

# THE King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness.

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REFORMED BAPTISTS OF CANADA.

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### Editorial.

#### BONDS AND AFFLICTIONS.

We have been thinking of late of the physical afflictions, permanent and temporary, which the people of God suffer, and their help, or hindrance, in the Christian work and influence of those afflicted ones.

And, in passing, I want to note that it is stated that our Saviour Jesus Christ was "a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief." And St. Paul said: The Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying, Bonds and afflictions abide me (wait for me). In our superficial thought we would say, Too bad; what a pity good people should be so burdened and hindered, but in our deeper meditation we recognize the fact that man is the repository of marvelous emotional power, the depths and usefulness of which he may not discover until pressed under some great sorrow, or is confronted with some great problem that places upon him great responsibility which calls forth these heretofore unknown and unused spiritual forces. When he arises to the occasion and, like the great apostle, declares in the very face of death, "But none of these things move me; neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God."

History reveals that the mightiest men in the church came forth in the times of the church's greatest persecutions. Those who know true spiritual life discover and recognize the sweetest manifestations of spiritual life in

those who are meeting the severest difficulties and hindrances in their Christian pathway.

A Christian with a deformed or crippled body to drag about, which hinders him in the battle of life and makes him an object of pity in the world, but in spite of it all he lives a brave, patient, upright, clean, devoted and manly Christian life, is a constant and powerful sermon to all he meets by the way, and they say to themselves, If that man, with such physical bonds and afflictions upon him can live such a Christian life, what kind of a man should I be, where I possess all my physical powers?

In this way his very affliction magnifies the grace and power of God.

How many people with clear physical vision have sent forth into the world the more beautiful songs to cheer thousands of hearts than blind Fanny Crosby? Who can say that her affliction did not work for her "a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory?"

Many have made shipwreck of their faith and relapsed into sinful lives shortly after they were relieved of their affliction. The writer has at least two cases in mind where persons were healed in answer to prayer, who afterward went back to sinful lives, one of them doing great harm to the cause of God after making a high profession.

About twenty-five years ago the writer was called to the home to pray with a lady who was very sick. As we sat by her bedside she asked several questions, and then asked us to pray that she might be healed. Then the writer asked her, How has your illness affected you in your relation to God? Has it drawn you nearer to Him, or have you lost ground as a Christian? She replied: "Oh, I am very much nearer the Lord now, than when I was taken ill." Then we said, You want me to pray that God will take away the means he has used to bring you to Himself, do you?

To what do you purpose devoting the remainder of your life, if you are restored to health?

As we knew this lady had devoted her life to her own worldly interests, we informed her that unless she would give the remainder of her life, in some way to the service of God, we hardly dared to take the risk, if she was going in the old course of her former life. She had lived a good respectable selfish life, devoted as many hundreds are, neglecting salvation.

Affliction and God, is better than all favorable circumstances without Him. David said: Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now have I kept thy word. Pso. 119-67.

Paul prayed three times to be delivered from the thorn in the flesh. But the answer was: "My grace is sufficient for thee;" and Paul exclaimed, "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecution, in distresses for Christ's sake, for when I am weak, then am I strong. For in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing."

The biggest thing among the big things is "the fullness of the blessing of Christ," which makes us victors over every condition and all circumstances.

We must distinguish between becoming established as a member of a denomination and being established as a Christian.

The fullness of the blessing precludes all sin, all self-interest, and all self-ease.

## NO MORE CHILDREN, TOSSED TO AND FRO, AND CARRIED ABOUT BY EVERY WIND OF DOCTRINE.

A careful study of Eph. 4: 11 to 14, will reveal to us some very rich and helpful truths.

1st. Divinely given Workmen, Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers.

2nd. The work assigned to them, (a) perfecting of the Saints, (b) the work of the ministry, (c) edifying the body of Christ.

3rd. The purpose.

The unity of the faith, the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man. and unto the stature and fulness of Christ.

4th. Established in the true doctrines which obtain, and retain, these grand results.

That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about by every wind of doctrine.

Dr. Adam Clark says in commenting on perfection as applied to the church: "We cannot be satisfied that persons, with such eminent endowments, and who have received the truth as it is in Jesus, should be deficient in any of the graces, that constitute the mind of Christ. Such as brotherly love, charity, harmony, unity, and order. I have given the above paraphrase to this verse, because of the term, which we render perfection, which signifies the reducing of a dislocated limb to its proper place; that whereas the members of the Church were all, as it were, dislocated, and out of joint, they should be joined together in love.— And perfection in the Soul, is the same in reference to it, as perfection in the Church is to its order and unity. The perfection or re-joining of the Soul implies its purification, and placing every faculty, passion, and appetite, in its proper place; so that the original order, harmony, unity, and purity of the Soul may be restored; and the whole builded to be a habitation of God through the Spirit."

Dr. Clark also says, on the words, unto a perfect man: "One thoroughly instructed; the whole body of the Church being fully taught, justified, sanctified and sealed. The full measure of knowledge, love, and holiness, which the Gospel of Christ requires. Many preachers, and multitudes of professional people are studious to find out how many imperfections and infidelities, and how much inward sinfulness, is consistent with a safe state in religion: but how few, very few, are bringing out the fair Gospel standard, to try the height of the members of the Church; whether they be fit for the heavenly army; whether their stature be such as qualifies them for the ranks of the Church Militant! The measure of the stature of the fulness is seldom seen. The measure of the stature of littleness, dwarfishness, and emptiness, is often exhibited."

To claim to be sanctified wholly is to claim the accomplishment of the great definite, divine work of grace set forth in the above passages of Scripture, which carries beyond the childhood period of Christian experience, which, like children in our homes, who are attracted, and will follow any old tramp who carries a hand-organ and a monkey all about town. And yet it is remarkable that many people who claim this marvelous blessing are attracted to follow any religious tramp who is carrying about something with no more to it, so far as spiritual life is concerned, than a passing current of air, "wind of doctrine"