

The Tennessee Baptist

VOL. XI.

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1854.

NO. 15.

Our Pulpit.

A Short Sermon.

Text—*Beasts of the Forest of Mahomet, which is Apostasy.*

My text, as you see, has no book, chapter or verse, to refer you to; nevertheless, it is worthy of a careful and prayerful investigation. I propose to discuss this text in the following order:

I. State the Methodist doctrine of apostasy, with some of the fallacies offered to sustain it.

II. Offer some reasons why we should avoid it.

First, I am to state the Methodist doctrine of apostasy. We are told that true Christians may lose their regeneration, and finally be lost; and that this is an easy, and frequent occurrence. Some of the main pillars of this doctrine are set forth in the following fallacies:

First, Judas fell, Angels fell, Adam fell. Now observe the conclusion from these premises. In order for the reasoning to be good, and the conclusion legitimate, it must be shown that the relations in which Adam and Angels stood are the same as the Christian. But these have never been shown. Again Adam never felt the utter hopelessness of his condition; he had no experience of the evil of sin, like the true Christian; he had never drunk the worm-wood and the gall of true repentance; he had never tasted the sweets of redeeming grace; he never died in sin, and was never made alive unto holiness, like the true Christian. God never said to him, nothing shall be able to separate him from the love of Christ; he never told him that he should never die, and none should be able to pluck them out of his hands, as he told the true Christian. Do you not see to reason from Adam's fall, that the true child of God may fall, in a glaring fallacy. The same may be said of Angels.

So much for Adam's fall.

Before Judas can be introduced to prove apostasy, it must be shown that Judas was a true Christian, that he was born again. This has never been done. Can never be done. The best argument ever presented to me was this: Judas was one of the twelve to whom the Saviour gave power over devils, to cast them out; and if Judas did cast out devils, (and it is taken for granted that he did,) then Satan was divided against himself, and therefore his kingdom cannot stand. Well, grant it that the devil's kingdom must come to an end, so far as this world is concerned. Again, if Judas cast out devils, he did it by the power of God; therefore Satan would not be divided, by the fact of Judas, by the power of God, casting out devils. But Judas was never a true Christian, for the following reasons—he was never a believer:

"Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him." John 6: 64. Again, "Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?"

"He spake of Judas Iscariot." John 6: 70, 71.

"And ye are clean, but not all. For he knew who should betray him." John 13: 10, 11. Again, see John 17: 12. Judas is called the son of perdition. And in another place he is called a thief.

Judas could not be a Christian without faith. Surely no one after reading the Scriptures concerning Judas, ever says that he ever was a Christian. And to reason from the fall of Judas to the fall of a genuine Christian is fallacious reasoning. So much for the doctrine of apostasy, and the fallacies to sustain it. In the next place, I will offer some reasons why we should avoid it.

Secondly, it should be avoided because it retards the progress of true Christianity, by removing a strong motive to embrace religion, and encourages delays or procrastination. For instance, if I were to exhort sinners to come to Christ, the sinner, believing in falling from grace, would be likely to say to himself, I am young and full of life, and of the pleasures of this world, and consequently if I obtain a religion I will be very likely to lose it, so I had better wait until I am old, or sick, so as to be more sure to keep it. Whereas, if I offer him a religion that will stick closer than a brother, he will never leave him nor forsake him—a religion that if once obtained will give him a right title to Heaven—such a religion is worth a great deal more than that slippery kind;—therefore a stronger motive is presented to urge him to a greater effort.

Again, the doctrine of apostasy should be avoided, because it tends to infidelity. First, by having a great deal of manna in it, and the little of God. For that religion that comes and goes like the bidding of man is well calculated to strengthen infidelity, by suggesting the thought, that surely such religion is human, not divine, for why should angels rejoice over one sinner that repenteth, if he is to go to hell at last? Or why should God seal him with his own image, if that seal is to be broken and that image defaced?

Again, we should avoid it, (apostasy,) because it is God dishonoring, and gives room for boasting. It is dishonoring God in that, that it makes a mighty God, but an almighty devil.

Profess: Take the case of Judas, God, and his angels, and good men desire the salvation of Judas. The devil and his angels desire the destruction of Judas. There is a war, a strong contest; God seems to have the advantage—Judas repents and angels rejoice. The devil leaves not the field, but rallies his forces—he is successful; Judas falls, the devil triumphs, and in this case, greater was he that was against Judas, than he that was for him.

