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THE TEXT, THE SUBJECT, THE SERMON.

THE Substance of pulpit discourse is an affair of theology ; the Form is an affair of Homiletics. It is with Form or Method, not with Substance or Matter, that this paper has to do. Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord. And yet the human element in preaching is real and important. The divine operates through the human. " Truth, indeed, is the arrow, but man is the bow-string that sends it home."

It is necessary, even in this day, in some quarters, to defend the study of Systematic Homiletics. The inevitable reaction against the cold and formal preaching of a past age, brought about by the revival of evangelical religion, swept Homiletics almost entirely off the field. Logic was denounced as lifeless ; Rhetoric was vain, and all elaborate oratory contemptible. A glorious liberty was claimed. Every man became a law unto himself, and did that which was pleasing in his own eyes.

But a better day is dawning. Preachers are beginning to appreciate the importance of true methods. Logic is seen to be the science and art of reasoning, the line of Besemer steel along which the human mind, by the very necessity of its constitution, moves from premise to conclusion. Rhetoric is not a juggling with words and phrases, but the science by which truth in all its parts is applied

*Read before the Toronto Ministerial Association, and at their request given to a wider circle of preachers.