

never attained to it. The prophets of Israel regarded Jehovah as holding the relation of father to the nation or to the nation's king. He was even believed to hold the relation to selected individuals in the favoured nation. But there is no record of any pre-Christian thinker ascribing universal Fatherhood to God. Until Christ came the continent of the divine Fatherhood remained, for the greater part, an unknown land. It had been discovered, but not explored. The coast-line had been traced in part, but the interior was as yet untraversed. Christ traversed it, surveyed it, and mapped it. He threaded it with highways, and opened it up for the entrance and habitation of mankind. He told men of the wealth it held, and of the homesteads for their hearts which were waiting there.

2.

The Father's Business.

In this first word of Jesus He also declares His thought of God as immanent in the world, active and enterprising in behalf of men. This, too, was a truth needing fresh and authoritative statement. For this was by no means the prevailing