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SLANDER UPON PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS.

Minister Replies in News and Observer to the Misrepresentations that are Going the Rounds of the Press about the part His Church Took in the Allen Affair.

Raleigh News and Observer.

To the Editor: Will you allow space in your columns to correct a misrepresentation that has been going the rounds of the press—and which has appeared in your paper—to the effect that the outlaws of the Carroll county, Virginia, were Primitive, or in the parlance of adverse criticism, "Hardshell" Baptists?

The originators of such false reports evidently had other motives than the publication of the truth, for the facts are that not one of the outlaws charged with the dastardly crime of shooting up the court officials at Hillsville are members of the Primitive Baptist church, and this fact could have been easily ascertained from any well informed and truthful person in the neighborhood of the crime. Were this not an age of boasted religious progress and absolute fairness to the most humble citizen, it would not appear so strange that those who are paid to tell the truth apparently take so much pleasure in hiding the truth. For you remember, Mr. Editor, that men were hired to deny the resurrection of the Master, who but for the pressure of popular false religion and the promise of protection and pay, would have willingly told the truth about the matter without charge. And you remember also, that in the days of Nero another dastardly crime was committed by the pliant tools of this proud and devilish empire, the burning of Rome, which crime was promptly charged to the Christians. But from the great show of religion that is made in our beloved country one would conclude that surely the spirit of Nero would not now be tolerated.

Then why should this Hillsville affair be charged to Primitive Baptists? We did not see published broadcast over the country that the Beattie crime was charged to his church connection, though he was a member of a prominent denomination. We do not see that the New School, or Missionary Baptists are charged with influencing the crime of Richeson, though he was a minister of that denomination. But because there is a strong element of Primitive Baptists in Carroll county, many wagging tongues and poisonous quills have been employed in charging the crime to these people, when, as before stated, not one of the several outlaws are members of the Primitive Baptist church.

But we suppose the ill-feeling some hold against us can be explained by our refusal to enter with them in the modern mission schemes of evangelizing the world. Well, Primitive Baptists claim to be Bible missionaries, and it has never yet been proven by the Bible that they are not. And they can boast of more ministers today going in the way Christ sent out His called and qualified preachers and preaching without charge his everlasting doctrine of salvation by grace than all their acensers combined. But be this as it may, there seems to be in the mountains of Virginia and North Carolina a good field, and an opportune time for missionary work, and we do not think it out of place to advise those who are so infatuated with their humanizing and soul-saving of missions in foreign fields to call in their forces, and put them to work at home. Why leave your own kin and kin to "go to the dogs" while you trapse over the sea to bestow your labors of love on the yellow and black races, who prove by their continual refusal to support your missionaries, that they do not appreciate your labors? Thousands of mountain sections and city districts in our own country have not even the benefits of the free school, much less the gospel preached to them free. Suppose you help the Primitive Bap-

tists do some of this free work at home in the way of preaching the gospel of love free of charge. But if you will not, and the "devil again breaks loose" at home, for the sake of good manners, to say nothing of the love of Christ, do not charge the devil's work to the Primitive Baptists.

Primitive Baptists are not disposed to boast. We feel we have no right to do so. The Master tells his disciples that when they have done all the good they can to still call themselves unprofitable servants. This we feel, is the right course. But perhaps it would not be out of place here, to let others boast a little for us, and to say for ourselves, as a matter of fact, that while Primitive Baptists are not the only lovers of law and order, yet none of our traducers can show a better record in morals, in the commercial world and in State and county government than has been made by our ten thousand membership in Virginia. Our people have ever been noted for their love of law and order.

