

SERMON.

[The following Sermon is published at the request of many who heard it including the Lay Delegates and Churchwardens of St. Paul's Church. It does not purport to be an exact reproduction of the extemporaneous one delivered on March 6th; but the author believes that it represents the sense of that Sermon, and approaches as nearly to the language then employed as he can recollect.]

"But there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you."—I Cor. ii, 19.

You see, then, Brethren, that there is some good even in heresies. They serve a purpose in the Church; they bring sound doctrine, by the very force of contrast, into prominence. If it were not for plague and pestilence, we should not give heed to sanitary precautions. Even the thunderstorms purify the atmosphere. In fact there are "books in the running brooks, sermons in stones, and good in everything." Heresies help to distinguish between the wheat and the tares; they make manifest "the double-minded men who are unstable in all their ways," and them also who are "rooted and grounded" in the faith. They show whether we know in what we have believed, or whether we be "like children tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive." Moreover, our liability to them should keep the watchmen of Zion on the alert. The avidity with which they are swallowed when an old one is revived, or a new one started, should teach the necessity of keeping our people forearmed. This can only be done by systematically instructing them in the distinctive doctrines of the Church. If the sermons preached in our pulpits be such that they might without remark be delivered in any sectarian place of worship, listeners will draw the inference that the only point worth considering is where