

# SERMON.



EPHESIANS III. 9, 10.

Who created all things, to the intent that now, to the Principalities and Powers in heavenly places might be known by the Church the manifold wisdom of God.

These words have always seemed to me, more than any others to answer the question, why such a world as ours was created ; why such a strangely perplexed state of things as our world presents in its whole history should have been called into existence. It is not simply that the design of it all is for God's glory ; that is involved in the fact that God *is*. Nor is it only to say that the world was made for the Church ; that, too, is an elementary principle which every one who knows the fact of the Incarnation recognizes at once. If God the Son has become man, and saves men by gathering them into His Church, then His Church,—the body of which He is the head,—must be the final cause of the world's creation. But it is more than this that we are taught here. It is, that Almighty God, in, if we may so speak, contemplating and planning from eternity His creation of all things, so planned His then future creation as a whole, that, to the highest intelligences in it, His Church, the Divine Society of His elect people, should be, in all its parts and in all its history, the means, the most perfect means, of making known the