

THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

—THE ORGAN OF THE—

REFORMED BAPTISTS OF CANADA

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EDITORIAL

LOST OPPORTUNITY

"As thy servant was busy here, and there, he was gone."—I. Kings 20:40.

Introduction to our text. Ahab, the wicked king of Israel, had defeated Ben-Hadad, king of Syria, and taken him prisoner. The Syrian king pretended that he was very penitent, and induced Ahab to let him go back home, which was contrary to God's will. Then one of the prophets disguising himself as a soldier, went out and met Ahab, and pretended that a prisoner had been left in his care and he had become responsible for him, but while he was busy, here and there, the prisoner escaped! Whereupon, Ahab pronounced punishment on him for his carelessness, and thus condemned himself. This scripture suggests to us the caption of this article, viz.: "Lost Opportunity." Some one has said that Opportunity knocks at our door but once, and sad will be our case and great our loss if we fail to seize it by the fore-lock and make proper use of it while we may, for it will never call again. We read of an artist who painted a picture which he called Opportunity. Its forelock was hanging over its face, almost concealing it from view. The back of its head was bald, and it had wings on its feet. In explaining the painting to a friend, he said: you see its face is covered, that is why men seldom recognize opportunity when it comes, and if they do know it, they must seize it by the forelock for the back of its head is bare; and with the wings on its feet, if you let it pass, it goes so swiftly, you can never overtake it.

How suggestive this picture is, for how often people let opportunities slip from them that never come again. Let us consider first the opportunity of getting saved. The scripture implies that men may let this all important opportunity slip, and lose their soul. How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation—Heb. 2:3. Also read Isaiah 55:6: Seek ye the Lord while he may be found; call ye upon him while he is near. This scripture surely implies that there may come a time when we cannot find God. In our work of the ministry we have met a few cases like this: Men whom we tried, without success, to interest in salvation while they were enjoying good health, but we were called to their bedsides later when they were sick and dying, and seemed to want spiritual help, but were so under the influence of a narcotic, which had

been given to allay their pain, that they were too drowsy to think of their soul's need, and died evidently without finding God, because they were so busy here and there, when they had health, they let opportunity go by.

Notice, please, he says busy here and there. Someone has said busy doing nothing: Nothing of importance, wasting precious time, which might be used profitably in many ways. Men are busy with legitimate cares and business but neglecting their soul need.

Women are busy here and there gossiping, listening to cheap trash over the radio, running from house to house, attending social functions, societies, clubs, playing cards, etc., when they should be reading their bibles, and having prayers with their family and instructing their children in the word of God and the way of righteousness. Busy in business and doing war work, neglecting their homes and families until they have lost their hold on them, and family and home are gone, while they are busy here and there."

Young people are so busy seeking pleasure attending movies, running out nights, that they lose the opportunity to get the rest and mental, and soul culture they need to build strong bodies, minds and Christian characters. Many young men are busy frittering away their time on trifles when they might be getting an education that would fit them for a place of usefulness in the work of God. "Study to show thyself approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.—II. Tim. 2:15.

Youth is the time that offers opportunities for education. If young people fail to seize these, they will soon pass them by, and be gone, and they never will be able to overtake them, and will be handicapped all their lives for want of education.

"There is a tide in the affairs of men which if taken at the flood, leads on to fortune Omitted, all the voyage of life is bound in shallows and in miseries: And we must take the current when it serves or lose our ventures."

Many professing Christians are so busy here and there with social life and activities in their church that they have no time left for secret prayer, or waiting on the Lord, without which, they cannot be strong in the Lord, or render acceptable service to Him. Without much secret prayer, the soul gets lean, the spiritual vision dim, and faith becomes weak, and backsliding is imminent. Many have lost Jesus because, "while they were busy here and there He was gone."

"Take time to be holy, speak oft with the Lord,
Confide in him always and feed on His word."

Many are busy here and there, dying and without God; because of lost opportunities, which means lost souls. H. S. D.

A STARTLING QUESTION

A poor child strayed into a Sunday school and asked simply: "Is this the way to heaven?" The superintendent was startled. Was the school indeed the "way to heaven?" The artless question struck home to both superintendent and teachers. What were they all doing? Whither were they tending? . . . O superintendents, teachers, make sure of one thing: with all your efforts to impart knowledge, make the salvation of the soul paramount.—Sunday School Times.

THE MAYOS AND RELIGION

The patient could not live. Medical science had contributed its all, and it was not enough.

Dr. William James Mayo left the sick-room, grave and beaten. Waiting outside was a minister, the spiritual adviser of the sick man. He saw the gloom on the physician's face and it needed no interpretation.

"It's no use, Reverend," Dr. Mayo said, aware that the clergyman had been watching him closely. "It's just a matter of a few hours now."

"Let me see him once more," the minister pleaded. "Let me pray with him again."

"Of course. Perhaps you can bring that sick man something I have been unable to contribute."

When Dr. Mayo returned to the sick-room an hour later, the patient had rallied. His pulse was stronger. Some hidden spark had burst into flame. In another hour the crisis was past. Next day the patient was on his way to recovery. Dr. Will marveled.

He still was a relatively young doctor when that experience befell him. At that time the renowned Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, was no more than a vision of Dr. Will, his brother, Charles Horace Mayo, and their father, Dr. William Worrall Mayo. But when the experience was repeated once, twice, and yet again, the noted surgeon had a practical demonstration in the efficacy of religion which he accepted as an important ally to his profession.

In their fifty years of medical pioneering the Mayo brothers helped to lift their calling to its present high plane. They made Rochester a medical capital without peer throughout the world. Of the millions of dollars that came to them, they turned back a large portion to educational institutions and philanthropies. They took the sick man's money and put it to work, relieving the suffering and prolonging the lives of other sick.

Long before their deaths in the summer of 1939, they had established themselves as great medical scientists, honored by universities and societies of practically every nation for their numberless contributions to humanity.

They were exceedingly busy men who daily faced demands on their time which they could not possibly meet. Their father, even before they had won doctor of medicine degrees, was known as a skilled and daring surgeon. He had such a large practice at Rochester that physicians in the vicinity came to him to learn. He made a practice of reserving his most unusual surgical feats for Sunday mornings, when other doctors found it convenient to watch him operate.

Perhaps his sons fell into the same habit of work, for they admitted that although they were born Episcopalians and were members of the church, they "never worked hard at it." Yet both recognized the importance of religion in their calling, especially the importance of religion to their patients.

"The emotions of a man play an important part in the practice of medicine, and religion deals with emotions," Dr. Will once said in discussing this phase of his work. "I consider myself fundamentally a religious man. Yet I know there are many to whom I cannot demonstrate the existence of God and the human soul as I can demonstrate some point in surgery to a class.

"But in my own heart I know there is a