

The King's Highway.

And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The Way of Holiness: . . . The wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. Isaiah 35:8

VOL. XIII. (New Series.)

WOODSTOCK, N. B., SEPTEMBER 15, 1903.

(Semi-Monthly.) NO. 50.

THE OLD HYMNS.

There's lots of music in 'em
Those dear sweet hymns of old—
With visions bright of lands of light
And shining streets of gold,
And hear 'em blithely ringing
Where memory dreaming stands,
"From Greenland's icy mountains,
To India's coral strand."
They seem to sing forever
Of holier, sweeter days.
When lilies of the love of God
Bloomed white in all the ways.
And I want to hear their music
From the old time meetings rise,
Till "I can read my title clear
To mansions in the skies."
We never needed singing books
In them old days—we knew
The words and tunes of every one
The dear old hymnbooks through.
There's lots of music in 'em—
Those hymns of long ago,
And when some gray haired brother
Sings one I used to know,
I sorter want to take a hand—
I think of days gone by—
"On Jordan's stormy banks I stand
And cast a wishful eye!"
We didn't have no trumpets then,
No organs built for show;
We only sang to praise the "Lord
From whom all blessings flow."
An so I love the old, old hymns,
And when my time shall come—
Before the light has left my eyes
Before these lips are dumb—
If I can only hear 'em then,
I'll pass without a sigh
"To Canaan's fair and happy land
Where my possessions lie."—Selected.

THE SECRET OF SOUL WINNING.

R. ELTHERINGTON.

An essay read before Canada Conference Ministerial Convention, March, 1903.

"The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him." Psa. 25:14. The Saviour's blessed words to the disciples have been handed down to us as found in Acts 1:3, R. V., "But ye shall receive power the Holy Spirit having come upon you." The wise man has said, "He that winneth souls is wise." Prov. 11:30. God says, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God." James 1:5. The work of the Holy Spirit is to convict of righteousness and of judgment to come, hence to be a soul-winner we must have the Holy Ghost. Talmage once said a wise word to some theological students, "Brethren, don't go fishing with a crawfish for a bait, a long chain for a line, a weaver's beam for a pole, and then scream, 'Bite or be lost forever!'"

We must consider the value of a soul by the price paid for it. The compassion of Jesus should melt every word. If Jesus could afford to die for every soul, you and I can afford to join Him in this rescue. We should feel that for Jesus' sake it must be done. "They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." Bro. Hallman said last Conference, "Don't tell the evangelist all the difficulties existing on your charge, nor any of them; if he has the Holy Spirit he will find it out any way."

Soul saving is wisdom of the highest grade. To slight souls is to spurn Calvary. If it is heroic to rescue a life it is Christlike to save a soul. It was this longing for souls that made Moses willing to be blotted out of God's book; caused John Knox to pray, "Give me Scotland or I die," and Whitefield to cry, "Give me souls or take my soul." The soul winner's

love for souls usually precedes the Saviour's visits. David prayed, 'Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation and uphold me with thy free spirit; then will I teach transgressors thy way, and sinners shall be converted unto thee.' The secret must be sought. Thank God it may be found. No training in methods nor instruction in doctrine, nor memorizing of scripture will suffice, we must have the Holy Ghost. A personal Pentecost is needed. This qualification is the Spirit-signed diploma of the soul-winner. One such worker is a majority with God. God is the supreme revivalist; the Holy Spirit the chief soul winner; we are laborers together with Him. We must depend with bold confidence upon the Holy Spirit. If God can trust us He will impart to us the duplicate of faith of those Heb. 11:33, 34. We dare not look at our surroundings. "He that regardeth the clouds shall not reap." Tears first, then triumphs. "He shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

