

SERMON.

"A new Commandment give I unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another, &c.—JOHN xiii, 34, 35.

Yes, brethren, a new Commandment; new, then, new, now; for hardly yet, after eighteen centuries of Christian work in the world, has it even begun to be obeyed, or properly speaking, understood; and new forever; for more and more, as the ages of eternity roll on, shall fresh, glorious light be cast, in the very heaven of heavens, upon those Christ-words of touching pathos, "as I have loved you."

When honoured, dear friends, with an invitation from the worthy pastor of your choice, and from the Presbytery of which he is a member, to deliver the discourse of induction to-day, my text flashed upon me, as, beyond all others, the text for the occasion. May I humbly venture to express the hope, that the suggestion was of that gracious Spirit, to whose working among you, I believe, your happy meeting of to-day is due? For it seemed to me, on hearing the tidings of your union, of dissensions hushed, and schisms healed, and sectarianisms slain, of your resolve that, by God's help, "Ephraim should no more envy Judah, nor Judah vex Ephraim,"—it seemed to me that you were exhibiting a grand and memorable illustration of obedience to this great commandment—evincing, in a manner not to be gainsaid, that verily "the love of Christ was being richly shed abroad in your hearts, by the holy Spirit given unto you." And I felt that the circumstances demanded not only counsels for days (I