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SACRED RHETORIC.

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THE intelligent reader has before him a volume of sermons by Robert Hall, Thomas Chalmers, Henry Ward Beecher or any other great preacher, dead or living. He reads the book with expectation and attention, for he has heard of the enthusiastic following that this great preacher had. He acknowledges to himself that the sermons are good, but he cannot find in them that key which unlocked hearts and unsealed the fountains of tenderness and of enthusiasm.

When a man who has been twenty years or more in the active work of the ministry, looks back upon his student days he can easily recall some of his class-mates, and the opinions held concerning them by their fellow students; and he confesses that the expectations and the prophecies of student days have been but half fulfilled. The years tell their story of unexpected success and unexpected failure.

In the morning papers I read the report of a great public