

"WHAT THINK YE OF CHRIST?"

A Sermon delivered by Rev. J. E. Donkin in the Methodist Church, Acadia Mines, Sunday, Dec. 14th, 1886.

Text.—"What think ye of Christ?" Matt. 22, chap. 42. The human mind is of such a quality that it will not accept a fact or statement without examination. To enquire is at once its function and duty.

The great beauty and force of the Christian dispensation lie in the fact that every principle advanced by its founder was illustrated in his life. He gave to the world a system of theology, not only surpassingly rich in its doctrines, and sublime in its unfoldings of eternal life, but associated with a character eminent for purity, holiness, and every divine perfection.

I ask the poets, led by the mighty Florentine, with spirit and with face so beautiful and full of wondrous thought; with Chaucer and Shakespeare, and Milton, and Cowper, and Coleridge, and Wordsworth, and Byron, and Burns, and many other bright spirits following in their train.

"What think ye of Christ?" We question the men of thought, and out of the middle ages rise the reformers, men whose mighty intellects made light in its darkness. Descartes, and Bacon, and Locke, the foremost minds of the eighteenth century, the century of enlightenment and Newton, and Berkeley, and Kant, men in intellectual force, and philosophic acumen, transcend as the other men of the age, an age of boasted wisdom.

"What think ye of Christ?" We ask the great masters of music and of song, who have woven for us a divine speech, and filled the ear and stirred the soul with harmonies of sweet cadence. O ye mighty bards of the Christian ages, "What think ye of Christ?" I bid you listen, for in answer they chant.

"Oh, could I speak the matchless worth, O could I see the glories forth, That in my Saviour shine, I'd soar and touch the heavenly strings, And vie with Gabriel while he sings In notes angelic divine."

"What think ye of Christ?" I would ask the painters, who have almost made the canvas live with their ideals of plenty and of poverty, of beauty and of love. I ask and they respond, "He has been the soul of our art, and to paint him worthily was the highest, though alas, the hopeless task of man."

gave to the character of Christ a unique charm, I think it was his perfect use of the faculty of smiling. He became a man among men, a helper to all who needed help. His daily life evinced the enthusiasm of a divine love, in the pure light of which no selfish thought could live. It was Christ who said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

The character of Christ, what a theme for study. What an object to be admired. How it claims my love and asks my imitation. I do not wonder that infidels stand amazed and abashed before it, though they look upon its splendor with loveless hearts and blinded eyes. But further, what do you think of His teachings. How do they compare with those of Socrates or Cicero, or any of the great disciples of literature. Truth, like character, must be tested, and the teacher that disappears in the furnace is worthless, but that which shines brighter when the fire cools down, proves its right to be and to be immortal. Such we claim for the teachings of Christ. They have lifted the heart, and the senses have not dimmed their splendor or faded.

I quite agree with "Dennis" in admiring a manly, noble and straightforward Christianity, a Christianity which has the courage of conviction, and therefore a courage of detest a character and spirit which, while it can make a bitter and untruthful statement about another, is yet ashamed to do so over its own nature.

"I'd sing the precious blood he spilt, My ransom from the shameful guilt, Of sin and wrath divine, I'd sing his glorious righteousness, And magnify the wondrous grace That made salvation mine."

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of protection would be more satisfactory to them than the existing one, for it would be absolute and unmitigated, whereas as now they must at least confine themselves to the margin afforded by the tariff. The Express is not in favor of any more protection than will reasonably cover the difference in cost of production between this and other countries, so as to place the home and foreign manufacturers and producers on an equality in the market, and therefore could not favor such an absolute embargo upon importations as the Advocate proposes. But it may be claimed that the Advocate does not know what it is talking about. Probably it does not.

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Cause for Thankfulness.

Rev. Dr. Wild, a prominent Toronto divine, preached a remarkable Thanksgiving sermon. Among other things he said: They had great cause for thankfulness. Barns and storehouses are filled. Strictly speaking, he claimed that there is not a state in the world where general prosperity and the same ratio of comforts and abundance as in the Province of Ontario. (Applause) There is not a State on the face of this earth where the ratio of idle men is so low. There is no state or nation on the face of this earth where the liberty and freedom of the citizens could be more. (Applause) There is no nation on this earth.

