

expanse of water, furnishing about 1000 capacious baptistries. And yet, no facilities for Christian baptism in Apostolic times, in Jerusalem!

Situate about ten minutes' walk from the eastern gate, is the King's or Solomon's Pool, where on the floor of a chamber "15 feet long by five or six wide, and six or eight feet high," Dr. Robinson's measurement, the water, supplied by an arched passage-way from the side towards the temple, is from one to three feet deep and can be raised to any desired depth by placing for a few minutes a slight dam across the outlet. Scarcely could a better place have been expressly designed and prepared for immersion. So testifies a modern visitor and competent witness, Rev. G. W. Samson, whose valuable contributions on this subject, see in "Baptismal Tracts for the Times."

A little further down the same valley is the Pool of Siloam, John ix. 7, 11, an open reservoir, built in the hill side, and lined like the other pools, with a hard cement. It is 53 feet long by 18 broad, and 19 deep, with one wall so broken down that only two or three feet of water now stand in the bottom. Near by is a smaller reservoir about 10 feet by 7. In either, as Dr. Robinson remarks, any depth of water may be readily obtained by damming temporarily the mouth of the outlet. The "original supply here was doubtless the gushing source under the temple area and the aqueducts centering there." Josephus thus urged his countrymen to surrender to Titus. "You know that Silbam as well as the other springs," (the Greek word here often designates wells and expanses of water) "without the city... now have such a great quantity for your enemies, as is sufficient not only for drink both for themselves and their cattle, but also for watering their gardens," Jewish Wars book 5, 4, 1 and 9, 4. He counselled them that resistance would be vain. Antoninus the Martyr, in the sixth century, speaking of the fountain of Siloam, says there "is a vast pool... in which the people bathe constantly... for the fountain sends forth many waters which descend through the valley of Jehoshaphat." As the traveller of the present day "beholds before him the copious constantly gushing fountain, and the broad tank and vast pool to receive it, and sees how freely the people by scores now come hither, and damming up the broken wall and outlet, bathe themselves, he wonders how a person who knows the meaning of baptizo should think of difficulty."

Again on the west of the city was "the old or upper pool in the highway of the Fuller's field," according to Dr. Robinson, "316 feet long, 218 broad, and 18 feet deep in parts," covering more than an acre and a half, with steps at the corners. Though now out of repair, it was well supplied in the time of the crusades.

In the rainy season some of these pools would be full and hence too deep for performing the ordinance of baptism, except around their sloping sides. But when it is remembered that their usual and permanent sources of supply were aqueducts fed by springs, the conveniences for baptism it is evident, were best in the dry season, when the water was only of a suitable depth.

There was also the Pool of Hezekiah with its sloping bottom, covering more than an acre of ground, and having, according to the statement of an English clergyman the Rev. George Williams, "a descent by steps into it at the North West Angle." Here then, "near where the Apostles stood preaching, is a pool which existed long before their day, furnishing even now an ample supply of water for bathing at the season of the ancient Pentecost." Did Dr. R. examine this pool with his eyes shut? But it would not do to hurt the feelings of his Pedobaptist friends by telling too much truth on this subject. He tells us something about it, but not the whole.

Finally, there was the Lower Pool of Gihon, as measured by Dr. R., "592 feet in length, breadth at the ends 245 and 275 feet, depth at the ends 35 and 42 feet," covering thus more than four acres of ground; now out of repair, but doubtless Herod just before the days of the Apostles, repaired this as he did the other "reservoirs at Jerusalem and throughout Palestine." Here around its sloping sides, was room "for all the seventy and for the twelve added, to act as administrators of the sacred rite." Well, then, it does appear that Baptists might have existed in Jerusalem, and the more light the better for us in those times.

Dr. R. finally urges that the baptismal fonts found at Tekoa, Gophna, &c., in the ruins of ancient churches, are not large enough for adult immersion. True, but by the time of their construction Infant baptism had crept in. In his "Researches," he mentions one "four feet in diameter on the inside and three feet nine inches deep." Were such things made for sprinkling or pouring? Quite a good sized child might be accommodated therein.

On the whole the admissions of Dr. Robinson and the information furnished by him, will be of great service to the Baptist cause. He seems to have regarded the proper meaning of baptizo as so well sealed, that he scarcely needed to state its meaning as found in the New Testament; and so his labors were chiefly expended to prove that it "expressed not always simply immersion."! But we have seen that even this exceptional plea is utterly without foundation.

