THE KING'S HIGHWAY,

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness.

THE ORGAN OF THE

Reformed Baptists of Canada.

Published Semi-Monthly at Woodstock, N. B., by a Committee of the Alliance.

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Subscription Price:

PER YEAR, in advance,	$1.00
Ministers, one year	.50
FOUR MONTHS, one trial subscription,	.25
NE SAMPLE COPY,	.05

For Distribution:

12 copies, to one address,	.30
25 " " "	.50
60 " " "	$1.00
100 " " "	1.50

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DISPATCH PRINT, WOODSTOCK, N. B.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

All correspondence for THE HIGHWAY should be addressed to the DISPATCH, Woodstock, N. B. All letters containing money, addressed to H. C. Archer, Meductic, N. B.

WOODSTOCK, N. B., JAN. 15, 1903.

"A STANDARD BEARER FAINTETH."

ISA. 10:18.

It is with the thrilling consciousness of a great and painful loss that we place on record this "memorial tribute" to the grand moral worth and loyal unchanging friendship that brought our late beloved brother, the Rev. G. W. Macdonald, editor of the HIGHWAY and fellow-laborer in the church and ministry, within the inner circle of our hearts affections.

It was our privilege to have formed his acquaintance some twenty-five years ago, long before the present holiness movement had assumed any agitation, or found expression in any definite form. We had heard him, on different occasions, in emphatic denunciation of the drink-trffic and kindred evils, and we felt then what we have since proved, that his strong clarion voice, thrilling with notes of warning against the common enemies of man's spiritual elevation, was stirred by a heart, true, noble and loyal,—a heart that instinctively went to the side of the oppressed and made their cause his own.

He was a true christian, always loyal to the cause of truth and righteousness. The years that have passed in his ministry were always full of toil and arduous labor for the spiritual prosperity of all that came within his personal influence; but those years, toilsome and burdened with work as they were, did not in any perceptible degree, lessen the deep interest and unfailing attention that our beloved brother always gave to any and every work that meant the spiritual uplifting and enlightenment of the christian church. This he did to the very last.

He was a courageous, aggressive, christian minister. With him,—grand, noble warrior of God's army that he was,—to have conviction born into his spiritual consciousness by the Word of God and stirring his soul by the Spirit's power, was to utter and proclaim those convictions with a positiveness, fearlessness and aggressiveness that often startled the attention of his hearers and sometimes aroused the opposition of the self-centered and self-seeking.

He was no time-server. Once he became clearly and scripturally certain of the righteousness and spiritual benefit of a movement, he would move out in the full tide of his convictions and hew his way through every obstacle, tunnelling the mountains of fear and bridging the chasms of doubt, and march on as a victorious leader to sure and certain triumph.

It was this quality of faith and spiritual genuineness of character that took him, heart and soul, over to the cause of Holiness; even when indentification with this cause meant the reproach of Jesus, to become of no reputation, the denial of a place of worship and, as a climax of evil, to be disfellowshipped as a christian minister and to be branded as a heretic, unworthy of christian confidence. But he has nobly stood the test of the years of trial. God has vindicated his character and has given him again a large place in the affections and thought of a truly loyal people; and to that people he clung, and side by side with his brethren in the Reformed Baptist ministry did he nobly champion the interests and cause and work of holiness throughout the country.

But he has now fallen, though even to the last step of the journey did his voice ring out the full notes of the Gospel he loved so well. Often weary has been his arm, often tired has been his brain, but never for one moment did his heart falter in his devotement and sacrifice to the cause of holiness.

He has gone on ahead, we follow after. With us that remain behind there is a loss that is felt,—a vacancy in our ranks that for the present causes inward pain and a rush of tears. At the moment we are blinded by our great sorrow. Our hearts are stunned by the blow. His companionship,—his counsel, Oh! how we shall miss him. Words fail here to express our loss. Yes, we must close up our ranks and press on together.

Truly, "a standard bearer fainteth." But he fell at his post. To the Reformed Baptist church and her doctrines he gave the most loyal and full allegiance of his heart. The church shall miss him much. The HIGHWAY and its committee shall miss his inspiration and fearless advocacy of Bible truth. He wielded a strong and trenchant pen. He made his influence felt upon the public mind. Twice was he chosen editor of HIGHWAY, filling that responsible position satisfactorily to all. Thrice was he elected President of Alliance, always discharging his duties impartially and honorably. We feel that his place among us will not be easily filled. He rests from his labors. A. L. B.

A MEMORIAL FUND.

Since the death of Bro. Macdonald my heart has been engaged as to how we might best honor God and raise a monument to his memory, and I feel that God has given to me a proper plan.

As a people we have placed missionaries in South Africa and they are looking to God to very soon open to them a field where they will take up permanent work for Him under our name.

Once they are located the next thing must be a home, i.e,a home for themselves and a small chapel. This will require about one thousand dollars.

