

The King's Highway.

And an Highway shall be there, and a Way,

Handley Mullin

decl. Way of Rightness.

The wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.—Isaiah.

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WANTED—A RIGHTEOUS CITIZENSHIP.

By Lucia Faxon Additon.

Among the many rich nuggets of thought left us by Abraham Lincoln, is an earnest statement made when asked if he did not believe God was on our side. He said: "God is my witness that it is my constant anxiety and prayer that this nation should be on the Lord's side."

Christian Citizenship is to bring this to pass, namely: to get the nation on the Lord's side. Never in our history have we faced issues fraught with more vital importance.

We are compelled to face the fact that, with our highest tribunals controlled by unscrupulous combines of capitalists; while vile men placed in many public offices; with courts and grand juries shielding the wrong-doer; with jails for the man who steals bread and acquittal for the man who steals millions; with government legalizing, protecting 250,000 saloons, sending from 60,000 to 100,000 souls into drunkards' graves yearly, and governmental sanction to ship-loads of liquor sent to heathen lands; with a traffic in girls which would disgrace any people or country; with thousands of the young manhood of America swearing, smoking, heading straight for the gambling den, the brothel, and the saloon; with an industrial warfare which is making bitter enmity between capital and labor, a public press given over largely to party worship; a pulpit often speaking out boldly against public sin;—with all this array of undisputed fact, it is too evident that unless these evils are checked the life of our nation is endangered.

"A nation that will not serve God shall perish." What then, is the outlook? Except the state believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, accept and apply His law of righteousness and love as the fundamental law of the land, it cannot be saved. Jesus of Nazareth made no exception of the political caucus or primary when He said: "Who-soever confesseth me before men, him shall the Son of Man also confess before the Angels of God, but he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the Angels of God."

What, then, is the hope of America? Christian Citizenship, this is the "star of hope" which is leading the way to the manger where the new civic conscience is to be born; ye must be born again, is true of a nation as it is true of an individual.

Society is an organism. The body politic is something more than the aggregate of individual life. A nation is something more than so many men, living on so many acres, and possessing so much wealth. It is the combination of all these units of vital force, acting and re-acting upon one another, and becoming something else, as a house is something more than mere bricks and mortar, as the individual is the result of all the organs and forces of the body and mind, acting upon and with one another, so a nation is the complex result of all the thoughts, affections, knowledge, ignorance, good and evil that exist in the individuals who compose it. You cannot go wrong and the nation go right. "You cannot hide in the multitude, you are the multitude."

The question of national righteousness, then, is an individual question. Everyone is a note in the public voice. If yours is the only one which chords

with the law of justice, love, and right, let it be heard.

When we realize individual responsibility we must also realize that it is a sacred duty to study the problems of citizenship. A noted writer says:

"Christian Citizenship is more than reform; it is regeneration. It pertains not merely to politics, but to everything which has to do with man's relation to his fellows, his government, and his God. Sociology, civics, economics, and all moral reforms are but departments of its thought and work.

"It looks upon predatory wealth, vicious legislation, corrupt officialism, religious apathy, and a conscientious ballot as enemies, not only of the public good, but also of God himself.

"A filthy city, an unjust wage, a monopoly of any of God's natural gifts a neglected child, a brothel, an open saloon, a closed church, poverty in the midst of plenty, a city slum, a bribe-taking official, and that greater villain, the bribe-paying citizen, are all indictments against a Christianity which is professed but not applied.

"The citizenship of a man who tolerates these enemies, or by voice, influence, or vote sanctions these evils, is clearly unchristian whatever may be that man's profession.

"The citizen is himself the unit of force and action. To christianize him in his attitude and acts toward public as well as private affairs is to bring industry, commerce, finance, government, politics, and society into obedience to the teachings of Christ. That, and nothing less than that, is Christian Citizenship."

Every Christian should regard a social sin, though sanctioned by law, so far his own as to feel that renouncing it for righteousness to the extent of his voice, vote, and entire life, is a part of his own regeneration. Christian Citizenship does not mean the joining of church and state, but rather the union of the church to save the state.

