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THE ADVENT ORDINATION.

SERMON PREACHED IN ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, MONTREAL,

Sunday December 20th, by

REV. PROF. STEEN, M. A.,

OF THE MONTREAL DIOCESAN THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE.

"The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light but was sent to bear witness of that Light." S. John i. 7, 8.

It was Thomas Carlyle, I think who said "Happy is the nation that has no history." In this very paradoxical statement there is a profound truth, the truth which Carlyle endeavoured to express in his own graphic way. It is this, that the most significant and far-reaching events in a nation's history, have generally gone absolutely unrecorded, while the events of recorded history are to a great extent mere irregularities, and have affected only the surface of national life, or have been a series of wrongs and misfortunes, and calamities. Carlyle himself asks "which was the more important personage in man's history, he who first led armies over the Alps and gained the victories of Cannæ and Thrasymene, or the nameless boor who first hammered out for himself an iron spade? When the oak-tree is felled, the whole forest echoes with it, but a hundred acorns are planted silently by some unnoticed breeze." What about that long-forgotten train of philosophers, artists and artisans who from the first have been jointly teaching us how to think, and how to act, how to rule over Nature!