

MINUTES

OF THE

FISHER'S RIVER PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

CONVENED AT

ARARAT MEETING HOUSE,

SURRY COUNTY, N. C.

April 10th, 1868.

WINSTON, N. C. :
SENTINEL PRINT;
1869.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder T. S. Ring, from Acts 7th chapter and 34th verse: "I have seen the affliction of my people which is in Egypt, and have heard their groanings, and am come down to deliver them." And after prayer by Elder William Moran, letters from the following churches were handed forward and read, and their Messengers names enrolled as follows:

Stewart's Creek.—Joseph Davis,* William Griffin.*

Fisher's River.—D. Hodges.* Arthur Bledsoe.

Flower Gap.—Elders Hugh Jones, Isaac Edwards,* and brethren F. M. McCraw, Isaac Vernon.

Fisher's Gap.—Jesse Williams.*

Round Peak.—B. F. Scott, James C. Galyean.

Volunteer.—James George, P. W. Lawrance, F. M. Venable.

Tom's Creek.—Elders Wm. Moran, Alexander Moran, and brethren H. Cain, Joseph Adkerson,* Samuel G. Adams, Peter Conner.*

Cody's Creek.—Elder Nathan Alberty, and brethren Micajah Nicholson, Moses Pilson.

Franklin.—Elder Thomas J. Lawson, and brethren A. Gentry, H. Maze, F. B. Riggan, Calvin Gentry.

Ararat.—Elder John Jones, E. Denny, F. B. Stone, Joel Fulks.

State Road.—Not represented.

Then called for correspondence. When from Mayo, Elder Thomas S. Ring, and Brethren Calvin Blackburn, Benjamin Sprinkle and John Lowlance, were invited and took seats with us. Then chose Elder John Jones, Moderator, and Moses Pilson Clerk. Then chose (Elder T. S. Ring, Wm. Moran, Calvin Blackburn, with the Moderator and Clerk, a Committee to arrange the business of this Association. Then chose Elder John Jones, C Blackburn, E. Cain, to preach on Sunday, worship to commence at 10 o'clock; and Elders T. S. Ring, Wm. Moran and Alexander Moran, to preach on Sunday, worship to commence at 9 o'clock; adjourned.

Met on Saturday according to adjournment, and after prayer by Elder Thomas S. Ring, the Messengers' names

were called, and the rules of decorum read, the committee then made their report, the same being received, they were discharged, the business of the Association was then disposed of as follows: 1st, Called on the Presbytery appointed to Tom's Creek Church to report, which reported that they attended at Volunteer and constituted it a Church, and also set apart brethren James, George and P. W. Lawrance to the office of Deacon, and also called on the Presbytery appointed to request of Ararat Church to report, which reported that they did not attend. The same Presbytery to be continued.

2nd, The request of Fisher's Gap Church, was laid before the Association, which concluded to keep up the Spring and Fall Associations both. Agreed that our next Association be held at Volunteer Meeting House in Stokes county, N. C., 4 miles north-east of the Pilot Mountain to commence Friday before the 4th Sunday in October next, and Elder Wm. Moran to preach the introductory sermon and in case of failure, Elder Alexander Moran.

Saturday the stand was occupied as follows: Brother H. Cain opened the services of the day from these words "I have loved thee with an everlasting love," Elder H. Jones followed from Jude, 1st Chapter and 12th verse, Elder N. Alberty closed from 2nd Timothy, 4th Chapter and 2nd verse. Preach the word, &c.

Sunday the Brethren appointed to preach to-day met a large congregation, Elder Wm. Moran opened the services of the day from 2nd Timothy, 3rd Chapter, 16th and 17th verses, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God," and Elder Thomas S. Ring followed from Luke, 15th Chapter and 20th verse, and Elder Alexander Moran closed from Isaiah, 55th Chapter and 1st verse. "Ho every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters," &c.

JOHN JONES, Moderator.

MOSES PILSON, Clerk.

MINUTES OF THE SAME ASSOCIATION, CONVENED
AT VOLUNTEER MEETING HOUSE, STOKES
COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, OCTOBER 23, 1868.

