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NOTES OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

(BY PASTOR W. H. RICH.)

The pastor is preaching a series of sermons on "Some Elements of Prevailing Prayer." Up to this writing he has spoken upon Adoration, Restitution, Confession and Thankfulness. The congregations are large and growing all the time.

The prayer meeting is well attended and interesting.

The Personal Workers' meeting, led by Bro. J. C. Whitty, is very helpful and interesting.

There are several who expect to join the Church soon. We cordially invite all Baptists who come to our city to live to unite with us. We will do you good and you can do us good. The choir is one of the best in the city and is growing better all the time. Bro. Charles Clark is the efficient leader and Mrs. C. C. Jordan is the accomplished organist. We give a royal welcome to all to worship with us.

The pastor will appreciate information concerning the sick, and visitors who are within our gates.

The Sunday School is well managed by Secretary J. L. McDaniel, who is acting superintendent until the election of a successor to Bro. Charles Clark, resigned. All regret the resignation of Bro. Clark because he was a very capable superintendent.

The business meeting Monday evening was very pleasant and harmonious. Brethren John C. Whitty, J. B. Holland, Charles C. Clark, Jr., and J. L. McDaniel were elected deacons. There never has been a brighter day in the history of the First Church.

TABERNACLE LETTER.

On June 1 Bro. Braxton Craig, of Rocky Mount, came and for eight days he preached the Gospel as only Bro. Craig can. I don't remember ever hearing a series of sermons that did me, personally, so much good. Bro. Craig is a unique preacher in many ways. He comes nearer putting his whole self in his sermons than any man I ever heard. His soul is certainly in his work and I know of no man who is a greater aid to a pastor than Bro. Craig. He preaches because he loves lost souls. Bro. Craig will long be remembered by the Tabernacle brethren and we hope to have him with us again, some day in a meeting.

The results were not what we hoped for. The two first services we had fire; the four last days of the meeting we had rain upon rain. Nevertheless God blessed the efforts and two united with the Church before the meeting closed and three since, making five in all; all grown, save one. We have received into the fellowship of our Church seventeen since the first of December—twelve by baptism.

The Woman's Missionary Society paid to missions during the second quarter \$15.55. The Sunbeams did not do as well as in the past, but when they cease to "whoop" we hope the same life will come back to them.

A number of our people have gone, or are preparing to go, to spend the summer out of New Bern. We wish them a happy vacation and rest.

The pastor had the great pleasure of spending ten days among his former parishioners in Green County recently. No nobler band of people can be found in all the

world than the Baptists of Green County. For four years he told the story of Jesus and his Lamb, the best he knew how, to those people. He had the pleasure of receiving more than three-fourths of them into the fellowship of the Churches. Many times were the waters troubled and I pray God that the ingathering may continue.

Bro. J. K. Faulkner preached for the Tabernacle brethren while the pastor was away, and many good things have been heard about him and his sermons since we returned.

Bro. S. F. Conrad, of the *North Carolina Baptist*, was with us the second Sunday morning in June, and preached for us. During his stay in New Bern several of our people renewed and some new subscribers were secured for the *Baptist*.

M. P. DAVIS.

PAMlico LETTER.

(BY PASTOR J. R. TAYLOR.)

Dear Bro. Davis:

The work on this field is getting on fairly well. We see some shadows, have some doubts, and some indifference. All my appointments have been filled for June. Our prayer meetings at Bayboro are not so well attended now as heretofore, though I am glad to say we have some who are among the faithful few. There are a few that will not attend services, either preaching or prayer meeting.

I sometimes think the Church ought to deal with such members, and then I think of the Master's way: "He that is without sin let him cast the first stone." So we go on trusting that the Lord will help them as he did the poor, ragged and starving prodigal.

The pastor for the past month has been out in the field the most of the time. I am teaching a class of music at Maribel now.

We have been down in the baptismal waters this month and hope to go again in the near future.

Our meeting at Vandemere begins Tuesday night after the second Sunday. Bro. W. A. Ayers, from Elizabeth City, will be with us. May the Master's Spirit brood over and give us a great blessing.

