

who form the Capitular Body have been duly installed; and one more link, — a link, let us trust, strong and lasting, — has been added to the golden chain which binds in one the entire Cathedral system of the Church of Christ.

In the first place, then, let me try to answer the question, *What is the Cathedral System?*

1. The Cathedral System is no mere ornament, which may or may not be attached for glory and beauty to any portion of the Church; it is an integral part of the Church's organization.

The word *Cathedra* simply means *chair* or *throne*.

The *Cathedra* is the Bishop's chair, his seat of honour and rule in his own Church. "When the Son of Man shall sit on the throne of His glory," said Our Lord to His Apostles, — and He is there seated *now* at the right Hand of God, as this Holy Season witnesses, — "Ye also shall sit on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel." This great promise, this great assignment of duty is fulfilled whenever, in all the world, a Bishop of the Apostolic Succession takes his seat on his *Cathedra*, at the head of his own Church, there to dispense the treasures of grace entrusted to him. And the Church, in which the Bishop's Chair of Office is so placed, becomes by that act his *Cathedral* Church.

2. By a Cathedral we commonly understand, — our thoughts carrying us away to the glorious temples of the old world, — a large and splendid Church, — costly, handsome, magnificent, — a treasure of grace and beauty.

Nothing of this is necessary. The Bishop makes the Cathedral; all else is accidental.

There never was so glorious a Cathedral as that in which the Twelve Apostles sat enthroned at the first in Jerusalem: — a large empty upper room, even that borrowed, — poor and unadorned; the only thrones, a poor Divan at the head of the room. And yet there were the Twelve Apostles, sitting on their Twelve Thrones, administering the Kingdom of God as the vice-gerents of His Son, "judging the twelve tribes of Israel." The dignity of that Divan, — that Twelve-fold *Cathedra* was felt and acknowledged, poor as were their surroundings. — "Of the rest durst no man join himself to them, but the people magnified them."

What is essential to a Cathedral is the Bishop's Chair. All else follows in due course by natural evolution. First, *the body of Canons*, — the Bishop's assistants and Council of advice: seen in the body of Elders of those first days standing before the Apostles. Next, *the Chief Musician* with his trained choir, conducting the musical Service — the Temple's glorious Service of Song, it must have been, with which all those first Christians — many of them Levites — were so familiar, and which would naturally pass, as it has, into the use and service of the Christian Church.

Then, *the eloquent preachers*, — *prophets* — named them, — from whose tongues went forth "the word of God, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing down to the innermost recesses of men's consciences," convincing them of sin and winning them to God.

Then *the learned doctors*, expounding and enforcing to these Catechumens the principles of "the Faith once for all delivered"; or again, at another time, with the young Ecclesiastics sitting in their midst, "both hearing them and asking them questions."

That is the *Cathedral* as it was in the beginning. That is the *Cathedral System* as it is set forth in those wise and statesmanlike Cathedral Statutes, which are found practically the same in all the Cathedrals of Christendom — the Mother Church from which all religious influences flow out and flow back again, producing throughout the Diocese unity, growth, strength and healthy life.

3 Let me claim your indulgence while I trace out the main features of the Cathedral System somewhat more exactly.

First, there is nothing in which all Cathedral Statutes are more agreed than this, — that *the first object of the Cathedral is worship*. The Dean and Chapter are required in all the Statutes of the New Foundation to provide for the worship of God in their Church "with Psalms and Hymns and continual Prayers." Provision is made also in the same Statutes for a permanent musical staff.

Now, of course, every Church is for worship; but the Cathedral is looked upon in a different light. It was not simply the model for the rest to copy; it was the one Church for the whole Diocese.