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King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

THE ORGAN OF THE

Reformed Baptists of Canada.

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SPECIAL NOTICE.

All correspondence for The Highway should reach before the 12th and 25th of each month. Address Rev. S. A. Baker, Fredericton, N. B.

FREDERICTON, N. B., NOVEMBER 30, 1912.

DANCING AND CARD PLAYING.

Rev. Neil McLauchlan, pastor of the Methodist church at Fredericton, delivered a strong sermon against round dancing and card playing.

Among many other good things, Mr. McLauchlan gave the following timely message to ambitious mothers. The sermon has created a considerable stir in the city, and no doubt caused some tears to flow which were not tears of repentance. If we could speak loud enough we would say Amen!

Mr. McLauchlan said:

Reason for Dancing.

Why do so many of our daughters dance, asked the speaker. Every locality has its own peculiar reason or reasons. Let me speak of one. Here the speaker in a voice of irony, said:

"You maiden ladies and bachelors must not be too severe; our children are very dear to us and you can't understand how dear; and we are very ambitious for their success in life."

Let me tell you in all seriousness mothers are ambitious that their daughters should appear to advantage in society—what is called society. Mothers are anxious that their daughters should dance well, so that they will not be eclipsed on the occasion of any function where dancing is to be in evidence. Mothers in humble circumstances are prepared to make any sacrifice to get their daughters into "society." They can easily educate them, they can dress them; they know they are bright; but how can they get them into "society?" The Governor's ball is an annual event to which the elite of the

land is invited, but being in humble circumstances, the daughters of the humbler class are apt to be overlooked. The dear mothers, with more worldly wisdom than piety or conscience, anticipate by sending their daughters to dancing school and through the dancing school, through well known methods, secure an invitation to the Governor's ball, and there in the dance meet the elite and stand a chance of securing a husband well up in "society." Poor foolish mothers! They forget that there may be very grave perils between the fair debut and the nuptial morning, and between the nuptial morning and the sunset of life. It is gambling with fate. When mothers are prepared to risk the moral and spiritual welfare of the daughters for the sake of meeting the demands of "society," or getting into "society," they are placing in the pool a tremendous stake.

PRESENT NEED OF OUR CHURCHES.

We think our pastors and churches will agree unanimously that we need a general refreshing for all our membership, and a grand revival in every church to revive those who have by any means become cold, or in any degree slackened in their zeal, and to reclaim the backslider, and for the conversion of those who have not found Christ as their Saviour, and for the sanctification of the sincere believers.

More Difficult to Reach People.

It is quite generally conceded by all evangelical churches that the people are, for some reason, harder to move with Gospel truth than in the past; perhaps it would be unwise for us to undertake to state the reason for this state of things, for in fact there are many reasons; some would say one thing and some another. But the problem is before us, the difficulties are to be met, the pertinent question is, How are we to overcome these difficult situations?

It is quite easy to suggest things; but more difficult to carry them into effect. We have spent much money in the employment of outside evangelists, but only to receive local help. It don't remedy the general need of our churches. The quarterly meetings are proving very much more beneficial than the employment of evangelists, and the cost is very much less. And this suggests to us the resumption of our method of work.

Holiness Conventions.

We sincerely believe that a series of Holiness conventions wisely planned, by the use of our own ministers and laymen, more lasting benefit can be effected than by any other method that we have considered. This would involve the question of supplies for the brethren while they are engaged in conventions. This would also involve the question of expenses, so that no brother would sustain a loss. Perhaps the best way to plan this work would be to call a meeting of the Ministers' Association at some central place, when all the points can be considered, conventions located, dates arranged, supplies provided for, and finances considered.

Christmas and New Years Rates.

We might take advantage of the reduced rates of Christmas and New Years, and arrange a three days' meeting.

We are not unmindful of the fact that our ministers are busy, and it will involve much sacrifice, both by the Pastors and the churches,

but this is an imperative need that has long been felt. In summer we are called away much of our time by our camp meetings. So this convention work must be done during the winter. We have six months before us, and we think that by careful planning every circuit can be reached by spring and every church be given a new impetus and none suffer loss.

SNARL—WOWF !

These two words suggest to us the close relatives and descendants of those spoken of by Solomon, when he said: "It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop than with a brawling woman in a wide house." There are both sons and daughters in the family. The word "wowf" means "unsettled in mind, deranged, wild." which indicates the state they are too frequently found in. We have no need to describe this state of these people, for they are generally known. They have much the same effect upon people's feelings as strong mustard plasters on our flesh, and a dose of cayenne pepper to the throat, or onions to the eyes.

Fathers, mothers, friends, pastors, and many other people come in contact with them very often, in the home, in the business and social circle, in the church and in the community. These spells become more frequent as they mature in life. But there are many good qualities in these people. They are generally thrifty, they are workers, but the trouble is that their tongues keep time with the movements of their hands and feet. They are strictly moral; they are rigidly so; and they blister all who step aside from morality's strictest paths. Sympathy is unknown to them except occasionally in times of sudden deaths—then they conclude the calamity was a judgment. They take a sweet spell about the marriageable period of life, and they fool a nice young man or girl and get married, and for a month or six weeks they are quite passable; but the deceived man or girl suddenly realize they have been tied for life to a snarl-wowf, and all over the country we find woman who say to their friends who come to their homes, "You must not mind my husband, he is a little irritable. He thinks things don't go just right and—" "Oh, yes, we have heard of him," we say, and make the best of the situation. Also men say, "You must not mind my wife; she means well, but—" "Oh, yes," we say, "women have much to try them." Mothers frequently say, "You must not mind my son," or "my daughter; he (or she) is troubled with a bad temper." They have many good points—industrious, thrifty, moral, hospitable, sometimes generous, loyal to their church; but they spoil all because they belong to the snarl-wowf family.

What are we going to do with this numerous progeny? What is their mission? Well, we have been trying to solve this problem as a pastor for years, and have about concluded that we have got to "suffer long and be kind." As regards their mission, they have about the same mission to the spiritual life as the "wicked flea" and his relatives has to our bodies. By scratching where they bite, the blood is kept in circulation; so these folk keep love and patience and Christian charity stretched out to the full length of its endurance, and in full exercise, and long-suffering becomes a real factor in our daily lives.