

Wednesday, December 23rd. — Arrive at Quebec.

Christmas Day, December 25th.—Celebrate the Holy Communion at the Cathedral at 11 a.m.

Saturday, December 26th.—Leave Quebec for Cookshire.

Sunday, December 27th.—Dedication of Cookshire Church after enlargement.

Monday, December 28th.—(G) to Sherbrooke for Confirmation.

Tuesday, December 29th.—Return to Quebec.

Confirmations.

The Bishop desires to draw attention to the fact that his duty demands that he shall go to England in May, directly after the next session of Synod, and that he cannot be back until early in August, when his first work will be to take the Confirmations on the Gaspé Coast. He would therefore earnestly suggest to those of the Clergy, who have not offered any Candidates for a very long period, that they should seize the opportunity offered by the comparative leisure of our people in the winter, and should make arrangements, whereby the Confirmations shall be able to be held as far as possible before the meeting of Synod. Of course, the Bishop has no desire to hurry the preparation that ought always to be made and therefore, in cases in which a Confirmation in the Spring would be too soon, he will be very glad to make arrangements to pay a visit in the Fall. But engagements for January and February should be asked for and made as soon as possible.

NOTES OF SERMON

PREACHED BY THE

Rev. James Macarthur, M.A.,
AT THE

OPENING SERVICE OF THE

VISITATION OF THE CLERGY

on Tuesday, September 1st, 1896.

1 Cor: XII. 31. "Covet earnestly the best gifts."

Mr. Macarthur said that he had accepted, not without diffidence, the honor proposed to him by the Bishop, of addressing the Clergy of the Diocese on the Eve of the Visitation. He could not speak with any wisdom or experience greater than that of many of them; indeed he felt sure that the conditions incident to their work in such a Diocese must furnish them with an experience in which he could claim no share.

Nevertheless human nature and the souls of men were much the same everywhere, and the task of the Minister of Christ is the same, to reach these souls, to win them and to bring them to the quickening life of the risen Christ.

He hoped he might speak honestly as one who, in the course of his Ministry, had "coveted earnestly the best gifts," and as one who had tried to think out for himself and to be helped by others in discovering what these gifts are.

The words of the text were chosen merely as a motto of the subject. The preceding context had reference to the extraordinary gifts of the Holy Ghost conferred after Baptism in the Apostolic Age and with which we had no longer anything to do. The chapter which followed contained St. Paul's great "Psalm of Love," which was the atmosphere in which all gifts, if they were to be profitable, must be exercised. He desired to speak specially of gifts which we may acquire and which are the best gifts for the work which we are called to do.

1. First among such gifts he would mention *Naturalness, Unaffectedness, Sincerity.*

Nothing so quickly and certainly destroyed influence as the assumption of a character which had no foundation in the inner life. A man could not go through this world wearing a mask. People had to do in their ordinary life with stern and severe realities, anything in the way of a sham or a counterfeit was abhorrent to them, and if once the suspicion, not to say the conviction of unreality, attached itself in their minds to a Clergyman, it put an end to his capability of influencing them for good.

People did test the reasonableness of religion by the life of the man whose duty it was to teach it.

There ought to be a distinct and even a close correspondence between the representation of the Christian religion, which a man made in his teaching, and the practice of that religion in his own life. Of course we must always set before men the standard of the Sermon on the Mount, in which our Lord had so carefully delineated the Christian character, but our teaching should be, in the main, the expression of our own personal strivings to realize that standard. For example he owed his own position in religion in great measure to the