

ST. GEORGE'S DAY.

SERMON BY THE LORD BISHOP OF QUEBEC.

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The following is the sermon preached by the Right Revd. J. W. Williams D.D. Lord Bishop of Quebec in the English Cathedral, on the Evening of St. George's Day, 1885 :—

Heb. xiii, 16—" To do good and to distribute forget not, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

Fifty years have now elapsed since the St. George's Society first began its course in this city. And amongst its founders and first members, we read names well-known and well respected in Quebec. Many of these—most indeed—some quite recently—have passed away. But their work lives, and will live. Built upon the two-fold base of nationality, and benevolence, it stands firm upon a durable principle of human nature, and upon a permanent need of human society.

It is an organization. 1. *For the relief of distress*, and 2. *For the fostering of national sentiment*. And, on each of these grounds it is an institution durable and desirable.

1. It is an organization for the relief of distress ; and for that reason it is an institution durable and desirable. The poor we have always with us. And "whoso hath this world's goods and seeth his brother have need and shutteth up his compassion from him—how dwelleth the love of God in him ?" The management of the society is excellent. Officers and a general committee of fifteen, are chosen by the society, to whom they report once a quarter. Sub-committees undertake particular branches of the work, and report to the general committee once a month. Through these agencies and instrumentalities the miseries of life, which had fallen hard and heavy upon hundreds—aye upon thousands—of our countrymen have been, in the past fifty years, greatly alleviated. Many when distress has overtaken them, have been returned to die in peace in their native land. Others have been helped on their way, and enabled to reach those parts of the country where they could obtain comfort and prosperity, or at least livelihood and subsistence. The fatherless and the widow in their affliction have not been neglected.

And as in the changes and chances of this mortal life, want will always, from one cause or another, be with us, so a wise provision has been made in the constitution of the St. George's Society for securing a permanent fund for its relief. All life subscriptions, legacies and donations, are invested : and the income only is used for defraying the current expenses of the