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REVIEW SECTION.

I.—THE PREACHER AND THE LECTURE PLATFORM.

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A MAN called to the Christian ministry who has the gift of speech and the power of thought that gives it weight, who has mastered the art of captivating men and of stirring at will their deepest feelings, has high calling and rare endowment, great power and heavy responsibility. His is a divine mission. He delivers a divine message. He has the promise of divine unction. He is a vessel of grace filled with grace; and the blessed end of his appointment is the salvation of men, the edification of the Church, the redemption of the world. It is a holy calling. Who is sufficient for it?

The man prepared as here described can preach well. And he can usually do some other things well. In the pulpit he attracts the multitude by his powers of expression. The multitude is almost sure to ask him to use these same powers outside of the pulpit. In addresses before general audiences on festive and other special occasions he is found to be an attraction. He has "the art of putting things." He has both the wit and the weight that command the attention and respect of men, and that give them high pleasure. They love to hear him because of "the way he has with him," and because of a subtle power that lurks in his fascinating and inspiring speech. By stately rhetoric, by genial humor, by sparkling wit, by subduing pathos he holds the crowd spellbound. Sometimes the burden of his discourse is the story of Him who died to redeem men; who rose from the dead to renew them, and who ascended to His throne on high to give them gifts of grace and power. Sometimes our orator treats themes more earthly and secular—themes patriotic, reformatory, literary, scientific, recreative. The natural endowment that makes the popular preacher makes the lecturer. It is not far, especially in our day, from pulpit to rostrum, or from rostrum to pulpit.