

4. That practiced in England in the days of Wickliffe, A. D. 1280, when it was a matter of indifference whether the person was dipped once or thrice, or water poured upon the head?

From the very book to which we are referred we learn that the modern practice of immersion is only a modified form of one of those ancient superstitions which discoloured religion and disgraced the Christian name in heathen lands. And as it respects dipping being scriptural, and as it respects immersion being modern, it must be considered as an 'irony.' The modern immersion is not a scriptural baptism. I will not now examine the three remaining assertions as there has perhaps been enough in my former letter on these points. The manner in which Baptist writers shift their grounds is truly surprising. In the first letter by C. H. H. he says, Wesley, Benson, Adams, Clarke, and Burket, as authorities in proof of dipping; and when we proved that they (Rev. J. Wesley and Dr. Adam Clarke) had both written against the practice this gentleman of the counter had the presumption to impeach their scholarship by their sincerity. *O tempora! O mores!* or their sincerity. *O tempora! O mores!*

As C. H. H. has positively contradicted the Rev. J. Wesley, let us put those writers in the scale of Scripture truth:—

Rev. J. Wesley's C. H. H., Sydney, C. Treatise on Baptism: B. assertions:—
 'The Jailer, and all 'The New Testament house were baptised: does not tell us that in the prison.'—so.
 Acts xvi. 24. 'Who, 'The New Testament have received such men, tell us the Jailer a charge, thrust them out, brought Paul and Silas into the inner prison, Silas out of the prison and made their feet on.'—fast in the stocks.'—
 v. 30. 'And brought them out and said what must I do to be saved.'

The reader will at once see that it is not correct that the Jailer brought Paul and Silas out of the prison, for the text simply says, 'he brought them out; i. e., of the inner prison.'—see verse 24. But when brought out of the inner prison they were still in the outer prison; and it was in this outer prison that the Jailer washed them with stripes and was baptized, he and all his household.'—verse 33. So that Mr. Wesley is perfectly correct when he says 'The Jailer and all his household were baptized in prison.' 'Thou art weighed in the balances and art found wanting.'—Dan. v. 27.

Baptizing in prison does not agree with the dipping theory, and therefore C. H. H. says, 'The baptism could not have taken place either in the house or in the prison.' True, they could not be dipped; but they could be sprinkled with clear water.—Ezek. xxxvi. 25.

But C. H. H. is at no loss, he finds how they were baptized: 'It was administered, probably, in some of the numerous public baths, which in Philippi, a city on the place of fountains, so called from its numerous streams.' As the New Testament says nothing about this, my reader will please consider it all 'irony.'

The 3,000 baptized on the day of Pentecost did not, from the Scripture account, appear to have been from the place where they heard Peter preach in order to be baptized. Our Author thinks they did, and without the least hint in the Holy Book he would divide the multitude, and in order to have them dipped he finds the following baptisms, or dipping places: 'The Pool of Bethesda, the King, or Solomon's Pool—the Upper Pool—the Pool of Hezekiah, the Lower Pool—the Pool of Siloam, &c., &c., &c.' What nonsense a man must believe to sustain the dipping theory!

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In the St. John South Circuit the quota of contributions to the Fund was less than the sum to be actually advanced, the quota of the Ministers' children stationed there to the amount of £21 11s. 3d.; but the Circuit Steward made no demand on the District Treasurer, consequently, that amount came to the aid of the Fund, and so far served to meet the delinquency of other Circuits. In the Sussex Vale Circuit the quota charged was more than was needed for the payment of the children of the Minister on that Station. The Lord had blessed abundantly the labors of His servants, and a very considerable increase of members was the pleasing result. On the principle of the Fund he had to provide for 53 claimants, having at the same time but 2 on the Fund. Hence he had to provide the sum of £23 1s. 6d. in addition, which he paid to the last farthing, though he had an excess of deficiency, beyond the ordinary income of his Circuit, and the amount he received from the grant which he has not received to this time. The same rule applied, though to a far less extent, to the St. John North Circuit. There also the claim was met; and hence we were enabled to avail ourselves of that modification of the principle contained in Grindrod's Compendium, see page 295, resolution 3rd. The appointments, however, of the last Conference have placed different circumstances as regards St. John South and North Circuits. The former of these instead of being a claimant Circuit beyond the quota charged, is now a paying Circuit. Instead of asking for £21 11s. 3d. from the Fund, it has to pay £37 16s. into it. And the St. John North Circuit, instead of paying into the Fund £4 14s. 6d., has to receive £16 10s. 9d. therefrom.

