

A SERMON.

I COR. XIV. 40.

"Let all things be done decently, and in order."

SUCH is the general and comprehensive direction, which the great Apostle to the Gentiles gave, in writing, to the Church at Corinth. It appears that, when after a sojourn of some six months, when the Apostle had departed from them, a certain false teacher had arrived in their midst, who introduced grievous errors in doctrine, and mal-practices in discipline. Under these circumstances the Church Authorities wrote a letter to the Apostle consulting him upon the various topics at issue. In reply St. Paul sharply rebuked the false teacher, he entered at considerable length on some of the topics on which he had been consulted; giving his judgment as to the discipline of the Church, and the ministrations of the Sanctuary—other points he passed over altogether, for the present; saying "the rest will I set in order when I come."—But meanwhile he gives them this general rule, "Let all things be done decently and in order."

This direction of the inspired Paul ought to be the great principle on which we should ever act, in all the ordinary affairs of every-day life, but more especially in those matters, to which it was originally applied, viz.: the conduct of the services of the Church.—And I have selected it as a text to-day because I wish to impress upon your minds that due decorum and order, which should be observed in the celebration of Divine Worship, and I mean to explain to you, as briefly as may be consistent with clearness, some improvements which have lately been introduced into our service. That some improvements and reforms are required in the services of the Church, I will quote the words of the Rev. J. C. Ryle, a man who is looked up to by all the