Washington said that the Baptists were the most ardent and trustworthy defenders of the Revolutionary cause. This was before any of the popular modern missionary societies were organized. Elder John Cano, a Baptist minister and a chaplain in Washington's army, was in close touch with the general and one of his most trusted friends during those troublesome times. Thomas Jefferson said he got his first practical lesson in local self government from observing the government and discipline of a little Baptist church he sometimes attended. Dr. Lofton, a noted New School or Missionary Baptist theologian of Nashville, Tenn., said he was raised among Primitive Baptists and knew them well, and that he never knew but one to take advantage of the homestead law to keep from paying his debts, and that he was promptly turned out of church for so doing. The late Sam Jones, a native of Georgia, where there are about twenty thousand Primitive Baptists, seemingly took pleasure in stating, when preaching on honesty, that to be a Primitive Baptist, was considered, in commercial circles, as a most trustworthy letter of credit. Elder Sam H. Hurst, a minister among the New School Baptists, in a recent published article relative to the Hillsville affair, said: "There are about a dozen Primitive Baptist preachers in the county (Carroll), with as many churches or meeting places. Prominent among these are Elders Isaac Webb, Smith Webb, Jr., and F. P. Branscomb. A better man, more consecrated Christian, or more patriotic citizen never lived in any county in Southwest Virginia than Elder Isaac Webb. At first a school teacher, afterwards county judge, treasurer, and all the time a preacher of the gospel without remuneration. Few men have been more highly esteemed for his many virtues than he. Now some ninety years of age his life has been, is now, and will be for years to come, a benediction to the county. Elder F. P. Branscomb of Laurel Fork, is also a typical man and citizen, and editor of a religious periodical in general circulation throughout Carroll and adjoining counties. There is also another Primitive Baptist paper published in the county at Eona, and widely circulated through the same section, edited by Dr. J. C. Hurst, of Roanoke, Va. * * * As a people the Primitive Baptists, like the Dunkards, are plain and simple in habits and noted as law abiding and law respecting citizens, and they yield the palm to no people for honesty in payments of debts."

But enough of this. We will only add that Primitive Baptists have a right to complain against the unjust and unreasonable charge of the Hillsville tragedy to their account; and it is but fair to expect all papers that have published such charges, and later having learned the untruthfulness of them, to make as prominent front page display of our denials as was made of the slan-

der. We trust your spirit of fairmindedness will actuate your publication to seek to undo the injury that was, unthoughtfully or maliciously, aimed at our people.

R. H. Pittman,

Pastor Primitive Baptist Church, Luray, Page county, Va.

Ice Prevented Aid for Titanic.

Washington, April 27.—Failure to give her exact position, a great field of floating ice that offered a wellnigh impossible barrier to ships hurrying to the rescue, and the mistake of her own captain in rushing at top speed through an ice-covered sea—all these combined to send the Titanic and her 1,600 victims to their graves in the north Atlantic. This was clearly indicated today in testimony before the senate committee investigating the ocean tragedy.

Capt. James H. Moore, of the steamer Mount Temple, which was hurried to the Titanic in response to wireless calls for help, told of the great stretch of field of ice which held him off. Within his view from the bridge he discerned, he said, another strange steamer, probably a "tramp," and a schooner which was making her way out of the ice. The lights of this schooner he thought probably were those seen by the survivors of the Titanic and which they were frantically trying to reach.

Captain Moore denounced as "most unwise" the action of the Titanic's commander in rushing at 21 knots through the night when he had been advised of the proximity of ice. The Mount Temple's commander testified that he had spent 27 years in the north Atlantic. Whenever ice was around, he said, he doubled his watch and reduced speed, and if he happened to get caught in an ice pack, he stopped his engines and drifted until he was clear.

Position Sent Out Was Wrong.

The witness also was emphatic in his declaration that the position sent out by the Titanic was wrong. He said the ship was 8 miles further eastward than its operators reported. This, he declared, he proved by observations taken the first thing on the day following the disaster.

With what virtually was a fleet of steamers within a radius of 50 miles of the Titanic, the officer said that this mistake in fixing accurately the position of the doomed ship was a fatal one. With ice bergs and floating ice covering the northern sea, a ship of even the size of the Titanic might well be overlooked through such a variance.

J. Bruce Ismy, managing director of the International Mercantile Marine company, was much cheered by the testimony of the afternoon. Throughout the week he has had a troubled look and during the long daily sessions he has sat silent, seldom speaking to his associates who accompanied him. Today however, he listened eagerly to the accounts of his conduct at the lifeboats as told by the stewards and seamen who came in contact with him the night of the disaster. His eyes fairly beamed when Steward Crawford told how he had called for women to go in one of the boats and had said to a woman who told him she was a stewardess, "you are a woman take your place in the boat."

To Liberate Thaw.

New Rochelle, N. Y., April 27.—A fourth attempt, through the agency of the law to liberate Harry K. Thaw from the Matteawan State Hospital, where he has been imprisoned for the slaying of Stanford White six years ago, "because of insanity," was made today before Justice Keogh of the Supreme Court in New Rochelle. After a brief preliminary discussion, Justice Keogh adjourned the hearing until May 6 and Thaw started back for Matteawan.

Lame back is usually caused by rheumatism of the muscles of the back, for which you will find nothing better than Chamberlain's Liniment. For sale by All Dealers.

TAFT LEADERS HAVE DETERMINED TO TURN ON ALL THE LIGHT.

