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REVIEW SECTION.

I.—HUGH LATIMER, THE HOMILIST.

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IN a former paper in these columns we have called special attention to the Bible and the Homily in Old English times. This distinctively biblical and homiletic element may be said to have its final expression as Old English in the person and writings of Bishop Latimer, whose death, in 1555, brings us practically up to the opening of the Modern English era, in the coronation of Elizabeth in 1558.

As to Latimer's early life and history, it almost goes without saying, that he was one of England's yeomanry rather than of her nobility—a man of humble parentage, training and position, anxious, only, to be loyal in all relations to what he conceived to be his personal mission to the England of his day. As he tells us in one of his simple sermons, the first that he preached before Edward the Sixth, "My father was a yeoman and had no lands of his own, and my mother milked thirty kine. I can remember that I buckled the harness when my father went to Blackheath field." A boy of "prompt and ready wit," we find him at Cambridge at the age of fourteen, "where," as Foxe tells us, "he gave himself to the study of such divinity as the ignorance of that age did suffer." In his early life he was, in his own words, "as obstinate a papist as any in England," taking positive ground in his teachings, against Melancthon and the Reformers. Through the influence of his university friend, Bilney, called by Foxe "a trier out of Satan's subtleties," he was led, as he tells us, "to smell the Word of God," or as Foxe expresses it, "was prettily and godly caught in the blessed net of God's word." So prominently religious and anti-papal were these two divinity students that the place where they daily walked and talked was known by the name of "Heretics' Hill." He soon disowned his old beliefs; accepted with deep conviction the leading tenets of the Reformed theology and gave himself thereafter to their wide diffusion. Opposition was at once aroused at the university, and he was authoritatively excluded from teaching such doctrines within its precincts.