An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness THE ORGAN OF THE REFORMED BAPTISTS OF CANADA

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Published Semi-Monthly at Moncton, N. B.,

by a Committee of the Alliance

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

All correspondence for The Highway should reach us before the 12th and 25th of each month. Rev. H. S. Dow, 45 Archibald St., Moncton, N. B.

MONCTON, N. B., DECEMBER 31ST, 1935

EDITORIAL

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

Sewing New Cloth on Old Garments, Putting New Wine Into Old Bottles

On one occasion the Pharisees came to Jesus with a complaint, and wanted to know why his disciples did not follow more fully the customs of the disciples of John and the Pharisees in their religious devotions. In Jesus' answer he said no man seweth a piece of new cloth on an old garment; else the new piece that filled it up taketh away from the old, and the rent is made worse. And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine doth burst the bottles, and the wine is spilled, and the bottles will be marred; but new wine must be put into new bottles, Mark 2-21-22. The truth that Jesus seems to be trying to teach us in these little parables is that He did not come to put a few new patches on an old religious system, or to put some new life into it, but he did come to establish a new religious order, and to qualify men to live up to it by making them new creatures and purifying their hearts. The teachings of Jesus here as in many other places seem to run counter to the opinions of a great many people even in our day, for many seem to think that becoming a Christian simply means to make a few new resolutions, perhaps, at the beginning of the New Year, or at Lenten, or Easter time. Perhaps leaving off some old habits, or cultivating a few new ones, which things are very commendable in themselves, and all of which people will do if they get saved, but people may do these things and not be really born again, which simply amounts to putting new patches on old garments or new wine into old bottles. Great numbers of young people are baptized and received into church membership every Easter time who know nothing of the new birth, or of regeneration; but have simply put a few new patches on their old lives, and the pity and tragedy of such shallow religious work is, they are taught and made to believe that they are qualified now for Christian service here, and Heaven in the great hereafter. And when they once accept such teaching and rest in baptism, and church membership as a basis of salvation, it is just about impossible to reach them after that with the Gospel of salvaion from sin, for they always seem to rest in the fact that they have been baptized, and belong to such a church even though they know that they are not living right, and they often break their new resolutions. Now Jesus

teaches in these parables that for one to make these new vows as a basis of salvation without being born again or made new is worse than not making vows at all, for said he, it is like putting a new strong patch on an old worn garment which is not strong enough to hold the sewing—hence it tears away and the rent or hole is made worse or larger than it was before.

And to use the second figure to make promises or vows to live right without having the heart cleansed from all sin, is like putting new wine into old sour bottles, or wine skins which only sour the new wine, or cause it to ferment, and thus burst the old bottles and all is lost. Better is it that thou houldst not vow than that thou shouldst vow and not pay -Eccl. 5-5. We fear that throughout the churches of Christendom our Lord can see many such characters as are depicted in the foregoing. Souls that once made some new promises to serve God without being born again and sanctified wholly now living the same old life in sin; like an old garment with a new patch still hanging to it, but almost torn away, or many like old bottles with great rents in them through which the wine of joy of the once new life had leaked out because these new converts did not seek heart cleansing by the baptism with the Holy Ghost to thoroughly sterilize the soul from that evil principle which Paul calls the carnal mind. What a sorry sight all these souls must present to our Lord, who shed his blood and died to save men from sin, and who has plainly declared in his word that it is not enough to patch up the old life with a few New Year resolutions; but has said in the words of the Apostles: He that is in Christ is a new creature, and again if we walk in the light as he is in the light, the blood of Jesus Christ his son, cleanseth us from all sin. Methinks that if souls everywhere were taught to follow the instructions of the word of God in seeking salvation, that there would not be so many rent garments and broken bottles in the churches, for they would be able by His grace to pay their vows made to him.

CORRESPONDENCE

Hartland, N. B.

Dear Bro. Dow:—Just a few lines trusting this reaches you in time for the issue of the Highway. We spent a very joyous Christmas, indeed. It seems each year brings to our hearts more and more the real meaning of this blessed occasion, and makes us love Him more for coming to earth in our behalf.

Each Sunday School on this circuit had a Christmas-Missionary programme, which was a real inspiration and brought real blessing to our hearts. At each of these services a special offering was taken for Missions. Our president's appeal in the Highway for funds has stirred our hearts, as well as did the letter recently received from Bro. and Sis. MacDonald, and we pray our people in general will catch the vision that they need in order to impress them with the fact that each one must do just all they can if our work in the foreign field is kept open, thus making it possible for souls in heathen darkness to see the light. We feel like saying, many of our people have been, and are doing their best, but still others who have generous bank accounts, are holding tightly on to them, perhaps only to leave it all to unsaved families and friends to quarrel over. Beloved, "they that sow

sparingly, shall reap sparingly."

We would like to thank our many friends who remembered us with greeting cards and personal gifts; also we would make mention of the fine box of good things to eat that was placed in the back of our sleigh while we were at prayer meeting in Lr. Brighton the other night. The people on this field are very thoughtful and their donations and gifts this Christmas Tide have amounted to many dollars, for which we thank them one and all, and pray that God will enable us to feed their souls as well as they care for us in the temporal. God bless them.

Wishing you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

We are yours in Him, ARTHUR AND HAZEL OWEN.

Amherst, N. S., Dec. 26, 1935
Dear Highway:—Will the many kind friends of Dr. and Mrs. H. C. Sanders please accept their thanks for the many letters and cards with greetings for Christmas. "The blessing of the Lord that maketh rich and He addeth no sorrow with it," is our desire for

We have all had a most blessed time. Judson, Miriam and Charley are with us and we appreciate that.

each one.

Our faith is in God with whom is no variableness nor shadow of turning." Praise Him.

Yours in Jesus, MRS. H. C. SANDERS.

Amherst, N. S., Dec. 25, 1935 Dear Friends:—A happy New Year to you all! And may God give you "richly all things to enjoy," making your pilgrimage in 1936 the most useful yet, in His great harvest field.

During the past few months, since my parents have moved here to Amherst, God has so led, and I have been able to come in and spend a week or more at a time, helping, with some of those many little things that demand attention in converting a new dwelling place into "home." Mother has supplied for me during most of these times of absence, and the Westchester Church has nobly responded and co-operated, thus making this possible. I know God is, and will yet bless them much for this.

Monday mother arrived home in Amherst, bringing from Westchester two envelopes containing presents of money and kind Christmas wishes. May God bless these folk for their thoughtfulness in their "labours of love."

At this time I wish to thank all the friends for their kind Christmas greetings, etc. It is a treasured realization to know that many are remembering us in prayer. "making mention" of us at the throne of grace as the spirit "helpeth." We are praying that God will "give repentance" to those who are out in the world, without hope, and without God, fast hastening to an endless eternity in hell. May God give us a vision of the tremendous need, and of His abundant provision.

Yours in Him, CHARLIE D. SANDERS.

Port Maitland, Yor. Co., N. B., Dec. 19, 1935 Dear Mr. Dow:—I am enclosing money for renewal of my Highway. I enjoy reading its pages and am thankful for the help I receive from it.

I am spending the Xmas holidays at home, and am returning to my studies at the Yar-