Washington, April 27.—With the senate planning to begin an investigation of the relations with the "interests" of Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft, respectively, and both Senator Dixon and William B. McKinley claiming that their favorite will be nominated on the first ballot at Chicago, the political pot here is "biling some."

The decision to investigate is contained in the action of the senate committee on privileges and elections today, after nearly a year's delay in ordering a favorable report to the senate on the Culberson resolution providing for an investigation of campaign contributions in the campaign of 1904 and 1908. The senate will begin at once.

As was the case in the resolution asking for papers in the harvester and steel trust investigations, standpat Republicans joined with the Democrats in voting to report the measure favorably. If other proofs were lacking, this is considered as clinching evidence that the standpat Taft leaders are determined to throw the lime-light on every detail of Colonel Roosevelt's alleged doings with the money magnates of New York. Though it may reek the Republican party, still the full story is to be told.

Champ Clark in Lead.

Democratic presidential politics during the week have been extra dull, as compared with last week, and also with the developments in the Republican party. At present Champ Clark is in the lead and running like a "skeered hound." Wilson is a close second, and, his friends say, will be nominated at Baltimore, regardless.

At Underwood headquarters it was said that next week Underwood will forge a head of Wilson.

Two Hundred Bodies of Titanic Are Rescued.

New York, April 24th.—Two hundred and five bodies of the Titanic victims were picked up at sea by cable steamer, Makay-Bennett, and are being brought to Halifax, N. S. The cable ship's captain confirms the identification of George D. Widener, P. A. B. Widener's son, of Philadelphia, in wireless dispatches.

The captain wireless that a majority of the bodies will never come to the sea's surface. Captain Laruder sent word through the Cape Race wireless station that Mackay-Bennett has been drifting in fog since noon yesterday. The captain does not indicate when he expects to reach Halifax. Bodies are floating upon the sea many miles east and west in latitude 47.35 north and longitude 48.37 west says the wireless. Medical opinion is that death was instantaneous in all cases owing to the pressure when the bodies were drawn in the vortex.

Executive Council May Decide Richeson's Fate.

Boston, April 27.—A final step by counsel for Clarence V. T. Richeson, the confessed murderer of his former sweetheart, Miss Avis Linnell, to secure a commutation of the death sentence, was taken yesterday afternoon when the attorneys appeared before Governor Foss. The lawyers urged the governor to lay their petition, asking that the sentence of death be changed to one of life imprisonment before the executive council.

At the conclusion of the hearing Governor Foss announced that he had taken under advisement the matter of placing the petition for commutation of Richeson's sentence before the executive council. It is generally believed he will allow the executive to decide Richeson's fate.

Poor appetite is a sure sign of impaired digestion. A few doses of Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets will strengthen your digestion and improve your appetite. Thousands have been benefited by taking these Tablets. Sold by All Dealers.

TEACHES GREAT LESSON.

Rev. H. H. Hulten Warns His Hearers That Accidents of the Titanic's Kind Are Too Numerous, Therefore Be Prepared.

Charlotte Observer, 29th.

Preaching to a congregation which jammed the First Baptist church from pulpit steps to highest balcony, the pastor, Rev. H. H. Hulten, spoke last night on "The Titanic Disaster: The Greatest Sermon of the Ages." After eulogizing the altruism and intrepidity of those who gave their lives for others, he drew from the occurrence a number of lessons which he recommended to his hearers. Chief among these were: A realization of the truth of proverb, "Pride goeth before a fall;" likewise of the danger of presumptiveness, "the greatest sin of the age;" and that all obstacles are dangerous in life's journey. The wreck furnishes, said he, a striking lesson in vicarious sacrifice and, further, teaches that a man may come very near a happy destination, only to miss it.

The service was in part a memorial to those who lost their lives on the Titanic, and the hymns were selected with this idea in view. They were "Onward Christian Soldiers, Marching as to War," "Rescue the Perishing," and lastly "Nearer My God to Thee," the strains of which floated forth from the sinking vessel just before it took its fatal plunge, rendered by musicians who were faithful to the last to their duty of preserving a semblance of order on board. Editor Archibald Johnson of Thomasville made the opening prayer, in which the members of bereaved households were remembered. The theme of the evening was rich in dramatic possibilities which suffered nothing at the hands of Dr. Hulten.

A Favorable Contrast.

The text was Acts 27:41—"And falling into a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the forepart struck fast, and remained unmovable, but the hinder part was broken with the violence of the waves."

