

# THE HOMILETIC MONTHLY.

DEVOTED TO HOMILETICS, BIBLICAL LITERATURE,  
DISCUSSION OF LIVING ISSUES, AND  
APPLIED CHRISTIANITY.

VOL. VIII.      MAY, 1884.      No. 8.

## SERMONIC.

### RELIGION IN A BUSY LIFE.

By HENRY M. BOOTH, D.D., IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ENGLEWOOD, N. J.

*Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.—Dan. vi: 10.*

It is always interesting to catch a glimpse of the private life of a distinguished man. A public career is seldom a revelation of character. The demands of official duties and the proprieties of an exalted station act like barriers which conceal the individual. The king is known, but the man who is king is a stranger to the people. They never see him out of uniform. It is hard for them to believe that he has ordinary sympathies, that he can be familiar and playful, that he has his own sorrows, and that he craves the consolation of intimate friendship.

When, however, the opportunity is given of reading the correspondence or

of entering the living room of a great man, an acquaintance is quickly formed. The real life then announces itself. Thus history is constantly reversing the partial, imperfect judgments of a passing generation. Heroes are destroyed or ennobled, as conduct is traced to its motives, and as motives discover character. Thirty of Germany's principal statesmen once sat with Prince Metternich of Austria around a council table while that astute diplomatist led their discussions with reference to the federal relations of the German Diet; and no one of them supposed that a broken-hearted father, whose leisure moments were all passed at the bedside of a dying daughter, was their presiding officer. Yet Metternich's journal of that date bears witness to the agony of his soul in such records as this: "I have happily the gift of keeping my feelings to myself, even when my heart is half broken. Of this I have given certain proof during the last months. The thirty men, with whom I sit daily at the conference table, have certainly never guessed what I was going through while

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