There are some people who say they would be Baptists if they could get into the Church without the Church voting them in. What an excuse! Why, you can't get in any organization, I care not how cruel or moral, according to parliamentary laws, unless the body (members) is willing. The leader of your organization or society has no right to say who shall become members. If so, then it is his (the leader's) society, and we haven't any voice over the body. The preacher who thus takes the visible Church from the hands of the people (its members) and says who shall come in, must say who shall go out. A Missionary Baptist Church is by Christ, of God, for the people. No one man has any right to say who shall or who shall not be members. But if the body is convinced by the candidate's confession of wrong and acceptance of Christ, then the Bible says, "Let them be added to your numbers."

Again, some ask me this: "You say there are Christians among all denominations; why will you not commune with all Christians when invited?"

The New Testament commands

me to commune with Christ and not with men. 1 Cor., 11:27, 29.

The New Testament commands me to commune with Christ and those only who are in fellowship with me. Acts 2:41, 47.

How can I commune in fellowship with those who believe in sprinkling or pouring for immersion. If I do it is evident that I have accepted their errors and besides adopted Pedobaptist belief—the baptism of infants.

I deny the profession that I have made and say the Scriptures lie, when it says, "One Lord, one faith, one baptism." Eph. 4:5.

The New Testament Church accepts only those who have repented, believed and are immersed. Acts 16:31; Luke 13:3; Romans 6:3, 5.

The Scripture cited above will ever make me a Missionary Baptist, if every other man in all this world belonged to some Pedobaptist Church. When I think of some people I know I am reminded of a little story I once heard. A little boy wanted to sell some young kittens to a Methodist minister, but the minister refused to buy. The little man said: "You better buy them, they are Methodist kittens." In a few days the little fellow went out to sell his kittens again and met the same minister, and when asked to buy he said "No." The little man looked at him and said: "You better buy them, they are Baptist kittens." "Why," said the minister, "did you not tell me the other day those kittens were Methodist?" "Yes, sir, but their eyes are open now."

A CALL TO ACTION.

My Dear Brethren:

I am a North Carolinian. My heart always pulsates with pride and joy when her name is mentioned. I love her soil, made sacred by the blood of heroes and martyrs. I love her noble and generous people. I came from the cloud-piercing hills of the west, down beside the rolling rivers and the sounding sea, for no other purpose than to serve my fellow-man and glorify God. So I suppose I am permitted to speak, for I am identified with and interested in every department of the Baptist cause in this Association. I wish in this introductory article to call our Baptist host to action along three lines.

1. The Atlantic Messenger, so well and admirably edited by our own M. P. Davis, needs and must have a more liberal and enthusiastic support from the Baptists of this section. The paper is already a power for good, but by a more liberal support it can be more effective in the extending of the Master's kingdom. But Bro. Davis can not do this work for nothing. So far he has not received anything over expenses. He has given it his valuable time and attention. It has been a labor of love. I arise to ask, is it right for us to expect him to do this longer? I have this to propose, namely, *read the paper, pay for the paper, get others to take the paper, pray for the editor*. If you and I will do this we will do no more than our full duty and will help along all the time.

2. The second remark that I wish to make is this, namely: Our school—the Atlantic Institute—located at Morehead City, and presided over by President Setzer the untiring and indomitable, needs a more liberal and hearty

support. So far only a few, comparatively speaking, have been deeply interested in it. Grandly and well have they done the work. The school has been a pronounced success from the first. We should throw up our hats and say "All honor to these men and women!" The success of the past is but an earnest of the future if all the great Baptist host of this Association will fall in line and support the school. The Institute needs better equipment. It will take money to do this. You and I have the Lord's money. Shall we put some of it into this great work? By so doing we will bless and be blessed. The rising generation demands this of us, the prosperity of the Baptist cause demands this of us, and the glory of God demands this of us.

The Institute needs more students. Get ready now to send your boys and girls next year. In the no distant future these boys and girls will be men and women. If we are to have the men and women of power twenty years from now we must educate the boys and girls now. Please remember this. Educated men and women rule.

