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Sentinel Article, "Dr. Broughton's Statement"

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Sentinel

June 8, 1916.

Dr. Broughton's Statement

In a personal statement given out on Friday, Dr. Len G. Broughton said:

"For the information of many good, sincere people in Knoxville who may have been led to charge me, along with other ministers with the responsibility of any failure in the present tabernacle meetings, I feel impressed to make this personal statement. I could speak for other ministers, but I feel that they are able to speak for themselves. Hence, I simply speak for myself.

"Not for my right arm would I willingly say or do a thing that would retard an honest, sincere spiritual revival. I had rather be misunderstood by all the people than to say anything that would prevent results for which I have worked so hard.

"Personally, I am willing to take all blame by those who may want to put it on me for any seeming failure of the long planned revival to reach our city. My Father knows whether my walk and my work, my teaching and my spirit since I have been in this city deserves such a charge, and I am willing to leave it with Him. He alone is my judge and under the sovereignty of His spirit alone do I bow, and from Him alone I try to get my orders.

"I do not have to say at this period of my life that I do not approve of the few popular amusements which have been attacked, card playing, dancing and Sunday golf playing. The people of my congregation know where I stand, and those who read my printed sermons and books know where I stand. I do not, however, think they are the only lines of conduct and amusements that may hinder spiritual life and power, or that are calculated to hold back a revival. I am opposed to such practices for church and non-church people, but since I am forced to do so, I will say that I do not endorse the extremes resorted to, to counteract these things. I do not believe that they are the wisest, nor that they are the most Christlike. If this be treason to the cause, I have to stand convicted, for it is my honest soul.

"I want to see a spiritual revival. One that shall so enthrone Christ by the Holy Ghost, as to give Him a chance to speak to all our hearts and show us what we are and what we should do.

"I am willing to spend my life for this. I am willing to be misunderstood for this. I am willing to work for this. But if to have this I must first be forced to subscribe to extremes which I do not endorse as a policy of the Christian church, then I shall have to decline and try to take my blame for the failure in what I hope to be the spirit of Christ.

"I have stood by the meetings and worked for them when I have hardly been able to sit up, and am still willing to do my best to get the people of my city saved."