

## SERMON

PREACHED BEFORE ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY, AT THE ANNI-  
VERSARY SERVICE HELD IN THE CATHEDRAL OF THE  
HOLY TRINITY, QUEBEC, 23RD APRIL, 1891,

BY THE

REV. CANON RICHARDSON.

"Love the brotherhood,"—I Peter, ii-17. In preaching on St. George's Day, and before St. George's Society, the question that naturally rises in one's mind is: Who was St. George, and how came he to be adopted as the Patron Saint of England? And this is not an easy question to answer, for fact and fiction, history and legend, are so mixed up and interwoven one with another that it is hard to disentangle them and arrive at the truth. St. George is supposed to have been born in the year A.D. 280. His parents were rich and good Christians. His father was in the service of the Emperor Diocletian, and being the greater part of his time away from home the young lad's early education devolved upon his mother. At the age of 17 he entered the Roman army, and the loyal services of the father, who had lately died, were recompensed in his son. He is described as a young man of much intelligence, great beauty, and exquisite courtesy, and he soon became a favorite with the Emperor, who quickly raised him from rank to rank till he made him the military tribune of his guards. Soon after this the persecution against the Christians, which had been dormant for a while, broke out again with redoubled fury. An Imperial edict was issued, ordering that all the Christian churches throughout the Empire should be destroyed, that the Scriptures and all books of devotion should be burnt; that all Christian officials might be stripped of their dignities and deprived of their civil rights, and that all private persons professing Christianity should be reduced to slavery. This savage order excited the indignation of the young soldier and he boldly denounced the cruel edicts against his brethren. In vain did his friends recommend him to be prudent and recalled to his memory the many favours he had from time to time received from the Emperor. He knew full well that his own call to confess and suffer might

, a native of Ply-  
20th November,

South Quebec on

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90, aged 43 years.  
years Secretary  
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14th July, 1891,