

YOUNG MR. ROCKEFELLER HAS STIRRED UP FEELING

Verbatim Report of His Recent Speech on Future of the Baptist Church--Contends That Christ Did Not Make Baptism Part of Church Membership--Predicts That Important Changes Will Follow the War.

(New York Herald.)

Not in a generation has such intense feeling been stirred up among Baptist leaders as that which has resulted from the opinion expressed by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., at the Baptist Social Union meeting in the Majestic Hotel on Tuesday evening, that Jesus Christ did not make baptism a part of church membership and further, that it is not correct baptism by immersion was established by Christ "as the soul of the church."

The cardinal doctrine of the Baptist church is immersion, and it does not administer that sacrament, except to adults. With hardly an exception other Christian denominations baptize infants.

What Mr. Rockefeller Said.

So much has been said about the address of Mr. Rockefeller and questions regarding just what he did say have been so numerous that the Herald

herewith prints a stenographic report of that speech, with only the introduction and illustrations omitted:

"But, we say, what of the future of the Baptist church? Most people have their thinking, like laundry work 'done out.' It saves time. And most of us, I fancy, are Baptists by inheritance.

"In addition to that I think generally the Baptists fancy that baptism by immersion was established by Christ as the soul of the church. Those who have studied these questions more deeply know that that impression is not correct. Christ was baptized and preached baptism, but He never made it part of church membership. He did not regard it as relating the believers to the church, nor as having saving grace.

"Because others do not share our view in regard to immersion they are not admitted to our church. Is this Christlike. Have we any authority for such action?

Recalls Effects of War.

"What of the future of the Baptist church? This is the answer which I give you: If the Baptists of today have the breadth, the tolerance and the courage to lay aside all non-essentials and will stand upon the platform of the founders of the church, the Baptist church can be the foundation upon which the church of the living God should be built.

"Not many weeks or months elapsed after this world war began before there was presented to our vision a picture so horrible that it hardly seemed that it could be true. It appeared that hell had broken loose and that millions of evil spirits had taken possession of the forms of men and were going about the earth committing acts of cruelty and depredation beyond belief.

"In the face of this awful picture we heard it said on every hand 'Christianity has failed.'

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