

A SERMON.

"IN THE WORLD YE SHALL HAVE TRIBULATION: BUT BE OF GOOD CHEER;
I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD."—John xvi. 33.

THE world in which we now live is a vale of tears. The introduction of sin has been followed by death and a long train of countless evils. There is no form of earthly good upon which we can lay our hands and say, This is mine. To-morrow it may be wrested from us. And what with anxieties, and cares, and fears, and pains, and diseases, and disappointments, and bereavements, human life is very far from being a state of unmingled good. These things, however, constitute only a part of human experience. There are ten thousand objects to gratify and delight us; and we often cling to the world with strong, unreasonably strong attachments. It is not proper to say that life is one dark and dismal day; nor is it a day of perpetual sunshine: it is rather a union of the two. It is a scene of change, of successes and reverses, of evenness and then of crooks; a scene of light and darkness, and checkered like a broad field where the brightness and warmth of the noonday sun is intercepted every alternate moment by passing clouds,—where the sky is quickly overclouded, and yet the shadows quickly dispersed.

But when the Gospel was announced to men, and Christ informed his disciples of the blessings which should be showered upon them in his service; when they learned that all things should work together for their good, and that