

# ADDRESSES AT THE INDUCTION OF REV. F. R. McDONALD, INTO ST. JAMES', NEWCASTLE, N. B.

ADDRESS OF THE REV. W. WILSON.

DEAR BROTHER,—The most sacred office to which man can aspire is that of the holy ministry—the highest dignity that can be conferred on man is to be an ambassador for Christ. What a dignity surrounds the person of a plenipotentiary of an earthly sovereign! How solicitous he is that nothing unworthy of, or derogatory to his high position, may be done. Shall the envoy of the King of kings be esteemed less worthy of honor than he? Shall he be less jealous of the homage and reverence due to his Lord and master? I trow not. Such a sacred office is that you have been called to fill—such a high and holy trust has been committed to your care. The Great King and Head of the Church has this day invested you with the spiritual oversight of this large and important congregation. The position you now occupy is one of no ordinary kind. Your predecessor, Dr. Henderson, laboured faithfully among this people for the long period of twenty-five years. The sweet fragrance of his name lives in many a heart, and the remembrance of his kind and gentle words will not soon be forgotten. With a mind richly furnished with the brightest gems of truth, and the highest refinement of classic lore, Dr. Henderson brought to bear, on all his instructions, illustrations apt, pointed and beautiful. This, in no common degree, you can imitate. Now it is you will begin to appreciate and realize the value of those long years of exhausting study over the midnight lamp, which you have spent preparing for the present hour. Take, then, from your treasury, things new and old, and build up the people in their most holy faith. Broadcast sow the seed of the word of life, water it with your prayers, then leave results with God.

The influence of the pulpit is not on the wane, as some prophets of evil seek to wail out in lugubrious strains. The pulpit has power, and, when wielded faithfully, it is all-powerful. The power of the pulpit is the power of truth, and it shall prevail. The influence of the pulpit may be on the decrease in some particular localities, but then the causes generally are not ill to seek. Is it not true that too often a religion is preached from the pulpit such as is impossible for people to live out? How often do we hear people solemnly enjoined to do certain things, and in the same breath told that they cannot do them without some supernatural power being granted to them, and the possession of this power, it is hinted, is difficult to obtain. Now the age in which we live is, strictly speaking, a practical age, as well in mechanics as in morals and in religion; and when an impractical morality is preached, it is respectfully passed by as having in it nothing congenial to the tastes and wants of man. Are not creeds and formularies too often pushed to the foreground, while the simplicity of the Gospel of Christ is made occupy a lower place? Are not the opinions and sayings of those of old time but too often clothed with something like inspiration, and "heaven's easy, artless, unencumbered plan," thereby clogged and fettered? Be it yours, then, to preach the religion of the Bible, so that the principle of Divine truth inculcated by the Author and Finisher of our Faith, may be lived out in the every day life of man. There ought to be no divorce between morality and religion. A man must be a religious man, or his morality is a sham and pretence. The religious man, as a matter of course, is a moral man. This truth is simply and beautifully expressed by the Apostle, "Whatsoever ye do in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus." The life of man is briefly comprehended in the terms, "word and deed." There is no occasion why a man should leave all his religion in the pew on Sunday, and carry none of it with him to the count-