

Buried with Him by Baptism

BURIED with Him by Baptism" is one of the scarcest of the plates signed by Revere. As is shown in Plate number 49, this engraving gives the title at the bottom of the print, with the signature "P Revere Sculp." It shows Jesus being baptized by John in the river Jordan, with two shafts of light coming down from Heaven, one with a flying dove, and the other with the inscription "This is my beloved Son, — hear ye him." The size of the print is 6½ by 4¼ inches.

The title of this allegorical print is derived from the Epistle of Paul to the Romans, Chapter 6, verses 3 and 4: "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death." The scene of the baptism is from Saint Mark, Chapter 1, verses 9, 10, and 11: "And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the spirit like a dove descending upon him. And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." In Saint Matthew, Chapter 17, verse 5, the voice is described as saying: "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."

The print may have accompanied some book or pamphlet on baptism, but an examination of all the American tracts on baptism from 1760 to 1780, in fact several copies of each tract, shows no evidence that such an engraving or frontispiece was included. Apparently Revere made the engraving as a separately issued item, either for a friend or because of his desire to engrave such a subject. The crudeness of the engraving leads to the belief that Revere designed the print rather than copied it from an English original. At least no copy of such an engraving has been found in an English book or periodical.

Only four copies of the print have been located, two in the American Anti-

quarian Society's collection, one in the Worcester Art Museum, and another which was included in the Dr. Charles E. Clark Sale at Libbie's, January 15, 1901, number 567, where it brought \$31. It was bought by E. B. Holden, and next appeared in the sale of his library at the American Art Association, April 21, 1910, number 3698, where it brought \$11. It was purchased by the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, where it is now preserved. William Loring Andrews reproduced the print in his *Paul Revere and his Engraving*, 1901, page 15.