

# THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

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Editor and Business Manager Rev. B. C. Cochrane  
Associate Editor Rev. H. S. Dow  
Other members of Committee: Revs. L. T. Sabine,  
H. C. Mullen, P. J. Trafton, H. M. Kimball

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Rev. B. C. Cochrane, 45 Archibald St., Moncton, N. B.

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### EDITORIAL

#### THE MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS

The good news of the Christmas message should be sounded throughout the world. It offers that which we need for this very hour. Rightly understood, and actually received, it would fill the war-weary world with comfort, even as the angelic glory flooded the Judean hills with light.

"Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy . . . For unto you is born . . . a Saviour . . ." What glorious news is contained in this announcement! Let us consider its implications.

**There is the word of Assurance:** "Fear not." Thus spake the angels to the trembling shepherds, bringing them peace of mind. Their anxiety melted away under the soothing influence of this message from the skies. And God, through Christ, would draw near to the troubled heart of this generation, and speak a word of assurance. While the strength of many is failing because of the unpredictable threat of future perils, in a time when multitudes are "anxious and troubled," Jesus comes with the quieting "Trust in me, fear not." At this midnight hour of the world's history, He comes walking on the troubled sea, and, entering into the hearts of those who will receive Him, brings strength and confidence.

**There is the word of Hope:** "I bring you good tidings." Yes, the great Good News of the Gospel. As the powerful beams of the lighthouse guide the mariners to their haven; as the gleaming shafts dispel the darkness and herald the dawning of the day; so the message of Christmas, the truth of the Gospel, gives guidance and hope in this dark hour. Christ spoke of the tribulation that would come to the world, and then urged his disciples to look heavenward when that time of trouble came. He declared that the very darkness itself testified of the necessity of the breaking forth of Light. The increase of evil, the extreme prevalency of sin, would only contribute to the hastening of the day of Redemption. And so we have great cause for hope in these our times, for the angelic heralds are eagerly poised, ready to thrill the saints of God with the trumpet call of Christ's second advent.

**There is the word of Salvation:** "Unto you is born . . . a Saviour." A Saviour! How much the world needs one just now! Well, He is here. The Christ of Christmas is the author and source of salvation, personally and na-

tionally. At this moment he offers deliverance both to the burdened individual and the afflicted universe. The short-cut to peace for this unhappy generation is an acknowledgment of its sinfulness and ruthless self-seeking, and an acceptance of the Man of Galilee as the qualified Redeemer of the nation and the world. But whatever the attitude of statesmen and world leaders towards Christ's place at the council table, His reign of peace and equity is a certainty for the near future. The cry "Behold, He cometh!" will soon resound through the universe, and the travail and groaning of creation will have its reward.

"Yea, Truth and Justice then

Will down return to men,  
Orb'd in a rainbow; and, like glories wearing,  
Mercy will sit between."

This then is the Message of Christmas. And here is our cause of rejoicing, even in the midst of sorrow and warfare. "Glory to God in the Highest."

#### THE STRENGTH OF THE UNWRITTEN LAW

By the Associate Editor

"And being let go, they went to their own company." Acts 4-23. (The foregoing words refer to Peter and John. Read Acts 4).

A few weeks ago this writer was an overnight guest in the home of a relative. Quite early in the morning, before the people of the house were up, we heard a commotion downstairs, and someone entering the house. It proved to be a young man who had been in the army, and was now on his way home, and called to see his uncle. Of course they were all glad to see him, but wondered how he got a leave of absence at that time, for the company to which he belonged was expected to go overseas very soon. Well, upon investigation it was learned that the young man of whom we speak came home without permission from his officer in charge, or as they say, was A. W. O. L.

His people who were so glad to see their boy, were sorry he left as he did, and told him that the military authorities would punish him severely for this violation of their law. The young man said he knew that they would, and declared he was willing to take the punishment, for he had not seen his family for nearly a year, and he just could not stay away any longer. That incident suggested to us the words of scripture in our text, also the theme for this article, viz., "The Strength of the Unwritten Law," which is the law of love.

Paul the apostle in Rom. 7 speaks of a law operating in his members, warring against the law of his mind (his better judgment) which brought him unto captivity, and made him do things which he should not, and to leave undone things which he should do. Although the law which he referred to was an unwritten law, yet it was a very strong one. The apostle called it, "The law of sin," because he loved sin.

Again he spoke of the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, which, when he came under its influence, he found was stronger than his love for sin, and set him free from the power of sin and death, and made it possible for him to do the will of God joyfully. That was the law of divine love which fills the regenerated and sanctified heart, and which is stronger than all other laws, which may be written on the statute books of our country. It was this law operating in the

hearts of millions of martyrs in past years which made them disregard the commandments and laws of men, in their service for Jesus, and gave them courage to face death by being tortured, torn by wild beasts, or burned at the stake, and do it joyfully for Jesus' sake, because they loved Him so.

It was this unwritten law of human love in the heart of the soldier boy referred to, love for his mother, father, sisters and brothers, that made him break away from army life, and go to his own, the objects of his love.

This unwritten law of divine love for God, the communion of saints, and lost souls, is necessary to success in the work of God. A love that is strong enough to pull men away from their work and cares, when the time comes for them to attend service in the House of God: a love so strong that we feel the things of God are ours and we are His. Then, though we may be detained for a time by our earthly cares and material things, "being let go, we go to our own company." You can tell what a man is by the company he keeps, by the way he spends his leisure time, or where he goes and what he does when he feels that he is "off duty." As truly as water finds its level, when let go, so men find their element in their service for their church and their God. We have observed that those who enjoy the blessing of a clean heart, and full salvation, are never quite satisfied unless they can meet and worship with those of like precious faith.

It takes the preaching that produces the strong meat of the Word to feed their hungry souls. Because of circumstances over which they have no control, these devout souls may be kept away from the church of their choice for a time; but, "being let go, they go to their own company." And finally, people will go to heaven because their love for God, and Jesus, and holy people, is stronger than their love for material things or earthly friends: Being let go by death, they will go to their own company.

"I've found a friend; oh, such a friend!

He loved me ere I knew him;

He drew me with the cords of love,

And thus, he bound me to him.

And round my heart still closely twine,

Those ties which naught can sever,

For I am his, and he is mine,

Forever and forever."

H. S. DOW

#### A CHRISTMAS LETTER

As we approach the glad Christmas season our hearts are thrilled anew at the thought of "That Sweet Story" that never grows old—the story of the birth of our Saviour on that first Christmas morning.

Years have come and gone since we first heard it at our mother's knees, yet there is something so inspiring about it, that we know without a shadow of doubt it is absolutely true.

How we loved to listen to this wondrous story when young, and as we advance in years its charm and beauty has lost none of its power over us; in fact it grows sweeter as the years roll by.

This present year seems to have been the shortest of our lives in many respects. It may have been owing to the constant changes; we have been hurried and anxious about many things which have not always been pro-