

Literary Review and Record.

THOUGHTS ON PREACHING, BEING CONTRIBUTIONS TO HOMILETICS, BY JAMES W. ALEXANDER, D. D.—New York, Charles Scribner.

This is one of the most valuable contributions to homiletic literature, ever issued from the American press. The style is simple and attractive—the suggestions valuable and practical—and the tone of the whole work, catholic and spiritual. There is here no system of rules laid down, to which all are expected to confirm; no finely spun theories of unattainable excellence, but every page of the work gives evidence that it is the production of a liberal and cultivated mind, earnestly engaged in the work of the Christian ministry, and profoundly impressed with the grandeur and responsibility of that work, in its relation to the welfare of immortal souls. We unhesitatingly commend this volume to young ministers generally, as a work that cannot be carefully read, without exerting a highly beneficial influence on their future usefulness, in the great work of leading sinners to the knowledge of God their Saviour.

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE SEA; by Lieut. Maury, U. S. N.

This is a highly interesting and instructive work, on a comparatively new branch of physical science. Until very recently this vast field of enquiry was left almost wholly unexplored.

A regular system of nautical observations, chiefly established by the indomitable energy of Lieut. Maury, has evolved results of the deepest interest, not only to all those "who go down to the sea in ships," but to all who can receive pleasure, in contemplating

marvellous exhibitions of creative wisdom, power, and goodness.

The causes and effects of the gulf stream, and other ocean currents—the changes that result from the saltness of the ocean—the regularity of the winds in their circuits, and the essential place they occupy as agents, in rendering this world tenable by man—the circumstances that modify and determine climates—the results of the deep sea soundings in unveiling the secrets of the great deep, with all their cognate questions, are here brought before us, not with the shy polixity which generally characterizes purely scientific works, but with the fascination of genius, and the devout fervour of one who marks with undisguised delight, the wonderful handiwork of God. Although this work has grown out of "*Maury's Sailing Directions*," a work intended chiefly for practical sailors, yet perhaps this treatise derives its highest value and interest from the manner in which it lays bare the vast and intricate mechanism of the universe, and the unquestionable evidences it presents, of the existence of intelligent design, in the arrangement and combination of the mysterious agencies, by which the Divine purposes are accomplished. It is an unanswerable argument against atheism. This book takes its reader up into the workshops of the Almighty, unfolding the most astonishing adaptation of means to the sublime ends of creation. We lay down this volume feeling that in a more emphatic sense than we had previously conceived, "EVEN THE WINDS AND THE SEAS OBEY HIM."