The introductory sermon was preached by Elder John Vass, from Songs of Solomon, 6th Chapter, 10th verse. "Who is she that looketh forth in the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun and terrible as an army with banners." And after prayer by Elder Samuel J. Lacky, letters from the following Churches were handed forward and read and minuted as follows :

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS' NAMES.	Baptised.	Rec. by Letter,	Dis. by Letter,	Deceased.	Total Number,	Contribution,
Deep Creek, Volunter, Frenklin,	A. B. Lackey, John Hall,* Peter Shemer, J. George, D. Boyles, P. W. Lawrence,	2				22	1 60
	Elder L. J. Lawson, A. Genry,* H. Maze,* Calvin Gentry,* Jesse Williams,*	3				30	1 50
Fisher's Gap, Tom's Creek,	Elders Wm. Moran, A. Moran and brethren S. G. Adams, H. Cain, J. E. Adkerson,	13	4	3		2 90	2 00
Flower Gap,	Elder H. Jones, F. M. McCraw, Isaac Vernon, W. M. Standliff,*					20	70
Fisher's River, Ararat,	D. Hodges, A. Bledsoe,* H. Cave, Elder John Jones, E. Canter,* G. Denny, M. G. Harbour, A. M. Denny,	1				12	1 25
Stewart's Creek	Joseph Davis,* Wm. Griffin,	1	1			63	1 95
Round Peak,	James O. Galyean,* B. F. Scott,*					16	50
Cody's Creek, State Road,	Elder N. Alberty, H. Wood, M. Pilson, Not Represented. Absentees Marked*	3	2			29	1 00
						19	
						10 65	

Restored.—Deep Creek, 1.

Then called for correspondents, when from Mayo, Elders R. W. Hill, T. S. Ring, Samuel Arrington and Brethren Calvin Blackburn, L. H. Southern, Pryor May, T. M. Pucket, James A. Leek. Smith's River Elders, S. J. Lackey, C. Plaster. J. M. Blancet. New River Elders, John Vass and George Quesenbury and Brethren John Moran from Smith's River, and John Lawrence from Mayo being present were invited and all took seats with

us and received a file of Minutes from each. Little River Kehukee and County line Associations then chose Elder John Jones, Moderator and Moses Pilson; then chose Elder R. W. Hill, S. J. Lacky, J. M. Blancet with the Moderator and Clerk, a committee to arrange the business of this Association, then chose Elders Plaster, Ring and Arrington to preach on Saturday, worship to commence at 9 o'clock and Elders Hill, Lacky and Blancet to preach on Sunday, worship to commence at 10 o'clock. Then appointed Brethren M. G. Harbour and A. M. Denny a committee of finance, then called for the circular letter which was produced by Elder T. J. Lawson and referred to the committee, then adjourned.

Met on Saturday according to adjournment, and after Prayer by Elder R. W. Hill, the Messengers' names were called, marked the absentees and read the rules of decorum. The committee then made their report, the same being received, they were discharged. The business of the Association was then disposed of as follows :

1st, Called on correspondents appointed to sister Associations to report, which reported satisfactorily, and were discharged.

2nd, Called on Presbytery appointed to Ararat to report, which reported that they attended and set apart Brethren Edmond Denny and F. Stone to the office of Deacon.

3rd, Appointed a Presbytery of Elders, John Jones, H. Jones, N. Alberty, Wm. Moran, A. Moran to attend to the request of Tom's Creek Church to ordain Brother H. Cain to the ministry if found qualified.

4th, Called on the committee of finance to report, which reported the present contribution to be \$10.65 cents and found in the Clerk's hands eight dollars and twenty-five cents, as he could not get the last years Minutes printed, making \$18,90 cents, and the Association agreed to allow the Clerk \$4 for his services leaving \$14,90 cents.

5th, The Circular Letter was read and received, and ordered to be annexed to our Minutes, and Elder Wm. Moran appointed to write the next Circular Letter.

6th, Appointed correspondents to sister Associations to

Mayo, John Jones, Nathan Alberty, Wm. Moran, A. Moran, A. B. Lacky. New River, John Jones, H. Jones, Wm. Moran, A. Moran, Joseph E. Adkerson, S. G. Adams, Henderson Cain. Smith's River, John Jones, H. Jones, Wm. Moran, Alex. Moran, Nathan Alberty, Samuel G. Adams, Joseph E. Adkerson, Henderson Cain. Abbott's Creek, John Jones, N. Alberty, T. J. Lawson. Agreed that we correspond with Little River and Kehukee Associations by Minutes.

7th, Agreed that our next Association be held at Cody's Creek Meeting House, Surry County, North Carolina, seven miles south west of Dobson, to commence Friday before the 2nd Sunday in April, 1869, and Elder Alexander Moran to preach the introductory sermon, in case of failure, Elder John Jones, and the Fall Association to be held at Fisher's River Church, 4 miles north-east of Dobson, to commence Friday before the 4th Sunday in October, 1869.

