

Christmas. — The basilica of Beaupré is in nowise behind any other church with regard to the pomp of religious solemnities ; we say so without a shadow of vanity. For instance, we contented ourselves during the Offices of that great day with the liturgical plain chant accompanied by our splendid organ. Was it because we had no voices for a musical mass ? Not at all ! Our choir is the admiration of all strangers who attend our parochial offices. Was it because we despise the grand sacred music of Haydn, Beethoven, Gounod etc, etc ? Not at all ! We merely took the liberty of preferring to all those great masters him who, better even than they, has given expression to Christian sentiment in the simple and austere melody of plain chant : pope St Gregory. Nothing lifts up the soul to God like well-sung plain chant and our choristers of St Anne sing it admirably.

Thus we have nothing but plain chant here even on Christmas day and during the three masses we sang all the Christmas carols. Nothing can take the place of these old hymns ; should they disappear it would be to the great detriment of piety amongst our people. We consider that we are within the bounds of truth in saying that the noble and vigorous simplicity of Gregorian plain-song, the touching but orthodox naïveté of the old Christmas carols are eminently suitable around the cradle of a God who sought His first worshippers amongst shepherds.

C. LECLERC, C. SS. R.

The Blessed Sacrament is the health of soul and body, the remedy of all spiritual diseases, by which my vices are cured, my passions are restrained, temptations are overcome or lessened, a greater grace is infused, virtue receives an increase, faith is confirmed, hope strengthened, charity inflamed and extended. (Imit. L. IV C. 4.)

Serve the Lord in truth, and seek to do the things that please Him. And command your children that they do justice and alms-deeds, and that they be mindful of God, and bless Him at all times in truth, and with all their power. (Tob. 14-10.)

The whole and greatest hindrance is, that we are not free from passions and lusts ; nor do we strive to walk in the perfect way of the Saints. (Imit. L. I-C. 11.)