

THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —
REFORMED BAPTISTS OF CANADA

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— SPECIAL NOTICE —

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MONCTON, N. B., DECEMBER 31ST, 1944

EDITORIAL

THAT MEN MAY BE FREE!

Many well-informed and thoughtful men are expressing grave concern respecting the preservation of religious freedom. Church publications, religious magazines, and even the daily press, are giving prominence to developments in various countries which seem to indicate the subtle activity of a movement which threatens to war against a liberty that is held sacred in democratic institutions.

According to the British United Press, the World Evangelical Alliance, in a letter to the United Kingdom Parliament, charged General Franco, of Spain, with failing to keep his promise of granting religious liberty in Spain, that Protestants are being persecuted, and in some cases forced to worship images of the Virgin Mary.

"Children of Protestant parents are compelled to learn the Roman Catholic catechism and worship images, and in many places attendance at Mass is compulsory in order to procure employment," the letter said. Franco also was charged with refusing to permit printing of Bibles, except in the Roman Catholic version, and the letter said a majority of foreign missionaries have been obligated to leave Spain or had been exiled or imprisoned.

The Alliance urged the British Parliament to use its influence to force Franco to keep the "religious freedom" promise that he made through the Duke of Alba, Spanish ambassador to Britain, in 1937.

The Evangelical Group charged that all Spanish Protestant places of worship were closed, that a number of pastors and evangelists had been executed, and that no Protestant religious meetings, public or private, were allowed in the greater part of Spain.

A movement of like nature, sponsored by the same church, is gaining headway in South America and other countries, and, according to charges made by a member of the Canadian Senate, in our own Dominion also.

It is the duty of every church, pastor, and Christian to raise a voice of protest against this spirit of intolerance. A policy of coercion in things religious is not only undemocratic; it is unchristian. The Gospel of Christ, as well as our legislative statutes, calls for freedom of conscience and liberty of choice in the worship of God. If one decides to accept the Roman Catholic doctrines and affiliate with that organization, that choice should be regarded as the exercise of a liberty that right-

fully belongs to the individual! The same principle of freedom should be recognized in the case of the person who chooses the Protestant faith and doctrines. When political pressure, social isolation, or physical violence is employed in an effort to force one to accept any religious doctrine or mode of worship, the institution or persons guilty of such unchristian-like and undemocratic practices should be held criminally responsible by the government and the people of the country in which they operate.

We do not wish to excite or foster a spirit of antagonism between individuals or groups who differ in their religious views, but we do desire to register solemn protest against any movement, political or ecclesiastical, which seeks to dictate and domineer in this realm that is made sacred by the law and the Gospel. Moreover, we would once again urge every liberty-loving citizen to labor for the maintenance of a freedom that is our rightful and precious inheritance.

"To sin by silence when we should protest
Makes cowards out of men. The human race
Has climbed on protest. Had no voice been
raised
Against injustice, ignorance and lust,
The inquisition yet would serve the law,
And guillotines decide our least disputes.
The few who dare must speak, and speak
again,
To right the wrongs of many.

THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

A NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

Lic. Ralph L. Sabine*

As the Old Year draws to a close and the New Year is about to be ushered in, our attention is directed to the fact that time is fleeting. Because of this truth, we ought to heed the admonition as given by Saint Paul, in Ephesians 5:15-16, to "Redeem the time."

It is not generally recognized that the division of time into days and months is a Divine arrangement. The sun and moon are God's time pieces, which mark off the year into definite periods. But the arrival of each new year should remind us that life at its longest is very short.

Thus the close of each year is a Divine reminder of the passing of time and that the allotted three-score years and ten are only too quickly disappearing which is an exhortation to "redeem the time."

Let us consider what the Apostle meant by "The time," what it is to "Redeem the time," why we should "redeem the time," and how.

If we should ask a scientist what time is, he would reply: "Time is measured duration." Time, so far as we are concerned, is the limit of our existence on earth. It is evident that time for one is not time for another. We have only to think back to a year ago and we can remember those who were present in the home or in the church, but have since passed on. Today we on the earth are still in time; they, in the other world, have entered upon eternity. What is time still to us is eternity now for them.

Time, then, for us is the duration of our life upon the earth. It is this we are to "redeem" and it is because we have no promise of tomorrow that the admonition is so urgent.

Time cannot be purchased and yet we are told to redeem it. To "redeem" is to "buy back" at a price. We have been endowed by God with life, a most precious possession. It is our responsibility how that life is spent.

We can well learn "how not to" and "how to" redeem the time from the story of the Prodigal Son, the parables of the Ten Virgins and the Talents.

Why should we redeem the time? The question will be answered when we realize what time is, how it is being used and the results of its misuse.

We should "redeem the time" because of its value which is so apparent when we realize how much depends upon our use of it—where we shall spend eternity; because it is so short, even the longest life is too brief to prepare for eternity; because so much of it is in the past, and, if we have wasted life by idleness or by active wrongdoing, how necessary that we redeem what remains; because the unknown future which is so uncertain; and, because time provides our only opportunity of salvation, for there is no promise of salvation beyond the grave—"Now is the accepted time."

How can we redeem the time? We cannot recall the time that has past. We can, however, redeem the time from now if we will pay the price. A sincere repentance and renunciation of the past, with all its guilt and sin; a complete, unconditional surrender of ourselves to God for all the future places us in the position where we are able to redeem the time with "love out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned."
* Calais, Me.

QUARTERLY MEETING

The Quarterly meeting of District No. 1 convened with the church at Fort Fairfield December 7th-10th, 1944.

The speakers during the meeting were Revs. F. A. Watson, of Marysville, N. B., H. L. Robertson, of Monticello, Me., E. R. Watson, of Millville, N. B., G. A. Rogers, of Presque Isle, Me., and P. J. Trafton, of Fred-erickton, N. B.

The Sunday morning love feast was a time of real blessing, led by Brother William Moore, of Marysville.

Throughout the whole quarterly the messengers were very faithful in preaching the full gospel and we trust that many souls were helped.

On Saturday afternoon the usual business session was held. The following ministers were present: Rev. H. S. Dow, Rev. P. J. Trafton, Rev. F. A. Watson, Rev. G. A. Rogers, Rev. H. L. Robertson and Rev. E. A. Watson. Delegates present were Miss Ella Slipp, Miss Bessie Cheney, Mrs. Robert McCrea, Mrs. Lester Todd, Mr. Wm. Moore, Mr. A. Clark, Miss Ann Bolstridge.

The election of officers was as follows:

President—Rev. H. S. Dow.

Vice Pres.—Rev. P. J. Trafton.

Secretary—Laurence Mullen.

Treasurer—Treasurer of Church.

Highway Agent—Rev. F. A. Watson.

The ministers and delegates reported from their respective churches.

The resolution made by the previous quarterly that the pastor entertaining the quarterly, automatically becomes president, was endorsed.

There was a good spirit of fellowship throughout quarterly and God's spirit was felt.

The special singing in the services was much enjoyed.

LAURENCE MULLEN,
Secretary