

interested in Christ, and he ~~showed~~ showed a remarkable interest in the character that Christ adjoins in the sermon on the mount. Once he was, they say, that he took his sword one cold day when he was outside, and he ~~was shivering~~ saw a shivering beggar, and ~~he~~ he took his sword and took and cut his only coat in two and gave the beggar half of it. And the next night he saw Christ ~~in~~ in a dream with the half of it, and plainly heard him say to the angels, behold(1 $\frac{1}{2}$) who is yet only a catecumen, has clothed me. He was baptized in his 18th year, and he converted his mother. He lived a hermit in Italy, and afterwards he went up to France. And there, in northern France, in the year about 370, the people elected him against his wish to be bishop of Tours. But even though he was the bishop there, he maintained the strict monastic life, and he established a monastery where he was soon surrounded with eighty monks. He had little education, but a ~~natural~~ natural eloquence, much spiritual experience and unwearied zeal. His biographer places him above all the monks that he knew and declares his merits to be beyond all expression. He says that there is not an hour which passes in which Martin did not pray. No one ever saw him angry or gloomy or merry. Ever the same, with a countenance full of heavenly ^{serenity} ~~serenity~~. He seemed to be raised above the ~~infirmities~~ infirmities of man. there was nothing in his mouth but Christ, noting in his heart but ~~piety~~ piety, peace and sympathy. He used to weep for the sins of his enemies who reviled him with ~~poisoned~~ poisoned tongues when he was absent. But he never did them any harm. He said in the end he came to have very few persecutors except among the bishops. So even at this time we find men in positions of importance in the church, who ~~were~~ had a spirit of personal pride and ~~desire~~ desire for advancement, rather than to follow the service of Christ. But it was the individuals like Martin of Tours who seemed to have been very earnest Christians whose eccentricities and peculiarities were taken by people to be part of their pride, and were emphasized and stressed. And against the worldliness of some ~~of~~ of the bishops, the asceticism of ~~such~~ a man like Martin would seem to people to be the secret of his ~~greatness~~ greatness. And they would overlook the true secret of ~~his~~ it, his quality of following Christ and his humility