

SERMON.

"Here have we no continuing city; but we seek one to come."

Heb. xii. 14.

THESE words are true, true of all of us: "here have we no continuing city." Whether we are seeking one to come is a question, the importance of which can only be equalled by the issues which hang upon eternity.

It is especially forced upon our attention, my brethren, that there is no abiding place for us in this world, when we contemplate the many changes which the hand of time has wrought even within our own memory. If we only trace back with the finger of memory the wavy lines which time has drawn during the past twelve months, we are compelled to admit to ourselves how many and how great are the changes which we see around us. We may well say, in the words of the familiar lines,

"Change and decay in all around I see,"

and earnestly pray,

"Oh Thou who changest not, abide with me."

When penned by the great Apostle to the Gentiles, these words had a special reference to his own people and nation. The Temple was still standing in all its glory. Jerusalem was still the capital of the Hebrew nation; it had fallen into the hands of foreign rulers and its glory was departing, but the Romans had not yet begun ruthlessly to destroy it; and, though five hundred years of trouble and anarchy had wrapped the country in gloom and sadness, yet were the people animated with the hopes