

MAY—Rev. E. Summerscales, Vancouver; Rev. J. Wetherden, Mission; Rev. E. Pugh, Lytton; Mr. J. Green, government inspector, Vancouver; Rev. A. Dorrell, Ashcroft.

Heartsease.

TRINITY SUNDAY.

"The four and twenty Elders fall down before Him that sat on the throne and worship Him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne."—Revelation iv., 10.

There is a peculiar blessing promised to those who read the Book of the Revelation of St. John the Divine, and keep those things that are written therein.

Full of mystery are these prophecies touching the Kingdom of Heaven. We shall find the study of this book difficult, and we must only approach it with prayer and reverence. The chapter we have read to-day and from which my text is taken, tells us of the open door in Heaven, through which a vision dazzled St. John's sight, of the great White Throne, and the sea of crystal, and of the four-and-twenty elders, who cast their crowns before Him, when the beasts, or living creatures gave glory and honor and thanks to Him that sat on the Throne.

What mean those living creatures, who continually worship before the Throne, and who are the four-and-twenty elders? We cannot go far wrong if in interpreting this passage we try to keep in harmony with the whole of God's revealed Word. No doubt we shall fall short of the true and full meaning of the vision, but something we may learn by reverent meditation. The beasts, or living creatures surely represent the whole animal creation. St. Paul says, "The creature himself shall be redeemed into the glorious liberty of the children of God," and the "four-and-twenty elders," are they not the representatives of the saints of the Church, who cast down their golden crowns before the Throne of God, while the living creatures sing His praise, all join in adoration of Him, who is the Creator and Father of all?

That word crown signifies the sum, the chief part, the consummation of anything. There is a warrior who speaks of victory as a "Crown of glory." A poet speaks of a "Crown of sorrows."

"And sorrow's crown of sorrows,
Is remembering happier things."

The Apostle speaks of the "Crown of Life" which the righteous Judge shall give—the "Crown of righteousness" which Jesus has laid up for His followers. There are divers, and yet allied, meanings to the word crown.