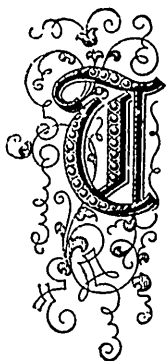


SAINT ANDREW.

By the Very Rev. Æneas McDonell Dawson, V.G., LL.D.



THE festival of Saint Andrew having been so joyously celebrated in our city as well as in so many other places, we are led to speak of the great Apostle. It is related that an arm of the Saint found its way to the spot where the ancient city of Saint Andrews now stands.

From this happy, and we may say, providential circumstance came the idea of choosing St. Andrew as the Patron Saint of Scotland. Be this as it may, the Apostle extends the arm of his power over the Scottish kingdom and every other region of the wide world where sons of Scotland are to be found. The chief remains of the Saint were deposited in the cathedral at Amalfi in Italy. They were enclosed in a coffin of chestnut wood, almost all covered with silver nails and inscription plates. This coffin was encased in a heavy marble sarcophagus. The grave is a vault in front of the high altar, where prayers and masses are constantly said both day and night, and the resting place of the Saint carefully guarded against desecration. At the request of the late Most Reverend Dr. Strain, the first Archbishop of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, in the restored hierarchy, Scotland, the church authorities of Amalfi allowed a portion of this precious relic to be transferred to Edinburgh, where it is carefully treasured at the high altar of St. Mary's Church, Broughton Street. Rome, also, possesses an invaluable relic—the head or a portion of the head of the Saint. The vast amount of writing concerning these relics proves to demonstration the respect and veneration in which the memory of St. Andrew was held. When the head now in St. Peter's was brought to Rome, people of all classes joined in shewing their love and devotion. Miles from the city it was met by a delegation of Cardinals and other Ecclesiastics. When within sight of the walls it was carefully

placed, in a church and closely guarded for three days. Meanwhile the holy Father, Pius II. (1461), sent out invitations far and wide, and proclaimed a public holiday for the day on which the head was to be formally received. The route along which it was to pass was lined with altars, the houses were decked with tapestry, and the city looked as if it were preparing to celebrate some great triumph. At night the head was carried through the streets to St. Peter's attended by an escort of 30,000 men, each of whom carried a torch. The vast concourse of people that lined the street knelt and prayed as it passed. The Vatican was illuminated for the occasion, and the Pope personally received the relic, addressed it in a long, eloquent and, at times, pathetic allocution, and then, with his own hands carried it to the place where the head of St. Peter was to be placed and laid it there. Surely no greater homage could be paid to blessed Andrew, the Saint and Martyr, of whom the head was only a faint memorial, however bright and pious inspiring.

Not only at Amalfi, Rome and Edinburgh is the memory of Saint Andrew highly honoured. It is the same all the world over. Festivals are held in more places than can well be enumerated. In Canada and the United States of America, this last year, there were hundreds of joyous celebrations. In the Cape of Good Hope and South Africa there were ten; in India thirty; in New Zealand a like number; and what is perhaps still more notable, at Alexandria, Aden, Jerusalem, Canton, Yokohama, and on the banks of the Congo river, in the very heart of "the dark land," while in many other places high honour was done to the Patron Saint of Scotland. But in no country more than in Scotland is the festival of the Saint solemnly observed. Among the Catholics there it is a full holiday, and masses are celebrated. Semi-barbarous Russia, even, claims St. Andrew as its Patron and offers masses in his honour.

Among the religious communities of old