

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

THE ORGAN OF THE
REFORMED BAPTISTS OF CANADA

Published Semi-Monthly at Moncton, N. B.,
by a Committee of the Alliance

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SUBSCRIPTION PRICE:

Per Year, in advance.....	\$1.50
Ministers, per year	1.00
Four months' trial subscription.....	.40
Sample Copy	Free
United States Subscribers	1.75
Ministers, U. S. A.	1.25

MONCTON, N. B., JANUARY 31ST, 1933

EDITORIAL

IF

"If: 'God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life'. John 3:16. What should our attitude be toward lost men?"

If: "Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it; that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word. That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish". Eph 5:25, 26, 27. What should our attitude be toward unsanctified Christians?"

If: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love." Eph. 1:34. What shall we do with His choice for us?"

If: "As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation. Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy". 1 Peter 1:14, 15, 16. How shall we answer the call of God?"

If: "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor unto him; for the marriage of the lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints." Rev. 19-7, 8. Shall we accept the grant God has made?"

If: "Blessed are they that do his commandments; that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Rev. 22-14. Are we doing his commandments?"

If: "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years." Rev. 20-6. Are we ready for the first resurrection?"

If: "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God: And the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." Rev. 20-12. Are we ready for the final test?"

If: "And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither what-

soever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie; but they which are written in the lamb's book of life. Rev. 21-27. Will we be among the number that will inhabit that city?"

THE CURSE OF RUMORS

By Professor A. S. London

Two men agreed to make an experiment in the business of sending out rumors against a certain individual. Each would say to the first three men he met, "Have you heard about Smith?"—naming an officer of a certain corporation. "Well, if you haven't heard anything, don't say anything." Nothing more was said or done about the matter. But within one week the news was spread over the country that this individual had been fired by the corporation where he had labored for many years. It was also reported that he had stolen the company's funds, and had left the state where he resided. And to add to the rumors about the dear man, it was soon noised about that he had divorced his wife and gone off with another woman. The poor victim had to send a notice to the paper and give an explanation of the trick that had been pulled off on him.

Someone has said that many have fallen by the edge of the sword, but not as many as have fallen by the tongue. We have always been told that where there is much smoke there is bound to be some fire. But it is not true relative to rumor. Things can be told with no more foundation for truth than were the things told on the poor victim in the story. It takes but little to get a rumor started. An idle or a practical joke, a misrepresentation, and rumor is ready to start on a journey of slander, gossip and surmising.

Rumors bring suffering. A group of people can always be found to believe in them. One writer declares that it is easier to fight a whole army in a treacherous, mountainous land than to battle an idle rumor. The influences of rumors touch individuals, separate families, break up homes, blast hope, and leave a trail of blood, wreck and ruin. No matter where you live, or in what occupation you are engaged, the bloodhound, rumor, will finally scent your trail and run you down. No one is exempt.

Smedley Butler says that you can halt an advancing army, even though it be at great cost. But how can you stop a rumor? Poison gas comes along and by means of masks we escape its deadly fumes, but not so with a rumor. There is no mask that will stop a rumor. You cannot run away from it. It will follow you to the ends of the earth. It might be possible to dodge a bullet, but there is no way to dodge a rumor. One might be able to escape a dropping shell as it bursts overhead. But there is no way to escape a rumor carelessly dropped by someone. It goes on its lying, deceiving, murderous trail, and leaves its victim debauched in the minds of many who are willing to believe.

Rumors do not always bring death. It seems that sometimes death would be a relief. Malicious, wilful, treacherous lies, heralded over the country against those who are as innocent as a babe in the cradle, cause worry, annoyance, loss of influence and suffering among loved ones. And it all comes as the result of rumor.

I was in the home of that great preacher, Rev. Will Huff, just a few months before he went home to his heavenly Father. He told me of sitting in a conference some time ago where a brother's name was called. A man arose and asked that the man's name be referred to the committee. The bishop asked on what grounds, and the man replied, "Rumors." The presiding officer pushed back his chair and declared that on those grounds he could send one-half of the audi-

ence to the penitentiary and the other half to torment. All must suffer this deadly menace. Rumor has many aliases. Many a happy home is undermined by rumors and sent to the divorce courts. Gossip has broken up many a home. It has wrecked the religious life of many. Faith in God and Christianity have been destroyed by this devilish thing called rumor.

I know that rumors are the most wilful liars that one will meet in this life. They are the greatest trouble-makers. And whether you are a preacher or a layman, a leader in the church or state, if you are guilty of whispering, surmising, slandering, back-biting, gossiping or faultfinding, hell is your doom unless you seek forgiveness. Good people get into this habit, but no longer are they good. Do not be deceived in this matter. The apostle Paul says, "They that do these things are worthy of death."

Smedley Butler has written an article in a late magazine, saying that Dame Rumor is the "world's greatest liar." He tells of a recent case where rumors brought inconvenience, apprehension, and even suffering to more than one hundred thousand people. A certain banking institution was growing rapidly in size and influence. Its total resources were about seventy-five million dollars. Suddenly a host of rumors spread through the city that the institution was in an uncertain condition. The result was a run on the bank, followed by its voluntary closing in order to preserve the remaining assets. More than one hundred thousand depositors found themselves with their funds tied up indefinitely.

The Superintendent of Banking in that state, who took over the affairs of the closed bank, found it solvent and branded the rumors as malicious lies. Months have passed by and yet the bank has not reopened. Thousands have suffered, other institutions have been affected, merchants have gone without their money, children have been robbed of things they deserved and would have gotten, had not rumors been started. The tragedy of this rumor business is found in the suffering it brings to those who are perfectly innocent.

I am writing this article in one of the large cities of the South where one of the largest banking institutions of the country has just recently closed its doors. A business man told me a few days ago that more than fifty banks had closed as a result of this one large bank closing its doors, and it was all brought about by rumors. Rumors! How can a bank closing be compared with rumors that strike at the character of a noble human being? Things are told with no other thought in view to kill the influence of a brother or a sister. Sad to say, this is often done in the name of a superior Christian piety. It seems to me that hell will be mighty hot for the individual that starts rumors against an innocent brother.

Rumors and gossip can start wars and break friendships; they can cause annoyance and irritation; they can become the devil's tools for evil. They never admit defeat. They can easily scrap a peace treaty.

"Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbor, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor."

"If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able to bridle also the whole body."—*Herald of Holiness*.

Miss Grace Sanders will enter the Victoria Public Hospital at Fredericton, N. B., the latter part of February, as a nurse in training.