

THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —
REFORMED BAPTISTS OF CANADA

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Editor and Business Manager - Rev. H. S. Dow
Associate Editor - - - - Rev. H. C. Mullen
Other Members of Committee: Rev. P. J. Trafton, Rev.
H. M. Kimball, Rev. H. L. Robertson

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SPECIAL NOTICE

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Rev. H. S. Dow, 45 Archibald St., Moncton, N. B.

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EDITORIAL

REVIVALS, OR TIMES OF REFRESHING FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD.

The fall of the year seems to be the time when many of our churches begin special evangelistic meetings for the purpose of getting souls saved and the churches strengthened.

We call them revival meetings or special services. The old folk used to call them protracted meetings or reformations, or God's time to favor Zion. Well, meetings of this nature seem to be in divine order. Peter said that times of refreshing would come from the presence of the Lord. And after Pentecost he and others of the Apostles and disciples of our Lord went various places and preached the gospel and often saw many souls turn to the Lord, get saved and filled with the Holy Spirit.

And I suppose that nearly all of the men and women who now make up the membership of our churches were saved in times of special revival effort. But we have often been distressed, and wonder why we do not have more visible results from the efforts that we make in revival meetings in these days. Notice we say visible results because we are ready to admit that there may be more good accomplished in our special efforts oftentimes than are visible to the eyes of man: Yet we are often disappointed because we do not see more: And we often wonder why! Some people tell us that there are certain spiritual laws operating when souls are being saved, just as there are natural laws operating in the physical world which the farmer must observe, and co-operate with if he would raise a good crop of grain. If there are such spiritual laws I think that they must be very simple so that we may be able to discover them and work in harmony with them if we will. Perhaps there are times when we depend too much on revival meetings, special efforts and evangelists, etc., and not enough on God, who is the source from which all genuine scriptural revivals must come, and that is why we fail. Peter said the times of refreshing will come from the presence of the Lord. It seems that when the time comes that we want to hold special meetings, about the first question we ask is, Who will we get for an evangelist to help us? So we talk the matter over with the church, or official board, or perhaps without consulting the church, the pastor, decides on some evangelist whom he thinks will fill the bill. First of all he wants an evangelist who can attract the crowds, for how can we get

people saved if they do not come to church? Sometimes we engage special singers also and musicians for they certainly help to draw people, because most people like music. Oftentimes the pastor or church writes to several evangelists before they can secure one, because they are already engaged. But a man is finally secured and of course they think that this evangelist is the Lord's chosen, and all are encouraged and glad he is coming, for no doubt they will have a revival. So on the appointed time the evangelist and singers come. The meetings have been well advertised, the crowds come, and the meetings are away to a good start. The evangelist preaches with eloquence and seeming earnestness, his best set of sermons. The musicians play, the singers sing, and the preacher tells his touching stories, a great many of which are not true to fact, but they help to entertain the people who would rather hear them than the Word of God, and so the interest increases—and everybody seems to be happy.

Now of course the pastor and church are looking for results in the salvation of souls. So with a few high pressure methods, together with his interesting stories and a winning personality and quite a bit of coaxing, some souls are persuaded to take their stand, and profess to accept Christ as their Saviour. Oftentimes in the more spiritual churches, some are persuaded to come forward and kneel at an altar of prayer, and many seem to get saved, and there is great joy in the presence of the people over the seeming success.

Well, the days pass quickly and the time soon comes when according to schedule the meetings must close and the special workers must go on to their next appointment. The appeal is made for money to pay them, which meets with a good response for all the people are in love with the visiting workers, and are very sorry indeed to see them go, because they never did hear such preaching and singing before. So they are well paid, and the last night of the meeting comes, and midst many fond good-byes, tears and expressions of regret the workers take their departure, with a sigh of relief. The best of friends must part.

Yes, they are gone, and so are the attractions, and the crowds and special interest and the church must settle down to ordinary things again. A few days or perhaps weeks pass and those new converts which looked so promising saw the waning interest, the big reaction, the drop in attendance and they began to lose their interest also, and don't come to service so regular, and are absent from prayer-meeting first, then only come occasionally to preaching services, and soon come no more. The poor pastor who worked so hard, is bewildered. The church is discouraged, and wonder what was the matter, and why did the meetings fail to produce some permanent results. They had everything that was necessary to have a real scriptural revival: but one thing. One thing was: God!

We will try to tell you why He was not there, in a later issue.—H. S. D.

The two powers which, in my opinion, constitute a wise man are bearing and forbearing.—Epictetus.

Truth crushed to earth shall rise again—

The eternal years of God are hers;

But Error, wounded, writhes with pain,

And dies among his worshippers.

LET'S BE CONSISTENT

Sentencing two drunken drivers to prison, Judge Clarence L. Kincaid, of Los Angeles, announced that hereafter he would apply the utmost severity of the law in all cases where driving while intoxicated was charged.

Judge Kincaid's example should be adopted as the fixed rule in all the courts of the land. There is no opposition to the proposals, for the wets as well as the dries are in agreement on the matter.

It is interesting to read an editorial in a metropolitan wet newspaper discussing the same matter in which the following pointed statements are made:

"The operator of a motor car is actually in control of a mechanism that can and often does function as a deadly weapon. When that operator impairs his senses and reactions by the use of alcohol, when he so loses prudence and judgment that he takes the wheel after drinking, when he is so lost to responsibility and human consideration that he drives his car while drunk—then that operator can be said to be no better than a drunken fool who runs amuck in the streets with an automatic pistol.

"He is just as much a murderer. For there is a definite element of premeditation in the act of deliberate drinking and afterwards deliberate driving when drunk.

Obviously he belongs in prison. And it is to be hoped that other judges will see the question as clearly and act as effectively as Judge Kincaid."

But what about the man who sold the liquor that made these drunken drivers drunk? He certainly is morally responsible for what drunk drivers do. If he hadn't sold them the liquor they might not have gotten drunk. And the newspaper that carries liquor advertising is likewise responsible in such cases, for it is the advertising that put it in the minds of the men to buy a certain brand of liquor. The newspaper from which the above editorial is quoted, carries enough liquor ads in its pages to give the average man the "blind staggers."

It is such hypocrisy that makes a lot of people disgusted.—National Voice.

CRIMELESS INDIANS: CLEAN, ORDERLY. THEY LIVE IN CYPRESS SWAMPS.

While the Chicago Crime Commission was announcing triumphantly that murder and burglary in America's second city had been cut forty-five per cent in five years, and robbery more than sixty per cent, scientists were apprising the whole country of the fact that the Louisiana bayou country has a tribe of Indians which are crimeless. Prof. F. G. Speck, of the University of Pennsylvania, tells us that they are the descendants of the mound builders, who developed a high type of civilization some four hundred years before the appearance of the white man. "The people live near Houma, Louisiana, in comfort and simplicity in the vast marshes and cypress swamps in which the white man does not survive. They are contented, peaceable, well-ordered, virtually crimeless, and extremely clean." Dr. Speck adds, "They suggest a connection with earlier peoples on the Mexican coast and the gulf, whose position is still a problem in respect to the influence from Mexico, which may have resulted in the development of the mound builder's civilization of the Mississippi Valley."—Christian Advocate.