

SERMON.

"The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death."—1 COR. XV.—25.

THE chapter from which my text is selected is one of the most deeply interesting portions of the sacred volume. It is impossible to read it with an understanding heart without being convinced that its wondrous disclosures are admirably adapted to the necessities of our race.

In this inspired reasoning we see put in impressive contrast the frailty and weakness of man, and the might and majesty of the Lord God Omnipotent.

It recognizes the universal ruin of man by sin, his consequent subjection to the power of death, and to the dominion of the grave; and proclaims his deliverance and restoration to the Divine favour, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.

Heresies had sprung up in the Churches planted by the Apostles, and among others, a denial of the resurrection of the body. This species of scepticism had been introduced into the Church in Corinth, and was sowing the seeds of discord and strife. For the purpose of meeting these false reasonings of infidelity, the Apostle argues out the whole question, and in a strain of unrivalled force and beauty establishes the doctrine of the *resurrection*, as the only foundation of human hope. He boldly asserts, "If the dead rise not, then is Christ not risen; and if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain." He proceeds to say, "By one man came death, by one man came also the resurrection of the dead." The idea is this: by virtue of our sinful connexion with the first Adam, we fall a prey to the king of terrors; but by the grace of the second Adam, we are rescued from his authority, and raised to immortality. He goes on to assure us, "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death."

Allow me on this solemn occasion to invite your prayerful attention to two thoughts suggested by this passage—