

— Editorial —

75 Years

1888 - 1963

On Saturday afternoon at 2:30 p.m., Nov. 3, 1888, the first Reformed Baptist Alliance was organized in Woodstock, N. B. Before the election of officers, three resolutions were adopted by the organization meeting:

1. That the association be called The Reformed Baptist Alliance of Canada.
2. That the delegates at this meeting, together with the ministers and officers, constitute the Alliance until its next meeting.
3. That the presiding officer be called President.

The declared purpose of the new denomination was expressed in an earlier resolution, namely, "That this be a denomination which would emphasize the doctrine of Bible Holiness."

On Saturday evening, November 3, the organization of the first Reformed Baptist Church was completed. Forty-one members were there to have their names recorded. On Sunday, November 4, fifteen more names were added, making the total membership fifty-six. Among those who joined were the following ministers: Rev. G. T. Hartley, Rev. G. W. MacDonald, Rev. Bamford Colpitts, Rev. Aaron Kinney. Three others also joined who were later ordained by the Church: Mr. Aaron Hartt, Mr. S. A. Baker, and Mr. W. B. Wiggins.

In the seven months following the organization of the Reformed Baptist Alliance there were twenty-two churches organized, representing a total of 540 members. The Sunday Schools of those churches had 688 scholars enrolled.

The record of our church for seventy-five years is one which requires no apology. Progress, many times, has been slow and frustrating. Our history could hardly be called illustrious. But many thousands will thank the Lord in eternity that the Reformed Baptist Church was born. The witness to holiness across the Maritimes and Maine has served a greater purpose in the plan of God than any shall ever know. No record can be written of countless lives, in America and Africa, and around the world, which touched by kindness and won by love, have been added to the family of the blood-washed.

The years ahead hold exciting possibilities for our church. We believe that under the guidance of God our church has yet to make its greatest contribution. Our fundamental challenge is still the same — "to raise up a holy people" who by life and witness will demonstrate the saving and sanctifying power of God's grace.

A rich heritage has come to us who now review the past. We have an obligation to leave an even richer heritage to generations following.

The Crisis

The shade trees along your street may look equally sound and strong. They appear to be healthy as trees go. On a quiet summer day no one could possibly discern which were sound or unsound. But the hurricane strikes and those same trees are whipped and lashed by winds gone mad. The crisis has arrived. Will those trees stand or fall? Some, we know, will fall victims to the crisis, revealing an inner weakness which was deadly. Some trees had dry rot; some had a twisted grain; others had been eaten by termites; and still others fell for causes unknown.

Enough for trees. What about men? What do we reveal in the crisis hour, when the "heat" is on, when the

winds blow hard in our direction without let-up, when weariness and the pressures of duty seem beyond our strength to endure, when our best-laid plans go astray, and when our foe, The Prince of Darkness, grins delightedly at our despair?

Some men reveal their weakness. They fall a victim to crisis. We must take warning from their example. This, if for no other reason, justifies the Scriptural record of so many who have fallen by the way. David, the bear-slayer and the giant-killer is there for us to see in black and white, a victim of inner lack of discipline, a blunt warning in our own path. On the other hand, we must take courage from those who have withstood the fiercest blasts, and still stand. (See Ephesians 6:13 "Stand your ground when things are at their worst" New English Bible). In the crisis, David failed. In a similar crisis Joseph came through unspotted. Like Joseph, so may we.

One thing we can be sure of is that our crisis time is on the way. Thus far, the winds may have passed us by, but our turn is next. The wise man will be fortified by prayer and the knowledge of God's living Word, by a strong character built by strong habits. Out of an inner storehouse of divinely-planted resources he will summon reserves of energy that will enable him to survive and win.

Your crisis. What will it reveal?

DRINKING IN WASHINGTON

Figures disclosed for 1962 by the Distilled Spirits Institute reveal that drinking in Washington has hit an all-time high. Commenting on this fact, Walter Trohan, columnist for the Chicago Tribune, notes that drinking in the national capital runs about 6.7 gallons per inhabitant, whereas the national average is about one gallon. "It is the cocktail party that is the curse of the working classes in Washington—the officials and bureaucrats who run the nation and influence the world," says Mr. Trohan. "It has been estimated that there are more than 200 cocktail parties a day in the capital at embassies, hotels, restaurants, and private homes. . . . It is safe to estimate that the cost of cocktail parties here runs toward 100 millions. . . . The majority of it comes direct from government entertainment spending, foreign aid funds, profits on government contracts, and tax deductible entertaining, so that some of the alcohol is supplied by each and every citizen and, in the national debt, by citizens as yet unborn." It's time taxpayers started protesting more loudly.

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

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