

THE TAILLESS FOX

BEVERLY CARRADINE

(Editor's note: This article was sent by Rev. Edwin Newby, Kokomo, Indiana, who writes, "My first employment is the ministry; but I have a second job as a collector of used holiness books. Once in a long time I get a book that is rare in value. Once in six years I have received a book called " Living Illustrations" by Beverly Cardamine. (The Tailless Fox is one illustration that needs a little publication these days.")

Every now and then the papers report that another preacher has declared for the theatre, dancing, card playing, and other kindred things. We can but wonder why such men stay in the church and pulpit who have drifted so far from spirituality and true holiness. If they have become sinful, why not go back at once to their crowd? Why try to bring the world into the church to suit their depraved and backslided tastes? If they prefer to be degenerated instead of regenerated, and walk with men instead of God, let them "go to their own place," as Judas did to his.

There is a great multitude of Christians in the land who cannot be persuaded that Jesus would attend a theatre, a dance hall, or a card playing party; and they want to be like Him in all things. Why should they forego a heavenly example for a worldly standard because every now and then some shorn Samson in broadcloth and beaver hat bids his congregation to follow him instead of the immaculate cross-bearing Son of God?

Aesop tells of a fox that in some manner had the misfortune to lose his tail. But, being a fox and quite adroit in mental matters, he framed a fine argument and glowing speech in praise and defense of a tailless body. He urged that it was cool, to begin with, and such a restful deliverance from a burden in that part of the physical frame. There was nothing to carry, etc., etc. He then begged his brethren to cut off their caudal attachments and enter into the like freedom and advantage which he enjoyed.

The foxes assembled in convention, and listened gravely for a while. But as they took in their unfortunate brother's "bobbed off" appearance, and noted his agony in fly time, there was a general smile in the assembly, an incredulous look in every eye, and a unanimous vote passed that they would not part with that plummy appendage which a beneficent Providence had bestowed upon them.

The moral of all this is that when a man loses his religious experience, and gets spiritually sheared, denuded, or bobbed off" by the world or the devil, at once his cry is heard in the land against the severity of church rules. He pleads for what he calls toleration, broadness, and liberty, which is only another name with him for license in the ways of worldliness and sin. He has become a sinner and wants others to follow. He may have kept the form of godliness, but has lost the power, and craves his brethren to be in alike condition with himself.



The newspapers give him credit for being an advanced thinker, when he is a retrograding doer. From being a convert, he became a divert, then a pervert, and is now a subvert, posing as a teacher of ethics or morals, and applauded by worldlings in and out of the church as a reformer and a kind of second John Wesley. But God will show him up at the Judgment Day, and perhaps even this side of the grave, as a spiritual fraud and humbug, a travesty on a gospel ambassador. and a downright backslider in heart and life; and that, too, all the while he was attitudinizing in the pulpit as a teacher and leader of immortal souls.

ARE YOU SURE YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE?

By JOHN T. STEWART,

You may belong to a prominent church, and even be active in that church. Your pastor may be an excellent orator, who is able to hold his audience spellbound with his messages. That is not the question. "The words which Christ spoke to Nicodemus come to all of us, *"Ye must be born again"* (John 3:7). Jesus said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me"* John 14:6). *"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved"* (Acts 4:12). *.'For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost"* (Luke 19:10). The writer of the book of Hebrews tells us, *"Without shedding of blood is no remission."*

These texts help us to understand that salvation cannot be obtained through any ordinance, ritual, or form. We must confess our sins, accept Christ as our substitute, and make restitution. There is no chance after death for repentance. *"It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment"* (Heb: 9:27).

Since God spared not the angels that sinned (II Peter 2:4), do you think He has any reason to spare you if you do not accept the blood of His Son which was shed for you?

He warns us of the lake of fire in Revelation 21 :8: *"The fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremonger, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."*

What a contrast to John 17:3: *"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."* Choose the right way today. Tomorrow may be too late.



