

HOLDING TO THE BEST

By Rev. W. Edmund Smith

It is an old saying but one so true, "that the good is the enemy of the better and the best." In nothing is this principle better demonstrated than in the way in which high cultural attainments and educational progress so often militate against, and even destroy the true kingdom of God, which is within you, and which consists "not of meat and drink but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost."

True, God places no premium on ignorance. We cannot estimate the physical blessings and comforts that have come to us through the discovery of those laws that govern health and the harnessing of those forces that have been ever latent in the Universe. Because of this we could say "Fifty years of Europe for a cycle of Cathay."

But this apothem was coined before the other World War and did not foresee the present world holocaust. Hence we see that modern science has directed its knowledge not merely to the alleviating of disease and the multiplying of those machines and gadgets that bring human comfort, but has also produced awful weapons for the destruction of life and property, such as were never dreamed of in the days of the battle-axe and the bow and arrow. Thus has man perverted that power and those resources to destructive ends when God intended them for constructive purposes and for the blessing of mankind.

How limited the vision of those who have ever preached and taught that the knowledge which comes through college curriculums and educational programs can cure the ills of human life and make man a real child of God! Never since the time of ancient Greece has a nation so emphasized the glory of knowledge as has Germany. No country has ever had a higher educational standard and in no land has knowledge in the lower realm been so diffuse.

But it has been the glorification of the intellect that has brought destruction to Germany and demonstrated that under the garb of high culture there lies the heart more ferocious than that of the tiger and more crafty than that of the fox. Yes, Germany turned from the Bible as the supreme authority in religion and deified the intellect, accepting the philosophy of the mad Nitesche and the rationalism of Semlar and Paluus. In the name of progress she has reverted to heathenism and is seeking to impose her "kulture" upon the world.

Why this awful condition? all because Germany has forgotten to seek that knowledge that makes one wise unto salvation, and which was emphasized by Martin Luther in the days of the Reformation. She scoffs at the Bible and the teachings of Christ and is acting on the principle that "Might makes right."

Should not we learn wisdom by such an example! But we are slow to learn, and we keep on making the same mistake which can only lead to disaster. In our own land we have seen great educational institutions whose foundations were laid through the sacrifice and devotion of evangelical Christians, who regarded personal salvation as the highest good, and sought to make educational progress tributary to real faith. These institutions had a humble beginning and when they were poor and struggling, remained true to those principles that gave them birth. But when prosperity came we have seen proud professors, who pursued post-graduate courses in Germany come in to undermine faith in the divine revelation and to laugh at Christian experience as the delusion of a neurotic temperament. Man is in the grip of evolutionary forces and will make his way upward to God. Sin is

only good in the making. The morality of Bertrand Russell is preferable to that of the New Testament. So they say.

I say this with calm reflection; that preacher or institution that invalidates the authority of the Bible in the matter of religious experience, and who ridicules the fundamental doctrines of the Bible, as Sin, The New Birth, Entire Sanctification by faith is more dangerous to the true cause of God than is the infidel man or institution. But how easy for us who profess to believe all this and to teach it too, soon to fall down to worship at the shrine of a semi-atheistic institution because of the prestige it enjoys.

We reckon the honors from such institutions to be sought after and gloried in. When I see a young man from a humble holiness college, gain special honors at one of these rationalistic universities, and be appointed to their faculty, I wonder how a holiness audience can fairly raise the roof with applause when the announcement is made, when the leaders at least, know that that institution stands utterly opposed to the doctrines and experiences taught by their college. But such a spirit is easy to explain. We so-called humble folks feel we are going places and are being recognized. We are saying we have D.D.'s too as big as any of them. True some of ours weigh 250 lbs. and are growing every day. We love the greetings in the market-places. "Doctor" to us is far more euphonious than "Brother." "We are being recognized," we say. The early church became recognized by Constantine and suffered no more martyrdoms and death. It marked the end of the glory of the early Church and the beginning of her decay. It marked the birth of the Roman hierarchy and prepared the world for the "Dark Ages." But all the while the church was singing, "We are rich and increased in goods and have need of nothing". If Wesley could come back and hear what is being taught in so-called Methodist college halls and in Methodist pulpits, today what would he say? He would be greeted as an old Rip Van Winkle that has been long asleep. Yes there are those who hold high degrees from great institutions of learning who regard such talk a huge joke. But you question them closely as to their convictions on religious experience and the future life, they are as uncertain as a heathen. It is all a matter of speculation and my opinion is as good as yours. They are ever learning and never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.