Let me close by recommending his works as well as particularly "Baptismal Tracts for the Times," and "Progress of Baptist Principles," published by Gould and Lincoln, Boston, to the perusal of my Baptist Brethren.

More "concessions" in smaller space, in a future communication.

A NOVA SCOTIA PASTOR.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JUNE 25, 1856.

The Western Association.

OUR JOURNEY.

THE return of these annual celebrations is still hailed with deep solicitude and intense christian affection by large numbers of those connected with the Baptist churches of this Province. The opportunities they afford of renewing the fraternal feelings of those who are brought under the influence of Divine Truth, and hold the same sentiments with regard to christian faith and practice, are still embraced by many persons, and although a distance of many miles of rough roads and other obstacles have to be overcome, yet the spot appointed for holding these meetings becomes the centre of convergence each year, for vast numbers of our best and most devoted ministers and brethren in all parts of the country.

Sympathizing most fully in these feelings we left home on Friday the 13th inst., and proceeded westward towards the scene appointed for the meetings of the Ministers and Delegates of the churches composing the Western Association.

Our progress the first day is soon described. We left surrounded by a dense fog which shortly settled into a pouring rain. This prevented our view of more than the parts of the country immediately contiguous to the road. We could perceive the change from the barren, uncultivated districts, to those where the capabilities of the soil have been brought out by persevering industry; but our range of vision being very limited, we had to draw on our imagination for the beauties for which Chester and Mahone Bay are so famed. The charms which these places possess are heightened by the contrast which is presented between them and less favoured portions of the road. Our available space will not permit us to indulge in moralizing on the various topics suggested by a day's ride with persons of different nations, creeds and habits. We must content ourselves to proceed with our journey, merely remarking that although the practice of dram-drinking at every opportunity is less common than formerly, yet there is now sufficient to become a great obstacle in the way of enjoying a day's ride in a coach. It is seldom that a number of persons are on the road together without one or more feeling at liberty to inflict on their fellow-travellers unpleasantness by their poisonous potations.

Night draws on and we pass from cove to cove, and from bay to bay, until we approach signs of improvement, of not so recent date; enter the ancient town of Lunenburg; the exposed situation of which at the southern extremity of the peninsula must render it bracing and pleasant in summer, but the absence of shelter from its being on the top of a hill, would lead us to conclude that it is bleak and cold during the severe months of our long winter. But few marks of progress appear. The dilapidation to be seen in many places

indicate that from some cause or other it has become inconvenient and unsuitable for commercial purposes. Several good churches may be seen almost within speaking distance of each other; but what is somewhat unusual in towns on this continent, there is no Baptist church. We were informed that one did exist formerly, and that there still remains a piece of ground belonging to the Denomination for the purpose of building a place of worship. Whether the absence of this element in the constitution of society is the cause of the want of advancement in that locality or not, we cannot determine; but there seems little attention given to the repairing of fences, renewing the exterior of the houses and restoring the decay of the wharves. We were, however, sorry to hear that they find sufficient means for sustaining several rum-shops, and that that destructive business is liberally patronized.

We hope that the rising villages of Mahone Bay and Bridgewater may soon be able to infuse amongst them correct sentiments, and induce in that people greater activity in the pursuit of moral and social advancement and in the spread of gospel truth.

On the following morning we were early again on our way. After passing six or seven miles over a fair road through rough woods and swamps, we came to the LaHave river, and were ferried over by an unscrupulous Charon. The unpleasantness and danger of this in stormy weather may account for the passage between Liverpool and Halifax, by packet, being preferred. A cloudy day and the absence of dust rendered the crowding of six into a common wagon just endurable, and we pass along with but little variety except that of meeting occasionally with a cultivated patch of green, until we arrive at Mill's Village where we find a cluster of houses and saw-mills of recent date arranged with much taste and beauty, and exhibiting marks of improvement which are highly pleasing. We now look out for Liverpool and soon as we pass over the ridges of the undulations in the road, catch glimpses of the shipping and steeples in the distance until we arrive at Bristol, the eastern suburb of the city, having some very handsome private residences. We pass over the bridge and find ourselves in the midst of a bustling and thriving people who move along with gratifying indications of intelligence, prosperity, and happiness.

The town of Liverpool consists of one principal street, from which several short ones pass to the wharves which give it a compactness well suited for commerce. The small garden in front of some of the houses makes up for the want of width in the streets. The trees in their gayest foliage, the harbour with its steam-ferry and numerous vessels afloat and others on the stocks in various stages of completion give the town and its neighbourhood a charming variety, probably unsurpassed in this province.

