

THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —
REFORMED BAPTISTS OF CANADA

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EDITORIAL

SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM

Our denomination is passing through one of the most crucial periods in its near sixty years of history. Decisions and choices of greatest importance have been and are being made. Plans are being formulated which, blessed of God and executed with the spirit of grace and humility, may well mark these years as the most epochal since our church was born under the holy obligation of "spreading scriptural holiness over these lands."

That the hand of God has been graciously upon us we cannot doubt. "Through many dangers, toils and snares" we have already come. Our work has not been spared the difficult crises that often arise to try and threaten a project dedicated to divine service. The mighty adversary of all who would live and labour for the glory of God has repeatedly challenged us to conflict and has waged long and bitter warfare. Sadly, we have not been without loss in conflict, and have been forced to lament on a few occasions, "how are the mighty fallen!" But after suitable mourning for the fallen, courageous men have carried the battle forward and have proven the faithfulness of God. And so the Mighty One of Israel has preserved us and led us onward. And still He leads!

With many denominations deploring the lack of workers and closing church doors because of a shortage of pastors, we have the largest, and perhaps the most promising group of candidates for service at home and in foreign fields in the history of our work. Talented and devoted young men and women in great numbers have declared their call to Christian service and are earnestly and diligently labouring to prepare themselves for efficiency in the Kingdom of God. And these young people evidently possess a spirit of love and loyalty for God and man which makes personal gain a discarded ambition. We are assured, through our knowledge of them, that when they are ready for service they will go wherever the Lord directs them and there labour with consecrated zeal "that the Kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

The need of denominational expansion is obvious. The call to enlargement sounds in our ears. Broader horizons meet our view, wide and whitened fields await the labour of our

hands, and there is a "sound of going" which indicates obedience to the divine command, "go forward!"

Right at this point we would do well to pray for purity of motive and sincerity of intention. It is possible to create considerable interest in "etension" work, and gain some results in the establishment of churches and increase of church membership, on a basis that is not God-inspired. What is our object in seeking new fields and endeavouring to plant new churches? Is it mere denominational growth, more churches and more people? If that is our motive, we need to seek a better one. Do we wish to organize new groups so that the young men now in training may find a people to serve when they graduate, or that those of us who now serve pastorates may have a place to go when younger men are called to the fields where we labour at present? If that is our goal, we need to aim higher. Would we promote a forward movement so that the dissatisfied people in churches given to worldliness and modernism might come out of the dens and caves and ally themselves with us? Still we must cry "Excelsior!"

There is an element of good in each and all the suggested objectives but they do not provide the scriptural basis for aggressive effort that we need and which God can give the abundance of His blessing. All the worthy ambitions that might be associated with advance efforts born out of desire for growth of our denomination, the establishment of new fields of pastoral service, and reaching the hungry and unfed of the backslidden churches around us, can be realized by our launching and supporting a campaign of evangelism based on a God-implanted, passionate desire to proclaim the truth that makes men free.

The apostles "went everywhere **preaching the Word.**" The Methodists evangelized under the mighty impulse of conviction that they were raised up of God to "spread scriptural holiness." William Booth and his Salvationists waged warfare against sin and Satan under the blood and fire banner, constrained by love to seek the lost for Jesus' sake. The fathers of our denomination pioneered in proclaiming the message of full salvation in this area because they loved the truth more than the church or the personal interests they must sacrifice to be faithful to God and the call to holiness.

We need a band of men whose hearts God has touched! We need the soul-gripping, life-claiming conviction that we are entrusted with a great commission, the proclamation of the truth which alone can make men wise unto salvation. Nothing less than such a persuasion will be sufficient to provide genuine success in holy endeavour. Nothing lower can be regarded as a scriptural motive to missionary enterprise at home or abroad. O Lord! Give us pure desires!

"Stir me, O stir me Lord—I care not how,
But stir my heart in passion for the world;
Stir me to give, to go, but most to pray;
Stir, till the blood-red banner be unfurled
O'er lands that still in heathen darkness lie,
O'er deserts where no cross is lifted high.

Stir me, O Stir me Lord, till all my heart
Is filled with strong compassion for these
souls;

Till Thy compelling 'must' drives me to pray,
Till Thy constraining love reach to the poles,
Far north and south, in burning, deep desire,
Till east and west are caught in love's great
fire."

PALESTINE PERISCOPE

By the Editor

In the eleventh chapter of Romans, the apostle Paul raises two very pertinent questions concerning the status and future of a Christ-rejecting and God-rejected Israel: (1) Hath God cast away His people? Vs. 1; and (2) Have they stumbled that they should fall? Vs. II.

Now both these verses obviously refer to Israel as a nation, and not merely to individuals within that nation. The entire chapter, a most enlightening section of scripture to the person desiring to understand God's dealings and purposes toward Israel, is a discussion of the position of this people guilty of the death of their rejected Messiah. The content of the questions is plainly this: Has the rejection of Christ by His people resulted in God's utterly and finally forsaking this nation which He formerly chose as a "peculiar people unto Himself?" Has the light of Israel's glory gone out forever? Dr. Clarke points out that the Greek word, *apostato*, translated "cast away," means to thrust, or drive away from, indicating that the apostle is inquiring as to whether God has driven Israel away into permanent national exile. Weymouth translates the question of Romans II:II as follows: "Have they stumbled irretrievably?" The inspired exclamatory answer to both questions is, "God forbid!"

"God hath not cast away His people which He foreknew . . ." There are wondrous promises made of God to national Israel which are yet unfulfilled, promises which in fulfillment will lead this people, so long dispersed and distressed, into a day of hope and glory brighter by far than any era of her wonderful past. Those who read the prophecies of the Word with Spirit-given understanding discover two great promises yet to be fulfilled in behalf of God's ancient people: (1) Restoration to the land of promise; and (2) National salvation through Jesus Christ.

There is the promise of the return of the dispersed to their God-given land. "For **thus saith the Lord: Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out.** As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day. **And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land,** and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country." Ezekiel 34:11-13: "Therefore, the days come, saith the Lord, that they shall no more say, The Lord liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; but, the Lord liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I have driven them; **and they shall dwell in their own land.**" Jeremiah 23:7-8: "And I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, **and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the Lord thy God.**" Amos 9:14-15. These are but a few of the many scriptures which have stood for centuries as a divine pledge that a people exiled from their national home would one day re-