

## INTOLERANT ATTITUDE BY SOME CHURCHES DRIVE PEOPLE AWAY

**"Observer" Believes That Many People Would Associate Themselves With Some Church If Standard Was Less Rigid.**

I am not going to place any title over this article, but allow the Editor to select his own. The different headings under which this article might be written are so many that I am going to let it speak for itself.

My article in Saturday's Mail on some aspects of intolerance started a train of thought which has led me to the following reflections. It occurred to me that some of my readers might get the idea that I did not have any respect for the Sabbath, and that I withheld appreciation of the part played by the churches in our life. I would like to state that such is not the case. It is true that I condemn absolutely the narrow unenlightened view which many devoted church adherents adopt, as illustrated by the recent occurrences in Marysville; but that there is a vital part for our churches to play in the community, I would be the last to deny. It is simply a matter of method. How may the churches best attain their objective?

Most of our churches, in this community and others, have fallen into a rut. They have adopted a stereotyped outlook and a stereotyped way of doing things. In some churches, at least, to be an active church worker simply means to put oneself under a certain code of conduct which forbids the doing of certain things; which in the case of a non-church worker would arouse no comment. Belonging to a church means belonging to a "taboo" society. It is true the churches differ in their "taboos," and in the order in which they rank certain so-called offences. Now, there are certain things which are probably right for anybody to do, and certain things which are wrong, irrespective of whether they belong to a church, or whether they do not. Let me illustrate.

I once attended an adult Sunday School class in which some different topic was announced for discussion every Sunday. On one occasion the topic announced for the following Sunday was "Is it right for a Christian to dance?" It was announced as a free discussion. Now, of course I am aware that dancing is not today frowned on by some religious bodies, but it is by others. I attended the discussion, and found that instead of it being a free discussion, it was a diatribe by the teacher, who was the pastor of the church, on the moral evil of dancing. When I tried to inject a remark or two on the other side, I was cried down, and regarded almost as a moral leper. No contrary opinion was allowed. In this case the teacher had raked up all the facts he could find about some disreputable dives in the larger cities and passed them out as being true of any kind of a dance anywhere.

This incident illustrates, I think, the common attitude of some religious groups about conduct. An intolerant attitude about amusements, with an utter inability to distinguish between the inherently good or the inherently bad. Those are, or should be, matters that rise above the lines drawn between different religious denominations. The point is that there are certain values that are universal, that apply to the Christian and to the non-Christian, and which it is the duty of every branch of the Christian church to stress. If the things said about dancing by the minister in the above incident were universally true, which they are not, why surely it was not a question of whether it was right for a Christian to dance, but whether it was right for anyone to do so.

The church are complaining today of their inability to hold their people, particularly the young people. They rightly regard it as of supreme importance to interest the young people in the church activities. This they fail, in a large measure, to do. There are too many counter-activities which are more attractive, and which the churches have condemned, quite needlessly. A partial solution has been arrived at, in many cases, by the church taking over some activities which were formerly outside, and directing them itself. We find excellent gymnasiums in some church plants, and a good deal of stress is placed on the physical development of the boys and girls. But this idea is being run away with, this is not the church's only duty by any means. The chief agency for religious and moral instruction still remains the Sunday School. Now it would seem to admit of no argument that if it is necessary to train our day-school teachers and make them measure up to certain knowledge requirements, inadequate though they may be, it is fully, if not more important to demand certain standards in our Sunday School teachers. But about the only standard that is required for the average Sunday school teacher is that of character. That is essential, of course. But is that the only requirement?

Many people, about whose characters there can be no adverse criticism, have no knowledge. If teachers are to expound the scriptures and explain Biblical allusions to a class, especially of young people, they should, to use a slang phrase, "know their stuff." How many of them do? Very few, for they have had no course of training to prepare them. Our young people of the teen age are critical and full of curiosity. They won't be satisfied for very long with the pap that is fed to them by a certain type of teacher.

Most churches still make an effort to keep up the Sunday School but not all. I know a church in this city which has "suspended" its Sunday School during the summer months. Since when has the religious and moral training of young people depended on the season of the year? This church is definitely failing in its duty to its young people. It is tamely surrendering to forces which it ought to resist. In this same church a short time ago, a proposal was made to do away with the Sunday evening service during the summer months. One can see that it would be but a short step for this church to close up altogether in the summer, just as though it were a winter resort of some kind.

