

—THE—
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 us before the 12th and 25th of each month. Address to Rev. S. A. Baker, Moncton, N. B.

MONCTON, N. B., MAY 31st, 1918.

EDITORIAL.

RESOLUTION RE—SECRET SOCIETIES.

Our churches will be asked to consider the following resolution, and to instruct their delegates to the Alliance, and we sincerely hope they will consider it prayerfully and weigh the spirit in which they act as it is a matter of greater importance than one would think, especially those who only look upon the surface of it, without considering the possible effects, haste is rarely wise, and is more frequently injurious, hence the need of care and calm deliberation by people who are willing to take a difficult and important matter like this into candid, impassionate consideration, as it is very wide in its sweep, affecting more people than it leaves out. It includes every organization that does not throw its doors open to the public, labour, social and literary, or for mutual benefit by insurance, and otherwise, good, bad or indifferent. The resolution is coercive in spirit. It condemns without due investigation, it infringes on man's free moral action, it marks out a line of thinking for intelligent people instead of allowing them to think for themselves.

It states: That there has been "a great amount of dissention and trouble has arisen already by reason of the fact that certain of our members also held membership in secret societies."

A statement like that should be backed up by actual proofs. While we are acquainted with our work generally among the churches, having been in touch with our work from its beginning, we know of no such trouble in the past or present. Further than that, some members have at times gone to the lodge room on prayer meeting nights, which grieved the pastor, and a portion of the members of the church, but there have been very few dissentions on this account. We do not mean to accuse the framers of the resolution with false statements, but fear they have

been too strongly influenced with local conditions or from reading on the subject.

We want it distinctly understood that we are not defending secret societies, for we candidly believe that some of them are seriously affecting the spiritual life in some of the larger Christian denominations, because the pulpit and pew are carried away bodily in many instances, and we believe that men who are zealous in lodge work are rarely, if ever, very zealous in definite work for soul saving, but we wish to say, first:

That not one of our pastors is an active member of any secret society that we know of.

Second, that comparatively few of our members are members of secret societies except for mutual insurance or in labour organizations.

Third, that we do not believe that there is sufficient reason to discount brethren who have stood nobly with us through our struggles, in spirit and labour, and support. Nor is there sufficient reason to exclude from our membership men who are genuinely converted, but have not as yet been convicted by the Holy Spirit to separate themselves from secret societies.

Fourth, to shut out the father we shut out the whole family, and thus close up our opportunities for good to most desirable people. Beloved, let us have zeal, but let us have it according to knowledge.

When this resolution is introduced in the church, the church has the power to pass, or refuse, to adopt it. If it is pressed there will be unquestionably a division among the churches as some may adopt it, and it will be certain that some will reject it. Our churches are independent bodies, hence even if a majority in the Alliance should favour it, it cannot be forced upon the churches rejecting it—but a division where actual sin is not involved is to be regretted.

We love the churches in which and for which we have laboured, and we love all the brethren, and we know that some of them have strong views against secret societies, and are conscientious in their opinions, the principal point where the writer differs with the framers of the resolution is the method they propose for its cure. Will the churches take the risk?

We are writing this as our personal feelings in this wide reaching and important question.

S. A. BAKER.

The following is the Resolution:

Whereas, we as a denomination are opposed to secret societies, and all or nearly all of our ministers preach against them; and whereas, a great amount of dissention and trouble has arisen already by reason of the fact that certain of our members also hold membership in secret societies; and whereas, there is nothing in our Articles of Faith nor in our Church Covenant to prohibit lodge members from becoming members of our churches; therefore be it resolved, that a new clause be incorporated into our Church Covenant to the effect that from now henceforth we will not accept as members in our churches those who hold membership in secret societies, nor continue as members those who, after joining a church, unite with a secret society.

QUARTERLY MEETING.

The Quarterly Meeting of the 3rd District convened with the church at Westchester, N. S., May 23-26. Delegates from the different churches as follows:

Moncton, N. B.—Mr. D. Berry, Mr. Tuck.
Westchester, N. S.—Mrs. Teed, Mrs. Caldwell

St John, N. B.—Miss Annie Cox.

Pastors present were Revs. S. A. Baker, W. W. Howe.

Thursday evening, preaching by Rev. S. A. Baker, using as text Matt. 11-28-29-30.

Friday 2.30 p. m. Prayer Service led by Mr. D. Berry.

Friday 7.45 p. m. preaching by Rev. W. W. Howe from St. John 17:16-17

Saturday 2.30 p. m. Business Session.

Saturday 7.45 p. m. preaching by Rev. S. A. Baker

Sunday, 9 a. m. Love Feast led by Miss Cox.

Sunday 10 a. m. Sabbath School.

Sunday 11 a. m. Preaching by Rev. W. W. Howe on The Prodigal Son.

Sunday 2.30 p. m. Preaching by Rev. S. A. Baker from Acts 2-38-39. Following this service the Ordinance of the Lord's Supper was administered.

Sunday 7.30 p. m. Preaching by Rev. W. W. Howe from Joshua 10:7.

The services were all well attended and all felt that it had been a time of refreshing and much blessing. Several asked prayers and we are believing that the seed sown will bring forth fruit.

The Business Session of the Quarterly Meeting was held May 25th, at 2.30 p. m., with the President, Rev. S. A. Baker occupying the chair. Meeting was opened by singing, followed by prayer after which Miss Cody was appointed Secretary pro tem.

The following officers were elected: Rev. W. W. Howe, President; Miss Cody, Secretary; Mrs. R. Colburne, Highway Agent during the meetings, Mrs. Williams, Treasurer.

The Devotional Committee appointed were Bro. D. Berry, Sisters Cox and Teed.

The report from the St. John church was read as follows:

The Reformed Baptist Church at St. John, N. B., to the quarterly meeting at Westchester, N. S., sends greetings.

We are glad to report that the presence of the Lord is with us. All the services are inspirational. The Word is preached by our pastor, Rev. W. W. Howe, who does not fail to show the need of the double cure.

ALICE J. CODY, Clerk.

Verbal reports from Moncton and Westchester were given after which Pastor Baker gave a very encouraging talk commending the Westchester Church for its faithfulness and urging them to greater faith and usefulness.

Sister Baker spoke in the interest of the missionary society, advising an organization.

ALICE CODY,
Secretary.

The next quarterly meeting of this district will probably be held with the church at Grey's Mills, Kings Co., N. B., in September.