The doctrine of apostasy gives room for boasting: "Take a case. Two Christians, one

hobby on faithful, and is saved; the other falls and is lost. They meet again, and the faithful says to the other: If you had watched and prayed, like I did, you would not have fallen. Listen how he boasts: I pray often in secret, and I believe in watching and praying, I keep the spark of grace fanned into a flame, by fasting and prayer. You, sir, if you had taken my advice, and done as I did, you would never have fallen. Now, take the boasting man to Heaven; to examine the song of redemption, that those who were saved by grace, he cannot give all the praise to God, since he had a great deal to do after God regenerated him, or he would not have been finally saved; therefore he must have some of the praise—It is due him; he must have some of his own some corner. Something like this: "I have turned back no more," or some other boasting song, without, about a "pious ground."

Backward. How are the hearts of Methodists which is apostasy.

"Born of Water and of the Spirit."—John 3: 5.

Many contend that the water birth mentioned in the Bible is baptism. How such a construction could be put upon this Scripture is very strange indeed; when baptism is not mentioned in all the conversation between the Saviour and Nicodemus; and baptism is nowhere in the Bible called a birth; there is no connection between immersion and a birth. The Saviour was teaching Nicodemus what must be done to salvation; that he must be born again. Take notice, that in this expression the Saviour admits that Nicodemus had been born again because he says that he must be born again. Now admit that the water birth means baptism; which one of the men had Nicodemus experienced? Not the birth of the Spirit, for he did not know what that was; and it could not have been immersion, for it appears that he was just then receiving his first lesson in Christianity.

There are but two births mentioned in the conversation, and the Saviour mentions only one of them at first, and Nicodemus introduced the other. Nicodemus had been born again, when the Saviour first addressed him; for the Saviour introduced the subject, by telling him that he must be born again, (another time.) No one will say that Nicodemus had been immersed, (born of water,) and we know that he had not been born of the Spirit, if the water here represents immersion, then a man must experience three births before he can get to heaven: viz: the one that Nicodemus had experienced, and the birth of baptism, (for that was next, if the water is baptism,) and then the birth of the Spirit. Who can get that? and who can dispute it, if baptism is meant in the context? The truth is, there was but one birth mentioned, and that was of the Spirit, until Nicodemus in his astonishment mentioned the natural birth; for he had up to that time, never heard of a man being born but once, and in but one way, and talks of a man being born when he was old as new to him; for says he, "How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" Evidently thinking that the Saviour meant a natural birth. Now, and no, until now, was any thing said about two births. The Saviour now takes up the subject differently, and says that a man must be born of water, (of the flesh,) and of the Spirit. This is the first time that the Spirit is mentioned—it was born again; now it is born of the Spirit—showing what kind of birth is meant by *born again*. To show that the birth of the water refers to the natural or fleshy birth, the Saviour says: "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit;" the only births mentioned in the conversation—the birth of the flesh and the birth of the Spirit.

As I have stated, if the water birth refers to baptism, we have three distinct births, and the birth of the Spirit last, (Cymbellines birth of the flesh first, birth of baptism next, and the birth of the Spirit last.)

But again, the Saviour says, born of water, and of the Spirit, and then, that which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit. He evidently calls the birth of the water of the flesh, showing that it is a natural birth, not of the Spirit; but that baptism is a positive ordinance, or institution, that is to be born of baptism, could not be a birth; for to be born of water or of baptism, would be to be born of the water, or of the baptism; the water or the baptism being the bringer forth or producer of the birth.

"Born of water?" I cannot see how this Scripture can be so construed as to make it mean baptism. Baptism is the burial of one already born again, and not his birth. Baptism is not a birth, but a burial in the grave. My contention is, that the "born of water" here spoken of, refers to the natural or fleshy birth, and it does seem that the whole conversation between our Saviour and Nicodemus goes to prove it. Then the only birth taught in the Scriptures requisite to man's salvation, is that of the Spirit. Both of the Spirit, and then buried (not born) in baptism. If I am not right, will some one please correct me?

THEO. H. COFFMAN.

Louisville, Nov. 24, 1851.

BROTHER GRAVES—I hasten to inform you that I held a meeting in Rome, Smith county, Tennessee, which commenced Saturday night before the fifth Sunday in October, and continued eight days. During the meeting there were ten conversions, and several seekers left; I baptized five persons last Sabbath, at Brents Vista. The cause is on the march in this section of country. To God we give all the glory.

A. J. BRANDON.

Aurora, Tenn., Nov. 13, 1854.

Joint Conference of the Baptist Association.