3. The last message that I have for you this time is this: Let us "lengthen the cords and strengthen the stakes" in our Zion.

There are thousands of men and women whom we should bring to Jesus Christ the Saviour of sinners. To us He has committed the word of reconciliation to God. What a responsible and blessed work is ours!

Then we need to teach the people the true doctrines of the Holy Bible. The scholarship of the world is agreed that Baptists have the truth, or no other people under high heaven have it. In love we should teach the people and strive to bring them to the right way. Let us show that the New Testament teaches that *Regeneration must and does precede baptism*; that New Testament baptism is the immersion of the believer in water upon the profession of faith, and that all other "modes" taught by others with the explanation, "Any way will do," are unscriptural and spurious and wrong; that each Church is independent and sovereign; that the Holy Bible is the only rule of faith and practice. These distinguishing doctrines and all others contained in the Book we should teach and preach with earnestness and power. To do this, much prayer, study, faith, love and patience will be needed; but if we faithfully address ourselves to this work great will be our success and blessed will be our reward.

Yours in service,
WILLIAM H. RICH,
Pastor First Baptist Church, New Bern, N. C.

A North Missouri Senator once died as mortals do. He knocked upon the pearly gates, expecting to get through. St. Peter, through the peephole said: "Ah, friend, who might thou be?" "A member of the Senate of Missouri," answered he. Then turned the old gatekeeper to a page there in a book, "Missouri Senate, boodle" there he saw with just one look. "Let's see" St. Peter said to him. "Did you accept a bribe?" "Oh, no" replied the Senator, "I wasn't of the tribe. I saw some boodle passed around but not a cent took I." "You knew it?" said St. Peter, "Well that settles it; good by."

If on your travels throughout space Joe Folk you chance to meet, just tell him that I'm saving him a first-class golden seat." The man then traveled down below and told his story there. Old Satan cried: "Took boodle not, with boodle everywhere! You've reached the wrong place, Senator. Your steps you'd better turn. We couldn't use you, honestly—you're 'way too green to burn. If you should see my friend Farris or my agent, Mr. Brown, please tell them they've obeyed me well and have them hurry down." From hell's black gates the Senator his weary steps turned then. He'd found there is no beyond for half-way honest men. He started then to wander with no destination set. And in all probability the fellow's wandering yet.—*Kansas City Star*.

THE MAGIC SKIN.

In a fable the Magic Skin gave its wearer the power to get anything he wanted, but every time he gratified his wishes the skin shrank and compressed him into smaller dimensions until, by and by, with the last wish life itself was crushed out. The Magic Skin is selfishness. It is a great thing to learn to say "No" to one's self, instead of indulging every whim and wish, even though there be nothing sinful in it. There was no necessary wrong to Moses in his inheriting the royal treasures and enjoying the royal treasures of Egypt, so far as they were not in themselves sinful; but Moses had a higher vocation, and these would have been hindrances; so he renounced them.—*A. T. Pierson*.

SENSITIZED.

Dr. Lyman Abbot said in a sermon: "I was told the other day that the astronomers have discovered that a sensitized plate will photograph stars which the eye, though aided by the strongest telescope, cannot see. You look and see a little; with a telescope you see a little more; and then you put the sensitized plate in its place and let the plate look at the heavens long enough, and on the sensitized plate you see imprinted the image of stars that no telescope could reveal. The astronomer's plate discloses the unknown world." Jesus Christ is the portraiture of God on the sensitized plate of a perfect human soul; the unknown God brought into human life that we may see him and know him and be acquainted with him.

Prof. Ira T. Turlington, who for about twenty years has conducted a flourishing school in Johnston County, has sold his school property, Turlington Institute, and the trustees will open a graded school next fall. Prof. Turlington has done a great work, preparing many men and women to become useful citizens.

A clergyman, who wrote his sermons with the utmost care and logical coherence, once found it desirable while preaching to omit a small portion of his discourse.

Towards the close of his sermon there was a reference to the omitted passage—a fact the speaker had forgotten for the moment, and then, suddenly remembering it, he extricated himself from the difficulty in this way:

"As I have before remarked—er in a part—er—which I have omitted."