

# A Short appreciation of Fr. Preedy

(From Shorthand Notes of a Sermon by the Rev. E. T. Baker, taken by a Member of the S. Silas', Penton St., Congregation, on Sunday Morning, April 29th.)

PSALM 127, 3: "HE GIVETH HIS BELOVED SLEEP."

One of the most beautiful and welcome Truths that Eastertide brings home to us is that Death to the Christian is just a Sleep from which we awake refreshed and reinvigorated to "the vision that makes happy and beautifies." And to-day, when so many are thinking of the faithful Priest who passed forward in sleep last Wednesday morning, we may well thank God both for his valiant warfare here, and the beautiful life of "further service in the life beyond" to which his spirit has been translated.

The Vicar claimed to have known Fr. Preedy for a longer period than anyone in the neighbourhood, and after relating various incidents in their life together at the Chancellor's School at Lincoln, said that their firm friendship had continued ever since.

The secret of the success of his friend's ministry must be attributed to

- (1) His unbounded faith in God. He shared the sunny optimism of E. B. Browning, who could sing  
"The little birds sing East, and the little  
birds sing West.  
... God's Greatness flows around our  
incompleteness,  
Round our restlessness His Rest."
- (2) His passionate love for his people, amongst whom he wished always to live and die.
- (3) His humility, allied with great strength of character.
- (4) His uncompromising attitude, in what he believed to be the principles of Truth. He was a red hot Catholic, and also a red hot Evangelical.
- (5) His intense sympathy with the down-trodden, whose wrongs he set himself to right. His position on the Board of Guardians was a great asset to S. Silas' Parish.
- (6) His joy in Religion. We shall not readily forget his hearty laugh—and his quaint humour. (Here the Vicar gave a few amusing instances.)

(7) His keen sportsmanship—in the true sense of the word. Athletics implied the development of body, mind and spirit. As with the Ancient Greeks, it should be looked upon from the religious point of view.

With those who shared the social benefits of the Mission, there was the obligation to come to Mass.

The Vicar also referred to Fr. Preedy's broad-minded outlook, and his intimate friendship and co-operation with the Rev. F. W. Newland, the excellent Pastor of Clarendon; and furthermore to his zeal for Temperance Work combined with his sympathy with the many who, living in a squalid environment, crave for something more quick and strong and vivid than they possess, and try in vain to find "life" and joy in the excitement of an artificial stimulus.

In conclusion, the Vicar said that although the good father had passed beyond the veil, his ministry had not ended. It would still be efficacious in the quieter places of Paradise. When he (the Vicar) thought of his friend as he saw him on Thursday evening—gathered in his shroud, clothed in his Eucharist Vestments, his strong and well-marked features wreathed in a serenely placid smile—a passage from the Book Ecclesiasticus, relating to another Priest, immediately occurred to him: "The Lord hath established a Covenant of Peace with him, and made him a chief: that he should have the dignity of the priesthood for ever."

Finally the Vicar quoted some lines that appeared 15 years ago in "Truth," in memory of Fr. Stanton, which he thought equally applicable to Fr. Preedy:

"Good-bye, Father. We didn't all agree with  
you,  
Nor eye to eye could see with you  
In all you held and said:  
But we saw the single-mind of you,  
The zeal and faith combined of you,  
And the shining light you shed."