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The Difficulty of Proving Baptism to be Something Else than Immersion.

A sermon preached in the Broadway Baptist Church by Rev. J. W. Humphrey.

Whenever shall I look one of these least commandments and shall I teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven.

Even if baptism is, as some seem to regard it, "one of the least commandments," yet it may not innocently be disregarded, and those who teach that it may be so assigned by one Lord a low place in the kingdom of heaven, whatever that phrase may mean.

It is believed that Jesus Christ commands immersion and still refuses obedience, he imperils his own salvation; and that, not because the salvation is in the baptism, but because such state of heart indicates rebellion against the authority that commands, and that spirit can not co-exist with true submission to Christ.

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He was read in his own mind, and to every heart for his name he would respond, "Jack, if you please, sir?" They whipped him; they put him into a dark closet; they cut his motions short, and fed him on bread and water, but they could not compel him to consent to the change of his cognomen. His answer still to every inquiry for his name was, "Jack, if you please, sir."

No, no, no, in any language has been so cruelly tortured as this innocent word in baptism. Many have other names than the one originally learned. It obstinately persists, in response to every question for its name to answer.

"DIP, IF YOU PLEASE, SIR." It has been confided and boxed, twisted with pincers, wrenched with pulleys, manped by heavy heels, and would have been drowned but that rather enjoys being in the water (if it is not hot water), and all because it can not be made to understand that it is wanted to signify its own nature and condition. Its persecutors have insisted that it shall call itself poor, sprinkle, purify, pour, wash, cleanse, tinge, anoint, initiate, consecrate, baptize, create, regenerate, sink, drown, intussusce, and when they have tried to force it to call itself by some one or all of those names and designations, it says, "No, what is your name, you poor little thing?"

It just tremulously answers, "Dip, if you please, sir." Its persecutors can not make it do anything else. It does not know how. That the true meaning of the word baptism is immerse, is universally assented by competent scholars. It is so defined in all lexicons, dictionaries and commentaries that have any respectable authority. I quoted in my last discourse on the subject some things like a score of learned Presbyterian divines, in support of this position. The answer to this is, that those same divines, nevertheless, practiced sprinkling for baptism, and held that immersion to be a point of indifference. "Of course they did. Had they brought their practice into harmony with their interpretation of the primary meaning of the word, secondarily and figuratively, food, corrode, consume, rot, prey upon, take away, burn, consume, burn up, for example, one meaning of which is to burn up. Can we celebrate the Lord's Supper by burning up the bread?"

Drink. To swallow anything liquid; secondarily, imbibe, absorb, imbale, guzzle, tippie, carouse. It comes almost unperceivable to imagine any one of these names as a figurative meaning, should be applied to the Supper of the Lord. Can any one tell why it is not as logical and philosophical to give secondary meanings to primary positions in relation to the second ordinance as to the first? All this is on the Presbyterian assumption, that sprinkle and pour are secondary positions, and that immersion is an assumption which is nothing else.

On Easter eve, in the year 100, in Constantinople, three thousand candidates for baptism were gathered to the church and baptistries preparing for the sacred rite. An armed force at the command of the Pagan Emperor, suddenly rushed into the buildings, slaughtered many and dispersed the rest. In describing the scene, Chrysostom says: "The women in their required, and fed away naked. Then we have an indignant denunciation of the gross indecency of immersing into water. Concerning this matter I have only a few words. First—As an argument it has not the slightest bearing on the subject under consideration. It certainly has nothing in the Bible requiring immersion of this character. It introduced merely to baptize pre-judicially. Second—Incidentally, it is a fishy argument, to be fastened in that age. Dr. Hale tells us that "females were dipped naked in water for a thousand years."

Third—There is no doubt that many superstitions and absurd ceremonies were early introduced, and long continued through the middle ages. Fourth—The term "naked" is frequently used to describe persons who are naked, and is used in the phrase "in andress." In John 2:7, "Peter in his chamber," in his haste to meet Jesus, is said to have "naked" his robe about him, for he was naked. Lange's comment on this is: "This ascription does not operate to the exclusion of the robe, but it is certain that (however, however, commands him to put on the outer garment."

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KNIGHTS OF THE CROSS.

Mr. John and Mr. Davis... Mr. John and Mr. Davis... Mr. John and Mr. Davis...

They include courts, and perhaps gardens with artificial fountains, fountains, and lotus-ponds. The plastered walls are comparatively lofty, and are ornamented with pictures of birds, flowers, and historical scenes, or with curious scrolls.

Though the Chinese style of house-building seems to us unbecomingly, it is doubtless the one by which the inmates get the greatest amount of comfort.

Our Little Girls.

THE SWEETEST PLACE.

A mother for the little folks. A happy life for her; And sweetest words for her little ones.

Send Enough for the Boys.