Many people would associate themselves with some church who at present do not, if the standard on which their worth was judged were a little less rigid. The chief standard seems to be the number of times they attend church services. Then if their attendance measures up to expectations they will usually be overwhelmed with demands to do this or do that the women deluged to cook for the church suppers, until if one tried to do everything they were asked to they would have to give up their daily occupation. New church attendants are jealously watched to see if they break any of that church's particular taboos. It seems impossible for a person to be accounted a good church member if they happen to seek pleasure and recreation in games in their spare time. Such a person will find himself cold-shouldered by the Puritan element which exists in nearly every religious body.

At the present time the churches of this city maintain a decided dead level. One cannot point to any church which is outstanding in any way, or to any member of the clergy who is exceptional in any way. There is no minister whom we can point out as the best preacher in town, or the best pastor in town, or the best anything. Some ministers may make more effort than others to keep their congregations large. I am old-fashioned enough to deplore, however, the use of "stunts" in the pulpit to fill the church.

To what is all this leading? The churches must find some way of accepting the world as it is, and going on from that point. Most religious bodies live in the past. They are using methods which no other organization could use and hope to survive. They do not realize that the conditions in which this generation lives are not those of a generation ago. Truth never changes, but the vehicle in which that truth is conveyed may have to change.

Mrs. E. Allison MacKay and Miss Maggie Jean Chestnut are entertaining at bridge this evening for some of the out-of-town visitors.

Miss Kathleen Shea entertained at the tea hour on Saturday.

Miss Belle Steeves of Moncton spent the week end in the city.

Dr. and Mrs. A. S. McFarlane and Miss Beatrice McFarlane arrived home on Saturday from Prince Edward Island where they have been spending the last ten days at Stanhope Inn.

Campbell Carney of New York arrived in the city recently and was a weekend guest of his uncle, Msgr. F. L. Carney, D.P., V.G. He is now spending the week with Msgr. Carney at Grand Lake. Miss Margaret Callaghan, of Freeport, Long Island, Msgr. Carney's niece, is with the party.

Miss Bertha Sinnott of New York arrived here last week and is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Rolfe K. Nevins.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Chestnut and Miss Helen Chestnut of Saint John, were visitors in the city yesterday.

Miss Constance Hanson who spent the past few weeks with her mother, Mrs. A. E. Hanson, has returned to Toronto.

## SOCIAL HAPPENINGS

Miss Iris Bemrose, Prince William, is visiting her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Hatfield, at Island View.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Lester Smith and son left recently on a motoring trip to Boston and other points in the United States.

Mrs. Paul Barry and small son, Jerry, of New York are visiting Chief J. H. and Mrs. Barry.

Carl Slipp of London, Ont., is visiting his father, Judge A. R. Slipp.

Mrs. Sherman Mitchell Collins and Mrs. William Reeves of New Rochelle, N. Y., are guests of Hon. Dr. and Mrs. R. B. Hanson. Mrs. Collins was before her marriage, Miss Helen Hudson, and was an annual visitor to the city.

Chas. Wilson, Manager of the Dry Dock Company, of Saint John, Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. George Wilson, who motored to the city yesterday returned home last evening. They were accompanied by Mr. Wilson's aunt, Mrs. Nelson W. Brown of Toronto, who has been the guest of Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Allen and who will visit Mr. and Mrs. Wilson this week.

Miss Myra Glasier arrived here today from Melbourne, Australia, to visit her cousin, J. Fred Payne and Mrs. Payne, of Lincoln. Miss Glasier made the trip via San Francisco, Los Angeles, the Grand Canyon and also stopped off in Chicago, Buffalo and New York. After remaining two weeks here she will return home via Vancouver stopping off at Banff and Lake Louise en route. Miss Glasier who visited here three years ago and made many friends here, is a daughter of the late Thomas Glasier who went from Lincoln to Australia more than fifty years ago.

His Worship Mayor Allan K. Grimmer, M.Sc., of Temiskaming, Quebec, arrived here on Saturday and left yesterday for St. Andrews to visit his father, Mrs. Grimmer, who has been the guest of her sister, Miss Helen Babbitt, University Avenue, went to Campbellton to meet her husband. Mayor Grimmer who is a graduate of the U.N.B. in the class of 1905, was formerly city engineer of Fredericton.

Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Cameron expect to leave this week on a motoring trip to Ontario and points in the United States. Mrs. Cameron will motor as far as Buffalo with her husband and will take the train for Indiana where she will visit her mother. Dr. Cameron will visit his mother in Toronto.

Mrs. Edna Mazerall and son Joseph and Jack Jacoby, Detroit, are guests of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Dunn at their home at Forest Hill.

J. R. Buchanan spent a few days recently at Fredericton Junction, the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Tracy.

