

BAPTISTS WITHOUT BAPTISM.

Rockefeller's Pastor Proposes to Let Down the Bars.

The Rev. Dr. R. P. Johnston, pastor of the Rockefeller, father and son, has set Baptist ministers of New York to talking vigorously by his utterances in a paper read before the Baptist Church Congress, just held in Boston. Before he departed for Boston he called together a number of New York ministers and read to them parts of his paper. Some advised him to make public his views, while others deplored the step.

What he said was that baptism is not essential to church membership. The practice of taking people into churches without baptizing them is common among Baptists in England, and the pastor of the Fifth Avenue church in New York thinks the practice should become general here. Part of what the Rev. Dr. Johnston said follows:

Could there be a church without baptism? One's answer must depend upon one's view of the efficacy of baptism. I assume that baptism is an expression of confession merely, an act of obedience only, and that it is essential neither to salvation nor to the highest type of Christian character. To make baptism essential to church membership is to perpetrate its cleavage in the body of Christ along the line of ceremony merely. It would compel us, for the sake of ceremonial observance, to disregard the fundamental biblical principle of the right and duty of individual freedom of scriptural interpretation.

The policy of receiving members without baptizing them has been followed by many English Baptist churches. Its adoption here would not mean the disappearance of baptism, nor the disappearance of immersion.

When the Rev. Dr. Johnston arrived home from Boston he was seen concerning the matter and affirmed the correctness of the quotation. He said: "I believe in receiving members into a Baptist church whether they are or are not baptized, if they have the spiritual and vital qualification. I do not mean that I believe in baptism other than immersion, and that I would wish to receive persons who had been baptized by sprinkling. I am not bringing in a new Baptist union. The idea is not new, but is merely novel in America."

"I do not think it will set Baptists into a controversy, either in my own church or in the Baptist body at large. I do not know what will be the opinion of my own church. There may be some who will take exception to my views, but I anticipate no trouble. I am not engaged in an attempt to force my views upon Baptists generally, and am not surprised that some antagonism is expressed."

One of the Baptist ministers who was called in conference before the paper was read in Boston said that the Fifth Avenue church pastor expected to stir up talk. The Rev. R. S. MacArthur, of Calvary church, said:

"The position taken by Dr. Johnston does not oppose more Baptist practice than it opposes the practice of all other churches. It is a practice followed by some Baptist churches in England, but it is, in my judgment, not likely to become common in Baptist churches in America. Indeed, it is of doubtful value in England, where some Baptist pastors doubt its practical working."

WILD RUNAWAY.

Last evening about 6.30 one of Barker's White Horse teams ran away from the corner of Princess and Carleton streets. In its mad dash down Princess street the team collided with a telegraph pole about opposite Warden's stable, throwing the driver out. The runaway finally bounded up a short distance below Barker's store. The young man was taken into Warden's stable, where Dr. Charles Holden, who happened to be passing, attended to the young man. Beyond a severe shaking up, the driver sustained no internal injuries, and will be able to resume his duties in a few days.

COUGHS, COLDS, HOARSENESS, and other ailments are quickly relieved by Vapo-C. Cough Tablets, ten cents per box. All drug stores.

TRAVELLERS' GUIDE.

Passenger train service to and from St. John, in effect Oct. 12th:

DEPARTURES.

By	Time
By Canadian Pacific	
Express to Fredericton	8.45 a. m.
Express to Montreal	9.00 p. m.
Express to Boston	6.00 p. m.
By Intercolonial	
Express to Halifax and Campbellton	7.00 a. m.
Express to Halifax and Pictou	12.15 p. m.
Express to Pictou and Chatham	1.15 p. m.
Express to Pictou and Chatham	5.10 p. m.
Express to Pictou and Chatham	6.00 p. m.
Express to Pictou and Chatham	11.15 p. m.
By New Brunswick Southern	
Express to St. Stephen	7.50 a. m.
By Canadian Pacific	
Express from Fredericton	8.55 a. m.
Express from Montreal	11.15 a. m.
Express from Boston	11.15 p. m.
By Intercolonial	
Express from Halifax and Sydney	8.30 a. m.
Express from Pictou and Chatham	1.40 p. m.
Express from Pictou and Chatham	5.10 p. m.
Express from Pictou and Chatham	6.00 p. m.
Express from Pictou and Chatham	11.15 p. m.
By New Brunswick Southern	
Express from St. Stephen	7.50 a. m.

STEAMBOAT SERVICE.

By Dominion Atlantic.
S. S. Prince Rupert leaves St. John on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday at 10 o'clock, arriving from Digby at 5 p. m.
By Western Line S. S. Co.
Steamers leave St. John at 8.00 a. m. on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday at 10 o'clock, arriving from Digby at 5 p. m.
By Grand Maine S. S. Co.
Steamers leave St. John at 7.00 a. m. on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday at 10 o'clock, arriving from Digby at 5 p. m.

RIVER SERVICE.

