

you. How did you spend the time of my absence?"

"In getting ready for you to come back, and doing what I knew would please you," Marjorie answered, quickly.

"And when I came back everything was ready for my return. You had kept my room all ready for me, even to the flowers in my vases. You could not know the day or the hour when I would come, so you were ready for me at any time, and that was why, when I did come, I found everything ready to welcome me, and knew that a loving heart had been preparing for my coming."

A sudden light dawned upon Marjorie's mind.

"Mamma, I do understand it all now," she answered. "It truly is a parable, isn't it. It makes Advent so plain. It is just like your coming. If we love the Saviour we will try to be ready for Him to come always, won't we? And we will try to do what He tells us, and not to do the things He tells us not to do, and then whenever he comes we will be ready."

"Yes, darling," her mother answered, and then she repeated the beautiful words of the collect which Marjorie had just been learning, and which meant so much to the little girl, now that she interpreted them by the parable of the other coming for which she had so lovingly prepared.

"Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which Thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through Him who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen."—*The Churchman*. N. Y.

### **The First Imperial Church Parade in Canada.**

Sunday, October 29th. was a memorable day for Canada and for the Canadian Church. On that day, the officers and men of the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment, which has been raised for special service in the Transvaal, assembled in the Cathedral in a body to

ask God's blessing upon their loyal efforts to uphold the Flag of our Queen and Empire, and the civilization and liberty of which that Flag is the emblem. The morning was so wet that at first the parade was countermanded, owing to the difficulty the men would have in drying their uniforms before embarking on the vessel. However, a slight improvement in the aspect of the weather, about ten o'clock, enabled the General to again order the parade, and about eight hundred, out of the thousand men constituting the Battalion, marched to the Cathedral. The floor of the building was reserved for the Soldiers, the galleries alone were open to the general congregation. At about eleven o'clock, when the men were in their places, the Choir and Clergy, the Dean, Canon Richardson, and the Rev. Messrs. Petry, Fyles, Parker, Scott, Dunn and Almond, the Church of England Chaplain, and Rev. Father Sargent and Rev. Geo. Thompson of the American Church, left the vestry and proceeded to their places in the Stalls. As they entered the building a sight never to be forgotten met their gaze. The body of the Cathedral was packed with a dark mass of men in sombre rifle uniform, relieved by the buff cross-belts of the officers, and the handsome uniform of members of the Royal Canadian Artillery and Infantry. The galleries, which were decorated with British flags, were crowded with civilians, and, in his official pew, the presence of the Governor General brought to mind the August Lady, whom he represented. But the effect of the sight was nothing to that of the sound, when the first hymn, "Onward Christian Soldiers" was given out, and, from the throats of hundreds of enthusiastic and splendidly built young men, rose a strain of music, that in its volume, and, owing to the circumstances of the occasion, in its peculiar hold upon the heart, was simply overpowering. The Service of the Holy Communion was preceded by a shortened form of Matins, the prayers being read by the Rev. Lenox Smith, and the lesson by the Rev. G. H. Parker, of Compton. After Matins, the hymn "Stand up, stand up for Jesus" was sung, and then the Dean, Rev. Father Sargent and Rev. F. G. Scott entered the Sanctuary and the Communion Service was begun, the Dean being Celebrant, Father Sargent Gospel-ler and the Rev. F. G. Scott Epistoller. At the conclusion of the Creed the hymn "Fight the good fight" was sung, and