Can society live according to the Golden Rule, under enactments that violate that law? "Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with thee which frameth mischief by a law?"

John G. Woolley pertinently says: "Our present business is to get the still small voice of conscience adopted as the political language of the church, so that when she speaks no senator will dare to sneer." The Christian citizen needs to learn to pray with his vote, and not confine his prayers to the church prayer meeting. He needs to do a little praying in the primary.

What we need, and what Christian Citizenship will bring about, is a legislature where every official will join voice and heart in opening its session with a united petition beginning.

"OUR FATHER."

We need an active, working Christianity. Faith without works is as dead in the political field as in any other. When we pray "thy kingdom come," we need that prayer worked out by votes of righteous men.

The child who became alarmed and grieved when she found out that her brother had set a trap to catch birds, illustrated by her acts the grand principle which should actuate the citizen when he sees the traps set to catch the souls of men. When the child was asked what she did about it, she said, "I prayed that the traps might not catch the birds." "Anything else?" "Yes, I prayed that the Lord would not let any birds get into the traps, and then, I just kicked the traps all to pieces, I did."

To quote again from Mr. Woolley: "The liquor traffic, the gambling den, the social evil, political corruption, ought to die, and any politics, any religion, any nation that postpones or ignores the fact, ought to die too, and it will. Peace and welfare is the supreme law, and the heart and conscience of a nation are bound to legislate in such a way as to make the wealth of the nation synonymous with Righteousness."

Then all have every effort toward an operative Christian Citizenship; every effort toward building up a patriotism founded on a solid rock of Christ. All hail the day when Christian America no longer lies silent, but shall cry aloud and shall not. Then poverty, disease, and crime shall be no longer rampant. All hail the day when all government—civil, social, industrial—shall be obedient to the voice and bidding of Jesus Christ. All hail the day when Christians shall unite in one grand, aggressive, harmonious action toward repelling political corruption by political righteousness.

Push on, and work, push, and push hard; press on to victory. Organize today. Organize and save the boys; organize and save the girls. Hope, pray, work, vote, that the Christian Citizenship movement shall, with added momentum, develop into the great and glorious future.

With a Christian citizenship our nation "conceiving liberty, fostered in freedom, and growing up in righteousness, thought and care" shall live on to the fulfillment of its high destiny.

THE REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH COVENANT.

"Having been led, we believe, by the Holy Spirit to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, we do now, in the presence of the great All seeing and Most Glorious God, and before angels and men, give up ourselves to the Lord Jehovah—Father, Son and Holy Spirit,—and own him this day to be our God, our Father, our Savior and our Leader, and receive him as our portion forever.

And, believing that the interests of His Kingdom require our united efforts, we hereby agree with each other to walk in Him, with brotherly love seeking our duty to God, to one another and to the world, and adopt the following as our

CHURCH COVENANT

We will constantly strive to act toward each other as brethren in Christ, watching over one another in the love of God, reproving, rebuking and admonishing one another for good as occasion may require. And if we at any time know that any member of the church has been "overtaken in a fault" we will not expose it by telling it to others, but will seek to restore such a one in the spirit of meekness, according to Gal. 6:1

And if we have personal difficulty with our brethren, we will not cherish it, or speak of our grievance to others, but will faithfully labor with them according to the direction of our Lord in Matt. 18: 15—17, that sin may be put away from among us and that iniquity may not be harbored in the church.

2. We will contribute of our substance, "as the Lord has prospered us," for the support of a faithful ministry among us, the necessary church expenses, the relief of the needy, the spread of the Gospel, and other necessary means of grace, and we will not

raise any money for the Lord's cause by means of bazaars, tea meetings, suppers, sociables, or any other worldly expedient.

3. We will hold communion together in the weekly public worship of God, and in the ordinance and discipline of His church, according as we are or shall be guided by His Spirit in His Word. And we will always endeavor to attend the monthly Covenant Meeting, and report our true spiritual condition for mutual comfort and help, and for the glory of God.

