe his delicacy—instead of a direct criticism, which might possibly give offense to a sensitive temperament, he inserts an outline of what he himself would like to say. We have only one suggestion left to offer. The course of these lectures is only just beginning. What a great advantage it would be to all concerned if the *Republican* would publish its report the day before, or at least the same morning, instead of on the following Monday, in which case it might be of some use to the lecturer, for imitation or avoidance, and certainly would be less open to suspicion.

#### SERMONS IN MINIATURE.\*

"SERMONS in Miniature for Extempore Preachers" is the title of a new book by Rev. Alfred E. Mortimer, D.D.

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\**Sermons in Miniature*, by the Rev. Alfred G. Mortimer, D.D. New York, 1891: E. and J. B. Young & Co. Toronto: Rowsell & Hutchison.