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SERMONIC.

THE GREAT CALLING OF THE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST.*

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Ye are the salt of the earth . . . Ye are the light of the world, etc.—Matt. v: 13-16.

DEARLY-BELOVED IN CHRIST JESUS :

For a congregation among the mountains, such as we are to-day, a word from the Sermon on the Mount would seem appropriate. The Teacher of all teachers is seated upon the mount, surrounded by a company of youthful disciples—the very first Young Men's Christian Association—and, in the larger circle beyond, by a great multitude of attentive hearers. He has shown them the way of salvation by gradual progression, leading the natural man downward to his complete sacrifice in persecution for righteousness' sake, and the spiritual man forward and upward, in self-denial, to the voluntary and joy-

ful acceptance of reproach for Christ's sake, and thereby unto perfection in the righteousness of the kingdom of heaven. And, after He has brought them to this elevated point, it seems as if, for a moment, He were taking a spiritual overlook of the future history of the world, and in it the pathway of conflict for His Church. From this light-eminence He gives them an insight into their world-embracing calling: "Ye are the salt of the earth. . . ye are the light of the world."

May the Lord grant us His influence to view this question in a penetrating light, as, with His assistance, we consider,

THE GREAT CALLING OF THE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST.

We shall see, 1. Wherein it consists. 2. Whether we fulfill its demands. 3. How much depends on its fulfillment.

1. The Lord could not have characterized the calling of His disciples in a more glorious and world-embracing manner than with the words, "Ye are the salt of the earth. . . ye are the light of the world." By means of these two metaphors the Lord illustrates their

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[The first several sermons are reported in full; the others are given in condensed form. Great care is taken to make these reports correct; yet our readers must not forget that it would be unfair to hold a speaker responsible for what may appear in a condensation, made by another, of his discourse.—Ed.]