

The King's Highway.

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness.

And an Highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The Way of Holiness—Isa. 35-8.

VOL. XXXIV.

MONCTON, N. B., OCT. 31, 1923.

NO. 56

HOLINESS A HOBBY.

By Rev. W. McDonald.

"I do not believe," said a friend to us; little time since, "in making holiness a hobby."

What is a "hobby," he inquired. Our friend did not seem to understand very clearly the meaning of the word. It was, however, a very objectionable way of doing things.

Mr. Webster, we said, who is very good authority defines "hobby" to be "a favorite pursuit."

Pressing the question a little, we inquired, Ought the highest attainments in the Christian life to be a "favorite pursuit," or should it be made secondary? Do you not make your business a favorite pursuit? Our friend confessed he did. Then, you are a hobbyist, are you not? You think it very wise and proper to make a hobby of your business, that you may get wealth, but not of religion, that you may become holy. How does that look in the light of the comparative value and importance of the two interests? At this point our friend was inclined to change the subject of conversation.

To make a minister or a church member odious in the eyes of a majority of professed Christians, it is only necessary to report that he is a hobbyist on the subject of holiness. This is sufficient to place him beyond the pale of church sympathy. If he is a minister, it is only necessary to have it known that his chief object is to persuade people to be holy to have the doors of one-half of the churches closed against him. They will endure that he believe the doctrine provided he makes no special efforts to get the people into the experience. They are like the man who was in favor of the liquor law, but against its enforcement.

Mr. Wesley's method would not suit such people. Writing to one of his members he says, "Entire salvation from inbred sin can hardly ever be insisted upon, either in preaching or prayer, without a particular blessing. Honest Isaac Brown firmly believes this doctrine, that we are to be saved from all sin in this life. But I wish, when opportunity serves, you would encourage him: 1 To preach Christian perfection constantly, strongly and explicitly. 2 Explicitly to assert and prove that it may be received now; and 3 (which indeed is implied therein), That it is to be received by simple faith."

If there were more of these honest Isaac Browns in the Church, and more who would encourage them to preach "Christian perfection constantly, strongly and explicitly," we should witness a

different state of things in all the churches. But let none be deterred from doing their whole duty by the cry of "hobby." That cry indicates the greater need of pressing the subject.

PURITY AND PENTECOST.

The real work accomplished in the hearts of the disciples at Pentecost was that of purification. Speaking of his experience on that wonderful day and of the similar work done later in the house of Cornelius, Peter declares that in both instances hearts were purified by faith. This made them unobstructed channels for the flow of Divine power upon the world about them. Before Pentecost the channels had been obstructed by the carnal mind. Now the obstruction was removed. A window lets in light according to the degree of its cleanliness. Now they were unobstructed mediums through which the convicting power of God could flow out to a sinful world. Purity of heart, the condition of power, was the great work wrought at Pentecost. How are those people mistaken who think it was the gift of ability to perform miracles! The disciples already had miracle-working power and had exercised it before Pentecost, even to the casting out of devils.

But were they not filled with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost? Certainly. The same Spirit who cleansed them from sin at the same time filled them. Just as the tides of ocean cleanse out the filth from the channels while at the same time they fill them, so the same Spirit Who cleanses the heart can and does fill it at the same time.—English Exchange.

FIRST PURE.

The rule of the Christian's life is to put purity of thought, word, and action first. If anything presents itself to him the first question he should ask is, Will this cause impurity in my life? If so that settles it, even if it is making peace. It is impossible to make peace with some without defiling oneself. We are not to forfeit purity for the sake of agreeing or being one with others. Some have said, We could unite with you if you would not lift the standard of purity so high; if you would not say that men have to live without sin. We could bear with you if you would bear with us. James says, "The wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits without partiality, and without hypocrisy."—Gos. Banner.

REPRESSION NOT SUFFICIENT.

Once, in India, a man reared a tiger cub. His kindness seemed to eradicate the ferocity of its nature, and it grew up as a pet. One day its owner, being alone with it in the library caressed it, and gave it his hand to lick. The rough tongue of the animal grazed the skin, and gave the tiger its first taste of blood. Then its ferocious nature awoke. Fury gleamed from its eyes, and crouching itself, it made ready to spring upon its master. Fortunately the gentleman had a loaded pistol on his table, and saved his life by shooting his former pet. The sleeping ferocity of the tiger, awakened by the taste of blood, illustrates the slumbering passion in men's hearts, which needs but the taste of strong temptation to burst into a terrible storm. One moment of triumphant passion may suffice to undo the work of half a life-time. Does not this teach us that something more than repression is necessary. Diabolus begged hard that he might have a corner in Mansoul be it ever so small, but Emmanuel would not consent to his possession of an inch. Do not rest, my reader, until this tiger in the soul has been utterly destroyed by Him who was manifested to destroy, not to tamper with, the works of the devil.—Selected.

TRUST IN THE LORD.

Trust God's wisdom thee to guide;
Trust His goodness to provide;
Trust His saving love and power;
Trust Him every day and hour;
Trust Him as the only Light,
Trust Him in the darkest night;
Trust in sickness, trust in health,
Trust in poverty and wealth;
Trust in joy and trust in grief;
Trust His promise for relief;
Trust Him living, dying, too;
Trust Him all the journey through.

God does not call his ministers to entertain their congregations, but to "preach the Word." People can find entertainment in the world, but only by the Word, the Spirit and the instructions of the saints do men find God. If you are called to preach stick to your job. A good preacher will do more good than a clown in the pulpit, so leave the clown for the stage and opera house.—Herald or Light.

Discipleship means to be willing to listen and learn.—Sel.

To belong to God expresses the essence of inward religion, while to serve Him is the sum of religion in practice.