

STORE GOODNESS

So busy are we to-day sending out goods to eager customers that we haven't time to write an elaborate advertisement of our great store's contents. We just have to pack together some truths that you will find just as we tell them to you.

Our two great stores are overflowing with good things for sustaining life and clothing the body.

More people are learning of this store's goodness every day. We not only advertise, advertise a great deal, but we are accomplishing a tremendous amount of good store-keeping along with it.

In every line stocks are standard, styles carefully chosen, our claims and promises lived up to. It is money in your pocket to learn the full measure of this store's excellence.

We couldn't say these things if we were not absolutely sure of our ground. But come and see and learn.

Thomson Co.

The People's Store

THE PASTOR'S WORK.

The Message of Rev. W. H. Reddish to his Congregation at the First Baptist Church, Sunday Night Dec. 6th.

From Stenographic Report by Miss Edna Jenkins.

I want to call your attention this evening to some facts found in First and Second Corinthians. In First Corinthians, second verse, it reads, "For I am determined not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ and him crucified." I want to read that verse again that it may burn itself down into your very soul. "For I am determined not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ and him crucified." Again in second Corinthians, 12th chapter, 14th verse, we find this explanation, "I seek not yours, but you."

Brethren, this is my message this evening. "I seek not yours, but you." For I am determined not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ and him crucified.

I want to speak in the first place, of my ministry. I believe that God called me into His ministry and if I did not feel that I am a minister of His and that this is my part of the work, I would not be here this evening. If I did not feel that I am His own, I would step down out of the pulpit here.

First of all the business of a preacher is to preach the word. It is my business, as a minister of His to love Him. Put in full view all of this upon your minds. It is my business, as a minister of His to be here in this pulpit and preach the word to you men and women so you may love Him and be drawn by Him as you have never loved Him and been drawn by Him before.

It is my business as a messenger of Christ to be found at my desk and I want to be found there. It is my business as a messenger of His to be found on my knees and I want to be found there. It is my business as a messenger of His to be found in my library and I want to be found there. If I come short of these things, brethren, I will come short of accomplishing the work of a true minister of God. I am determined to preach and pray, let it cut where it may. That is my business. If I take the word and thrust it like a spear into your very soul you can't lay a finger against me. I want to be

able to present the word fairly and squarely and fearlessly.

Not long ago a brother went home from church and told his wife that the preacher was cutting right at him. I may have been doing so, but I did not intend it so. So I will try and not say anything against you all though I will come out boldly with what I have to say; and what I say to others I will say to you.

Next, if I shall accomplish anything it shall not be done by me; it shall be the Master searching your heart. But, first, I want to preach the word. It is my business to do so. Then in the next place you want to know something about my purpose besides. "I seek not yours, but you." My purpose here is not to seek the comfort of your homes; how pleasant it would be to sit with you so frequently in your homes and so thoroughly enjoy you. While that is not my special business, I hope I will have the pleasure of doing so. It is a very pleasant thing for one to be in company with you and to enjoy your society. I trust that I may enjoy you. I trust that you may enjoy my presence.

I am not here either to seek your money. I want to brand that into your hearts. I am not in the ministry for what money there is in it. No true man of God is in the ministry for what money he may get out of it. If I would seek money I would be a banker, lawyer, merchant, cotton mill man, or something else. I certainly would not be a minister. I do not want you to put as much as a penny in the plate if, when you do it, you do it grudgingly; if grudgingly then I want you to come to me or to some of the deacons of this church and take it out. I would not have it. I do not want it. I am sure that God will take care of me.

I am here for you. I am seeking you. If there is one in this congregation that I can help I will gladly do so if he will let me find him. Sometimes a fellow stumbles and falls and his neighbors have no more confidence in him. If I can be the means of putting his hands upon his shoulder and lifting him up so that his neighbors will put confidence in him I will gladly do so. I am here to help you.

I will be as much in your homes as possible. I will plead with your young men to develop your minds. I will plead with your young women to train your

hands so that you may have skilled hands. I shall come to seek your souls. I shall plead with all of the power that is in me that you give your hearts to God. I am here after the young man that has no hope in God.

Brethren, if you can help me reach him I want your help. I pray for it. "I am not here after yours, but you." I did not come to take burdens off of you. I have come to put more work on you. I have come to live by you. I come to tell you what the call is, and the crown shall be yours if you will but work faithfully.

