

SERMON

PREACHED BEFORE THE PROVINCIAL SYNOD OF

RUPERT'S LAND,

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TITUS III., 8, 9.

"This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are profitable unto men. But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain."

These are the words of the greatest of Apostles. They were written to his brother in the apostleship when he was sent to take the charge of the church in Crete. The field was more than hard and difficult. It seemed hopeless. The people of Crete were sunk in shameless sensualism. It had eaten out their manhood.

Their own teachers said, "the Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies." The Holy Ghost affirmed that this description was true. We cannot conceive of a deeper degradation—a nation of liars, a society of evil beasts, a sensual, besotted race of slow bellies—a whole people notorious for fraud, treachery and gluttony. It was in such a field the Apostle had established the Church of God. These liars were to become the children of Him whose name is "The Truth." These evil beasts were to be changed into the sheep of the Saviour's fold. Out of these slow bellies were to flow rivers of living water. Men would say that this was impossible. The Cretans had tried many religions and