"Do not hasten," said Mrs. Rivers to her friends, Judge and Mrs. Clifford, as they rose to leave, after a visit of an hour one evening.

of his gave him. He takes really solid comfort here, and I can see that he enjoys having so many pretty things of his own. The chair and brackets I have just finished to-day, but the other things have been here for some months.

"Now, how long will this room look as it does to-day?" asked Mrs. Clifford; "Harry will be?"

"I do not know what you mean by that," said Mrs. Rivers. "I would like to have you see his bureau," then, opening the drawers, which were in perfect order, she remarked: "Harry could lay his hand on any article in this room in the dark, and he never leaves his brushes or anything he has been using about his house. His clothes are hung in his closet, and for years he has been so in the habit of being orderly that it is second nature to him now."

"I don't know what my boys would say if they should see this room," said Mrs. Clifford. "Their room looks like pandemonium all the time. I would not dare show a friend into it after they have gone out for an evening. Their muddiness would be in the center of the floor; a wet towel and wash-broom one, and with such boys it is no wonder that we all say, 'That's good enough for the boys—anything is good enough for them.'"

"But did you ever think," said Mrs. Rivers, "that perhaps the thought that they felt that you acted from the feeling that anything was good enough for them, had made them more careless and heedless than they otherwise would have been? I have a great bump of order, and when Harry was quite a little, he used to put my mind that I could never understand to have such rough and disorderly in the house for fifteen or twenty years, and that it would make him as disagreeable as it would me nervous and uncomfortable. So I began young to have him put away all his blocks and playthings neatly when he had done playing, and never leave his clothes on the floor, or anything that he used out of place; and I did not let him feel that he would leave things everywhere, or let one of his boys or my own child to pick up after him. There is no more reason, I think, for a woman to hang up her dresses and set away her shoes, than for a man to hang up his coat and put away his boots, and I never could understand the philosophy that allowed me to scatter newspapers and scraps about the room, sharpen pencils on the carpets, and do various other things of that kind, which I never did for my own comfort, and on top a woman to get up and pick them all up and put things in order. I did not mean that any boys in mind should ever worry me in that way, or their wives when they had homes of their own; so, as I said, I began with them early, and George was just as neat as Harry, and his wife often thanks me for making him such a model in these respects; and Harry, although it was harder to do, Harry, in all his common sense, has a natural love for disorder, or a natural dislike for order, has been a perfect comfort to me for years, and is now very free to acknowledge how much better he likes my way than his."

"I think," said Mrs. Clifford, "that some boys have an idea that it is girlish to be neat and orderly, and that it seems more manly to knock things about, and slam the doors, and be a little rough; but your way, Harry, in all his common sense, and gentlemanly ways, is the most manly boy I ever knew. Still, it is a mystery to me how you ever trained him to be what you are."

"When he was five years old," said Mrs. Rivers, "and began to go to school, and play more with the boys, I used to give him twenty-five cents a week if he would remember to come to the table looking neat at each meal, and to take off his boots and put on his slippers when he was to be in the house in

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FOR RESTORING GRAY HAIR TO ITS NATURAL VITALITY AND COLOR.

It is a most agreeable dressing, which is at once harmless and effectual, for preserving the hair. It restores, with the gloss and freshness of youth, faded or gray hair, and red hair, to its natural color, or deep black, and thickens, and builds it out, or deep black, and thickens, and builds it out, or deep black, and thickens, and builds it out.

The Vigor cleanses the scalp, cures and prevents the formation of dandruff, and, by its cooling, stimulating, and soothing properties, it heals most if not all of the humors and diseases peculiar to the scalp, keeping it cool, clean, and soft, under which conditions the growth of the scalp and hair are impossible.

As a Dressing for Ladies' Hair. The Vigor is incomparable. It is colorless, contains neither oil nor dye, and will not soil white cambric. It imparts an agreeable and lasting perfume, and as an article for the toilet it is economical and unsurpassed in its class.

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Chinese Habitations.

BY MISS M. A. STEWART, NEW YORK, U.S.A.

