

# TO RECONCILE MANKIND TO GOD

Sermon by Rev. Wm. Dobson, Pastor of First Methodist Church.

(Reported by The Guardian Stenographer.)

Text:—We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be ye reconciled to God. 2 Cor. 5:20. Jesus of Nazareth somehow succeeded in impressing His disciples with the idea that he was vastly more than human. The Apostle Paul reaches the same conclusion

by another process of thought, and tells us that "all things were created by Him and for Him." Whoever wrote the Epistle to the Hebrews assures us that by Him the worlds were made and that "He upholds all things by the Word of His power." This position Christ claimed for Himself; His disciples claimed it for Him; and the church for two thousand years, in theory at least, has held it as a truth. We are so accustomed to these statements that to us they have become the veriest commonplace, but if we could fully realize their magnitude and the vastness of their meaning, it seems to me it would revolutionize our present civilization. Let us try for a moment to realize what it means. Some of you I know have given much attention to the study of a tract on this subject. Stand for a moment in the presence of all that such men as Procter and Mitchell have taught you, gaze into the "wing of space," the world of a universe until all meaning is taken from such words as time and space, beginning and

end, and as you gaze repeat Paul's text in Colossians "All things were created by Him and for Him," then ask yourself the question, "What think ye of Christ?" Hold your intellect down to the question till the answer comes, and if you do not feel a sort of intellectual paralysis, you are made of different stuff than I am. Or as Procter and Mitchell do, stand out some night beneath a winter's sky and look up into the cloudless heavens, bespangled with stars and illumined by the moon, until you realize in your soul's something of the vastness and glory of the scene, then quote the text "And upholding all things by the word of His power," and ask yourself the question "What think ye of Christ?" If you cannot appreciate this, some day when you are making a journey from Charlottetown to British Columbia pause in the Rocky Mountains and climb some of those peaks at sea level to touch the very sky; while

standing on their summit look upward into the heavens, then into the apparently boundless space around you, then into those fearful canyons of the sky, and then read the third verse of the first chapter of John, "All things were created by Him and without Him was nothing created that was created." It all this has not inspired you with faith in Christ's omnipotence look into your own soul, read deep down into your own possibilities, see what powers of imagination, powers of intellect, powers of love, of faith, of hope and fear your own soul has been endowed with, and remember that "Without Him was nothing created that was created," then ask the question as you never asked it before, "What think ye of Christ?" If these things be true, how grand, how awful the Man of Nazareth! If true, then one thing is very clear to me, that no philosophy of life or of the universe can be sound which has not Jesus Christ as its beginning and end. I know we hold them true in theory but I question very much whether we sincerely believe them, even as Christians. That we have opinions about them more or less misty or imaginations or fancies, I think is correct, but to believe them with all our hearts is quite another matter. What a man believes, he does and what he does not do he does not believe. Speculate as much as we will on faith in the last analysis a man is generally true to what he believes, and if you thoroughly know his plans for the future, you will know the character of his faith. Let us try this morning and realize with all our being that Jesus Christ has created all things and is today "upholding all things by the word of His power" and carrying them forward to "some far off divine event to which the whole creation moves."

If the above truths have become real to us, it will be difficult for us to understand how a being with such wondrous knowledge, wisdom, and power could devise a perfect plan by which man can be saved, civilization reach its highest point, and sin and misery driven forever from the world. He, who could create a universe and adjust its relations so perfectly that we can almost hear the rhythm of its motion, the music of the spheres, surely I say, such a being must know every need and every power of the human soul, and in providing a plan of salvation would so completely adjust it to human necessities as to leave it without defect in any part. It is this great purpose of Jesus Christ in the salvation of the world that Paul was beseeching the Corinthian to be reconciled to. "We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be ye reconciled to God," to God's purposes, to God's plan of salvation, God's method of ridding the world of evil.

If by our intellect and faith, we place Jesus Christ in His right position—the position claimed for Him by His Apostles and by the church—it seems to me it is not compromising our intelligence or our manhood to accept His plans and work out His purposes rather than spend our lives on our own petty schemes. He who created us must surely know our necessities better than we do. He must know the relations we ought to sustain to our fellowmen, a good and evil, even better than the philosopher can conceive. He who has created all things must have a fuller knowledge of the outcome of His undivided conditions than even Mr. Campbell of Park's Tomb in London. Jesus Christ has not only told us that man can be saved and brought into such relations to his fellowmen that he will love him, but he has taught us the methods by which these things may be accomplished—yes more, he only methods by which they may be accomplished. Assuming that we have a correct record of Christ's methods in the New Testament, assuming that He is what He claimed to be and what His disciples claimed for Him, and that we have His exact thought as to man's salvation in the Gospels and Epistles, than to doubt His methods and substitute some petty method of our own is to doubt His wisdom and become guilty of idolatry, or claim that our own wisdom is superior to His who made the world.

Let us for a short time study some of Christ's methods of saving men. In the first place He assumes that in virtue of His relations to us and His superior wisdom, He has a perfect right to direct, exhort, command, The lordship of Christ in the economy of salvation seems to be a necessity. This He claimed for Himself. "Ye call Me Lord and Master and ye say well for so I am." If we keep Jesus Christ in His right place in our thought, we ought to feel no humbleness in submitting to His commands because His knowledge is so vast, His wisdom so infinite, and His power so supreme. The Apostle Paul, whom I at least, look upon as an intellectual giant, did not feel it humbling to call Jesus Christ his Lord and Master. He seemed rather to glory in the fact that all his powers were at the disposal of his Lord and that his highest wisdom, he learned from his Master. "I, Paul," he used to say, "a servant of the Lord Jesus." If we hark to the word servant all that we mean by the word slave we will liber ourselves and the Apostle's thought and his relations to Jesus Christ. If Christ be rightly the Lord of the human race, and the world's salvation depends upon acknowledging His truth and acting upon it, then our responsibilities become very serious. If He have the right, which infinite wisdom gives, to command, then it is quite clear that we do obey these commands at our peril. Paul, the Apostle, looked upon himself as an ambassador of God, sent forth to beseech men in Christ's stead to be reconciled to God's purposes for man's salvation and to obey the teachings and commands of Jesus Christ. This seems to be such a truism as to be almost taken for granted without stating, and wears not in a position to understand fully what the Lordship of Jesus Christ means until we bring our lives into close touch with His teachings and commands. You remember when on Mrs. Hill, Paul said to the Athenians, "At the times of his ignorance God winked at but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent." This command rests today upon every man and woman who by the consent of his or her will is not reconciled to God's