I realize that in every congregation and in every town you will find men and women who are not exactly like each other. I don't suppose there are two men here alike. I don't suppose there are two men here worth the same. I mean the same amount of money. I don't suppose there are two here that know just the same. I am determined not to know the difference between the most inefficient member of this church and the most efficient member of this church. I am determined not to know the difference between the poorest man in the town and the wealthiest man in this town. It is not my business to know anything save Jesus Christ and

don't care how small you may be if you will let God load you up you will be all right.

I want us to notice in the next place some of my work among you. Brethren it is my business to know you all as soon as I can. I want to know you in your homes. It is my purpose to start out when I get back from the convention and visit you. I want to know you in your homes and I shall come to see you. But another thing, I do not want you to take for granted that I know everybody in this town. I know but a few people in this town, and after I have been here one or ten years I don't want you to think that I know every new comer. There are some people in the world who seem to think that the pastor ought to know where the Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist and every other person lives just like a bird dog noses his game. I am not a bird dog therefore I am not supposed to have a nose for Baptists when I pass them on the streets and know them from any body else. I will have to find them out. You will have to tell me. I have no doubt unless you help me I will walk by two or three of the very best Baptist homes and not stop just because I did not know who lived there. I

a man said to the great company of men and women who were searching the fields and woods for the lost child, "Come let us get in a line and take hands and march through this field and we will find the child." And the men and women joined hands and their general said "March," and they marched keeping step as they marched and after a while one man stooped down and picked up the child and delivered it to its mother. God meant that we may labor heart to heart in this great work of soul saving. That is our business.

How shall you use me? Well I tell you brother, when you get sick and have had the doctor, then if you wish send for the preacher. Sometimes you send for the preacher when it ought to be the doctor. When you get sick and need me send for me.

I had a phone put in the house the other day. I don't know whether it is in operation yet or not. I did not have it put in the house for my use. I won't have to phone for a while yet, not to the grocer anyway. I don't think I will need any groceries for four months. I had it put in for you to call me up when you want to talk to me. When you are sick just call me up. Phone me when you find some one else sick. But I will tell you, visiting in the home of the sick is one of the most delicate tasks that come to a preacher. There is great respect we owe to the physician. The preacher comes in and thinks that the man is able to do one thing and the doctor says that it does a great deal of harm. In a case like that when you want your preacher you just say to the doctor, "I want my preacher. I would like for him to read to me." And if the doctor is the right kind of a man he will tell you what is best and if he is not the right kind send him away and get the right kind. It places the doctor and the preacher on good terms. Now some of you may say that this is carrying the thing to an extreme, but I am going to go on. If your child is sick and you feel like you want your pastor to read to him you just tell the doctor that you would like for your pastor to be sent for to read to John or Susan or whoever it may be. If you know of any sick person and would like for the pastor to know it and if you can't find me through the week just write a little note on a slip of paper and send it to me or bring it to me the next Sunday and I will read it to the church. I know the sisters would visit you if they knew you were sick. You wouldn't mind having it just merely announced here, I know you wouldn't.

Brother, let us do these things. May God bless you and keep you.

Confirmed by Doctors.

Chicago Tribune.
O think of the hosts without No., Who are slain by the deadly cuco. It is a mistake.
Of such food to partake, And it brings everlasting deep glo.

Caldwell County Has a Female Tax Collector.

Bonne Democrat.

Caldwell now has a female tax collector. After the death of Sheriff Estes, ex-clerk McCall was appointed by the county commissioners to fill out his unexpired official term. But the tax books, of course, fell into the hands of the deceased's bondsmen, who appointed Miss Mary Estes, daughter of the late sheriff, tax collector. We are told that the young lady has fine business qualifications and is very attentive to business.

THE OLD RELIABLE



Absolutely Pure
THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE

The Blazed Trail

BY STEWART EDWARD WHITE

The Blazed Trail, our next serial, is a story of lumbering in the northwest. The hero, Harry Thorpe, entered the business a green hand and came out a successful operator on a large scale. But this was not achieved without opposition, and the difficulties he encountered make an exciting story. That he finally won, in addition to business success, the highest prize within the reach of a true man you may infer from this picture.



They sought each other's eyes.

The Blazed Trail

is a distinct literary success. In the virgin forest the author has found a field scarcely touched by novelists and has given a vivid picture of one of the most interesting phases of American life.