4. We will endeavor to maintain true piety in our own hearts, to keep ourselves in vital communion with God by constant watchfulness and secret prayer; to sustain regular family devotion, and religiously instruct those under our care; to commend religion to others, not only in words but by a devout spirit and holy example, constantly praying and laboring that the Kingdom of God may come and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

5. We will not traffic in nor use intoxicating drinks as a beverage, but will use our influence to advance the principles of temperance, to aid in the legal suppression of the liquor traffic, in order that ultimately it may be totally prohibited. And, as far as possible, we will discountenance, both by precept and example, the use and sale of tobacco; also opium and morphine.

6. We will sustain the benevolent enterprises, Bible societies, Sabbath schools, moral reform, and all others, which in the use of holy means, tend to the glory of God and the welfare of men.

7. We agree that we will love all those who love our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; that we will avoid all vain extravagance and sinful conformity to the world, and will abstain from all sinful amusements, as theatres, circuses, dances, gambling, etc., and will refrain from all unchaste and profane conversations, all foolish talking and jesting which are not befitting vain disputing about words and things which gender strife, disregarding promises and not fulfilling engagements, tattling and backbiting, spending time idly, vain and unnecessary wordly conversation on the Lord's day from reading wicked and corrupting publications, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, according to the glorious Gospel of Christ.

8. We also agree to "press on unto perfection," and not to rest until we have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit to cleanse us from all sin through the Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

9. We agree to the annexed "Declaration of Faith," Church Advisory Rules," etc, as a guide to our faith in doctrine, and our practice in matters of church government.

And finally we commit ourselves to God, and to the Word of His grace, expecting that he will yet further and more gloriously open to us His Word and the mysteries of His Kingdom.

"And now the God of peace that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

The average rooster isn't as big as he sounds.

CANAAN TROUBLES.

Joshua and his men took of the victuals of the wily Gibeonites, and asked not counsel of the Lord. Joshua 9:14) So we are often in too big a hurry to make charitable colleagues with the world to take time to ask the Lord whether we ought or shall.

Do you notice that the troubles of Joshua and the Israelites were not at an end when they had got over Jordan and into Canaan? That shows that Canaan is not a type of heaven, because some of the hardest fighting they had was when they got into Canaan.

The Lord has told them that there was to be an extermination of foes, and warned them that, if they made a league with the people in the land, that they should find such to be "thorns in their sides and briars in their eyes." They had hardly got into Canaan before they were surrounded by those wary Gibeonites. It is surprising that a man like Joshua should be taken in with a piece of deceit like this. Yet Joshua and the people "took of their victuals and asked not the counsel at the mouth of the Lord."

Ah, we have to be careful after we get into the Canaan of perfect love. If we make a league with the world, the flesh, and the devil, it shall be unto us as God said—they shall be "thorns in our sides and briars in our eyes." We cannot keep enough of these wily

would have thought that those Israelites would have been on the watch for them. It is not strange that so often, instead of taking counsel of the Lord, we allow ourselves to be trapped in by believing the story that people bring us, and we find that those enemies are right around us, in our homes?

A woman, an entirely sanctified woman, yokes herself to a man who is an unbeliever, and then tries to lead a life of perfect love! Ah, it is this fixing things up with the world, without talking to the Lord about it! You think it is rather hard to go through this world alone, but it is harder to not go alone sometimes. A man had better sometimes go alone than to go with one who is constantly drawing him into sin.—Christian Standard.

CAN YOU PASS THIS TEST?

A professor in the University of Chicago told his pupils that he should consider them educated in the best sense of the word when they could say yes to every one of fourteen questions that he should put to them. Here they are: Has education given you sympathy with all good causes and made you espouse them? Has it made you public spirited? Has it made you a brother to the weak? Have you learned how to make friends and keep them? Do you know what it is to be a friend yourself? Can you look an honest man or a pure woman straight in the eye? Do you see anything to love in a little child? Will a lonely dog follow you in the street? Can you be high-minded and happy in the meaner drudgeries of life? Do you think washing dishes and hoeing corn just as compatible with high thinking as piano playing or golf? Are you good for anything to yourself? Can you be happy alone? Can you look out on the world and see anything except dollars and cents? Can you look into a mud puddle by the wayside and see a clear sky? Can you look into the sky at night and see relationship with the Creator?—Kansas City Star.