

— THE —
King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness.

THE ORGAN OF THE

REFORMED BAPTISTS OF CANADA

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SPECIAL NOTICE.

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MONCTON, N. B., NOV. 29TH, 1919

THE FORWARD MOVEMENT.

There is now considerable agitation among the large denominations of a great nation-wide united campaign called at present "the forward movement."

The basis and details have not as yet been fully arranged although doubtless the leaders have plans to lay before a convention which is to meet in St. John, N. B., next week. So far as we have been able to learn, there are two great objects in view, viz., a great spiritual uplift, and a financial objective of twelve million dollars.

We clipped the following from the Christian Guardian (Methodist):

WHAT THE CAMPAIGN IS.

The Methodist National Campaign is not a pious camouflage to cover up an appeal for money, but an honest attempt to get the Church to hear and answer the call of Christ and the present Christ. It is not an organized spurt to display a galvanized life to a critical world, but a sincere attempt to get the whole Church to realize its complete responsibility for world regeneration and adequately to undertake it.

We thoroughly endorse the last words in the "Anglican Handbook on Parish Organization," "The hope is that the Church, once thoroughly aroused, once fully conscious of her strength and her duty and her opportunity, will stay awake and active, and will never again, in the mercy of God, be satisfied with merely maintaining herself."

The following extracts are from an editorial in the Maritime Baptist:

"There is a danger that attention will be directed too exclusively to the financial goal which has been set. It would be a fatal mistake to think that this is the object of the Forward Movement. Great as is the need for the financial strengthening of our work, this is only of secondary importance. If we do nothing more

than raise a quarter of a million dollars we shall have failed abjectly."

* * * * *

"It is the purpose of this forward movement to secure the enlistment of men and women for the service of the Lord Christ. But the devotion to Him and to His cause which contents itself with mere professions of attachment and loyalty and finds no expression through consecrated giving and sacrificial service would surely be an empty and meaningless thing. The fruit of such devotion would be as apples of Sodom, scorned of men and bringing nothing but sorrow to the heart of Christ. We often deplore the lack of spiritual life and power in our churches. Is it not because we have failed to take religion seriously? We have softened the stern requirements for discipleship which the Master Himself laid down. We have been afraid to ask of men and women the full price of devotion, and have been thankful when even the odds and ends of time and wealth have been given for the service of the Lord of Hosts. As a result the flame of devotion has burned dim in Christian hearts, and the world has come to regard the Church with something of scorn and something of tolerant pity."

The effort of both of these clippings put the spiritual first, and the financial feature last.

Now we sincerely pray that the Holy Spirit will be given the full leadership in this really new and great undertaking, and perhaps as we are so few in number and inconsiderable in comparison to these great bodies, we may venture to say a few things among ourselves.

Rev. R. M. Hamilton, of Brookville, Ont., gives some very excellent notes on the subject in the Presbyterian Record. We copy a few paragraphs as follows:

A REVIVAL OF PRAYER.

"In this Forward Movement we are hoping for a revival of interest in prayer. But how shall men pray if they have no burden, or if they be not struggling beneath the burden of another? Why should they seek divine help if they are not attempting something that can only be accomplished by the power of God?"

Too often people are told to pray as if prayer could be carried on as an isolated experience. The man who is not doing things cannot pray unless he prays like a pharisee. If he is only praying for himself, he is behind the times, for that type of man perished with the last of the pillar saints.

The Stewardship of Possessions

That the complete consecration of the entire life as a Stewardship from God will be evidenced by the faithful stewardship of possessions, and that honest stewardship of possessions will be evidenced by a willingness to devote a first portion of income to the kingdom of God is the testimony of scripture and experience.

"The money test" has from the beginning been the acid test of the acknowledgement of God's sovereign ownership and a genuine consecration.

This touches the two great objectives, and this writer very properly reverts to the tithing system.

You will note the effort to present the subjects with the spiritual objective to the front.

But God's order is to the reverse. See Malachi 3-10.

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Most of the contributions we have read have only counted God in incidentally, rather than the Almighty, all-wise God, who alone can transform this disjointed world, and they put the emphasis on man as the reconstructor of the world, and man as the contributor of this great sum of money instead of the debtor, whom God charges of robbing him in tithes and offerings.

The first act should be to return to the scriptural standards—Pay up, money first, not allotments named by officials, or committees, but let every man, rich and poor, pay into the treasury what he has withheld from God, as a Christian, let the Christian lead the way.

This is the scriptural challenge that will open the windows of heaven, and bring the overflowing blessing.

We trust that our own people will make a note of this.—Isaiah 1-16 to 20. Might be a profitable Bible lesson for humble and prayerful consideration just at this crucial moment in the great nation-wide movement.

MISSIONARY SOCIETY ORGANIZED.

A missionary society was organized at Lower Hainesville by Pastor Archer on the evening of Nov. 22nd. The following officers were appointed: President, Mrs. John Woodworth; Vice President, Mrs. Bert Jewett; Secy. Treas., Mrs. Miles Elliott. The meeting to be held the 2nd Monday evening in each month.

PRAYER THAT PREVAILS.

"And being in agony he prayed more earnestly."—Luke 22:44.

All prayer is not importunate. There are restful, quiet seasons and times when the heart prays and yet does not make a single petition but communes with the Father. At other times the desire becomes so intense and the need so piercing that the spirit cries out in agony of desire. Those who walk in the Spirit will have these various seasons of prayer. Sometimes a little talk with Jesus; sometimes an hour of pleasant communion when not a voice is heard to break the stillness, and sometimes a mighty rush of the soul Godward in importunate, vehement cries. When faithful to God, the Spirit will direct the method of prayer, and it will be varied according to the emergency of the hour. We do not realize how much God may use us as intercessors, praying back the bolts of wrath, and praying down showers of blessings.—Beams of Light.

The forward movement should begin with a backward movement to the old standard, via the cross.