BROTHER GRAVES—The Joint Conference of the Baptist Association, held its annual session at the Hickory Grove Church, near Harrisburg, Putnam county, Miss., commencing Friday before the 4th Sunday in October, 1854. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder Wm. Young, Elder A. L. Smith was chosen Moderator, and W. D. Thomas, Clerk. This Association was organized a little over a year ago. It embraced in its constitution five churches, four ordained ministers, one licentiate, and about four hundred members. At its organization, seven churches were added, and four ordained ministers. It now numbers twelve churches, eight ordained ministers, two licentiates, and upwards of 1,000 members. Several of the churches were reported as prosperous, and all were in a measure of activity. The Executive Board employed a missionary for part of last year, but owing to other engagements, he was not able to go. The churches, though few and widely scattered, still do good work. The reports upon Education, Temperance, Sabbath Schools, Home and Foreign Missions, are well adapted. Also several resolutions were offered and adopted, and among them the following:

Whereas, A public expression is called for by the circumstances that are now surrounding us, from the great Baptist family of the South, west and central, in relation to the much beloved Brother Graves, (Editor of the Tennessee Baptist,) an expression of sympathy and condolence in his bereavement, and in the loss of a member of this Association who labors there for God, we do hereby resolve that we will:

1. That we should do all in our power to sustain the cause of the Baptist Church in this Association, who labors there for God, we do hereby resolve that we will:

2. That we should do all in our power to sustain the cause of the Baptist Church in this Association, who labors there for God, we do hereby resolve that we will:

3. That we should do all in our power to sustain the cause of the Baptist Church in this Association, who labors there for God, we do hereby resolve that we will:

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23. That we should do all in our power to sustain the cause of the Baptist Church in this Association, who labors there for God, we do hereby resolve that we will:

24. That we should do all in our power to sustain the cause of the Baptist Church in this Association, who labors there for God, we do hereby resolve that we will:

at any time to do so. We do not regard, like the Roman Catholics, with superstitious veneration our meeting houses and pulpits, and suppose they will be desecrated by being occupied by other ministers. By no means. But it is the invitation given to them "to preach to, or for us," we object to.

Entertaining the view we do of their baptism, their infant membership and church organization, can we believe their societies to be veritable churches of Christ? We cannot. Believing this, can we regard their preachers as regular gospel ministers? We cannot. Hence it is inconsistent in us to invite them to preach to us. The practice is very objectionable and unchristian. It causes ministers to preach to please men. For instance, a Baptist invited by Methodists into their pulpit, of course he must preach to suit Methodists, that is, he must not say anything which would offend them. He dare not mention "infant baptism," nor a word about baptism, he must not utter a sentence relative to the nature of Christ's Kingdom, that is, he must not speak in the language that is the church is a "regional church," composed of "living stones," but had no one, not of infants and seekers who are destitute of this spirituality. He must not breathe a syllable upon the government of the church, nor speak of its republicanism and the perfect equality of its members, which is in direct opposition to the denial of dominion of Methodist societies. Of all these he must not speak, nor even allude to it. It would be unprofitable to do so, after having been so kindly invited. No, sir, he must please Methodists. He may say this need not follow. I insist that it does. The minister knows when he preaches that he dare not speak of these things, the distinctive doctrines of Baptists, the cross-questioning of practices of Methodists, or the denial of the authority of the Bible, or that it would be the event in his hands he would get from one of them acquainted with this fact. The same is true of Presbyterians and others—and vice versa. If we in fact, they must return the compliment, and preach to please us. Paul says, "If I will please men I am not the servant of Christ."

When, sir, if he comes to such a pass now-days when a Baptist minister goes up to preach, he must examine well his audience to see who are present. Perhaps he has preached in his sermons, in urging his brethren on to holiness of life, to use the argument of the Apostle in the 6th of Romans, but seeing friend A, neighbor B, and C, of the Methodist society, and several Presbyterians, he desists. It will not say anything about the 6th of Romans to-day: "Know ye not brethren that so many of us were baptized into Jesus Christ," &c. "There, ye are buried with him by baptism," &c. "I must not say this, it will make my Poles friends mad—they will not come to hear me preach again. In connection with this he had intended to speak of the baptism of the Saviour in the river Jordan, by his baptizing, John the Baptist. "I desired very much," says he to himself, "to speak of these things, but owing to the presence of these men, I must pass them for the present, and hunt up something that will please my audience, especially the Squires, Doctors and Lawyers who are present." I confess, my brother, this has been and is now, among Baptists, too much the case. Where, sir, would this compromising spirit, if carried out, lead us? It seems to me that it would lead to the adoption of every error which is adroit. Not only to the adoption of all the errors of Pedobaptists, but of Roman Catholics, and every other sect. It would lead to the rejection of the Bible itself. For if we may compromise one truth we may as well compromise another, until there is no truth left. Good Lord deliver us from this state of things. Be brethren, one and all, ministers and laymen, to your posts and "contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints." Let us in the fear of the Lord, regardless of the sect, towns or favors of men, preach the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Yea, in the language of the lamented Waller, let us preach the truth "if the heavens fall." The only apology I offer for writing is a desire to disabuse the minds of my neighbors, and of all whom this may concern.