St. Hampton leaves Digby for Wickham at 4 p. m., leaving Wickham on return at 8 a. m.
St. Clifton leaves for Hampton on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday at 5 p. m., leaving Hampton on return at 8 a. m.
St. of the Star line leave for Fredericton daily at 8 a. m., leaving Fredericton on return at 8 p. m.
St. Springfield leaves for Springfield on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 11 a. m., leaving Springfield on return at 8 p. m.
St. Margaret leaves for Capetown daily at 4 p. m., leaving Capetown on return at 8 p. m.

PARTY SLAVERY.

Blind, Unflinching Obedience Demanded in English Parliament.

LONDON, Nov. 25.—A casual observer who reads the daily reports of the proceedings in the house of commons and who knows nothing of its methods must surely come to the conclusion that the august body is composed of no more than three or four members, for during the past two or three weeks the ordinary M. P. has been almost obliterated so far as the debates are concerned. All that is required of him is undivided attention to the speeches, dull, dreary, uninteresting, and his vote cast in the division lobbies per order of his party chiefs.

A visit to the house at these times discloses the melancholy fact that to be a British member of parliament means an approach to slavery which is not dreamed of in any other constitutional country. Obedience, blind and unflinching, is required of the private member. Disobedience is relentlessly punished and the bog of retirement is unreservedly used as a club to beat down rebellion.

If it were not so the education bill, which has now dragged its weary length through the better part of three weeks, would by this time have found its well deserved grave in gloom of oblivion. Sheer party organization, the crack of the whip and the terror infused by a strong central committee have enabled Mr. Balfour to force his bill as far as he has got with it.

You see down at Westminster dozens of hollow men, tired out, wan and weary, who are brought down to their seats day after day against their own inclinations and convictions. They are tired of it all and wish they had never been afflicted by that terrible scourge, political ambition, for they have found that after all they are nothing more than the pawns of the Cecil game. The country might as well elect a number of dummies to represent it at Westminster, for the present parliament is nothing more than an adjunct to Hatfield House, taking its cue from the middle ages and inspired by a medievalism truly remarkable in these modern days.

The one diversion of the entire thing is the spectacle afforded by Lord Hugh Cecil, the youngest son of the Marquis of Salisbury, the late and nephew of the present premier. Lord Hugh is practically the father of the education bill, which seeks effectually to smother the other denominations under the sway of the Church of England. He is a typical Cecil in appearance and temperament. Those who are old enough to remember his father when he was a young man say that Lord Hugh is the very duplicate in life of his famous progenitor. He is the enfant terrible of his party and still more of his family, though, of course, he is idolized by his father, who looks upon the young man as the successor to the family honors in the political arena. The aged statesman has long ago given up the hopes once centered in Lord Cranborne, his eldest son and heir to the titles and estates. It is to Lord Hugh that the Cecil looks for continued glorification. Tall, thin, freckled, very pallid, very nervous—his long thin hands shake for half an hour before he begins to make a speech—he looks more like a pale, hungry curate than the free lance politician of 32.

He has great powers of eloquence, as did his father before him; he is usually quick, belligerent in manner, unresponsive to the slightest appeal for moderation or reason other than that which agrees with his own set views, and has an unhappy manner of making enemies of even his most intimate friends.

A PLEASANT GATHERING.

Dinner to Orangemen at Residence of C. N. Skinner Last Evening.
Hon. C. N. Skinner, P. D. M., gave a very enjoyable dinner to a large number of Orangemen at his residence in this city last evening, about 70 brethren being present. After an excellent repast, the company repaired to the spacious parlors, when W. B. Wallace, W. M. of Havelock L. O. L. No. 27, took the chair and called the brethren to order. The toast of Queen's Preceptory, No. 62, Royal Black Knights, of which the host is an honored member, was responded to by P. M. Sprout, W. P. J. Henry, W. J. Morris, G. M. of Newcastle, and N. J. Morrison, G. S., spoke on behalf of the Grand Lodge of N. B. Addresses were made by Scott E. Morrell, C. M.; Geo. A. Hetherington, M. D., W. M. of Willis L. O. L. Fairville; Ald. Macrae and others. Geo. H. Vincent moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Skinner for his kind and hospitable, which was seconded by McLeod of Carleton and M. McFarland, M. D., and to which Mr. Skinner replied in an eloquent and pleasing manner. He is a Jolly Good Fellow was sung. Hon. H. A. McKown moved a vote of thanks to Mrs. Skinner and the ladies, seconded by J. Maxwell and Philip Palmer. The brethren afterwards sang Auld Lang Syne and God Save the King, breaking up at an early hour, after having spent a most enjoyable evening.

SUDDEN DEATH.

