

that Christ desires us to have.

Now, in the west, here, there were certain influential men who very strongly supported monast. In fact, there came to be individuals attracted, as Athanasius had been, who were not themselves monks, but who had much to do with the widespread interest in them. So, I will mention number 6, the influence of Basil and Ambrose. Perhaps the two greatest men after the death of Athanasius, ~~just~~ in the Christian world, were Basil ~~and~~ in the ~~east~~ east, and Ambrose in the west. And both of these men gave their <sup>influence</sup> ~~influence~~ and <sup>their</sup> ~~their~~ ~~support~~ support to asceticism and to the turning aside from the things that appeal to the world in general, in order that their time and effort could be entirely devoted to Christ. And they urged others to do the same thing. Basil, as you remember, was a very excellent administrator, and a very active man in the opposition of Arianism. But, Basil as a ~~fairly~~ fairly young man took a journey, after he had finished his education in Athens, he took a journey to ~~Syria~~ Syria, Palestine and Egypt, to become acquainted with the monastic life. And he became more and more enthusiastic for it. He distributed his property to the poor and withdrew into a lonely romantic district in the wilderness, near where his mother and his sister had a cloister. In which many pious and cultivated virgins were living with them.

And near that place he lived with a few friends and for a time he devoted his time entirely to meditation and singing of hymns and with utterly ascetic life. He was called back to take up the administrative and active work in the church and he was very effective and very active in it. But he constantly was praising the life of asceticism and the monastic life. And his influence and his words had a great deal to do with increasing people's interest in this and attracting them to it. Schaff says of him, Basil was poor and almost always sickly. He had only a single worn out garment and ate almost nothing but bread and ~~and~~ salted herbs. Care of the sick and the poor he took largely upon himself. He founded in.....(6) a magnificent hospital, chiefly for lepers, which were often entirely ~~and~~ abandoned in these regions and left to the ~~the~~ saddest fate. ~~He~~ He himself took in the sufferers and treated them as brethren and