WHERE WAGES ARE HIGHER for the workingman in every department. (Applause) "I see," said the preacher, "several of you shaking your heads. Will you correct me in the paper? I will challenge any man to prove that the wages are higher anywhere than in Toronto. (Applause) I knew that would meet with resistance, and therefore I had that in reserve." (Laughter.) The point that he wanted to make was that the average ratio of wages in Canada in every department of labor from the pulpit to the hod-carrier, is higher than in other countries on the face of the earth. (Applause.) This year our exports exceeded our imports by several millions. We were on the right side in that matter. This year the income of the Dominion at large will be several millions over the expenditure. That is all right. (Applause.) Looking at the country in any department he supposed, we stand in a position for which he ought to be grateful. (Applause.) If the country was not what they would like it to be the remedy was in their own hands, as far as legislation went. He recognized the legitimacy of parties in politics, but he was sorry that some of the politicians are so unwise as to dolefully exaggerate when they are the out and want to get in. Referring to Sir Richard Cartwright's recent speech before a Liberal Association, Dr. Wild says: There was no necessity for such a doleful inflammatory speech in a prosperous country like Canada. (Applause.) We are ruled by a majority, and when a change came he would stand for the majority having its right, and for being ruled by a majority; and no man should be asked to take his life in his hand because he happened to be in a minority; and a man should not speak in such doleful terms. The language was an outrage, even if uttered by a Sir Knight. (Applause.) It would be well for that gentleman to take a lesson from Hon. Alexander Mackenzie. (Applause.) That gentleman, at the late nomination at Markham, when he was before the people for their suffrages, fearlessly and openly made their declaration. He (the preacher) honored him before, and he honored him more now. Mr. Mackenzie said: "Gentlemen, I warn you that if at any time the interests of party conflict with those of the country I shall prefer the country." (Applause.) They had

THE RIGHT KING for a man of any side of politics. That is the right position for a party to take—not to be ruled by a man who would be ruled by a lawless means seek to get into power gain. (Applause.) We have, the preacher went on to say, a country grand in extent and resources, but especially in its possibilities. We are a mixed people, composed of several races, of diverse sects of religion, and those brought down to us conflicts of interest which will be handed down through our descendants for some time. Being mixed and diverse was the grandest and last reason why we should prefer our country to party, or race or sect. Where we have these conflicting elements, it is not wise to be pampering one and neglecting another. Our Governments should not know us as Congregationalists, as Catholics, as Irishmen, as Englishmen, as Scotchmen, as foreigners, but as Canadians. (Applause.) He urged his hearers to banish that idea of sectional distinction, and there will be peace and more prosperity

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that at present, but pander to it and the conflict will grow, and people that would stone him for being outspoken will have sacrificed their blood and children to pay dear for their lack of outrage. He advised these present to do to all men as they would that they should do unto them, and give to every man what they asked for themselves. He called upon them to let their motto be "Tolerance and equality before the law, but no tyrannical class legislation to any time."

A judicious wife is always nipping off from her husband's moral nature little twigs that are growing in wrong directions. She keeps him in shape by continual pruning. If you say anything silly she will affectionately tell you so. If you declare that you will do some absurd thing, she finds some means of preventing you from doing it. And by far the chief part of all the common sense there is in the world belongs unquestionably to women. The wisest things a man commonly does are those which his wife counsels him to do. A wife is a grand wielder of the moral pruning-knife. If Johnson's wife had lived there would have been no hoarding up of orange peel, no reaching all the posts in walking along the streets, no eating and drinking with a disgusting voracity. If Oliver Goldsmith had been married he never would have worn the memorable and ridiculous coat. Whenever you find a man whom you regard little about oddily dressed, or talking absurdly, or exhibiting eccentricity of manner, you may be sure that he is not a married man, for the corners are rounded off—the little shoots pared away—in married men. Wives have generally much more sense than their husbands, even though they be clever men. The wife's advice is like the ballast that keeps the ship steady.—Bucklin.

AG Thing of Beauty. In past years the rage at Christmas time and long before has been the purchasing of Christmas cards for friends abroad as souvenirs. This year a change is taking place. The Montreal Star is bringing out a superb Christmas number, a mammoth paper of wondrous beauty, with twenty-eight pages of magnificent illustrations, including a face simile of the great picture purchased by Sir Donald Smith, at the Morgan sale, New York, at a cost of forty-five thousand dollars, about which the curiosity of a whole continent has been aroused. The engraving on the Star's picture is something of a rare delicacy. Besides the twenty-eight pages of illustrations there are stories, sketches and poems by the best authors. Professor Grant, of Queen's College, has written a powerful article, which every Canadian man, woman and child should read, while there is something from the pen of Professor Roberts, Nova Scotia, George Murray, Montreal, absorbing stories by E. W. Thomson, Toronto, poems by poet Laureate Frederic, and others, together with a large 22 x 28 plate supplement, said to be the most beautiful ever issued on this side of the Atlantic. The whole of this paper, which competent critics say eclipses the London Graphic and London Illustrated News, is sent to any address for the amazingly small sum of 25 cents in postage stamps. The publishers are Graham & Co., Montreal, who are giving beautiful prizes to the value of \$500 to the little folk who write the most faithful short letter about the paper. This is really an age of wonders. Anybody who was fortunate enough to get a copy of the last Carnival Star will not be so much surprised at this latest piece of gigantic enterprise.

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