

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., MARCH 31ST, 1942

EDITORIAL

STRAWS IN THE WIND

There's an old saying which goes "By watching the straws you can tell which way the wind is blowing."

A straw is a little, lifeless, worthless thing, so insignificant, and harmless that no one takes any notice of it as it lies there quietly on the ground. But let the breeze spring up and the wind begin to blow and immediately it becomes a true indicator of one of the mighty forces of nature: By the action of the straw as it is being carried along by the force of the wind, we can tell which way the wind is blowing and govern ourselves accordingly. Thus little harmless looking things in life often reveal unto us the true nature of the personality or the character of the one who is responsible for the little act.

You cannot tell what a man is by the big things he does when he is on duty, or under compulsion. Perhaps we all do many things that we would not do if we did not feel that we were compelled to. We are constrained to do many things because we know that we will fare worse if we do not do them. Some one has said that most men are as lazy as they dare to be. Watch a person when he is off duty, when constraint is off, when school is out, or vacation time comes. See what his hobby is, what he does for pastime, then the true nature of his soul will find expression in the things that he enjoys most.

The Bible warns us of the dangers of indulging in and tolerating little things in our lives which are questionable just because we think that they are harmless. James says, "Whosoever shall keep the whole law and offend in one point, he is guilty of all." The apostle also tells us that great evil may be the result of a very small beginning. He says the tongue is a little member and boasteth great things: "Behold how great a matter (wood) a little fire kindleth." Christians are on guard against big sins; but, sometimes they allow little sins to creep in and destroy their usefulness. The wise man said, "little foxes spoil the vines."

When this writer was a boy our father set out a new orchard of young fruit trees. He built a strong high fence around it to keep the horses and cows out and thus protect the small trees, but we noticed one spring that some of the trees did not leaf out as formerly, and finally died: On examination we discovered that mice had gnawed the bark off all around the trees near the ground so cut off the supply of sap which proved fatal to the would-be

fruit-bearers. We had protected them against large animals by a high strong fence, but had failed to guard against the little harmless looking mice; hence, we learned how "little foxes spoil the vines."

Now to come back to our text of "Straws in the Wind." I think that we can usually tell the trend of one's love by the little things in his life and conversation. A man may even preach the glorious gospel of Christ on Sunday, but, listen to his conversation on Monday, and other days when he is not preaching. Is his language as clean and edifying then as it was when he was on duty? Or does he indulge in coarse jokes and worldly conversation to entertain others of his kind? Watch the straws: "From the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." When I see a good sister who professes to be dead to the world with its fads and fashions, and professes to love God with all her heart, when I see such an one begin to do things that she once condemned, go out in public and to church and camp-meeting with shorter sleeves and abbreviated skirts and with a few more curls and kinks in her hair for no other reason than that it is the style, it makes us think of straws in the wind.

At our camp-meeting at Beulah last summer we were made to think of some of our inconsistencies. We demanded our girls who waited on tables in the dining-room to wear long sleeves, which demand we find no fault with, but why should we let women take the public platform in our religious services and sing specials, with shorter sleeves than we demand of the waitresses, and in some cases scarcely any sleeves at all? And another question if you please: Why should parents let their big girls, nearly full grown, run about the grounds and travel the roads with no stockings on to cover their bare limbs? Do you say, because it is the style, and so many are doing it that our girls want to show their bare limbs also. Are we becoming lax on the question of worldliness? Watch the straws.

This writer is not unmindful of the fact that it takes some grace, courage, and will power to run against the wind and tide of this world, but, friends, we must do so or perish. The spiritual tide of this world is running strong hellward, and at this time threatens to carry the church with it to destruction. The things which we have mentioned are only the straws on the surface which tell us whither we are drifting. Dead things go downward with the current. It takes life to go against it.

"One ship sails east and one sails west,

By the self same wind that blows;

It's the set of the sail and not the gale,

That determines the way it goes.

"Like the winds of the sea are the ways of the world,

As we voyage along through life,

It's the will of the soul that decides our goal,

And not the calm, or the strife."

REMEMBER

It is no time to slacken our interest in foreign missions. When a house is on fire we ought not to call off the fire brigade because our own house does not happen to be in any immediate danger, for slight shift of the wind may suddenly change the whole picture and our house be in imminent danger. Now no one denies that the world is ablaze. If we had given our sons and daughters as foreign missionaries fifty years ago we would not need to send them

now as soldiers. If we had given our money to spread the gospel in heathen lands we would not be paying such high taxes today. It looks as though we have to give whether we want to or not. Remember, it is no time now to call in the fire brigade when our house is threatened. Who knows when the enemy may be knocking at our doors?

Any missionary organization operating around the world cannot be reduced over night. In fact, it always costs more when the regular procedure of events is disrupted. The movement of mission forces costs three times more now than in normal times. High cost of living is always a problem. Then, too, a small reserve ought to be built up to take care of the extra load which is bound to fall upon us when peace comes. This is no time to call off the fire brigade.

Our Reserve Army is over 7,000 strong now. It is really standing by in prayer these days for all mission work at home and abroad. It is not our purpose to call on the Army forces for finance until we need to do so. Many have sent in their two dollars, and some ten dollars, to be credited against their emergency pledge. They tell us that they do have the money now and may not have it when the "evil" day comes. They are not to be called on for funds until all the forces have paid a like amount.

Do not fail to pray for our native Christians, with their missionaries, in foreign lands. They are being tried as by fire these days. As a result of this testing time, may light break upon other darkened souls until revival fires shall be kindled everywhere and usher in a new day for the world. Jesus and His gospel message are still the best news this old world has ever had.—Sel.

AM I?

By a Concerned Pastor

Just this day I received into the church in full connection a lady who for over forty years had been rather closely connected with the Free Methodist Church but who had never been converted nor joined the church until this year. She spent six years in grade and high school work in one of our seminaries, four years at one of our senior colleges, working her way through both institutions. Later she taught four years in one of our junior colleges. She has always had the greatest respect and love for the church, but even though highly respected and appreciated for her excellent personal qualities and her ability, she had never been sought and won for Jesus.

There are doubtless many factors entering into this case, but it has caused me to question: Am I doing my utmost to seek and win them for Jesus? The captivating thing about the ministry of Moody, of Finney and of the great apostle Paul himself is the fact that they won multitudes for Christ. It is so easy to become engrossed with cares, loaded with responsibilities, doing many things for many people, serving the church, when our chief business is winning men for Jesus.

Brethren, are we as pastors actually winning men for Jesus? Am I? That must be the ultimate test of our success.—Sel.

The Episcopal women have started a campaign to rebuild St. Paul's Cathedral in London, which was wrecked by Nazi bombs. The funds will be available at the close of the war for the rehabilitation of this historic structure built by Sir Christopher Wren.—Herald of Holiness.