

SERMON XVI.

ASSURANCE.

ROMANS V. 8, 9.—“But God commendeth His love towards us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.”

THE certainty of salvation is a source of great comfort to God's people. The assurance that not one jot or tittle of the many declarations contained in Scripture as to their redemption can possibly fail is a solid foundation on which the soul may rest—a living hope that may enkindle faith and engender devotion. If God has given the Christian a sense of this assurance—a firm persuasion that nought can ever separate him from his Father's love,—no matter how great the temptation may be, how severe the affliction, how rough and long the road of life, the darkest cloud will be tinged with glory, the gloomiest night will be radiant with hope. But we are so given to doubt, so prone to question, that oftentimes we have no certainty at all that we will ever attain to the bliss, which, at other times, we have hoped and striven for. We look into our hearts and we see so many hidden sins yet lurking in deep places; we examine our lives and we are so struck with the sad want of entire self-consecration, and before us arises such a