

natural facts of redemption, and the bitterly assailed but indestructible verities of the Christian faith; and Newman, the subtle, severe, devout analyst of Christian character and action, keen in thought, clear and musical in expression, confident in belief and practical in aim, the representative in the years in which alone we are concerned with him—probably his happiest and most useful—of the revived piety of the Church, of which he was so great an ornament, and to which his withdrawal from its ministry was so great a loss.

In conclusion, gentlemen of the theological classes, I extend to you in the name of the senate and in my own name, a cordial welcome to the Institution, whether you are returning to it to resume, in some cases to complete, your studies, or whether you are entering it for the first time. Whatever the lecture of the evening has done for others or has failed to do, I hope it has deepened in you the sense of the importance and dignity of the work of preaching. I shall regard it as the highest service which I can render you, as your teacher in Homiletics, much more important even than any instruction in the principles of the science, if I can help you to feel the grandeur of the preacher's office, inspire you with the ardent desire to excel in it, and lead you to regard all gifts, whether natural or acquired, whether of vigorous thought or of graceful speech, as having their very highest value in the power with which they clothe you, to expound, to apply, and above all, to proclaim Christ's message of love, "the glorious gospel of the blessed God."