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BIBLE SOCIETY SERMON.

Preached in St. James' Cathedral, Toronto, on the evening of Sunday, April 30.

BY THE REV. CHARLES MATTHEW, B.A.

"And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?"—
Acts ii. 8.

The words carry us back to the Pentecostal birthday of the Church of Christ. With ardent prayerfulness and deepening expectancy the little flock had awaited the promise of the Father. And now Jehovah's arm was made bare. The mighty power and working of an ascended Saviour displays itself. With wondrous sights and sounds the Holy Ghost is given. Breaking in upon nature's laws, overriding its operations, interrupting its sequences, the last and most mighty dispensation of redeeming love begins. Bursting in its divine illapse the confines of nature, the Spirit takes forcible possession, if we may so speak, of the soul of man, and consecrates human language to become the organ of the Gospel. Through the whole city the vibration of its miraculous impulse is felt. All Jerusalem is moved. Her festal thousands, from whatever near or distant land assembled, hasten to verify this wonder for themselves, and find utterance for their amaze in the words of our text, "How hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?"

I will ask your attention, in connection with these words—

- I. To the *fact* here affirmed :
- II. To its *prophetic significance* :
- III. To its *marvellous fulfilment*.