8th, Agreed that the Clerk have 400 copies of Minutes printed, and also agreed that the Churches write the amount of their contribution money in their letters to the Association, and receive Minutes according to what they pay.

Saturday the stand was occupied as follows: Elder T. S. Ring opened the services of the day from Jeremiah, 22d Chapter, 26th verse. "O earth, earth, hear the word of the Lord." Elder C. Plaster followed from Revelations, 21st Chapter, and part of the 9th verse. "Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife." Elder S. Arrington closed from Isaiah, 28th Chapter, and part of the 16th verse. "Behold I lay in Zion for a foundation, a stone a tried stone."

Sunday the Brethren appointed to preach to-day met a large congregation, J. M. Blancet opened the services of the day from Ezekiel, 37th Chapter, and 1st verse. "The hand of the Lord is upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones." Elder R. W. Hill followed from Luke, 2nd Chapter, 14th verse. "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good wil toward men." Elder S. J. Lacky closed from John, 7th Chapter, 37th verse. "In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried saying, if any man thirst let him come unto me and drink."

JOHN JONES, *Moderator.*

MOSES PILSON, *Clerk.*

CIRCULAR LETTER.

Dear Brethren and Sisters that compose the Fisher's River Baptist Association, and the Associations with whom she cor-

responds. As I was appointed by your delegates to write a Circular Letter to be annexed to our Minutes, if approved by the Association, we will proceed to the task if the Lord's will. Dear Brethren, we find that in the last days perilous times shall come, for men shall be lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. Great has been the opposition which the Church of Christ has had to encounter in past ages, and perhaps will be still greater for many ages to come, the enemies of the cross are many, some are professors, some are not; and yet, their strength is concentrated in opposition to way of truth. Dear Brethren, though there be Lord's many and God's many, but unto us one true and living God, one Lord, one Faith and one Baptism. Let us earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints, "for without faith it is impossible to please God, for he that cometh to God must believe that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

Dear Brethren, we find that the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ, and Christ is the end of the law, for righteousness to every one that believes. So we find also that sin is the transgression of the law of God, and whosoever commits sin is the servant of sin, and the wages of sin is death. So we find that man has ruined himself by sin and rebellion against God: Ye have sold yourselves for naught and ye shall be redeemed without money. Oh Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself, but in me is thine help, sayeth the Lord.— Though man has ruined himself, yet God has devised means whereby his banished should not be expelled from him. Dear Brethren, remember the time when you said give us help from trouble for vain is the help of man. All we like sheep have gone astray, but the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. Behold the Lord's hand is not shortened that it can not save, neither his ear heavy that it cannot hear. Dear Brethren and Sisters in Christ, he can hear his children's cry in the valley of the shadow of death, and in the wilderness, and in a solitary way, for I sayeth the Lord have loved thee with an everlasting love, therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee: so he brings them by a way that they knew not, he leads them in paths that they have not known, he makes darkness light before them, and crooked things straight; these things will I do unto them and not forsake them. So we find that when we were strangers to God and the right way, God who is rich in mercy for his great love wherewith he loves us, while we wandered in trespass and in sins, hath laid help upon one that is mighty and able to save to the utmost all that come unto God by and through him. That is Christ, for he says, I am the

door, by me if any man enter in he shall be saved, so we find there is no other way whereby we can be saved but by and through him; and when we were killed to the love of sin we come to the end of the law, then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble they could not deliver their selves, but the Lord delivered them out of their distresses and he lead them forth by the right way that they might go to a city of habitation whose maker and builder is God. There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh but after the spirit. So, Dear Brethren, we find that they are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God and are built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone. Dear Brethren, let us try to examine ourselves to see whether we have any well grounded hope that we are the inhabitants of the rock, for he says, let the inhabitants of the rock sing, let them shout from the top of the mountain. So, Dear Brethren, let us try to live in peace though there is much confusion in the land and among other denominations; let us look for the old paths and try to keep the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace; let us try to be united as the Church of Christ, and live in union together as Brethren and Sisters should live; let us pray that the Lord would enable us to live in peace in the Church and State and in the United States; for Christ is not divided, for he is the head of all things to the Church, and ye are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God, and when Christ who is our life shall appear then shall ye also appear with him in glory. There the wicked will cease to trouble and there the weary will be at rest. So, Dear Brethren, let us seek to enter into that rest, for there remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God, and I hope ere long to meet you in that world of bliss. So, Dear Brethren, farewell,

THOMAS J. LAWSON