By the next issue I will submit the plan which I trust will be used of God to enable us to raise this amount for the building of our pioneer mission station in South Africa, to bear some such name as "The Macdonald Memorial Mission Station."

Let us all pray for God's blessing upon this and that he may prepare our hearts for the response.

M. S. TRAFTON.

TABERNACLE FUNDS.

Mrs. Wm. Everett, Riverside Tabernacle, $1.00.

God requires entire and perfect obedience.

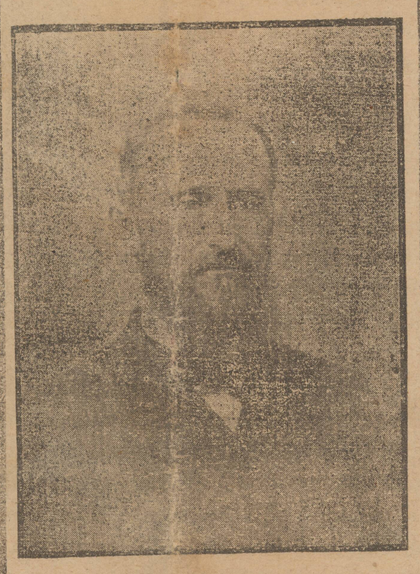
The perfect obedient soul believes spontaneously.

REV. G. W. MACDONALD.

It becomes our painful duty to record the death of our friend, brother and co-labourer, Rev. G. W. MacDonald, whose death took place in St. John at the residence of Mr. John Hornbrook, 50 King Square, the present home of his daughter, Mis Gertrude Macdonald, on Wednesday morning, Dec. 31st, 1902.

Bro. Macdonald arrived in St. John on Christmas eve to spend the holidays with his children, Harry and Gertrude, having come from Grand Manan, where he had been visiting his other son, Rev. Geo. B. Macdonald, pastor of the Reformed Baptist churches on the island.

Bro. Macdonald had been failing in health for over a year and on this account was obliged to resign the Hart-



land circuit last October. He went to Grand Manan thinking the change and rest would assist in his recovery; but such was not God's will. While visiting George he was at times very ill and feared heart failure, but as physicians assured him that they could not discover any serious heart trouble he was not considered in any great danger.

On his arrival at St. John he was no better, and his children were anxious yet his case was not considered critical. But about four o'clock Wednesday morning he awoke and talked about an article on Grand Manan, which Harry was reading from a magazine, as he watched by his father's bedside, and after a time said he thought he could sleep some more. Harry fixed his pillows, and Bro. Macdonald remarking that the rearranged pillows rested him, for which he expressed his gratitude, fell asleep again. Harry being anxious, continued to watch his father, whom he thought to be quietly sleeping, but after a time noticed a peculiar ashen hue on his countenance, and then called his sister Gertrude, when they concluded that father was dead. At once a physician was called but the end had come—he had quietly passed away to his eternal home in sleep. He had died, the physician said, of a dilated heart, for which there was no cure. Mrs. Macdonald died a little over a year ago in a similar manner, and also of heart disease.

There was a funeral service held that evening led by Rev. Geo. M. Campbell, of the Centenary Methodist church, at the residence of Mr. Hornbrook. And then on Thursday, Jan. 1st, the body was conveyed by the express train to Woodstock, accompanied by the sorrowing children, and placed in the Reformed Baptist church, where a special service was held in the afternoon led by Rev. B. Colpitts, in which Revs. J. H. Coy and W. B. Wiggins and Stephen B. Appleby, K. C., and Mr. R. B. Jones took part. There were present also, Revs. A. H. Trafton, Reformed Baptist; Z. L. Fash, Baptist; Geo. A. Ross, Methodist, and Elders McFadgen and Woodworth, Adventists, and a large representation of mourning friends of the town, Lower Brighton, Hartland, etc., completely filling the church. His remains were laid beside those of his wife and children in the cemetery here to await the resurrection of the just.

Bro. Macdonald was born of Scotch parentage at Southern Head, Grand Manan Island, July 25th, 1835, and in his early days, like some of the Apostles, was a fisherman. He was converted during a revival under Rev. J. N. Barnes, Free Baptist minister, and was baptized Aug. 9th, 1862, and united with the Seal Cove Free Baptist church, and he had the honor of hauling the first stick of timber to build the church edifice, that is now standing and being used for worship, a few miles from his old home.

A few years after he heard the call of his Master to become a fisher of men. He at once obeyed, and at the General Conference held at Coverdale, Albert Co., on July 3rd, 1865, he received conference license to preach the Gospel, and was ordained as a Free Baptist minister at the Mouth of the Oromocto, Sunbury Co., July 22, 1866.

His first circuit was Gagetown Russiagornis and Oromocto. From thence he removed to Tracy Mills, Carleton Co., in the latter part of 1876, preaching at Williamstown, Knoxford, Bridgewater, Tracy Mills, and surrounding districts, where he had much success.

