

THE
"HARD THINGS" OF THE BIBLE

A SERMON

PREACHED IN THE SHERBROOKE STREET METHODIST CHURCH,
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BY THE

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"Even as our beloved brother Paul also, according to the wisdom given unto him, hath written unto you; as also in all *his* epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as *they do* also the other Scriptures, unto their own destruction."—2 Peter, iii, 15-16.

The first impression given by this text is that Peter classes the epistles of Paul amongst the "Scriptures," thus raising them to a high position of authority in religious thought. He calls attention to the fact that, even in that early day, the epistles of Paul had begun to furnish grounds for religious controversy. Modern polemics convince us that, perhaps, no portions of the Bible are so liable to be misinterpreted as these writings of Paul; but the text proves that the same possession of difficult things may be predicated of the whole Scriptures.

I do not propose, this morning, to investigate the hard things of the Pauline epistles, put to present the thoughts of the text in their bearing on the Bible as a whole.