



ST. MATT. XXIV. 30.—“ *The Sign of the Son of Man.*”

Instead, my friends, of preaching the formal written sermon, which is customary on Sunday mornings, I desire to say a few words to you, by way of explanation, and, (if necessary) of defence, about the Cross which has recently caused discussion among many, and—I am bound to own it—ill-feeling among a few.

If I speak at some length, try and bear with me. Indeed, it seems almost necessary to offer an apology for taking up your time with so unimportant a subject.

Let me begin by going to the root of the matter; and let me tell you how the introduction of the Cross was brought about, and then, if there be any blame attaching anywhere, you yourselves can decide who is worthy to receive it.

Last year, a friend of mine (whose kind interest in our Church from its foundation has never flagged), said to me just before going home, “What shall I bring for the Church this time, when I come from England?” “What we have long wanted,” I replied at once: “to improve our plain service, a simple handsome Cross to carry before the choir.”

“Will you use it, if I do?” said my friend. “Surely we will,” I replied.

That was all that passed. In a month or two the Cross arrived; it was formally presented on Easter eve, accepted,