THE KING'S HIGHWAY An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

- THE ORGAN OF THE -

REFORMED BAPTIST ALLIANCE

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EDITORIALS

BETWEEN THANKSGIVINGS

The Canadian Thanksgiving is the second Monday of October, while the United States has its national Thanksgiving the fourth Thursday of November. We are therefore, at the present time, "between thanksgivings".

On Sept. 6th, 1620, a band of English Pilgrims sailed for America in the now famous "Mayflower", a square-rigged sailing vessel that had been used in the whaling industry. Having separated themselves from the established Church of England, and seeking religious liberty in a land where their native tongue was spoken, the Pilgrims sailed for New Jersey with the promise of religious liberty from the king and a tract of land from a Virginia Company. After more than three months of sailing, the sturdy ship with its courageous company was forced to land, Dec. 21, 1620, on the coast of the State of Massachusetts, far north of the territory granted them, and there the 78 men and 24 women founded Plymouth Colony.

"The breaking waves dashed high on a stern and rock-bound coast,

And the woods against a stormy sky their giant branches tossed;

And the heavy night hung dark the woods and waters o'er,

When a band of Pilgrims moored their bark on the wild New England shore . . ."

After the first harvest in 1621, the Pilgrims appointed a day of thanksgiving to God for His providential guidance and goodness, and from that celebration the practice of an annual thanksgiving soon became general.

It is certainly most appropriate that we have a day of national thanksgiving. It seems regrettable that the Canadian and American celebrations are not held on the same day. However, the important thing is that we have a day of thanksgiving on which the people of our countries are called upon to remember the goodness of God and and render to Him the thanks we owe for His mercy.

There are no people in the universe who have greater reason for thankfulness than the peoples of United States and Canada. The natural beauty of our land, the abounding wealth, democratic liberties, and our rich religious heritage, are blessings of inestimable value. Every citizen of these wonderful countries should live under a constant sense of in-

debtedness to the Giver of all good gifts. In every season and on every hand there are evidences of the mercy and goodness of God. Well may we sing . . .

"Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite? It breathes in the air, it shines in the light; It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,

And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.." Standing "between the Thanksgivings" looking backward on Canada's Oct. 10th. celebration and forward to the U. S. November 24th., we are in a good position to ponder the suggestion that every day should be a thanksgiving day to a people so highly favoured of the Lord!

THE WEIGHT OF WEARINESS

In Galatians 6:9, the apostle Paul warns the Christian worker against the deadly danger of spiritual fatigue. ".. let us not be weary in well doing.." is the admonition. Dr. Weymouth's translation is:: "Let us not lose heart in doing what is right."

God's workman, whatever the sphere or scope of his area of service, needs moral stamina and steadfastness. Many and varied are the influences and attitudes which will tempt him to discouragement. Often he will face the danger of "growing tired in doing what is right" (Moffatt).

It is a high and worthy motive which moves the person who decides to dedicate a life to the work of doing good. Rejecting the more alluring prospects of seeking personal gain and selfish rewards, the one who decides to accept the "follow me" challenge of that Man who "went about doing good", must be possessed of a courageous and consecrated spirit, or he will leave his task unfinished.

The glamour of Christian service which glows so brightly as we read or hear the achievement stories of the heroes of the Cross, fades out as we get down to the day by day routine of labouring in the Master's Vineyard. Travelling down "the rutty road of service", is a demanding journey. There are periods when glamour and glory may brighten the way and inspire the heart, but there are sloughs of despond, hills of difficulty, and doubting castles, with their giants of despair, which threaten to victimize the plodding pilgrim.

The unresponsive attitude of the worldly-minded, the instability of some who profess the name of Christ, the relentless assaults and the stubborn opposition of the forces of evil, these, and other factors, take a terrific toll on the spirit of God's servant. If he is easily discouraged, or perhaps not so easily, he will grow weary and lose heart.

There is one thing offered as an antidote to the threat of moral weariness—the promise and prospect of spiritual harvest. "In due season ye shall reap, if ye faint not . ." We are asked to break up the soil, sow the good seed, and water it with our tears. God has assumed the responsibility of giving the harvest. Oftentimes the labourer must have "long patience", but the promise of harvest is sure and steadfast. This one danger we must avoid—losing heart. If we do not faint, we shall reap. God's law of the Spirit operates as faithfully here as does the divinely-established law of nature which made possible the rich harvest thte farmer has gathered in as a result of the plowing, sowing, cultivating of the Spring and Summer months.

We look too much to the present, are too

much influenced by what we now see. It was "the joy that was set before Him" that enabled Christ to endure the Cross and bear the shame. The prospect of the glory that would follow the suffering strenthened and steadied Him in many a crisis. The disappointment of being rejected by His native Nazareth, the difficulties thrown in his way by the critical and bitter Pharisees, the pain of being forsaken and betrayed by His followers, the terrific strain of Gethsemane and the dreadful agony of Calvary, all these were borne by Him who would not "fail nor be discouraged" till He had accomplished the will of the Father and the salvation of the lost.

Fellow-workmen, let us be true to God and persevere in the service of the Kingdom. The time of harvest will come. It may take considerable time, the larger results may even come under the ministry of another, but to every faithful labourer the Master will give reward in due time. We are doing a great work, we have a great God, Let us shake off the temptation to discouragement and depression and with renewed hope and purpose give ourselves to task assigned to us.

"Let us not lose heart in doing what is right . . ."

SOME OF OUR FINANCIAL NEEDS

To those who are concerned about the various projects related to our denominational programme, we wish to present the following financial needs:

The General Fund . . .

In need of money to meet obligations resulting from work done at Beulah Camp this summer. Beulah Tabernacle demanded repair if the fine old structure was to be preserved. A new patent shingle roof was put on at a cost of about \$2,000. It is a fine piece of work that will stand for a generation but the cost of materials is very high and there are a number of bills yet unpaid. We know that our people love old Beulah Camp and will be willing to contribute towards this need. Could each church take a special offering and send it to our Alliance Treasurer, Rev. R. H. Parks, Calais, Maine? There are other demands on the General Fund also. Let's do what we can.

The Superintendent's Salary . . .

We are four months along in the 1955-56 church year which means that a third of our church year has gone already! This also means that a third of the sum allotted for Superintendent's salary should be paid. Otherwise, our Alliance Treasurer will lack the resources needed to keep our superintendent's semimonthly salary payment going through the mail. Has your church sent anything to this fund? If not, will you advocate a partial payment at once?

The King's Highway . . .

Our church paper, beloved by all, is facing the most critical period of its sixty-five-year ministry. The high cost of publication, plus the lack of resources for supplementary assistance, forced a sharp rise in the subscription rate. This increase will be an acid test on the love and loyalty of our people towards The Highway. Is your subscription paid up? If not, you are casting a vote in favour of the discontinuance of The Highway's ministry. Help us to avoid this catastrophe by renewing your subscription now and trying to enlist at least one new subscriber.