Yes, we must be called old fogys if we go on with Christ. But get a living faith that fully satisfies the soul and one can have such a revelation of God as not to be afraid of any truth. He does not have to hide his head in the sand and dream of safety. He knows that God is the God of Nature as well as of Revelation and they do not contradict each other. But like Paul he can reckon all intellectual knowledge as subordinate to that of heart-knowledge. As the great Pascal said, "the heart has experiences the head cannot explain."

But when the glory of the indwelling Holy Ghost departs the shout is gone and we turn to hand-clapping. We recently heard a great singer at a holiness meeting sing a wonderful selection. I think it must have been classical for it was tremendous—in volume at least. Some creatures that resembled angels, in their long garments, were hidden back of the rostrum, and at an opportune time sang most rapturously. We could not distinctly understand but feel sure it was something religious and about God and heaven. It was a wonderful performance and when ended the audience broke forth into the most terrific applause I have ever heard at a religious gathering. All such things make one feel that we are going places. All the pomp and show and honors

that belong to the patronage of the world, take the place of real spiritual emotion. We are whirled around in the eddies of marginals and have gotten out of the current of highest reality, and the people love to have it so.

Holiness churches and holiness colleges were raised up not to teach a mere fad and fancy, but to teach and enjoy the central truth, Christianity. Some may call it a side-track. Paul called it the main-line. We can become popular if we tone down the rugged truth. We soon become too cool to burn anybody. We become more courteous to men than we are to the Holy Ghost. It soon has to be done all over again. The third generation loses the vision and builds up again the things their grandfathers destroyed. They still pursue the good but neglect the best which is holiness of heart and life.

OBITUARY

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord."—Revelation 14-13.

Mrs. Frank Kinney

Mrs. Eva Kinney, wife of the late Frank Kinney, passed away on the evening of June 17th at the age of 82 years.

Mrs. Kinney was born in Port Maitland, N.S., and died in her late home at Yarmouth, N. S. In the passing of Mrs. Kinney the Reformed Baptist Church of Port Maitland has lost one of its oldest charter members. While living in Yarmouth Mrs. Kinney attended the Temple Baptist Church where she was dearly loved and greatly appreciated. Sister Kinney retained her membership in our church at Port Maitland. She always kept a keen interest in her little church and stood by her pastors with her means and prayers. She was a beautiful Christian character and a great lover of holiness. Many shall arise and call her blessed.

The following are left to mourn: One daughter, Mrs. Grace Roy, Yarmouth, N. S.; two sisters, Mrs. Donald Campbell, Seattle, Wash., and Mrs. Rupert Flecker, Montrose, N. S.; one brother, Charles Jeffery, Somerville, Mass.; some grandchildren and great grandchildren and a large circle of friends.

The funeral was held from Sweeney's Funeral Parlors on June 20th. Her pastor, Rev. G. A. Rogers, officiated and spoke from Phil. 1:21. Rev. F. Parlee assisted. Singers from the Temple Baptist Church rendered three beautiful selections. The floral tributes were beautiful.

Interment was made in the Mountain Cemetery at Yarmouth, N. S.

May God bless the mourning hearts in this hour of great loss. G. A. R.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Brother Dow:

Somerville, Mass.

Enclosed you will find money order for the subscription of the King's Highway. This is for my father, Mr. E. Ramsey, who has been a constant reader of your paper for a number of years. He enjoys it very much and although many of the folks we used to know have passed on, there is still a lot of good and helpful reading in its pages.

My father has had a sick spell in the last two weeks but has recuperated very nicely for which we are very thankful.

We always pass the paper on to someone else to enjoy.

Do hope you will always continue in your good work and may the Lord bless you.

Sincerely,
MRS. ARVED SWENSON