TAUGHT OF GOD.

Philippians 3 : 13-15.

Address by Mr. Frost, Friday Evening, October 28th.

It is my desire, dear friends, in this closing service, to direct your attention particularly to the last verse which we have read, the 15th: "Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded; and if in anything ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you."

The first thing I would have you notice is that this verse makes it clear and plain that there are those whom the Spirit of God has so wrought upon that, according as God Himself sees things, He may call those persons "perfect." Now it has been said upon this platform, and I must repeat it, that Scriptural perfection is not sinlessness. Nevertheless, the Spirit of God says "perfect," and let us be assured that He means something by this, and something very real and very lasting.

It is a most instructive theme to take up for study—the word "perfect," as it stands in the original in the New Testament. If any one does so, he will discover that there are three separate words in the Greek, each having a different shade of meaning, but all translated by the English word "perfect." The first word used has in it as its root meaning the thought of freshness, as, for instance, fruit that is fresh plucked from the tree, not under ripe or over ripe ; luscious, as one would say, full of juice and full of taste; or fresh, as the new-born babe is fresh, well-shaped, fair of limb and face, comely in all its parts. A second word, we might almost say, is a surgical term, and it means to put into joint that which has been out of joint, just as if this arm were out of its place, and a surgeon should put it into its socket, and thus should adjust it once more for service; so that when the Spirit of God uses this word "perfect," He has in mind this thought of readjustment—a spiritual readjustment where before there was displacement. Then there is a third word translated "perfect," which means in the original, in its root meaning, to reach a goal, as the runner in the race at last