

PARABLES ON THE CHURCH

faith, not knowing where it will take root. Who can estimate the power of the Word of God? "It is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." No words of man's wisdom or effervescent eloquence will suffice, for Christ is honored and the best interests of His Church served when the truth is highly prized and when it is wisely and freely used.

These two parables also sum up the hindrances to the development of the Church. They are of two kinds: those from within, in the hearts of men, and those from without—"An enemy hath done this."

As regards the former, they are very prevalent and powerful. They may be characterized as the hardened heart, the superficial heart and the pre-possessed heart. So strong and so persistent are these hindrances that nothing but the