When Rev. James Caughey, during whose seven years evangelistic stay in England and Ireland nearly twenty thousand persons professed conversion and nearly ten thousand entered into the rest of full salvation, was asked the secret of such success he replied, "Knee work." All soul winners conquer on their knees. Prayer is the tropical climate of the soul. The revival climate must be warm and moist, we feel that it is not revival weather if prayer is lacking. The old adage, thank God is being lost sight of, that because there is a traitor or an Achan in the camp, we cannot have victory. Bless God Matt. 18:19 is just as reliable as ever it was. This was one of C. G. Finney's secrets. He never rested until he enlisted one other soul to agonize for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on his meetings. On one occasion after a desperate struggle he was on the floor on his knees until after midnight when he overheard the prayers and sobs of a godly woman in the same house; she too had the burden upon her for a revival. With a happy heart he retired to rest sure of victory. Prayer will break the ice of formality about any church in Christendom. We know not how to pray as we ought but the Spirit prays through us for He is the inspirer of all true prayer. Inspired prayer always brings the victory. The fervent prayer! that means boiling, hot enough to kill all the germs of unbelief. Glory to God! Without this spirit our church must decline. We must raise the standard of primitive evangelism. Oh that the Holy Spirit may teach us to win souls.

A REPROVER OF SIN.

The Holy Spirit tells a man of His faults in order to lead him to a better life. In John 16:8, we read: "He is to reprove the world of sin." There is a class of people who don't like this part of the Spirit's work. Do you know why? Because He convicts them of sin; they don't like that. What they want is to have some one to speak comforting words and make everything pleasant; keep everything all quiet; tell them there is peace when there is war; tell them it is light when it is dark; tell them the world is growing better, that it is getting along amazingly in goodness; that is the kind of preaching they are seeking for. That suits human nature, for it is full of pride. Men will strut

about and say, "Yes, I believe that; the world is improving; I am much better than my father was; my father was too strict; he was Puritanical. Oh, we are getting on; we are more liberal; my father would not think of going out riding on Sunday, but we will; we will trample the laws of God under our feet; we are better than our fathers."

Just wait till you bring the Word of God to bear upon them, and the Spirit drives it home, then men will say: "I don't like that kind of preaching; I will never go to hear that man again." The Spirit of God convicts men of sin. Do not blame the preacher.—Moody.

SPIRITUAL FEELING.

Many are afraid of religious feeling because it has sometimes run to excess and produced fanaticism. But there is no more reason why we should fear religious feeling than physical sensation. Where there is sensation there is life. Feeling is a sign of life. Feeling is to the soul what fire is to the engine. It is the fire under the boiler that makes the engine go, and not the machinery alone. It is the fire in the heart that moves men. One may have a mind well stored with most useful knowledge, but so long as he has no feeling he will make little use of his knowledge. Spiritual feeling sets men about doing good. We must trample under foot that enthusiastic doctrine, that we are not to do good unless our hearts are free to do it; but it is far easier to do good, and we shall do far more good, if our hearts are free to it.

The Psalmist offers a remarkable prayer which he accompanies with an important statement: "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; . . . then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee." When the hearts of Christians are filled with the joy of salvation the work of the Lord will go on. "The joy of the Lord is your strength." Religion is not cold, but professing Christians are sometimes cold. Cold hearts, cold sermons, cold prayers, cold churches never win souls. We need to offer the prayer contained in one of our hymns:

"Kindle a flame of sacred love
In these cold hearts of ours."

—Wes. Methodist.

SIN.

There are some persons who think it much easier to bury a sin than to repent of it. But it is a very hard thing to hide a sin. It is like hiding a seed or root in the ground. It draws strength in its concealment, and finally pushes up through the soil, brings forth fruit, thirty, sixty and an hundred fold. Sin is not dead enough to be safely buried. It is like a smouldering flame; it is like a poisonous seed; it will work ruin in its concealment, and finally break out into open ungodliness, and destroy on every hand. A sin needs to be dragged out of its hiding place and extirpated. Hiding it only gives it a fresh hold.

"Whoso covereth his sins shall not prosper, but he that confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."

God never takes aught from us without giving us something better. He removes the symbol, to give us the reality; breaks the type, to give the substance; releases us from the natural and human, to give us the Divine.—Meyer.

PRAYING EVANGELISTS.

There are many singing evangelists in the world today whom God is using in proportion as they sing in the Spirit and with an eye single to His glory; but we hear very little about praying evangelists. Charles Finney saw the importance of prevailing prayer for the success of his work, and had as a companion Father Nash, who often lay on his face in his room crying earnestly to God for souls, while Mr. Finney preached in the power of the Spirit and men fell on their knees and cried for mercy, in answer to prevailing prayer.

