

"THE HEM OF HIS GARMENT."

A SERMON,

PREACHED IN RICHMOND STREET WESLEYAN CHURCH, TORONTO,
ON THURSDAY EVENING, SEPT. 26, 1867,

BY

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"THE HEM OF HIS GARMENT."—MATTHEW XX.: 9.

What is the hem of Christ's garment? We will consider this bye-and-bye. First of all, let us think of the beautiful narrative of which our text forms a part. It is an account of one of our Lord's miracles—a miracle of a very interesting nature. The miracles of Christ were wrought for several purposes. One obvious purpose of a miracle was to heal the person suffering. A second was, perhaps, to give an evidence of the divinity of our Lord—that he was really a messenger sent from God. A third benefit connected with, at least, one of his miracles, was of a spiritual and instructive character; some of them were evidently designed as parables as well as miracles. The record is a record of an actual fact, and yet the record is full of spiritual instruction. Spiritual truths seem embodied in the acts of our Lord. Everything our Lord said and taught—as I have been endeavoring to shew in the other church—was an illustration of the character and conduct of God the invisible, and we may well suppose that the reason why some of the miracles were selected for description rather than others, was that there was instruction conveyed of a moral and spiritual character in the miracle itself, even as all nature, to a contemplative mind and ear, contains spiritual and heavenly lessons. This miracle was a very suggestive one. Here was a woman who was diseased; this is a fitting representative of sin. As disease with the bodily organs hinders their operation and shortens life, so sin interferes with our spiritual functions, prevents our hearing God's voice, seeing God's face, feeling God's love, running in God's ways. This woman