

Primitive Baptist Association.

STAUNTON RIVER

OF THE

MINUTES

4

VISITING BRETHREN:

Elder J. G. Woodfin, from Chesterfield county, Va.; Elders P. D. Gold and C. C. Bland, from Contentnea; Eld John Rowe, from Upatoie; Elder P. G. Lester, from New River.

5TH. Appointed Elders Woodfin, Bland and Turner to preach on Saturday; and Elders Gold, Rowe and Martin, on Sunday.

6TH. Chose Elders Gold, Rowe and Martin, together with the Moderator and Clerk, a Committee of Arrangement, and Brethren John Hodnett and J. A. Ferguson, a Committee of Finance.

7TH. Adjourned until Saturday morning 9 o'clock.—Preaching to commence at 10 o'clock.

SATURDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK.

8TH. The Association met according to adjournment, and, after prayer by Elder R. Shreve, proceeded to business.

9TH. The Committee of Arrangement reported and were discharged.

10th. Called on Correspondents who were appointed to attend Sister Associations, to report. They generally attended. Those who did not were excused.

11TH. The Circular Letter written by brother E. J. Lewis was read and received.

5

12TH. Called on the Finance Committee to report. They reported as received \$22.50. For printing these minutes, \$10.

13TH. Appointed Correspondents to Sister Associations,

TO PIGG RIVER:

Elders W. S. McDowell, E. C. Dodson, and Brethren W. F. Jefferson, C. B. Williams and William Burke.

TO MAYO:

Elders W. S. McDowell, E. C. Dodson, and Brethren E. J. Lewis, J. A. Ferguson, C. B. Williams, H. Boaz, G. W. Hundley and A. C. Cox.

TO COUNTRY LINE:

Elder E. C. Dodson, and Brother William Soyars.

14TH. Agreed to send files of Minutes to Little River, Smith's River, New River and Contentnea.

15TH. Chose Brother Hezekiah Boaz to write the next Circular Letter.

16TH. Agreed to Have 300 copies of these Minutes printed and distribute them to the Churches and Corresponding Associations.

17TH. Agreed that our next Association be held with the Church at Union, Pittsylvania county, Va., to commence on Friday before the 2nd Sunday in August, 1879, and that Elder W. S. McDowell preach the Introductory Sermon, and Elder E. C. Dodson his alternate.

W. S. McDOWELL, MODERATOR.

CHARLES P. WILLIAMS, Clerk.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

| CHURCHES. | NAMES OF MESSENGERS. | POST OFFICES. | Baptized | Received by Letter | Excluded | Deceased | Fellowship | Finances |
|----------------|---|----------------|----------|--------------------|----------|----------|------------|----------|
| White Thorn | D. Owen, Isaac Keesee, John Hodnett. | Chalk Level. | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 23 | \$ 2 00 |
| Mill | E. J. Lewis, J. C. Chaney, H. W. Chaney. | Malmaison | 10 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 48 | 3 25 |
| Mt. Arrarat | G. W. Hundley, W. Soyars, E. Walton. | Mt. Cross. | 4 | 4 | 0 | 52 | 52 | 1 80 |
| Upper Banister | W. T. Ragsdale, J. Abbott, A. C. Cox. | Dry Fork. | 4 | 0 | 0 | 37 | 37 | 2 50 |
| Strawberry | Elder W. S. McDowell, S. Myers, H. Boaz. | Swansonville | 1 | 1 | 0 | 29 | 29 | 2 25 |
| Union | Wm. F. Jefferson, W. T. Doss, H. Cook. | Pullens | 3 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 25 | 2 50 |
| Staunton River | Not represented | Campbell C. H. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 8 | 1 25 |
| Stonewall | J. Stone | Castle Craig. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 1 50 |
| Springfield | Not represented | Ringgold. | 2 | 0 | 0 | 46 | 46 | 2 50 |
| Seneca | S. Price, L. Hughs | Lawyer's Roads | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 1 25 |
| Cane Creek | W. A. Dawson, J. A. Ferguson, Eld. E. C. Dodson | Hurt's Store. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 1 50 |
| Stone Road | Not Represented | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Burton's Creek | J. E. Hillsman | | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sycamore | Wm. R. Short | | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | 33 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 293 | \$22 50 |
| | | Total | | | | | | |

NOTE.—Absentees marked ||

E. J. LEWIS.

Yours, Truly,

Behold what comfort! Behold what ineffable joy! Yes, brethren and sisters, here is unity, here is love: "I have loved thee with an everlasting love, therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee."—Jer. 31: 3.

Brethren, be consoled and hope in the Lord—the Lord is salvation, God is from everlasting to everlasting, an immutable being, there is nothing new nor anything old with God, and consequently upon His infinite foreknowledge is involved His sovereignty. His church was chosen in His Son before the dust of man was fashioned.

Brethren, there are many delusions prevalent at the present day; but we exhort you to keep unspotted from the world, and be not drawn away by the world, for where the treasure is there will the heart be also.

Though his people, and that inevitably for their good. They may have trials and afflictions here, yet all these things, together with all others, "work together for good to them that love God, and are the called according to his purpose."—Rom. 8: 28.

Circular Letter.

—(o)—

Dear Brethren and Sisters:

As it has fallen to my lot to write a Circular—knowing my weakness—I therefore shrink at the task; but the Lord can bring strength out of weakness. I will write a few thoughts for your consideration.

We read, in Ephesians, 5th chap. 1st vr.: "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children."

As regards the writer of our subject, we deem it unnecessary to enter in a full discussion concerning his apostolical character. It is known that he was an eminent apostle of our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Paul commences this chapter by way of exhortation to the church at Ephesus. In the commencement of the chapter the apostle begins thus: "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children."

This is a duty imperative upon christians—to follow Christ, their King, and abstain from worldly lusts.—Brethren, our walk in this life should be as christians, circumspectly and religiously. But, no doubt but that christians sometimes get a great way from their duty, owing, as it were, to the sinful propensities of the flesh.—Brethren, let your conversation be at all times, as christians; give credence to none of the recently devised plans of men, but look unto Christ that giveth liberally and upbraideth not. Be not dismayed if the world hates you, for it hated Christ before it did you. All that live godly in Christ Jesus suffer persecutions, but God watches over

PROCEEDINGS.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 9TH, 1878.

1ST. The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder John Rowe, from 2nd Corinthians, 12: 7-9.

2ND. The Association convened, and, after prayer by Elder E. B. Turner, proceeded to business.

3RD. The Letters from the several Churches were read and their standing minuted in the Statistical Table.

4TH. Correspondents were invited to take seats with us, whereupon the following were received:

FROM COUNTRY LINE:

Elders R. Shreve, James S. Dameron, and Brethren D. Williams, J. M. Harris, J. W. Gilliam and E. R. Harris.

FROM MAYO:

Elder J. M. Bell, and Brethren F. J. Stone and T. H. Dunn.

FROM PIGG RIVER:

Elders E. B. Turner, J. R. Martin, and Brethren T. B. Davis, S. Minter, Wm. Minter, Luke Perdue, W. C. Perdue, L. Holcomb, B. Stultz.