Henry Ritchie, an Aged Negro, Dropped Dead Last Evening.
At an early hour last evening Henry Ritchie, an aged negro, died very suddenly at the home of his son, Duke Ritchie, at the foot of Queen street. The deceased, who was about 65 years of age and a native of St. John, worked almost all his life as a cook on vessels owned here and elsewhere. Up to within a few months ago he made his home while in St. John with the son in whose house he died. Latterly he had resided with friends in Union alley. Yesterday he called at the police court to inquire what steps he should take to gain possession of certain articles belonging to him which he had left in the son's house. Acting upon the advice given him there, he spoke to Police Sgt. Campbell and asked him to be at the Queen street house early in the evening. Sgt. Campbell was there shortly after 7 o'clock, and soon Mr. Ritchie put in an appearance. The old man made some remarks about the way his children had treated him, and while he was speaking he fell to the floor, striking one of his grandchildren as he went down, and died within a few moments. Sgt. Campbell sent for Coroner Berryman, who found that the old man died from heart failure. No inquiry will be held.

BOARD OF WORKS.

In a Muddle Regarding the Dredging at the McLeod Wharf.

At the meeting of the board of works yesterday it was decided to call for tenders for 150 tons of soft coal, 50 cords of wood, 60,000 feet of spruce deals for sidewalk construction, and to purchase 400 barrels each of tar and asphalt, and 1,000 feet of granite curbing. The abattoir committee reported that they approved of the site on the further side of Courtenay Bay. Objections to this site were made on behalf of the residents in the vicinity by T. P. Regan. Some discussion took place, and it was decided that the proposed site be recommended.

It was decided to recommend that immediate connection with the ferry service be effected with the Employers' Liability Company.

Director Cushing reported with reference to the dredging at the McLeod wharf and elsewhere. The Connolly dredge was to have been engaged for 30 days of 11 hours. Mr. Connolly claims payment for 30.34 days at \$400 per day. The director said that while the dredge was nominally working for the time claimed by Mr. Connolly the quantity of material removed was not so great as it should have been. Mr. Cushing gave the following details regarding the dredging:

At McLeod wharf:

70 scow loads removed of 200 cubic yards each—15,000 cubic yards. Old wharf removed—4,000 cubic yards. Sept. 22 to Oct. 23 (total), 19,000 cubic yards.

If 38 days is allowed for this work then only an average of 500 cubic yards per day were removed, which is much less than should have been removed. Mr. Connolly claims 48 days here.

At Navy Island wharf:

30 scow loads removed of 200 cubic yards each, 6,000 cubic yards.

If 7 days is allowed for this work then only an average of 800 cubic yards per day were removed, which is much less than should have been removed. Mr. Connolly claims 9 1/4 days here.

At berth 3, Union wharf:

5 1/2 scow loads removed of 200 cubic yards each, 1,100 cubic yards.

Nov. 7 to Nov. 12.

If 3 days is allowed for this work, then only an average of 370 cubic yards per day were removed, which is much less than should have been removed. Mr. Connolly claims 3 1/2 days here.

I thought that when Mr. Connolly arrived here and knew of the small quantity of material removed and found the dredge had been employed much more than 30 days (price of \$400 per day was based on dredge being employed not less than 30 days) that he would be willing to accept pay for much less than 60 3/4 days, but he has not made any rebate and on the 22nd inst. he telephoned me that he will claim interest on balance after today. Calculating upon basis of \$400 per day the account stands thus:

60 3/4 days at \$400 per day.....\$24,300

Less payments:

Oct. 2—11 1/2 days at \$400.....\$4,600

Oct. 8—10 days at \$400.....4,000

Oct. 15—8 1/2 days at \$400.....3,400

Nov. 10—15 days at \$400.....6,000

Balance due upon basis of 60 3/4 days, \$6,300.

Balance due upon basis of 48 days would be \$6,300, less \$4,200—\$2,100.

Several of the aldermen spoke warmly with reference to the matters presented by Director Cushing.

Finally the consideration of the whole affair was referred to Ald. Christie with the recorder and the director.

ROBBERS IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

Dr. Vail, a public performer, a musician, accompanied by his wife, who is a second night performer, were the means of stirring up Old Bridge residents to a fever heat at New Brunswick, N. J., a few nights ago.

While Mrs. Vail was in an alleged hypnotic state she was asked about some murder mysteries that have been puzzling the detectives for years. She told about a robbery that had been committed, and said the robbers were living near New Brunswick.

At this the audience began to grow uneasy.

Mrs. Vail continued to arouse her hearers' feelings until their condition verged on frenzy when she told of a murder committed years ago, giving an accurate description of the murdered man as well as the spot where the murder occurred and declaring that one murderer was killed in a railroad accident and that the other one was in the audience.

A local physician stopped the woman and attempted to restore her, but she fainted and could not be revived until the audience was dismissed. As a result of the alleged disclosures in a police man was called to the force.

An attempt was made yesterday by the Old Bridge authorities to interview Mrs. Vail and have her make more detailed accusations, but the woman was in a half hysterical state and refused to talk further.

SHIPPING NEWS.

PORT OF ST. JOHN.

Arrived.

Sch. Mabel, 25, Cole, from Granville.

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