

King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

THE ORGAN OF THE

Reformed Baptists of Canada.

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

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SUBSCRIPTION PRICE.

Per year, in Advance	\$1.00
Ministers, per year50
Four Months Trial Subscription25
Sample Copy	Free
United States Subscribers	1.25
Ministers, U. S. A.75

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Fredericton, N. B., September 30, 1913

Editorial.

THE MOVING PICTURES.

"He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth."—Luke 11, 23.

It seems to the writer that we might be allowed to paraphrase this text and say, "That" which is not with me is against me; "that" which gathers not with me, scattereth.

We are not fanatical, but in taking a position against popular amusements and habits which are generally indulged in, we know it is quite impossible to avoid being called such, and we are quite willing to be so considered rather than by our silence to give our consent to an amusement so detrimental to the cause of Christ, to the home, to the mental training of our children, to honest business obligations and to a considerable extent to the morals of the young.

We are not unmindful that by the use of the right kind of pictures it might be made educational and perhaps even elevating in its influences, but we have to consider the subject as we find it.

1st. It is detrimental to the cause of Christ, because it is not engaged with him for the spiritual welfare or salvation of the lost; it is not evangelistic in its influence. It detracts from the church of Christ; people prefer the momentary enjoyment it gives to the permanent blessing they would obtain in the prayer meeting and in the association with the more devout people of the church which cannot be drawn away from their Christian devotions. It has a bad influence upon the young—(a)

through its influence they get the idea that pleasure is the highest object in life; (b) by seeing professed Christians and leaders in the churches in these places, it puts a discount on these people's professions, and many of them take occasion or use it as an excuse to do worse things, and to go (if possible) to worse places; (c) as a natural consequence the young, so susceptible to wrong impressions, soon get the impression that there is but little in people's profession of religion; (d) there is also a financial side in connection with the church in the expenditure of so much money in this, for if it goes to the picture show it cannot go for the missionary, Bible society, Sunday school, the needy and the other work of the church. "It scattereth."

2nd. It is detrimental to the home. Many things take father and mother many evenings from the home which we will not mention here. It requires more than well-furnished rooms to make a "real home." That which touches the home life and happiness touches the very heart of the nation. It is an exceedingly bad managed home which finds its greatest enjoyment elsewhere. The real sweetness and power of the home is sacrificed on this altar of amusement, for it takes more than the lodge and club and ballroom, for these things take the grown-up members, but the moving pictures attract the whole family.

3rd. It detracts from the schools. We believe that it is generally conceded by the teachers in our public schools, and it is apparent to all, that children who spend several evenings during the week and Saturday afternoon at the "pictures" are to a considerable degree unfitted for the studies required by our present method of teaching.

4th. Many branches of business feel the financial effect of the money thus spent. It is not an uncommon thing to hear complaints of unpaid grocery and many other bills because the father and mother and all the family attend the "moving pictures" almost every night in the week. On Monday the Sunday school teacher goes about to find the absent members of her class, when she hears something like this from the mother. Johnny could not go to Sunday school yesterday, his shoes were not fit, and his hat got torn, and "Jack" had no money to spare to get new ones; or the girls could not go, as their shoes or stockings or some of their clothing needed replacing and there was no money to get the needful article, when that family had been seen at the "pictures" every night of the previous week. In some instances the children were very tired and could neither attend church nor Sunday school, for the reason that they were at school during the day and at the pictures at night. This is not overdrawn.

5th. Detrimental to the morals of the young. The boy problem in this and many other cities has been hard to solve. Several have been arrested for stealing. Many others were not caught; some doubtless have taken amounts so small that their employers or fathers and mothers, have not missed it; others, both boys and girls, have begged for money on the streets. Some of these things are known to have happened beside the things which have not been made public, to obtain the price of admission to the "pictures." These are in addition to the evil suggestion in many of the scenes in the pictures shown. A few months ago the writer read in a secular paper that the police in one of our largest Canadian cities claimed that the great increase of crime among the boys in that city was directly attributable to the moving pictures. These are a few things

that show on the surface. A tree which bears this kind of fruit must scatter bad seed. Who knows what this great craze would develop into if the check of the censor was not kept on the business. It has already gone so far that it has even infringed upon the sacredness of God's holy day. The most alarming feature of the whole thing is that so large a portion of the professed church of Jesus Christ, ministers and all, have become patrons of this great popular evil.

REGENERATION AND ITS CONFLICTS.

There is a sweet and very blessed life implanted in the soul in regeneration. This life is positive, real, distinct and essential to real experimental religion. This plant is, however, very tender, marvellous as are the possibilities of it. There are dangers lurking within and perils surrounding on the outside which seek to choke out this life and render it fruitless and a failure. There is abundant provision, however, made for the security of this life in the regenerated, which is within the reach of all and is needed by all. God in Christ is made unto us all things we can possibly need—this is our safety. The Holy Ghost, the Sanctifier—this is our privilege, and we must have Him. The *Wesleyan Methodist* says:

"The new life which is imparted to the soul in regeneration is very tender and very precious and it has much with which to contend. Temptations and persecutions are sure to rage to some extent on the outside and sometimes to rage with awful fury, and sooner or later this delicate but precious new life in the soul will discover within the nature which it inhabits the depravity or carnal nature which will rise up in triumph to kill this new life and throw wide open the door to the temptations raging without. If it were not for one thing we would have no hope that this tender, beautiful, precious spirit life would survive such awful conditions, but this life of which we speak has a wonderful care-taker in the person of the Holy Spirit. This life will soon need more room, hence depravity should soon be cast out. It will also need to be busy in order to keep well and add strength to itself and develop proper growth. It will need to keep in constant touch with God as the source of all its life and power. All of these needs are ever at hand through the grace and mercy and goodness of God, and are administered to us by the blessed Holy Spirit. —*Herald of Holiness.*"

Holy and Without Blemish.—Dr. Adam Clarke says: "In every sense holy, pure, and perfect. Now it was for this purpose that Christ gave himself for the church; and for this purpose he continues the different ordinances which he has appointed; and particularly the preaching of the Word, the doctrine of reconciliation through faith in his blood; and it is in this life that all this purification is to take place, for none shall be presented at the day of judgment to him who has not here been sanctified, cleansed, washed, made glorious, having neither spot, wrinkle, blemish, nor any such thing."

He that is self-confident is already half-fallen. He who professes to believe that God will absolutely keep him from falling finally, and neglects watching unto prayer, is not in a safer state. He who lives by the moment, walks in the light, and maintains his communion with God, is in no danger of apostasy.—*Selected.*