

THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —
REFORMED BAPTISTS OF CANADA

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EDITORIAL

INSPIRATION FROM THE PAST

Our month of January derives its name from one of the gods of Roman mythology, Janus, a supposed deity who presided over the beginning of things. He was the patron of births, the first month of the year, and of the first steps in all human activities and enterprises. The peculiar characteristic of this mythical being was that he had two heads, one facing toward the past, and the other toward the future. While this tradition of an ancient people of belief in the existence of such a being, is rejected by those who have been enlightened by the entrance of true knowledge, yet the thought related to the "two-way" view at the beginning of a new year remains with us.

The dying of Dec. 31st day, and the dawning of a Jan. 1st, almost invariably gives birth to hopes of greater success and better accomplishment. "Hope springs eternal in the human breast," and it never rises higher than at the moment in which we pause in brief meditation at the entrance of a new year.

We have reached this place once more, again we are about to bid farewell to another twelvemonth of life and experience, and again we are about to launch into a new year. Is there any reason why we should not hope, pray, and purpose to engage ourselves to make it the best we have ever known? True, many new resolutions are made at this time which enjoy but a brief existence because they have no genuine moral quality, but should not those who serve the Lord Christ look toward the sunrise of a new year with every rightful hope of it surpassing in beauty and excellence any that we have enjoyed heretofore? He has said that our pathway should shine more and more unto the dawning of "the perfect day," and that we should annually (walking in His will) be transformed into His own image "from glory to glory."

Much inspiration and uplift may be added to the prospect of new months as we think of the goodness of God in the past. "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us," is a thought that, remaining with us, will fortify us for many a crucial experience in the unknown future, and will provide a guarantee of victory when defeat might appear certain. When Joshua was about to undertake the leadership of the people of Israel, after the death of Moses, the Lord gave him a promise

that contained strength enough to sustain him in any crisis. It was, "As I was with Moses, so I will be with thee . . ." I think He must have sighted back to the deliverance from Egypt, the crossing of the Red Sea, the Sinai revelation, the providential care during the wilderness journey, and the many manifestations of the kindness and might of Jehovah during the days of Moses, and looking toward the future felt a strong confidence in resting on the promise of the same care and blessing. And this promise is not for Joshua alone but for us also. He has been with others through many and varied experiences and has proved Himself all-sufficient, and all the promises are yea and amen to us who believe. Friends, God has given great help to His children in the past, and He is our God today. If we follow, He will lead; if we believe, He will give victory!

Let us, at the close of this dying year, and at the birth of a new, raise our Ebenezer and declare,

He who hath helped us hitherto,
Will help us all the journey through!

THE GLORY OF GOING ON

(Continued from Page 1)

was a friend and companion of Paul. For a while he went along to help Paul carry the missionary message of Jesus Christ the Saviour. Then, for Demas, the glamor wore off. It was pretty tough, this being looked upon with suspicion or disdain or downright hatred by the people in practically every city they visited. Besides, there was not much in it financially or materially. So Demas quit the race. One day Paul had to write back a report on him. It was short. No details. No bitterness against the man who had lain down on the job. Just this statement which, I think, Paul wrote with a lump in his throat: "Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world."

By contrast take the case of Martin Luther. He had counted the cost of going on—yes, going all the way—with Christ. When he was ordered to appear before the unfriendly authorities of the Church at Worms and to explain why he had made such charges against his superiors as had appeared in his declaration of Protestant principles, some of his advisers urged him not to go. They feared for his life. To this he replied: "To Worms I must go. And were there as many devils there as tiles on the roofs, yet would I enter into that city." There was iron in his blood, morally speaking. He was ready to take in his stride the obstacles in the course of life which lay before him.

Now a third help: Remember that in running the Christian race of life

You are Part of a Glorious Company

If I may use the language of the athletic field, you are playing on a great team! Is that not what our writer has in mind when he says, "Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses . . . let us run . . . the race that it set before us." You might think that these witnesses are simply spectators, which is not true. They are the men and women, the boys and girls, who in every age and every land have run their race with faithful devotion and whose inspiring example is left to us to spur us on.

That is a picture of the Church of Jesus Christ. Go back to the beginning. Think of the consecrated minds that have given their best thought to the work of the Church. Think of the pioneers that have blazed the trails of

Christian service. Think of the martyrs who have given their blood that this faith might not perish from the earth. Think of the teachers who have lighted the way of knowledge through the centuries. Think of the lads and lassies who had to save their pennies for months and even years, in order to buy a Bible in days when printing presses were scarce. It is that company to which you and I belong. They and the Christ they served are expecting us to carry the torch of holy living and helpful service which they have passed on to us. God forbid that we should disappoint them.

III.

I have but one thing to add: Having asked you to refuse the handicaps that will defeat you and to realize the helps that will advance you, let me urge:

Remember the Hero Who Has Gone Ahead of You

Mark well what follows the text: "Let us run the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Let me take you to a packed football stadium in Southern California. It is the most important game of the season. On the team is an All-American by the name of Ed Smith. Only a few days ago the mother of this star player passed away. She had followed her son's football career with interest and affectionate delight. She was to have occupied a box at this afternoon's game, and until the game it was not known by the crowd whether Ed would play or not. When the team trotted out on the field, there he was. Came a moment or two before the opening whistle and Ed walked over to the box where his mother would have sat. It was draped in black and on her seat there was a large picture of her. The big player, helmet doffed, stood before it a moment, and as he turned to leave he said, "Mother, I'm playing this game for you." With that he was off to add another brilliant performance to his record.

Let this scene fade quickly away and another take its place. Not before a flag-draped photograph do we stand today, you and I; but before a blood-stained Cross where hangs the Lord of glory, our sinless Saviour. He is waiting to hear a good word from our lips. Shall we not say, "Lord, I'm taking this game of life, which somehow is more than a game, and I'm playing it for YOU!"

THE BUSY MAN

If you want to get a favor done by some obliging friend, and want a promise safe and sure, on which you can depend, don't go to him who always has much leisure time to plan; but if you want your favor done—ask the busy man.

The man with leisure never has a moment he can spare. He's always "putting off" until his friends are in despair. But he whose every waking hour is crowded full of work forgets the art of wasting time—he cannot stop to shirk.

So when you want a favor done, and want it right away, go to the man who constantly works sixteen hours a day. He'll find a moment sure, somewhere, that has no other use, and help you, while the idle man is framing an excuse.—Selected.