

a little babe whose undeveloped faculties could not even surmise its character. Surely Abraham made a great mistake in indulging in so great an absurdity.

Yet once more. It would have been so much better if Abraham had waited, and allowed little Isaac to grow up, and then to decide the matter for himself. Very true; we feel constrained to decide for our children in less important matters; selecting their school, directing their education, guarding their legal rights, etc., etc. But in the great concerns of the soul, and its relations to God, the policy of non-interference and non-intervention should be rigidly observed. Whatever the blasphemies of Bob Ingersoll in other respects, he is, to a certain extent, right when he declaims against those who presume upon the helplessness of children to train them in the doctrines of the Christian religion.

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The remainder of the above Baptist sermon is lost. We regret it. Its frankness is refreshing. Its logic is powerful. Still we old-fashioned Church people must be excused, if, rising above human logic, we cling to the great facts of Scripture. For after all it is written—"And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac, being eight days old, AS GOD HAD COMMANDED HIM."—*Church News*.

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### BISHOP POTTER, OF NEW YORK, AND ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.

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I CANNOT pass to the closing Service of the Conference without a word about the Cathedral Church of London. I had the great plea-

sure of being often at its Services, as well on Sundays as on ordinary days. A fair type of the religious revival of Cathedrals, and of the English Church itself, it is the finest and fullest evidence of these things that I have seen. The Chapter itself is a remarkable combination of very remarkable men; each distinguished in his own separate and particular way, and each bringing powers of rare value, and a rare assimilative capacity to make up a sum of spiritual, intellectual, and administrative energy nowhere to be surpassed! Church, Gregory, Claughton, Liddon, and Lightfoot! What an array of names. And the seven years' work of this body under the direction of Dean Church, improving the Cathedral, and greatly increasing the number of Services; dignifying them with that exquisite simplicity of reverence which is so English and so Churchly, as distinguished from Roman tawdriness, and the baldness of the conventicle; the preaching services constantly crowding the space under the vast dome, the choir school-work, and the new buildings; the restoration of the Crypt; the musical services under Dr. Stainer. All these make the GREAT CATHEDRAL OF THE GREAT CITY OF THE GREAT NATION OF THE WORLD JUST WHAT ONE WOULD LONG TO HAVE IT! "I should not like to have been called to a great gathering of my brethren to get new inspiration in my ecclesiastical life," one of our Bishops said to me one day—"to Rome, where literature, art and enterprise, and all that makes a people great, exist only as they have survived the past. But it is good to come to the old source and centre of