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KEEPING THE FAITH.

A SERMON

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*"Stand fast in the Faith."*—1 Cor. 16: 13.

THIS is the language of a Christian commander to his fellow-soldiers who have entrenched themselves in a position which the enemy will certainly attempt to take by assault or stratagem. To thwart the tactics of the foe they must be on their guard, and make a determined effort to hold the lines they have chosen. The warfare in which they are engaged involves interests eclipsing thrones and kingdoms in grandeur and worth. On the issue depends not only the existence of the Church at Corinth, but also their own eternal welfare. With so much clearly at stake, and so great peril impending, Paul might well bid the Christian believers at all hazards to hold possession of the citadel of their faith.

When the Apostle sent this Epistle to the Corinthian Christians there was no formulated system of Scripture truth such as we have in the great historic creeds of the Church. Only two or three of the books of the New Testament had been written. The revelation of Jesus Christ made through the inspired writers, was not complete until many years later. But the fundamental truths of the Christian religion had been made known, and they formed the substance of Paul's teaching during his prolonged stay in Corinth. These constituted the faith for which the Corinthians had exchanged their idolatrous beliefs, and in which they sought spiritual shelter and safety. But the seductive influences of the religious system they had abandoned appealed power-