

DR. SCHAEFFER'S SERMON.

ON Sunday morning, Oct. 29, at the regular Chapel service, the students and friends of the College had the pleasure of listening to an excellent sermon by the Rev. Dr. Nathan C. Schaeffer, State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Dr. Schaeffer's subject was the "Human Heart," or the "Inner Life of Man," and his discourse was based upon the text found in the fourth chapter of Proverbs: "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." The sermon was a thoughtful and earnest plea for the integrity and the purity of the inner life.

Dr. Schaeffer first commented upon the various meaning in which it is customary to use the word *heart*, and upon the frequent occurrence of this word in the Holy Scriptures. It is uniformly and consistently used in practically the same sense throughout the Bible. "When God demands of us a change of heart," said the preacher, "his demand means something more than a change in the realm of sensibilities, in the domain of human feeling. In its Biblical sense, the heart means the deepest core, the inmost centre of man's life. In this sense, the heart becomes the very treasure-house of human life."

Can we be sure that we generally know our own hearts? As a matter of fact, do we consciously concern ourselves much about the activities of the soul? Do we give enough thought to the moral significance of our actions? Do we strive to "keep our hearts with all diligence?" A number of instances from the Bible were cited to enforce and illustrate the preacher's thought. When King Hezekiah, for example, was passing through his period of sudden penitence and speedy return to sin, did he recognize the moral quality of the change that was going on in his inmost heart? His death-bed repentance was sincere; but when he escaped death and recovered, he again admitted the wicked emissaries into the very treasure-house of his soul; he again riveted the affections of his heart upon the things of this world.

Again, when Christ told the rich young man that he must sell his goods and give to the poor, did the youth realize how such an