

LECTURE.

Col. 3: 15, last clause,—“BE YE THANKFUL.”

WE directed your attention, this morning, to various grounds of gratitude with which we are furnished. We recounted the “Mercies of God,” and showed the practical influence their recital should exert. Common mercies, personal mercies, domestic mercies, social mercies, civil mercies, spiritual mercies,—mercies as individuals, as families, as citizens, as Christians.

I have been specially requested to bring under your notice to-night, our ecclesiastical mercies,—our mercies as members of the great Presbyterian family. I have been led to understand that esteemed friends not connected with us, have expressed a wish in this direction. There is a certain propriety, too, in connexion with the opening of a Presbyterian Church that there should be some reference to Presbyterian principles. I am not what is counted a strong Denominationalist. I had not among my manuscripts any lecture on Presbyterianism proper. I have written hurriedly and interruptedly since coming here the expository part of to-night's discourse. It is, therefore, the small dust of the balance, I offer you, rather than heavy bullion. “Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I you.”

Let me assure you at the outset, that though a true blue Presbyterian, “I believe in the communion of saints.” I have much more in sympathy with an Episcopalian or Congregationalist, a Baptist or a Methodist, who is a spiritual “Israelite indeed,” than with a Presbyterian who is not. I believe that often too much attention is paid to the points in which we differ, and too little to those in which we agree. After all, our differences as members of the one great Evangelical Protestant family are but the ridges in the field—not the rifts in the rock—on which we all stand in common; and the more that as children of God, we obey the mandate of our King, “Get thee up into the high mountain,” we shall find as in connexion with the rice fields that skirt the Himalayan range in India, the furrows and the fences will gradually