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THE ROD OF THE ALMOND TREE.

A SERMON,

BY REV. A. B. MACKAY, D.D.

"I watch over my word to perform it."

*Jeremiah 1, 12 (R.V.)*

In these days different opinions in regard to the natural character of Jeremiah are entertained. I believe the old opinion is correct, that he was very diffident, a man of no self-confidence or self-assertion, of a shrinking and sensitive disposition. But whatever opinion we may have on this subject, it cannot be denied that he felt himself utterly unqualified to be God's messenger to Israel. He said, "I am

a little child, I cannot speak," and shrank from carrying out the divine commission. God reproved him for this. He can make the weak things strong, can make a worm thrash mountains. He would so strengthen Jeremiah that he would be able to face the most stubborn, and utter without flinching all God's words. "Behold I have made thee this day a defenced city and an iron pillar and brazen walls