

THE NEED OF CANADA

(Chas. V. Fairbairn)

What is the need of Canada at the present hour? Unhesitatingly we answer, A HOLINESS REVIVAL. Every department of our Canadian life is in need of such a mighty renovation as only a holiness revival can produce.

When we say HOLINESS REVIVAL, we mean a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit in deluging abundance, to the unctioing of the Church of Christ, the mellowing of our severity, the thawing of out fridity, the banishing of our lukewarmness, the stirring of ourselves to energetic activity, the outflowing from the church of healing streams which shall lead to the salvation of sinners, the entire sanctification of believers and the re-ointing of those who are already blessed of God.

Canada needs such a revival. It is needed in the private life of the pilgrim, in the Christian church, in the business life of today, in the spiritual realm, the social world and in the political arena. The whole fabric of our national existence calls loudly for such a blessing from the hands of Almighty God.

Fleshly, sensual indulgence was at the bottom of the downfall of many of the mighty empires of the past. For such a national debacle, modern, immodest fashions are fast paving the way. Proper womanly modesty is well nigh dead and vile lust grows apace. And, sorry to say, we are becoming so accustomed to this unembarrassed display of so-called physical charms (which, after all, is only modern fashion's term for naked flesh), that, if the church does not wake up, we shall soon have a practical demonstration of the truth in the lines by Pope—

"Vice is a monster of such deadly mien,
As to be hated, needs but to be seen;
Yet seen too oft, familiar with her face,
We first endure, then pity, then embrace."

Surely, in the face of this, our country needs a holiness revival. Says someone, "But justification would fix things up on that line." Yes, my brother; but you forget that there is no such thing as salvation apart from holiness. Repentance is holiness begun; regeneration is holiness in operation both in heart and life; entire sanctification is complete holiness of heart, entire purity though not of necessity maturity; heaven is holiness triumphant. Yes, we need a holiness revival in the social world in order to preserve our national existence.

Our political life with its wire-pulling, with its legislation which favors all too much the forces of intemperance and evil, with its exposures, ever and anon, of crookedness and graft, needs such a readjustment as only a revival of holy religion can give.

In the Church world lukewarmness and coldness in the majority of cases prevail and the Church has lost her grip on the masses. We believe that this is due to the fact that the Church deserted her place in the spiritual realm and went into competition with the world along the lines of

education, social betterment, bun feeds and entertainment; she has become a great philanthropic force rather than the spiritual factor which she was ordained of God to be: and her leaders glory in the fact.

Feeling on every hand her impoverished condition and her rapid decline, if not decay, several of the larger branches of the organized church have united and out of their many small, spiritually-dead bodies made one gigantic combine. In order to effect this compromises had to be made. Would it were only in Church polity and nomenclature that such compromises were made; but, sad to relate, some doctrines which are the very foundations upon which our holy Christianity rest were willingly either abandoned, or so garbled as to be almost meaningless, in order to comply with the objections of one or other of the uniting bodies.

Many of the members of the uniting churches do not favor the union; but the majority carried the day. Despite all protests the bill for uniting these churches was presented to the various parliaments, federal and provincial, and there men who favor 4.4 beer discussed and wrangled over, and approved by them, of three supposed-to-be members of the body of Christ.

These bodies officially contend that they are working out in church life that oneness for which Jesus prayed. They seemingly failed to notice that the prayer of Jesus called for, not legislated union but spiritual oneness wrought in the hearts of believers who "are not of the world even as He was not of the world," by the power of God in the glorious work of entire sanctification.

My brethren, surely we need a great holiness revival in the face of such conditions.

What such a gigantic combine will mean for the holiness bodies we cannot conjecture. One of the prominent unionist divines is reported, by an anti-unionist clergyman of the same church (prior to union), to have said in committee that when the union would be effected the United Church of Canada would be an organization to whose word parliament would have to pay attention. The eminent divine absolutely denies having made such a remark. The other emphatically declares that the statement was made by the first. Be that as it may, let us consider a moment. It is well known that very many of the ministers of the now United Church of Canada are openly unfavorable to holiness teachings as exemplified in the writings of John Wesley. Let such sentiment ever predominate in such a gigantic federation and our places on the map as holiness people will be menaced. There may never be open persecution of the full salvation churches, but there will be the equally hard-to-face, strong, bitter, adverse sentiment. The holiness churches will certainly feel the pressure. The country will then be in the grip of such a huge, dead, ecclesiastical system as will almost, if not altogether, paralyze all special effort in the line of reaching souls.

Operating in Canada we find the Wesleyan Methodist Church (or Connexion), the Reformed Baptists' Alliance, the Holiness Movement Church, the Standard

Church of America, the Gospel Worker, the Mennonite Brethren in Christ, the Church of the Nazarene, the Free Methodist Church and the Pilgrim Holiness Church, besides the Salvation Army, which still numbers amongst its officers and soldiers many comrades who advocate and enjoy the experience of entire sanctification. All these are one in the doctrine of Christian, Pauline, Wesleyan holiness. They may have various side-issues, which to the people who hold to them are very dear, important, perhaps even considered fundamental; but on heart holiness, as a second definite experience subsequent to regeneration, they are one. They may each consider that their church is the best of all the good churches. They may each consider that they are the "closest-in" in the line of real apostolic succession. Each may consider such a thought in the bosom of the other to be prejudice; while in their own it is only church loyalty. Nevertheless, the cause of one is the cause of all; the good of one is the good of all; the need of one is the need of all; the peril of one is the peril of all. There ought to be a getting together.

"Well," you say, "then you favor a union of the holiness churches such as the other churches have effected."

Say, brother, organic union amongst the various holiness churches with their whole-hearted, high-strung, yet withal honest adherence to their various, so-called convictions, which have for years kept them apart, is a matter of such gigantic proportions that only God can work that out.

We do, however, advocate a getting together in spite of our various, opposing, so-called convictions, which do not possess any real moral quality: we pray for a greater spiritual affinity, less stand-offishness, and more practical charity, which we are told shall cover the multitude of sins; and are exhorted to have above all things. This can not be legislated into being; we cannot be legislated into oneness of heart and soul. We might be of one accord in desiring legislation; but the unity of John xvii., I Corinthians xiii and I Peter iv. 8, is beyond the scope of parliament.

We need to be blessed together. Holy fire will melt and thaw and "we shall flow and run together, saith the Lord." We need to meet together in prayer, in revival effort, in camp meetings. We need to work unitedly, labor harmoniously, and pray one-accordedly. WE NEED A HOLINESS REVIVAL IN CANADA AT THE PRESENT MOMENT.

Let holiness be revived amongst us and barriers will melt and disappear; prejudices will dissolve like snow in the blaze of a midsummer sun; in essentials we shall have unity; in non-essentials we shall enjoy liberty; in all things we shall feel and show charity; for real holiness will mean that they all will be one, as the Father is in Christ and Christ is in the Father; the truly sanctified-wholly believers will be one in God; and the world will believe that Jesus was the Sent One of the Father; yea it will be convinced and will KNOW. WE NEED A HOLINESS REVIVAL.