One of my nearest neighbors is one whom Dr. Johnson sometimes refers to as "the resident in the brown-stone front. A great brown rock has, in some past age, toppled over upon another rock in such a way as to form the roof and side of a sort of lean-to, and in the crevice underneath a bachelor makes his abode, and stores the tools he uses, and the paddy he raises on the fields near by. He has built up with stones and mortar the two wide openings in the ends of his apartment, and avoids the necessity of having a chimney by doing his cooking out-of-doors. The glinting of his fire often adds picturesqueness to the rugged hillside, which he occupies alone. He is the only one of my personal acquaintances here who owns a brown-stone front. By far the greatest proportion of the population live in huts, which are rendered hovels by the accumulations of filth in and around them. The walls are of some sort of cheap and rough masonry work, in which mud and lime are the principal materials used. The roof is of thin shiplap by beams and slats of pine. The only opening in the room is one door, and when this is closed the only light admitted is through two or three slakes of translucent shell, or glass, set in the roof. The floors are of earth pounded hard and level. The furniture of these dwellings consists, usually, of pine beds and trunks, a deal table, earthen furnaces and pots, and piles of indescribable rubbish. As hardly any one lives, or would be willing to live, in an isolated house, these huts are built with no interstices between them, along streets a yard wide, or around paved courts, where clothes are dried, pigs reared, and food cured in the sun. A somewhat better dwelling-house is built with its door and a high wall on the street; and behind this door is a small court open to the sky, and containing perhaps a wall, a few flowering shrubs in pots, and possibly some fragrant vines clambering up a trellis. On either side of this court are rooms opening upon it, used in common by all the inmates, and having on its wall, opposite the street door, a grand shaft for the family gods. This common room is often the receptacle of the garnered products of the last winter's work, and of the farming implements, and of the looms, dyers' pots, and wash-tubs of the women of the household. Opening out of it on either side are two bed-rooms, usually occupied by the older members of the family. When sons grow old, and wives are brought home for them, the rooms are apportioned so that each son shall have one; and several married brothers and their children often live with the parents, and perhaps with grandparents and uncles, in one house.

The great mass of the Chinese nation lives like this, in unventilated, unceiled, and unroofed rooms, that are terribly hot in summer and terribly cold in winter, and full of stench always. Probably nine hundred and ninety-nine thousandths of the population spend their lives in such unclean and uncomfortable homes.

The wealthy live in houses that are generally of but one story, but they cover much ground, and are adorned with carving and painting.

Chinese Habitations.

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The real discomfort of their homes is due, not so much to poverty as to superstition. The hiding of the feet of the women disdaining them from much house-cleaning. The idea that white is an unucky color prevents white-washing; hence leprous walls. Their notions of geomancy hinder and blind them at every point. When, and not until, Christian truth shall have permeated to the foundations of Chinese society, will the Chinese become well housed. Then, with no more money, the hovels will be cottages, the huts homes.—Wilmington Herald.

THIRTY years a hermit in the self-inflicted punishment of a man now living in Boston. Many years ago a young man in that city was guilty of an offense against law—an offense which brought social ruin to himself and his family. The man and his offense are forgotten by the public, yet from the day his offense was discovered—although, having escaped the law, he is free to come and go as he pleases—he has never been outside of his own house in daytime. Sometimes, under the cover of night, he walks abroad to take an airing; but soon the chance that thirty years have wrought, had an ever new conscience makes him shun the light of day and the faces of men, and he walks apart, a stranger in the midst of those among whom he has always lived, a living example of the power of conscience.

Go by the Book.

Two men were standing on the deck of a ship, which was on the stocks, and nearly completed, in a ship-yard. One of them was the foreman and the other was one of the carpenters engaged in building the vessel. "Well, David," said the foreman, "I have been thinking I would like to talk with you a little. I hear you are one of those who say they know for certain that they are saved, and I am curious to learn how they do it."

"Well," said David, "I know it is a reality; and I know, too, that there is such a thing as knowing that one is saved. What is the breadth of this water-way?"

"Why, fourteen inches all around, to be sure, what makes you ask that, when you know?"

"But you are quite sure that it is to be fourteen inches?" said David. "Certainly."

"But what makes you so sure?"

"Why, I go by the book," said David, "and he said so he pulled a small memorandum-book out of his pocket, in which were marked the size and position of the various things on the deck. 'I'm sure it is fourteen inches, for it is here in the book, and I got the book from headquarters.'"

"O! I see," said David. "Now, look here: that is just exactly how I know I am saved; I go by the book; and he said so he pulled a New Testament out of his pocket. 'Just go by the book, and come from headquarters; it came from God,

Send Enough for the Boys.

"Do not hasten," said Mrs. Rivers to her friends, Judge and Mrs. Clifford, as they rose to leave, after a visit of an hour one evening; "I want to take Mrs. Clifford up stairs to see what I have been doing to-day. I have just been putting the finishing touches to my boy's room, and I feel quite proud of my achievement."

"Your boy's room? What, Harry's?" said Mrs. Clifford. "You are certainly one of the very few mothers that spend any time on their boys' rooms, and I fear your labor will not be appreciated. Why, I don't believe my boys know what is in their room, and they abuse everything so that I should never think of taking any trouble or making any outlay for them. I used to keep worrying over them, and making myself miserable, because they would not be neat or careful, but late I've settled up to the inevitable, and have made up my mind that they would be rough anyway, and it was of no use to try to make them different. People often speak of my Harry as looking so neat and appearing so gentlemanly, but he is certainly an exception to most boys," said Mrs. Clifford.