"CONSISTENCY."

To the Baptists of Mississippi.

DEAR BROTHERS—Since the adjournment of the Mississippi and Baptist State Convention in this place, Nov. 19th, I have received documents from the Foreign Mission Board at Richmond, Va., and the Southern Baptist Publication Society at Charleston, S. C. From both of these organizations I received the request to urge the claims of the respective causes upon the convention. Had the commissions reached me in time, I would have exerted myself most cordially for these objects. The Foreign Mission cause was never in a more important crisis, and never before promised a richer harvest of good. May I entreat the churches to consider it, with an earnest determination to aid in its promotion. Will not brethren set apart the first church meeting in January, 1855, throughout the State to make a cordial response to the proposition of the Board? The secretaries ask, "cannot \$5,000 be raised in Mississippi the coming year?" And will it be too much to ask further that the noble cause of a Southern Baptist literature may be fully canvassed and a liberal contribution made for the Publication Society at Charleston during the month of March. In the hope of a blessed gospel, I am your servant in Christian bonds.

V. M. CAREY CRANE.

President of Miss. Baptist State Conv.

Hernando, Nov. 20, 1854.

West. Sec. and N. O. Chronicle please copy.

For the Tennessee Baptist.

Joining the Church.

What Church ought a believer to join? To proper motives.

NUMBER THREE.

Let us inquire what are the proper and scriptural motives, that should influence the mind in deciding what church to join?

Right motives are necessary in order to right and acceptable action. It is the motive and intent of the heart that decide the moral character of our actions in the sight of God. Religion cannot contract itself. It is the same in the heart that it is in the life; the same in action that it is in motive. If the motive be wrong, the action is not good, and the reward is not given. If required to prevent all the motives necessary to right action in the case under consideration, in one word, that word should be, "the constraining love of Christ." Let the lowest inquiry bring to the settlement of his church connection, for the revealed truth of Christ, for the commandments of Christ, for the indwelling of Christ, for the people of Christ, and for the glory of Christ.

Love for the Revealed Truth of Christ ought to be a controlling motive of action in choosing a church. Christ says of himself, "I am the truth." This treasure he has committed to his people. If they love him, they must love his truth; for they are inseparable. Truth is a powerful weapon; but it must be faithfully presented, and advocated, to accomplish anything. It is a useless gun, but to be employed, it must be dug out from the mine, which its enemies have heaped upon it. Truth is a mighty ear, but sometimes it stands still for the want of help. Let it be faithfully presented, and it will do all that it is able to do. It is the truth that has been united as fellow-laborers of the truth, that, as fellow soldiers, they may combine their energies to raise from the dust the bleeding form of Truth, tear off the rusty armor which men have employed in their warfare; to exhibit her to the world in a full and unobscured glory, and give her the unspurred dominion of the world. No Christian should lead his influence to the support of doctrines he does not believe.

The true believer who properly appreciates the truth, will also reverence the scriptures, which reveal that truth. He will search the scriptures, to learn the "truth as it is in Jesus." While one cries, "Lo! here is Christ," and another, "Lo! here is Jesus;" he will search the scriptures daily whether these things are so. Such an inquiring spirit as this will not be left in error. Christ has said, "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God or not."

Love for the Commandments of Christ is another motive necessary to the choice of a true church of Jesus Christ. One of the inalienable elements of a heart that has truly submitted to the authority of God, is love for his commandments: "And this is love, that we walk after his commandments." David's prayer was, "Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight." And again he says, "Then will I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments."

Keeping the commandments is made the condition of continuing in the love of Christ. "If ye keep my commandments ye shall abide in my love." It is also made the evidence of Christian character: "And hereby we do know that we do know him, if we keep his commandments." It is furthermore considered the pledge of divine blessing in prayer: "And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things which are pleasing in his sight." If keeping the commandments of God be a pledge of answer to prayer, a proof Christian character, and a condition of continuance in that state, how can it be dispensed with? Is it possible rightly to decide what church to join without an abiding desire to know and to do the will of God? The question with every sincere inquirer should be: "Lord Jesus, who wilt thou have me to do?"