Brooklyn Eagle.—"The Blazed Trail" is a masculine book; it is for its robustness, its strenuousness, its fine pictures of the "Lumber Jack," its glorious toll in the battle with imperious nature, that it has a right to certain success.

Boston Herald.—Mr. White has the power to make you feel the woods as the masters of salt water fiction make you feel the sea. There is something big and elemental in his book, as bracing as a vacation in the pine woods he brings within our ken.

THE BLAZED TRAIL Will Be Our Next Serial Story
You Will Miss a Great Treat if You Fail to Read It

Him Crucified. Between the learned and the unlearned I shall know no difference. If there be any difference I shall know none. If I do not come to the homes of you who may be the poorest, it shall not be charged to me. I shall charge it to you. It is certainly not the business of a preacher to know any differences where they exist and I tell you, brother, here to-night I shall know none.

If a man wants to know what my politics are, as he is very likely to, I will tell you I have none. If a man can find them he can do better than I can. Listen, brother, did you know that right there the preacher is getting into trouble. When one of the very best preachers in the state went to the polls to vote his way the deacons went this way and that and split, and then came together with a crash with the preacher right in the middle.

I realize that if part of the congregation will look through other congregations they will find some people more capable of doing church work than others but every one has some work to do. Every man and every woman in this church and congregation has some little place to fill and it is an important place. I believe that every Christian in this congregation has a place. I, as your pastor, respect your place no matter how small it may be. I

will tell you what you do. When you see me coming you get out and see that I don't go by without stopping. When I come into your homes just treat me like a brother and don't for any reason run off into another room and leave your pastor in a cold room. Take me in where you have a fire if it is in the kitchen. Just take me right in. I haven't but 15 minutes to stay. Don't take me in a room 28 below zero. All I get out of a home like that is a deep cold.

Another thing, brethren, I don't object to you asking me out to dine with you, but never ask me on Sunday. I dine at home with my wife on Sunday and you ought to do the same if you have a wife. That is a special day that should be observed by praying, reading, talking with your loved ones and preparing your own heart for the Lord.

While that is the way to receive me, now how may you use me? I want you to use me in any place, my brother, but do not use me as a steam engine. You have your work. I have mine. Don't roll yours off on the pastor as did the church illustrated in the Ram's Horn's cartoon. Brethren, let us get right together and go hand in hand.

Once there was a little child lost. A search was made for many hours but failed. At last,

For Holiday Wearing

Ladies' Neckwear.

Biggest, best, most novel, most beautiful line ever shown in Gastonia. In great demand. Our designs charm all who see them. Ten dozen just received for to-day's buyers. Prices: 10c, 15c, 25c, 35c, 50c, 75c.

Ladies' Lace Collars.

Stole and cape effect. Cream, white, ecru, and black. One of the season's favorite fads. Very stylish and becoming. Fifty cents to \$4.00.

Ladies' Handkerchiefs.

Biggest lot of embroidered handkerchiefs we have ever shown. Best values on the market—practical designs, too; they are all beautiful and appeal strongly to correct tastes. Prices 5c, 10c, 15c, 20c, 25c, 35c, 50c.

Bureau and Washstand Scarfs, Center Table Covers.

Beautiful selection in appliqued goods and Irish point. Prices 60c, 75c, \$1, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$2, \$2.25.

Ladies' and Children's Coats.

Though our stock is melting away before eager buyers, we are still able to supply your wants. Come right along to Cloakroom. Children's, \$1.25, \$1.75 and up. Ladies' \$4, \$5, \$7.50, and \$10.

These \$10 coats sold for \$12.50 to \$15, but while they last, they are now yours for even ten dollars each.

Millinery.

Our special line of one dollar trimmed hats is moving right out, but we are still replenishing to keep up with the eager demand.

We also have all materials for the most elegant made-to-order millinery of every description.

And there's some other good hat-news for you to-day also: All of our high-class ready-trimmed hats now on hand will go at special prices to holiday buyers.

JAMES F. YEAGER.

Gastonia Banking Co.

Gastonia, N. C.

CAPITAL AND SURPLUS, \$75,000.00

State Bank Incorporated May 13, 1903

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and when that is said you know what you are getting, and we know what we are offering. Come to see our new store; examine our prices. We are offering the greatest line of Overcoats ever shown in Gastonia, for the LEAST MONEY. Come, we will save you money.

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