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ANNIVERSARY SERMON

ON BEHALF OF THE UPPER CANADA BIBLE SOCIETY.

Preached by the REV. T. HARWOOD PATTISON, D.D., of Rochester, N. Y., in the Metropolitan Church, Toronto, Tuesday evening, the 10th May, 1887.

The service was opened by the singing of the hymn 634,

Father of mercies, in Thy Word,

after which the Rev. Dr. Castle led in prayer.

The Rev. W. S. Blackstock then read the nineteenth Psalm, as the Scripture lesson, after which the congregation joined in singing hymn No. 636.

The Rev. T. Harwood Pattison, D.D., of Rochester, N. Y., was then introduced by the Rev. Mr. Stafford, and rose to deliver the annual sermon. He said:—

You will find the words from which I wish to speak to you this evening in the fourth chapter of the Gospel according to Matthew, and the fourth verse, "But He answered and said,—It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

Thus it was, as you will remember, that our Lord met and resisted the first onset of temptation in the wilderness of Judea. Only a few months after this time we meet in the record of the Evangelist with this sentence, "This beginning of miracles did Jesus." Perhaps it is neither idle nor impertinent for us to pause here at the outset of our thoughts and to enquire, What if this entry had been made, not later in the Evangelists, but just in this place? What if Christ had made the beginning of his miracles not at the wedding feast in Cana of Galilee, but in the wilderness, the wasteful wilderness of Judea? Not at the pleadings of a mother's solicitude, but as the promptings of the tempter's malice? Not to turn the water into wine, but to transfigure the desert stones into bread? What then? The answer is simple and near at hand. Then, certainly, we should not have read as the lustrous pendant to the words which we have quoted, these other words:—"And manifested