

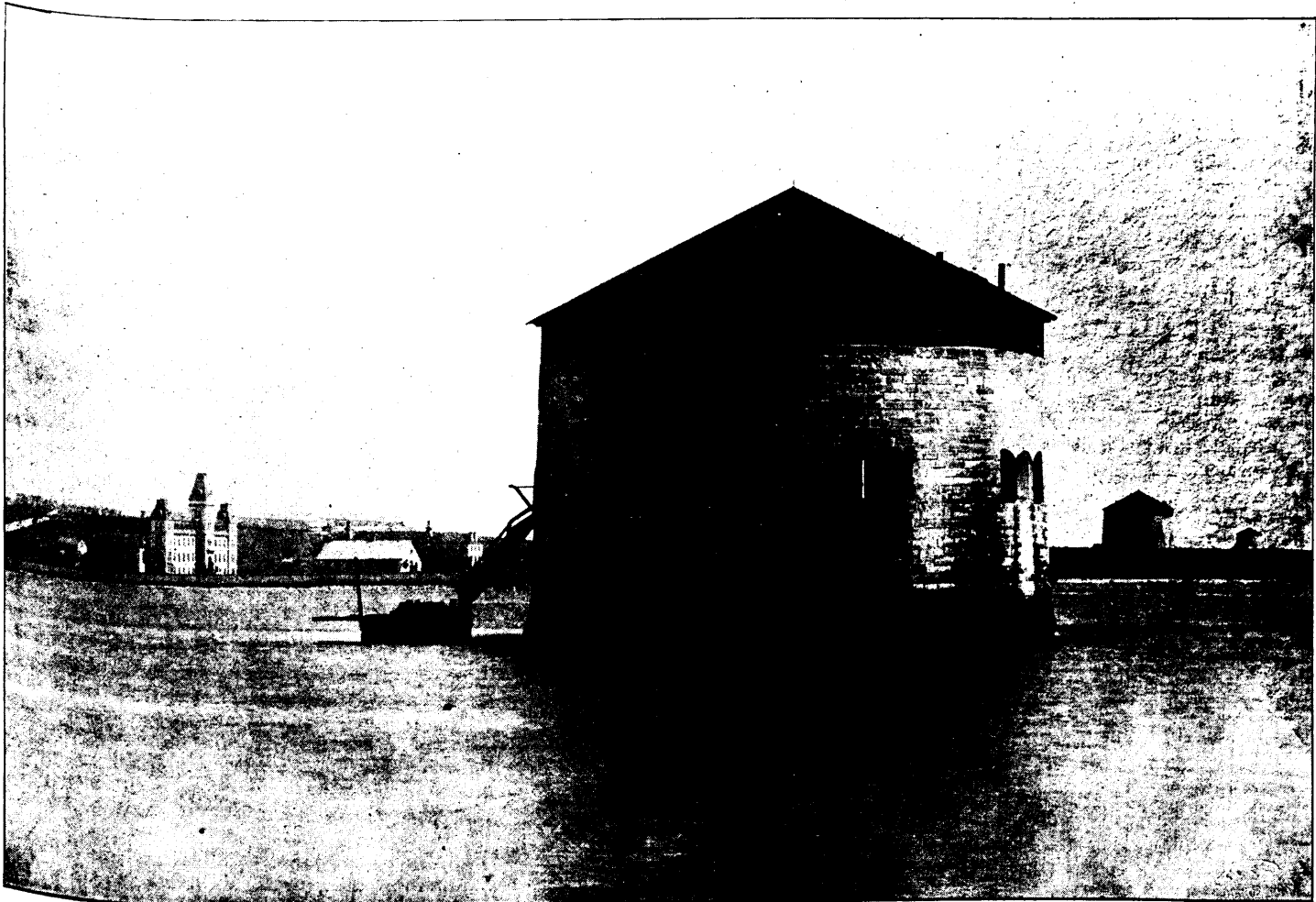
The Late Rev. Dr. Bill.

The Baptist church is strong in numbers in the provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. It has a strong and effective organization, splendid educational institutions under its own control, and is extremely active in mission and all other religious works. There are those still living, however, who can recall a time when its membership was comparatively small and its church edifices far less numerous and imposing. There has just passed away, at the ripe age of 86 years, one to whom this church owed much, and who has been lovingly styled the father of the Baptist ministry in New Brunswick. Rev. Inghram E. Bill, D.D., was born at Cornwallis, N.S., in 1805. When he had but just attained to manhood his father's death left him in possession of a valuable property for those days. He married at 22 and settled down to farming. But those were days of great religious earnestness, and under the vivid preaching of Rev. Messrs. Manning and Harding many "revivals" occurred in that and other parts of the province. The young farmer had been converted while in his 17th year, and in 1827 there came upon him the conviction that he must enter the ministry. He gave up his business and began to preach, his first sermon being delivered in the house of Mr. William Eaton in Lower Canada, N. S. He continued as a licensed preacher for two years, and was duly ordained in the year 1829. The work of the ministry at that time was exceedingly laborious and self-denying, but the young man entered upon it with enthusiasm. For 20 years he was pastor of the church at Nictaux, Annapolis county, and during that time held remarkably successful "revivals" in other parts of the province. The work was early extended to the adjoining province of New Brunswick and the year 1840 found Rev. Mr. Bill dedicating a new



THE LATE REV. I. E. BILL, D.D.

church in the city of Fredericton. For two years he was its pastor and then returned to Nova Scotia. In 1853 he was called to the Germain street church, St. John, and accepted. Here he preached for 11 years, and then for a time retired from pastoral work; but in 1874, when he was almost 70 years of age, he accepted a call to St. Martins, N. B., and laboured there for 12 years. In 1886 he retired and has since, up to the time of his death on the 5th of the present month, lived quietly at St. Martins, retaining his wonderful vitality almost to the last. Wherever he laboured during his 60 years of active work his success was remarkable and he was revered and beloved by the entire denomination. But he was more than a preacher. From the first he was an ardent friend of higher education, and the splendid educational institutions of the Baptists in the lower provinces owe much to his zeal and energy. About the year 1844 he travelled over a large portion of the United States collecting money for this purpose, and in 1850 went to England on the same errand, with marked success in both instances. He was associate editor, then editor, and for a time proprietor of the *Christian Visitor*, now called the *Messenger and Visitor*, the organ of the denomination. His "Fifty Years Among the Baptists" is a large volume, containing much valuable historical information. In 1880, Acadia College conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity. Rev. Dr. Bill was twice married, his second wife surviving him. He leaves three sons,—Rev. I. E. Bill, Liverpool, N.S.; E. M. Bill, now in Australia, and Caleb Bill, a professor of music at Cambridge. As one of the pioneers; as preacher, lecturer, teacher and writer, Rev. Dr. Bill conferred upon his denomination benefits, the importance of which it is not easy to estimate. His name was a household word, and his memory will be fondly cherished.



MARTELLO TOWER, IN KINGSTON HARBOUR.