

# 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	1.50
Ministers, U. S. A.	1.25

## SPECIAL NOTICE

All correspondence for The Highway should reach us before the 12th and 25th of each month.  
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MONCTON, N. B., AUGUST 15TH, 1941

## EDITORIAL

The tragic ending of a great life.

I suppose many of the readers of the King's Highway have heard of the sudden death of Dr. William L. Tracey, of Pittsfield, Mass., on Aug. 2nd, and to many no doubt the sad news came as they did to the editor, with a great shock. And his only sister, Mrs. W. E. Smith, and Brother Smith, of Somerville, Mass., and their family have our prayers and sincere sympathy in this time of their great sorrow.

It is sad indeed when any useful person is cut off by death while still comparatively young, and able to render valuable service to his fellow man. But when such an one dies by his own hand, it is indeed too sad for words.

Dr. Tracey was in many respects a great man. As many of our readers know, he was born at Hartland, N. B. His father died when he was quite young. He was a member of our church there, and we have often heard him spoken of as a devout Christian young man. He worked hard to get an education, graduated from the Normal school at Fredericton. He taught for some time, then attended U. N. B. in preparing for his life's work. Next he went to McGill College, studied medicine, and graduated with honors. He moved to Pittsfield, Mass., where he was largely instrumental in building Hillcrest Hospital, and there he built up a great practice as a competent surgeon.

He was regarded as one of the best in the state. He was looked up to by many as a clean, trusty, kind-hearted doctor. We had the privilege of calling at his home a few years ago and he very kindly took his fine car and drove us around, and showed us the city and surrounding country. He was ambitious to make a success of his profession, which was commendable indeed. Possibly he was partially at least, inspired in this by the high motive of wanting to be a blessing to suffering humanity. And at this point he no doubt met the same temptation that many good men have met, and which perhaps has been the cause of some losing God and their souls.

The temptation we speak of is to emphasize the wrong thing, to allow the good things in life to take the place of the better, and the best. Our Lord said: "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness and all these things (material things) shall be added unto you."

Although we did speak to Dr. Tracey several years ago about his spiritual condition, we have often wondered how he stood the test of temporal prosperity, or what effect it had on his spiritual life. We hear that he was a church member and gave quite largely to its support. We do, however, say this in the fear of God and without any desire to embarrass the bereaved ones, who no doubt have suffered much already, that God never inspires any one to take his own life. That is contrary to what is written in His word. The only hope that we can have for the soul of one who does such a thing is that he may have done it in a fit of insanity when the victim was not responsible for his deed. Or he may have had time and reason after he delivered the fatal stroke to truly repent of his deed before he crossed the line of worlds and thus found mercy with his God. Whatever the cause was, back of such a deed, and there surely was a cause which led to such a tragedy, and only God knows how much the soul that did it was responsible. But the mental and soul agony must have been tremendous to drive a man to self-destruction. We read sometime ago that there were 12,000 suicides in the United States in one year, and 26 of them were millionaires. What a warning to those who go after success in material things, and leave God out of their plans. And how inadequate are money, wealth, popularity and position to satisfy the soul needs of men! Only God can do that.

Truly did the Apostle say: "A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things he possesseth." We are also reminded of the following words of the poet:

"The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power,  
And all that beauty or that wealth e'er  
gave,

Await alike the inevitable hour,

The paths of glory lead but to the grave."

Fifty doctors were present at the funeral service of Dr. Tracey, which was held at Pittsfield, Mass., on Aug. 4th. God bless his sorrowing relatives.—H. S. D.

## ARE YOU AFRAID?

Hannah Whitall Smith, author of "The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life," tells of a Christian woman who, asked to surrender everything to the Lord, frankly said she was afraid of what it might mean in her life. Afraid of what God might do to her! She was a mother, and she had a little boy. Mrs. Smith said to her, "Have you ever asked your little boy to do what you wanted him to do?"

"Yes, many times."

"Has he ever refused to do it?"

"Yes, I am sorry to say, sometimes."

"Suppose you had asked him to do certain things for you, and he had not done them, and one day he came to you and drew your head close down to his lips and whispered, 'Mother, I am going to do whatever you ask me to do now; I am going to obey you now, and try to do everything you want me to do, Mother.'"

"If your little boy said that and you knew he meant it, would you go away by yourself and try to think of hard things that you could ask him to do? He would be in your power now; he means to obey you, to do anything you ask him. So would you lie awake nights to try to think up the most unpleasant things you could get him to do? Or would you throw your arms around him and say, 'Oh, little son, Mother can show you NOW how much she loves you, as she never could before.'—The Philippine Evangelist.

## MINISTERIAL COURTESIES

The retiring minister can make things pleasant or unpleasant for the newcomer according to the attitude that he takes. If the retiring pastor is only a short distance from his former field he may be excused if he keeps up the ties of friendship that he has formed. He will be in demand for funerals or weddings. It is entirely right that people should have the minister of their choice in times of joy or bereavement, but the conscientious minister will beware how far he will intrude into the realm of another man. He is no longer pastor there, and the resident pastor should have the undivided loyalty of his people. The people ought to be made to feel their responsibility to the new man and that they ought to show him the ordinary courtesies.

One pastor, who was called to a neighboring church made a public announcement before he left and clearly defined his attitude. He said, "Until you secure a new pastor I shall be glad to come to you whenever you need me, provided I can do so without interfering with my duties to my people. After my successor arrives I do not want you to call on me for any pastoral service; it would embarrass both him and me."

During the three months which followed, that pastor married seventeen couples in his old charge and attended many funerals. Several of the young people said that they had hastened the date of their wedding so that he might perform the ceremony. Whether any of the funerals were due to similar desire on the part of the deceased is not known. After three months the new pastor arrived and the people faithfully observed the unwritten contract.

The members of churches do not often think of these questions of ministerial courtesy, and hence they err in ignorance. It is the duty of the pastor to explain the situation. But some men seem flattered that their services are still desired and some even proffer their services.

Even though the minister should meet with discourtesies from other brethren and churches, though slighted, neglected, or merely tolerated, he should be big enough and Christian enough to forget it all. He should be like his Master—indifferent to either praise, blame, notoriety or obscurity, doing his work and leaving results with God.—Selected.

## PRAYERS: BIG AND LITTLE

The great soul prays, "Lord, make me as big as my problem" while the little soul prays, "Lord, let me off easy."

The giant soul asks, "Lord give me strength sufficient for a hard day" as the small soul begs, "Lord let me have a lighter load."

The greatest heart prays, "Lord, let me stand firm when the fight is the hardest," the craven heart cries, "Lord, let me escape."

The crusader soul sends up the prayer, "Lord, stand with me until I finish my task."—Good Tidings.

## CARNALITY GONE

Someone asked Brother M. L. Haney, of precious memory, in his ninetieth year, shortly before his translation, how long since he had felt the stirrings of carnality. He replied, with heavenly glow lighting his face, "It has been sixty-six years since I felt the least stir on the inside."

The important thing is not, "Do you profess holiness,—go with the crowd?" but, "Has the 'old man' been crucified?" (Romans 6:6), and "Is he now dead?"