

DISCOURSE.

PROVERBS xvi. 12 :

"The throne is established by righteousness."

So spake the 'wise man' in one of those short but comprehensive utterances in which he presented, with such force and clearness, so many important truths for the instruction and guidance of his fellow-men. Himself the occupant of a throne, in his mouth the text was peculiarly appropriate. Versed, as he was, in the duties pertaining to the high station of a ruler over others—possessing the riches and honours of royal state in no small measure—knowing well the weighty responsibilities of a position so exalted among men—not ignorant of its perils and temptations—wisely judging as to what was, and what was not, inherent in the emblems and honours of royalty;—Solomon may well be regarded as speaking with authority, because with a personal knowledge of the subject, when he