

SERMON.

Seeketh not her own.—1. Cor. xiii: 5.

I shall use these words this morning rather as a motto than a text, comprehending, as they do, in their completeness, the true, pure, and noble spirit of Christianity. In the preceding chapter we learn that the Church at Corinth was divided into parties, jealous of each other's gifts, and envious of each other's honors. They had, therefore, ceased practically to walk and live in the unity of the Spirit and bonds of peace. This led the apostle to declare that all their labor and gifts were valueless, since they had lost the spirit of true religion. In this chapter the apostle gives the true temper, disposition, and spirit, in which all Christian duties should be discharged and without which all efforts must be ineffectual. And this he does with so much clearness that none can fail to understand him. The word "Charity," better translated "love," contains the true motive in every duty, and if this be absent our work is all for nothing. "If I give my goods to feed the poor, and my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing."

Many are the virtues which spring from charity as their source—charity furnishes clothes for the naked, bread