As they went up the stairs, Mrs. Rivers answered Mrs. Clifford's question about her theory. Mrs. Clifford's experience does not agree at all with yours—at least in the matter of feeling that boys must inevitably be rough, for Harry was not inclined to be any better than the majority of boys."

Here they reached the end of the hall, and Mrs. Rivers stopped for a moment, and she lit two jets of gas. Mrs. Clifford exclaimed, "How lovely, lovely, this room is! And you have done this for Harry? I'm sure I hope you will appreciate it, for I see at a glance that on Harry expended time and taste and money on it."

"Not so much money," said Mrs. Rivers. "Nearly everything in the ornamental way is inexpensive. Now, that chair you are sitting on was made from a barrel, and the chintz I covered it with was an old dress I had a great many years ago, so that cost me really nothing but the making; and those unlabeled curtains are very simply made and of small expense. The red stripes were but fifty cents, and I think Harry made the cushions for me, and helped me cover them. These little brackets and slipper pockets and brush-case I have embroidered evenings when Mr. Rivers read aloud to me, so that I hardly missed the time I have taken for them."

"But these shelves," she continued, as she moved aside a beautifully-wrought curtain, are Harry's special delight. He is quite a good geologist, and very fond of collecting specimens, and some of his uncles who live in California, who know of his taste for such things, sent him these crystals and quartz and copper gems, while other friends, who have been in Europe, have brought him relics from many historical places there, so that he has had for some time quite a large box of valuables, as he calls them, and has been wanting a handsome enclosed case for them; but I did not feel that we could quite afford to get him one just now, so I induced him to make three walnut shelves, and I embroidered this sliding curtain, which is quite effective, but very simple, to shield them from the dust, and he was delighted with it. I think, myself, it is far prettier, and furnishes the room more than a case with the glass doors would. The books he has gathered gradually; many of them are Christmas presents, and this Frenchy table-cover an aunt

of his gave him. He takes really solid comfort here, and I can see that he enjoys having so many pretty things of his own. The chair and brackets I have just finished to-day, but the other things have been here for some months.

"Now, how long will this room look as it does to-day?" asked Mrs. Clifford; "Harry will be?"

"I do not know what you mean by that," said Mrs. Rivers. "I would like to have you see his bureau," then, opening the drawers, which were in perfect order, she remarked: "Harry could lay his hand on any article in this room in the dark, and he never leaves his brushes or anything he has been using about his house. His clothes are hung in his closet, and for years he has been so in the habit of being orderly that it is second nature to him now."

"I don't know what my boys would say if they should see this room," said Mrs. Clifford. "Their room looks like pandemonium all the time. I would not dare show a friend into it after they have gone out for an evening. Their muddiness would be in the center of the floor; a wet towel and wash-broom one, and with such boys it is no wonder that we all say, 'That's good enough for the boys—anything is good enough for them.'"

"But did you ever think," said Mrs. Rivers, "that perhaps the thought that they felt that you acted from the feeling that anything was good enough for them, had made them more careless and heedless than they otherwise would have been? I have a great bump of order, and when Harry was quite a little, he used to put my mind that I could never understand to have such rough and disorderly in the house for fifteen or twenty years, and that it would make him as disagreeable as it would me nervous and uncomfortable. So I began young to have him put away all his blocks and playthings neatly when he had done playing, and never leave his clothes on the floor, or anything that he used out of place; and I did not let him feel that he would leave things everywhere, or let one of his boys or my own child to pick up after him. There is no more reason, I think, for a woman to hang up her dresses and set away her shoes, than for a man to hang up his coat and put away his boots, and I never could understand the philosophy that allowed me to scatter newspapers and scraps about the room, sharpen pencils on the carpets, and do various other things of that kind, which I never did for my own comfort, and on top a woman to get up and pick them all up and put things in order. I did not mean that any boys in mind should ever worry me in that way, or their wives when they had homes of their own; so, as I said, I began with them early, and George was just as neat as Harry, and his wife often thanks me for making him such a model in these respects; and Harry, although it was harder to do, Harry, in all his common sense, has a natural love for disorder, or a natural dislike for order, has been a perfect comfort to me for years, and is now very free to acknowledge how much better he likes my way than his."

"I think," said Mrs. Clifford, "that some boys have an idea that it is girlish to be neat and orderly, and that it seems more manly to knock things about, and slam the doors, and be a little rough; but your way, Harry, in all his common sense, and gentlemanly ways, is the most manly boy I ever knew. Still, it is a mystery to me how you ever trained him to be what you are."

"When he was five years old," said Mrs. Rivers, "and began to go to school, and play more with the boys, I used to give him twenty-five cents a week if he would remember to come to the table looking neat at each meal, and to take off his boots and put on his slippers when he was to be in the house in

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