Why do we not have more praying evangelists? There are some; but do not these perilous times call for many more who know how to besiege the throne and with unwavering faith cry, "It shall be done!" The urgent need of the hour is men and women, though unhonored and unsought by a worldly church, have learned the secret of success in soul winning; that of going forth weeping and travailing for souls; until they are born into the kingdom of God. Men and women are needed who know how to pray heaven down and see the foundations of hell give away and sinners flee to Christ; while others receive the honor from men for bringing about the revivals.

The Holy Spirit is searching for such men and will one day crown their self sacrifice with glory and honor eternal. Let us have more wrestlers who cry, "I will not let go!" rather than pleasers and honor seekers; then shall we have more real princes who have prevailed with God and men.—Sel.

THOMAS JEFFERSON'S TEN RULES.

The following are said to be the ten rules adopted by the author of the immortal Declaration of Independence, for the guidance of his life:

1. Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today.
2. Never trouble another for what you can do yourself.
3. Never spend your money before you have it.
4. Never buy what you do not want because it is cheap; it will be dear to you.
5. Pride costs us more than hunger, thirst and cold.
6. We never repent of having eaten too little.
7. Nothing is troublesome that we do willingly.
8. How much pain the evils that never happened have cost us!
9. Take things always by their smooth handle.
10. When angry count ten before you speak; if very angry, a hundred.

JESTING.

Trifling with sacred things destroys moral sensibility, and takes the trifle rapidly down in character, and puts him almost beyond hearing the voice of the Spirit. A "little fun" is not so innocent as some claim. It is the primary course to the unreal in life, and an opening of the heart to deception of every kind. Every joke perpetrated reacts on the character. When professed Christians can jest and joke without condemnation they are backslidden from God. They disobey His Word which says, "Neither foolish talking, nor jesting, but rather giving of thanks." (Eph. 5:4.) A joking minister is a reproach on his profession and an insulter of both God and man, trifling with eternal destinies. Many a young minister has

lost experience by associating with older joking preachers. The sinner may laugh at the joke and say he likes that man, but in his heart he says, "He is no better than I am." He likes to have him around because he is companionable, and will never do personal work with the soul. He would not want his prayer in the dying hour.—Ex.

INCONSISTENCY.

A celebrated missionary from India was coming to town, and Mr. G— invited his neighbour, who was an infidel, to accompany him to church. He declared himself ready to go, and they started together in good season in order to secure seats. By the time the service began every seat was taken, and the aisles were crowded with eager listeners.

The good missionary began by relating his experience among the benighted heathen. Then, in eloquent language, he pleaded his cause. "The gospel of Jesus Christ, which you believe," said he, "is the only successful means for the civilization and Christianization of these poor souls, and it is your sacred duty to take an active part in a work in which every Christian must engage, if he wishes to be faithful to the Lord, whose command is, 'Preach the gospel to every creature.'"

His appeal was so touching and so earnest that he held his audience spellbound. Even the infidel became so thoroughly interested that he did not think of looking around until the missionary ceased speaking and the collection plate was passed from pew to pew.

While holding his contribution in readiness he glanced over the audience. Right in front of him were several ladies, elegantly attired and richly adorned with jewelry, who seemed to be wiping their eyes with handkerchiefs of costliest lace. With a visible degree of the deepest sympathy they each dropped a five-cent piece into the plate. When the plate approached the neighbour who had invited him to go along, he could scarcely trust his eyes as he saw a similar piece drop in, after which the infidel deposited his gift.

On the way home, the infidel remarked to his neighbor: "See here, my friend! If I believed what you profess to believe, I would have given at least a hundred times as much as you did."

It was afterwards ascertained that the missionary went away disappointed with a meager collection. Only one dollar note was reported, and the infidel recognized in it his own gift.

Dear reader, are you guilty of a similar inconsistency? Is not your empty missionary treasury an indication that you do not believe what you profess to believe.—Lutheran.

PREACHER HITS A HARD BLOW.

A country minister in a certain town took permanent leave in the following pathetic manner:

"Brothers and sisters, I come to say good-bye. I don't think God loves this church, because none of you ever die. I don't think you love each other because you have not paid my salary. Your donations are mouldy fruit and wormy apples, and 'by their fruit ye shall know them.' Brothers, I am going away to a better place. I have been called to be chaplain of a penitentiary. I go to prepare a place for you, and may the Lord have mercy on your souls! Good-bye."—Sel.