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A SERMON PREACHED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF MONTREAL, IN CHRIST
CHURCH CATHEDRAL, ON JANUARY 18TH 1898,
BY THE REV. JAMES CARMICHAEL, JR.,
RECTOR OF VAUDREUIL.

Matt. vi. 33.—“The kingdom of God.”

This phrase, “Kingdom of God,” is altogether a New Testament expression, and refers notably to the Church founded by Christ and His Apostles. In these days of hurry and work men are very apt to spiritualize the idea of the Church so thoroughly, that much of the reality which so naturally belongs to it is lost to view. Christ’s Church is revealed to us as a kingdom, not a creed. Men, wise and holy men, made creeds, but Christ formed a Kingdom. Too few people remember this starting point of Christian doctrine in the sense that the Lord Jesus intended it to be remembered, perhaps too few, who call themselves churchmen or churchwomen. For he looks at Christianity with half-closed eyes who speaks of this kingdom as an abstract thing, or uses the word merely to express an uncertain outline of religious thought. An earthly kingdom is such because it is the fount of law, because it has a fixed form of government, and