

SERMON.

PHILIPPIANS, I. 27.

“ Only let your conversation be as it becometh the Gospel of Christ ; that, whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one Spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the Gospel.”

MY beloved brethren, had it been possible I would gladly have escaped this hour. It is always a painful duty to bid a last farewell to those we love ; but who can tell the varied emotions which fill a Pastor's bosom when called to separate from a faithful and attached people, among whom he has laboured, for whom he has prayed, and whose affectionate interest and co-operation have won his heart. St. Paul knew the feeling when he penned this Epistle to his beloved Philippians. He could say in the verses preceding the text : “ God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.” “ I thank my God upon every remembrance of