

# **THE PURPOSE OF GOD**

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The Purpose of God by Joseph Smith Dodge

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**JOSEPH SMITH DODGE**

**THE PURPOSE OF  
GOD**



THE  
PURPOSE OF GOD.

*"That God may be all in all."*

BY  
JOSEPH SMITH DODGE, A.M., M.D., D.D.,

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BOSTON  
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1894

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## PREFACE.

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THIS book is an attempt to present in orderly form those views of divine and human relations which, during a hundred years, have been developing in the Universalist Church. There are, doubtless, many forms of statement in it which will seem new to Universalists, and some conclusions which will not be readily accepted. But it is believed that every one of these grows logically out of ideas which are acknowledged by all; and that the surprise or the dissent will be only such as we always experience when our vague beliefs are reduced to accurate statements and their inevitable corollaries set before us.

But the book is not offered to this church alone. If the Universalist consciousness were not part of the general Christian consciousness, if it had not roots extending through all the past ages, and affiliations with the spiritual life of all Christendom, it would be worth no man's while to elaborate or defend it. The author assumes to speak to the whole Church, believing that the system of thought here suggested—

crudely, no doubt, as a first attempt—marks the position towards which all the best thinking of the Church is tending. The divine method here presented does not permit us to suppose any abrupt change, any future not evolved from the past; and the author imagines that he sees in much of the thinking of the past a feeling after such conceptions as are here offered.

No apology is made for the omission of much which the reader might expect to find. The effort has been to set forth the comprehensive scheme with as little elaboration of detail as might be consistent with clearness of view; and to comprise all within a volume of unforbidding size.

A constant effort has been made to avoid controversy, not as in itself objectionable or permanently avoidable, but as tending to obscure a first statement. And to this effort may be charged the omission of some things and the light touch given to others. In short, if the reader carries away from this book the one fundamental conception on which it is based, he will have all the author designs to give.

NOVEMBER, 1893.



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