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SYNOPSIS OF DEAN CHRISTIE'S SERMON AT THE CON- SECRATION OF ST. CONGAN'S CHURCH, TURIFF, SCOTLAND.

The Dean chose his text from 1st Kings ix. 3, "I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually." After having pointed out the deep affectionate manner in which the Almighty deigned to regard the house which Solomon had built, and who had said of it, 'This shall be my rest for ever; here will I dwell, for I have a delight therein,' he said.

"It could not be supposed that He delighted in it because it was gorgeous and magnificent, nor because it was dedicated to Him with such costly sacrifices; but, because He acknowledged and took possession of it as *His own*, seeing that Solomon and the people relinquished for ever *their own right* in the things which they had given to Him, and made them henceforth to be *His property* and *His alone* perpetually. For that which has once been appropriated to Almighty God by the religious ceremony of consecration, He claims as *His own* for ever; and it can never afterwards be alienated, or applied to any secular purpose without the guilt of sacrilege."

The Dean then went on to show that the consecration, or solemn dedication, of a separate place for religious worship had been sanctioned in all ages, and under all religions, whether Pagan, Jewish, or Christian; and this for the sake of man, in order that he might duly reverence his Maker in the sacred building, and the same holy emotions which the sacredness of the place raised in his mind might recur to him again and again, as often as he served his God there. He pointed out that our Blessed Lord Himself sanctioned by His presence the Feast of the Dedication of the temple, and twice purged the holy place from the worldly merchandise that was carried on in it; that Ignatius, Tertullian and St. Cyprian, among the primitive