

LEADERS OF THE CANADIAN CHURCH

Cathedral. His description of this service is thoroughly illustrative of his power of picturesque, concrete and attractive description: "Grander and more ornate services have been offered in that noble church wherein no service to God, however simple, can ever appear insignificant; but I doubt if a more remarkable service was ever held—the thrilling interest of its devoutness; the beauty and solemnity of its simple ritual; the soul inspiring power of its music; and the constantly recurring sense of silence, broken only by a single voice, that, again and again, awed the soul as at times silence will, causing one present almost to wonder whether the vast nave itself were not empty. And all this, not the result of artfully planted effects, for the service, apart from an anthem of striking beauty, was 'simplicity itself,' but because that giant congregation was surely spellbound by one thought: 'This is none other but the House of God and this is the Gate of Heaven.'"

This power of concreteness and of picturesque description made his sermons very attractive and clear. People were charmed with his images and pleasing illustrations. He was fond of metaphors and often made use of them with most telling effect. Often his words were unforgettable—so striking was the picture that they presented to the mind's eye. "What is a tear?" he asked in one of his sermons. Who that heard could ever forget the beautifully picturesque and concrete reply: "A tear is a story—the story of a sad, perhaps a broken heart." Equally impressive, and at the same time full of humour, was his comment