This is an excerpt from the account of the wrecking of a vessel which had as its most distinguished passenger one Saul of Tarsus. Dr. Hulten compared this wreck with that of the Titanic. In some respects the two incidents were similar. Their chief dissimilarity was in the conduct of the captain and crew. In the former instance, these jumped into the lifeboats and rowed away. In the latter we see them loading the lifeboats with women and children and themselves remaining to perish. "And I think that this difference argues mightily for the advancement of human society since the days of the New Testament."

How It Happened.

Dr. Hulten described the Titanic encounter. At the most popular season of the year, crowded with passengers of all sorts, invalids in search of health, pleasure seekers in search of pleasure, business men in search of commerce, artists and authors in search of inspiration, the big ship was pressing shoreward on its maiden trip. Many of the passengers were asleep in their berths, dreaming of home and cities beyond the sea. The night was ideal. Not a cloud was in the sky. The heavens were starlit, and under conditions which seemed wholly favorable, the proud monster of the deep went plunging into the iceberg. "Oh, that some mighty hand might have stopped her! Oh, that the lookout might have discerned the danger, swerved her fifty yards to one side and averted the collision. But this was not to be. The ship's side is torn asunder, the women and children are helped into the lifeboats and placed beyond reach of danger, and then the officers and the crew, surrounded by a band of heroic passengers, wrap themselves in the white shroud of the surf and go down in the great democracy of death. And let the great waves roll on until they beat a solemn dirge, while the people of two

continents bow their heads in sorrow, waiting for the day when the sea shall give up its dead."

"It is high time you should take your bearings and reckon your latitude and longitude. I charge you, slow down the engine, men. If need be, cast anchor and stop. Be sure that you get your bearings tonight. I warn you that strait and narrow is the channel that leads to eternal life."

All Obstacles Perilous.

"All obstacles are dangerous in life's journey," said Dr. Hulten, it developed that the iceberg was half a mile long, a quarter of a mile broad and 200 feet high, many said.

"This tragedy is repeated every 30 days on the American continent, hundreds of men being victims of somebody's criminal negligence." Dr. Hulten declared that men are menaced and destroyed by the iceberg of a godless philosophy, the iceberg of a skeptical and materialistic science. "Pantheism, materialism and rationalism," said he, "have so beclouded the atmosphere that we can no longer see the radiant face of Jesus Christ in full effulgence. You can get any sort of religion you want, if you will only not insist that God still rules the universe and that Jesus Christ did die to save the world. These weaknesses are waiting for another disaster and when it comes they want to be the pallbearers, the undertakers and the grave diggers, and that will be the burial of the Lord God Almighty."

Dr. Hulten declared that "when John Jacob Astor placed his lovely bride in the lifeboat and returned to the vessel, that was a lesson in vicarious suffering. When J. M. Thayer placed his wife in the boat and returned to the ship, that was a lesson in vicarious suffering. In like manner, said he, was the sacrifice of the Christ.

Mrs. Sidna Allen Gets Possession of Husband's Farm.

Hillsville, Va., April 29.—Mrs. Sidna Allen, wife of the fugitive outlaw, has made arrangements to secure the use of a portion of her husband's property, so as to properly operate the farm. All of the realty and personalty of Sidna Allen was attached when civil suits for heavy damages were instituted by the administrator of the men murdered in the court house on March 14.

By executing a forthcoming bond, Mrs. Allen has secured the release of a pair of bay horses, a two-horse wagon, six bushels of oats, \$6 worth of grass seed, three haystacks and a half interest in a stump puller. The bond is supposed to represent double the value of the property released, and was executed before Clerk Dexter Goad in his office under the statute providing that the owner or party in possession may secure use of property in this manner.

Garland P. Allen, brother of Sidna Allen and a minister of the Primitive Baptist church, was the surety. Mrs. Allen is required to produce the property or its equivalent in cash upon order of the court.

North Carolina Cinched for Theodore Roosevelt.

Greensboro, April 27.—Col W. S. Pearson in charge of the Roosevelt campaign in this State, announced tonight that reports from 41 counties in the State which have held conventions assures the control of the State convention by the supporters of Col. Roosevelt. The 41 counties which have named delegates give Col. Roosevelt 584 and President Taft 23 with 11 uninstructed. It is stated that 541 votes give a majority in the State convention which meets in Raleigh next month to name delegates to the national convention.

Supporters of Colonel Roosevelt in the State reiterated tonight the claim that the entire 24 votes of North Carolina in the national convention would be instructed for him. From polls made they declare that Taft will not go into the State convention with 100 votes out of a total representation of 1,080.