After the Conference of October, 1873, held at Waterville, Carleton Co., he came to the town of Woodstock, where he became the pastor of the Free Baptist church. Rev. Joseph T. Parsons, the corresponding secretary of Conference, in his annual report read at the Conference of October, 1874, held at Tracey's Mills, Sunbury Co., thus reports Bro. MacDonald's work of that year: "God has abundantly blessed the labors of his servant, and placed upon the contract between pastor and people the unmistakable seal of his approval. During the past winter one of the most powerful revivals with which Woodstock was ever visited was experienced under his labours, the beneficial effects of which eternity alone will disclose. Meetings were continued day and evening for six weeks; scores were moved upon by the spirit of God to seek salvation, and many were enabled to rejoice in his pardoning love. Backsliders confessed their wanderings of heart and returned to the fold, and the church rejoiced that the Lord had again comforted his people, and had mercy on his afflicted. As the result of this revival 43 were baptized and 74 added to the church, and a prosperous Sabbath school organized." During the eleven years he was pastor of this church the Lord continued to bless his labours, and there was not a year that some were not added to the church, hence the church increased by scores during his ministry here. It was here also in January, 1882, that Rev. Aaron Hartt came to assist Bro. Macdonald in special meetings, and preached the doctrine of entire and instantaneous sanctification as a second definite work of grace subsequent to conversion, as the privilege and need of every believer. Bro. Macdonald did not offer any opposition, but began to pray and search the Scriptures and denominational standard (Butler's Theology) to see whether these things were so. As a result he became a seeker for the ever blessed experience of a pure heart, filled with the Holy Spirit, and on March 19th, 1882, was wholly sanctified. A day never to be forgotten by our brother. At once he became a strong advocate of this great grace which resulted in the sanctification of many believers, and the strong opposition of unbelievers, both within and without the church, till at last he was disfellowshipped by his denomination.

Bro. Macdonald leaving Woodstock received a unanimous call to the Sussex Free Baptist circuit, where he spent four happy years in labour among a kind and hospitable people, preaching at Apohaqui, Penobsquis and Sussex, and having success in his work. During all this period the agitation in regard to sanctification, increased in the denomination and the opposition to it became stronger till it culminated in the withdrawal of fellowship from not only Bro. Macdonald, but of Revs. W. Kinghorn, B. Colpitts, G. B. Trafton and G. T. Hartley, which resolution was adopted by the General Conference held at Blissville, Sunbury Co., Oct. 16th, 1888, by a vote of 55 yeas to 6 nays. As a consequence it was in November of this year that the present Reformed Baptist denomination was organized at Woodstock.

Bro. Macdonald now became pastor of the first church here which he held for about two years, when he removed to St. John and became pastor of the Reformed Baptist church there, and so continued for three years, when he desired a change of work and was chosen as denominational Evangelist July, 1894. He held this position till 1896, when he became pastor of the Reformed Baptist churches in Yarmouth County, N. S., till July, 1899. He then went to assist the Reformed Baptist church at Calais, Me., taking the pastoral oversight of the church for one year. In July, 1900, he removed to Hartland and became pastor of the Waterville, Victoria Corner, Lower Brighton and Hartland Reformed Baptist churches, preaching also at Peel. He continued on this circuit till October last when, as I have mentioned, he was compelled to resign through ill health.

Bro. Macdonald had thus spent over twenty-three years of his ministerial life as a Free Baptist minister, holding several important pastorates and positions among them, as he was chosen moderator of Conference for the year 1874-75. And in 1879 he was unamiously elected as Corresponding Secretary of Conference, which position he held for nearly 10 years, or till he was disfellowshipped in Oct. 1888. He occupied a good place in the denomination, and wielded considerable influence, being considered one of their ablest ministers. In the Reformed Baptist denomination he also held an influential and important position. Though he was not the first President of our Alliance, not being elected till the year 1891, yet he had the position several times. He was also elected twice as editor of the HIGHWAY, which post he held for six years and a half, though he was not its first editor. He was also one of the most prominent and the ablest minister of the denomination.

He leaves two sons, Harry H. Macdonald, Insurance Agent of St. John and Rev. Geo. B. Macdonald of Grand Manan; also one daughter, Miss Gertrude Macdonald, official stenographer of St. John, to mourn the loss of a very kind and indulgent father. Also a host of near friends and acquaintances in both New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and United States. Bro. Macdonald was a self-made man of more than ordinary ability and a great reader of good books, magazines and papers—he kept abreast of the times. He was an excellent preacher, and a clear headed, convincing and interesting speaker and a strong debater,—a man of strong will and decided opinions, which he did not fear to express when the proper time came, an opposer of all evil, an advocate of all good. He was a true and sympathetic friend, rejoicing with those that rejoiced and weeping with those that wept. His loss will be felt the keen-