Wishing to proceed with as little delay as possible we soon found our friends Patillo and Freeman making an effort to "put us through."

As the brethren had gone on early in the morning, we were dependant on a special effort to get to Caledonia. After being shewn the operations of floating rafts of trees down the river, some of which had been on the way upwards of two years, and of getting them into the saw-mills, then cutting them into boards at the rate of a million and a half feet per week in one mill, the greater part of which is shipped for the West Indies, we partook of christian hospitality in the family of our generous-hearted agent at Milton.

At considerable inconvenience he managed to get a horse and waggon and started with us after eight o'clock in the evening for the place of meeting in the interior. After a ride of about six hours we were welcomed and found ourselves comfortably provided for in the house of a good Free-will Baptist.

SUNDAY the 15th.—We arose prepared to enter upon the services of the Sabbath and although we lost the first meeting on Saturday at which the "Letters from the churches" were read; which we understood shewed some large additions, we resolved to lose as little more as possible.

The morning proved showery so that many were prevented from attending; yet there were good meetings. The attractions of the Association were not to be quenched

by showers of rain. Sermons were preached in the three good sized churches by various ministers, during the day as will more fully appear by the Minutes. We had the privilege of hearing the Rev. C. Tupper in the morning from the text "Finally brethren, pray for us." He referred to the difficulty, importance and responsibility of the work of the ministry demanding something more than human qualifications, and affording reasons why the request of the Apostle should be complied with. At the close a number of brethren spoke on the subject concluding with remarks which gave some evidence that the exhortation would not be in vain.

MONDAY the 16th.—The Rev. H. Angell of Yarmouth preached the Introductory Sermon from Acts ix. 31, and shewed 1. The principles on which the primitive churches were founded—they were independent, not one church, but "churches;"—separated from the world—demanding spirituality and personal religion in their members; they were edified by the word, the Spirit, and by each other; and they were aggressive, they "were multiplied."

2. The excellencies by which they were distinguished.

3. The result of their labours.

A fine model was exhibited which, if fully realized, would give the Christian Church a vast amount of power, and bring a great change over the face of Christendom.

After some routine business had been attended to, the Rev. S. N. Bentley read the "Circular Letter to the churches," which had been approved by the Committee. The subject was, we believe, "The necessity and consequences of revivals of religion," and will be read with much interest and profit; containing as it does some graphic and striking passages.

In the-afternoon, after the report of the Missionary Board had been read, interesting addresses were delivered by those who had been engaged in Missions.—Home, Acadian and Gaelic, in connexion with the Association, closing with a good speech from Rev. N. Vidito.

We would give some account of each of these, but to do so we should be obliged to abridge them so much that we think it better to defer it altogether at present. We will only remark that although the results and success differed in many respects, it was considered that each afforded sufficient evidence of the great importance of continuing to sustain them to the utmost of the churches' ability.

The cordiality of the friends of all denominations at Caledonia and their readiness to afford accommodation to those attending the Association was not the least pleasant feature in our visit. It was really refreshing to meet with so much of genuine christian feeling.

The combination of lake scenery and the fine fertile soil with gentle undulations arising on all sides, render it a place of surpassing beauty. When the road thence to the Annapolis Road, is made equal to that from Liverpool, it will become a most valuable part of the country, and will command much to interest travellers. The almost inexhaustible supply of hard and soft wood, on both sides of the road for many miles at a stretch, will also become vastly increased in value. Some parts of the road are at present most forbidding, with but just width enough for a waggon, and with trees rising perpendicularly on each side to the height of sixty or seventy feet. Coming out to New Albany and on through Nictaux introduces one to scenery of great variety and beauty, which compensates for the rudeness of the former part and under other circumstances would have delighted us beyond measure.

OUR RETURN AND THE LOSS OF AN ONLY SON.

At the close of Monday's proceedings we were met at the door by our valued friend, Stewart Freeman, Esq., who had brought from Liverpool a special despatch for us to hasten home as the only son of the writer was dying. We must therefore close our report without giving the conclusion of the session, leaving one of the principal objects for which we attended unaccomplished. Much of sympathy and kindness were shewn by all the brethren. We lost no time, but after travelling two nights and a day, arrived but just soon enough to see, instead of the bright intelligent boy of ten summers we left, in whom our hopes for the future were placed and to whom we looked for a life-long companion, now, after an absence of but five days, a cold, lifeless corpse; prepared for its long rest in the lonely grave, until the morning of the resurrection; when "this corruptible shall put on incorruption and this mortal shall put on immortality."

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