The more safe and desirable plan, however, in my opinion, would be, at the time of the Financial District Meeting to allot to each single Circuit such an amount as might be deemed reasonable for it to raise toward the maintenance of the Fund. This is the principle of the principle of this important fund has been very partially carried out, conformably to the rules provided in the past. How things may be at the next Conference I cannot say. The St. John District, I fear, will be delinquency as to law and usage in connection with the Fund. We have a Treasurer from whom no man in our District is more competent to carry out the principles of the fund were the means put into his hands. No payments, however, have been made from the Circuits on which rests liability, and consequently he has been hitherto a Treasurer only in name.

Let, then, this fund as it is understood, be kept apart from the Contingent fund. At the September meeting divide of the District grant, as far as it will go, according to the exigencies of the Circuits, which have a claim thereon: hold each Circuit accountable for its quota according to the principle involved. At the end of each quarter let the Circuit Stewards certify to the District Treasurer that they have paid the amounts due from this fund to the stationed Ministers, placing the balance, should the Circuit be liable also in his hands. Carry out this in all the instances of liability; then cases where the quota allotted is less than the acknowledged claims. And, in conclusion, imperatively require each District to pay the full amount of claims. Then the District Treasurers will have it in their power to place the means in the hands of the General Treasurers of the Conference, and the whole plan will be carried through in its simplicity and adaptation, to effect the object for which, in its institution it was intended; otherwise the fund will be to some Circuits a partial good, and to others a partial evil. R. KNIGHT.

Nov. Scotia, April 16th 1857.

Letters from Rev. R. Knight, D.D.

No. II.

THE CHILDREN'S FUND.

To the Editor of the Provincial Wesleyan.

Sir,—I intimated in my last communication that should you allow me space in the columns of your journal for that purpose, I would avail myself of the privilege to offer some observations on the various funds of our Connection.

The first (equal to any in importance, as I conceive of it) shall be the 'Children's Fund,' which was organized by the authority of the Parent Body in the year 1818, and has been adopted by the Affiliated Conference of Eastern British America.

The necessity of such a measure had been long and painfully felt, especially in the annual stationing of the Ministers. Prior to the institution of this fund each Circuit was made responsible for all the Children of the Preachers thereto appointed. This led to difficulty not easily to be disposed of generally; and in some particular instances was most keenly felt from time to time by some of the most worthy and effective brethren belonging to our itinerant Ministry. Men with large families were liable to be objected against merely on financial grounds, however well qualified they might be in all respects to occupy the Circuit allotted for their Ministerial and Pastoral duties.

Hence the urgency of the case, and the necessity of some arrangement which by recognizing the principle of equalization should relieve the Circuits and the Ministers from those embarrassments which had hitherto obtained, and were so sensibly felt. For the equity of the principle which forms its foundation, and its effectiveness when fairly and fully carried out, there can be no question. The least infringement mars its excellence. Delinquency in its application not only proportionately neutralizes, and so far defeats, its object, but imposes an additional burden on those Circuits where its intention finds practical recognition. The primary principle of this fund is, the property of making every District responsible for providing within itself, and by its own local resources, the allowances for such a number of Ministers' children as would fairly belong to it, according to the principle of proportion to numbers in society.

Whether we submit this to the test of common equity or moral obligation we shall be compelled to justify its principle. True, there may be a few supposable cases of exception which may be named hereafter; but these, it will be seen, may be adjudicated on within the limits of the District. While, at the same time, so binding is the claim of this Fund on every District department of our Connection, that its maintenance in any one instance relinquish its hold, Circuits may claim and obtain favorable consideration on special grounds, but Districts can hope for no indulgence. To Circuits in such cases, it may be said by District Committees, your claims shall be laid upon the table, and to the Districts themselves there must be the stern demand of, 'Pay me that thou owest.'

This Fund commends itself to favorable notice from the simplicity of its structure, the practicability of its application, and the reasonableness of its claims; so simple is its construction that it can be comprehended at first view. Take, for instance, the present numbers of our Connection. These were found at our last Session to be 12,255. Divided off by the number of claimants amounting to 195, the result was found to be 62 2/3 members should provide for