## It's a "Traveller"

Not an expensive shoe—but a mighty good one.

Made in Patent Leather,



Calfskin and Vici Kid.

Look for the "Traveller" trade-mark on the sole.

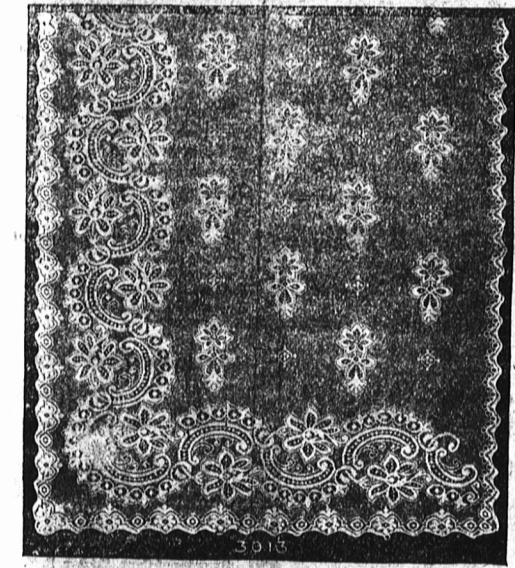
Ames, Holden Limited, St. John, N.B.

## CURTAINS FOR 1907


It is an old saying that "Goods Well Bought are Half Sold." This is the experience of those who buy from us. We are not too modest to say that

### Our values, styles and assortment are the best in the Province


We have hundreds of satisfied customers in both town and country, but we want more. Are you one of them? If not give us a trial, and you will find it mutually profitable.



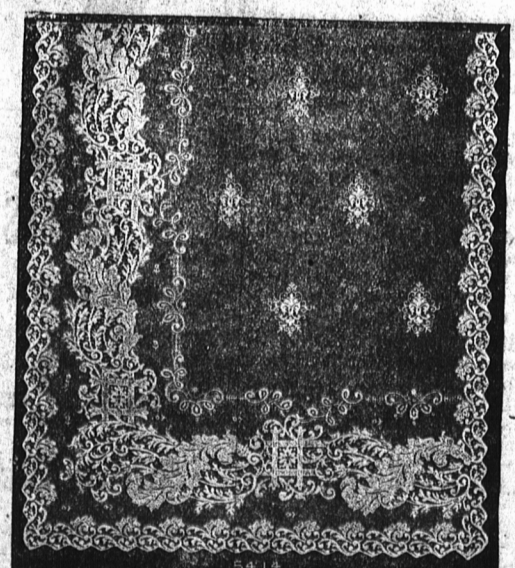
\$1.25



\$1.65



\$1.95



\$2.00

Above you will find cuts of a few of our styles at from \$1.25 to \$2.00 per pair. We have others in all prices up to \$7.25 also cheaper ones at 35 cents up.

In addition to the curtains and curtain materials, we have Lace Door Panels, Bonne Femmes and Live Bel Surfers and Borders. A whole host of materials of all kinds. Your most critical inspection invited.

# STANLEY BROS.

### The BANK OF NEW BRUNSWICK

HEAD OFFICE ST. JOHN, N. B.

Capital \$707,000  
Rest and Undivided Profits over \$1,200,000

#### Savings Bank Department

JAMES MANCHESTER, President.  
R. B. KESSEN, General Manager.

H. S. PETHICK, Manager.  
Charlottetown.

### PERSONAL SUPERVISION

Furniture repaired.  
Furniture re-upholstered.  
Furniture of all kinds made to order.  
Great bargains continued in furniture till the large stock is cleared out.  
At the old stand opposite Post Office (upstairs),

## John Newson.

Wholesale Trade Only

### Fisher men's Rubber Boots

Never Break

AND

### Daisy Brands

A big supply of men's, women's, misses, boys' and child's.

Dongola Lace Boots and Shoes arriving daily at the new wholesale firm of

## GOFF & CO.,

Charlottetown.  
P. S.—Orders quickly filled.

### Nurses' & Mothers' Treasure

—most reliable medicine for baby. Used over 50 years. First compounded by Dr. F. E. Picault in 1855.

#### Makes Baby Strong

Restores the little organs to perfect health. Gives sound sleep, without resort to opium or other injurious drugs. At druggists, 25c. 6 bottles \$1.25. National Drug & Chemical Co. Ltd., Montreal.

### Sale of Unclaimed Goods.

The undersigned will sell by Public Auction at the Railway Freight Sheds, Charlottetown, on Wednesday, May 15th, at 2 o'clock, p. m., a large quantity of Unclaimed Freight and Baggage. As everything on hand must be sold, bargains may be expected.

EENJ. CARTER & CO.,  
Auctioneers.

### Notice!

Having secured the supply of milk from Jan. F. Roper's Guernsey herd I am in a better position than ever, before to supply my customers with first class milk and cream. This herd has been subjected to the tuberculin test and proved perfectly healthy.

V. McWILLIAMS.