Miss Hilda Tracy, nurse-in-training at the Victoria Public Hospital, spent a few days recently with her parents Mr. and Mrs. Earl Tracy, Fredericton Junction.

Major Guy Turner of the Department of National Defence of Ottawa is visiting his mother, Mrs. A. K. Turner at her home, on Charlotte.

Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Miller spent the week-end at The Ledges, Charlotte county. They motored to Hartland this morning.

Norman Greene, formerly of the Eastern Chronicle linotype staff, is here on a visit to his parents. Norman is a linotype operator on the Daily Mail, Fredericton, N. B.

Mrs. N. W. Brown of Toronto who has been visiting friends in the city left yesterday by motor for Saint John where she will spend a few days. She will later proceed to Albert county where she will visit her mother, Mrs. Bishop who is 93 years of age.

Mrs. D. C. Davidson and her daughters, Miss Catherine Davidson and Marjorie Davidson of Prescott, Ont., are expected to arrive in the city today to be the guests of Mrs. Davidson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. George W. Hodge.

Mrs. E. R. Blackmer who spent the past month at Bay du Vin, has returned to the city. Master John Blackmer accompanied his cousins Peter and Miles Atkinson to Edmundston.

Dr. and Mrs. Walter M. Ryan and their two children Betty and Jack are spending their holidays with Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Owens.

Bryce M. Love of the staff of the Bank of Commerce, returned home last evening from a holiday trip to the province of Quebec. After spending some days at Metis with Mrs. Love and three children, Richard, Stewart and Nancy they visited to Quebec City where they visited Mr. Love's mother, Mrs. A. T. Love. Mrs. Love and children have gone to Montreal where they will visit Mrs. Love's parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Richey.

Parishioners tender Farewell Party to Rev. D. T. Haviland and Mother SHEDIAC CAPE, Aug. 3.—Rev. D. T. Haviland, deacon-in-charge of the parish of Shediac during the past two months, and his mother, Mrs. Haviland, were recently tendered a farewell party at the rectory. Rev. Mr. Haviland accompanied by Mrs. Haviland will leave this week for Fredericton, where Mr. Haviland will be stationed for some time at St. Ann's parish church. The rector of that parish, Rev. Archdeacon Bate, will vacate the parish on Sept. 1st when he assumes charge of St. Paul's Valley Church, Saint John.

An address read by Mrs. F. W. Hamilton, president of the Guild, and a pair of blankets presented by Mrs. James Atkinson on behalf of the parish Guild, featured the evening.

Rev. Mr. Haviland, who is a talented musician, entertained the gathering with selections on the autoharp of a variety nature.

A delicious luncheon served by the Guild to the parochial gathering brought the happy event to a close.

The address was as follows: To the Rev. D. T. Haviland and Mrs. Haviland:

The parishioners of St. Martins-in-the-Woods Church in conjunction with the members of the parish Guild desire to express to you both some appreciation of your presence and labor while here in this parish during the summer months, guiding and leading the spiritual and missionary work, in the absence of a rector.

"It is not an easy task for a young man just a few years in excess of his majority to come to a parish, a total stranger and take over the duties of the pastor. As our deacon-in-charge during the months of June and July, Mr. Haviland you have proved highly successful and an asset to our community. The fact that you have been selected by His Grace the Archbishop for duty at the important parish of St. Ann, Fredericton, on leaving this parish speaks for itself.

We have been happy that Mrs. Haviland has been among us during these brief months and hope she will return in the future from time to time as we expect Mr. Haviland to.

On behalf of the Ladies' Guild we ask you to accept this gift as a small token of our esteem and a happy memory of your stay in the Shediac community.

In the Master's calling the sacred path which you have selected we give you our best regards, and wish you well, Mr. Haviland, and to you Mrs. Haviland, good health and happiness.

—Moncton Times.

Neil Boyd, St. Stephen, returned home recently after spending some time in the city with relatives and friends.

Mrs. R. R. Rankine, who has been visiting her brother, Frank Risteen and Mrs. Risteen, for several weeks has returned to her home in St. John.

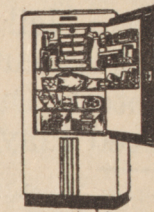
Mrs. Ralph Hanson and son, Ralph Jr., left recently for Epworth Park, where they will spend two weeks' vacation.

## CARD OF THANKS

The family of the late Mary Rowan wish to extend their heartfelt thanks to their friends and neighbors for the spiritual and floral tributes and the many acts of kindness and expressions of sympathy extended to them in their recent sad bereavement, also to those who kindly loaned cars.

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Leave Cross Creek 5.45 p.m. for Fredericton via Stanley and Covered Bridge.  
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