

Sermon Preached in St. James' Cathedral, Toronto

St. Andrew's Day, November 30, 1909

at the Consecration of the Right Rev. William C. White, D.D., Bishop
in Honan, China, by the Rev. Canon Tucker, M.A., D.C.L.,
General Secretary of the Missionary Society
of the Church of England
in Canada

"Will
come
4:4.

ness of the time was
forth His Son. Gal.

I. A season of Advent our Church invites us to meditate on the first coming of Christ in great humility to be the Redeemer of the World; and, by association of ideas, on his second coming in glorious majesty to be the Head and Lord of a redeemed humanity.

II. "When the fulness of the time was come God sent forth His Son." All the streams of the past had been converging to that great end. The Roman power had conquered the known world and Roman law and order guaranteed personal freedom and security to life and property throughout the civilized globe. The Greek language, literature and philosophy had developed and demonstrated the varied capacities of the human intellect and become an incomparable medium for the transmission of the highest ideas and purposes of man. Jewish religion and morality, culminating in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, in the Gospel of Redemption and in the Church of the Living God, provided the highest message that was ever made known to man, the deepest inspiration that could give it life and power, and the best agency by which it could secure world-wide dissemination. As a consequence the Apostles and first disciples of Jesus Christ went forth, in

the power of the Holy Ghost, to the religious conquest of the world.

III. But the world, at the first Advent, was a very small world. It bordered on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea. The regions beyond were, many of them, inaccessible to the Messengers of the Cross, and, when the fervour of the zeal of the Apostolic age had been spent, they remained for centuries beyond the sphere of the Church's influence. But now, after nearly two millenniums the modern age has brought an enlarged view of the world and placed the Christian Church face to face with its paramount mission, the evangelization of the whole human race. Thus, at the beginning of the twentieth century, a new fulness of time has come and we may look forward to a Second Advent when the kingdoms of this world shall have become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ.

IV. And this great miracle of transformation has been wrought mainly in the course of the last century. Fifty years ago Japan was absolutely closed to the world, and even twenty-five years ago edicts were posted over the whole Empire threatening the severest penalties to any one who should dare to speak in the name of Christ. Now the country is wide open in all its cities, towns, villages, highways and marketplaces. And it is stated with some degree of truth that