Love for the Institutions of Christ will be another indispensable motive, in guiding the mind to a clear knowledge of duty in this case. Every young convert will have a high regard for his Lord and Master. Not only will he sing with David, "How amiable are thy tabernacles," but with the poet,

"I love thy kingdom Lord,
The house of thine abode,
The church on best Redeemer saved
With his own precious blood."

He will also have a strong reverence for the Christian ministry, instituted by his authority, and consecrated by the example of Christ. He will honor it as the great instrument for the salvation of sinners. He will receive the accredited ministry of the gospel as "ambassadors for Christ, and honor them highly "for their work's sake."

A true believer will desire to walk in all the ordinances blameless. Like those who gladly received the word," on the day of Pentecost, he will promptly follow on the path of obedience according to the order: first faith, then baptism, after this, the observance of all things commanded of Christ. His faith, like that of the laborer, will lead him to a cheerful and prompt obedience to the ordinance of baptism.

The faithful servant of Christ will not desire to destroy, alter, or despise any of his positive institutions, but will hasten to honor them all, with unqualified consent. Such a spirit will be the best evidence he can give to God, "Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing; but keeping the commandment of God."

For the Tennessee Baptist.

The Mosley Creek Church Difficulties Adjusted.

Whereas, there has been a serious difficulty in the Mosley Creek church, for a number of years, and introduced into the Nashville Association, by two parties claiming to be the Mosley Creek church, who upon the Association, proceeded to divide members, by giving all the members to one party, and retaining the other party, and the parties having become obstinate towards each other, the Association failed in their attempts to remove harmony.

Having labored from year to year, and failed to remove the same, finally gave the parties such advice as they thought best, and invited to bring before the Association, a proposed plan, by which they might be adjusted. One party having assented to the advice, the other party, upon the advice of the Association, paying the Association, refused to assent to the same, and the Association failed in their attempts to remove harmony.

On the 10th of October, 1854, the Association met pursuant to adjournment. The Association organized by electing H. W. Taylor Moderator, and G. G. Taylor Clerk.

The Association then granted the parties the privilege of choosing eight persons out of the Association to labor with them to effect a reconciliation. Having thus failed the Association then called upon the parties to adjust their testimonials, in order to identify members. After having read the most of the testimony adduced by the parties, it was apparent that the case was not for adjournment, the Association would divide. Several remarks having been made on the proposition of the Association, comprising both parties, which produced deep and solemn sorrow in the Association, and a general confession by the S. C. men, with others of the same party, to the table, calling on brother B. Taylor and other brethren to come to the table, and that they agreed to strike out all that had been passed, and agree to take the Bible for their surety, and to write Brother Taylor, who had not repented, Place me and my church and Pastor where you found us, and I am ready to give you my hand. After some inquiry he considered they were misrepresented. There being great anxiety manifested by all present to effect an amicable adjustment of their difficulties, brother Isaac Keenan remarked, "There were many things wrong in them, he was ready to correct them, when continued of this fact. When upon brother Taylor proposed a similar said publication to the Association to take with the parties to effect a reconciliation, to examine and submit to their decision, which was agreed to by all the brethren.

After which a hymn was sung and the land rejoiced. Great joy and gladness prevailed.

Then adjourned till ten o'clock to-morrow morning—the Committee taking the publications upon which to report.

First—Met pursuant to adjournment. The Committee made the following report:

We, the Committee, to whom was referred the publications of the minority of Mosley Creek church, made in the Knoxville Register and Whig, after an examination of the said publications, feel prepared to say, that in some instances, the language in which the ideas are expressed, is too strong, and others, of too general application; and that the result of our deliberations be published in the Tennessee Baptist, over our signatures. And inasmuch as the minority have acknowledged that they erred in publishing that this is all that should be required of them. And whereas, years of painful anxiety and distress have been experienced by the church and community, in consequence of the difficulty which has existed among them; and whereas, a large number of individuals, of both the majority and minority, have agreed to the propositions just read, to advise them that, so soon as they meet and pass upon the stipulations set forth in this document, if adopted, he spread upon the church book as their record, and that every thing as far as possible which has transpired since the existence of the difficulty, be passed by as though it had never existed. And that they unite and live together as Christians, and for time to come guard against every thing that might tend to sever or stir up those things which have done so much in marring their peace and prosperity; and that they watch, fast and pray, that they may keep the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace.

JOHN CAREY,
JOHN CALLOWAY,
H. W. TAYLOR,
W. M. WITT,
G. G. TAYLOR,
T. J. LANE,
D. C. CAMPBELL,
W. M. F. HOLEM.

Approved by order of the church Oct. 21st, 1854.

A GREAT BRIDGE—The great tubular bridge that is to cross the St. Lawrence, will, when completed, be one of the mechanical wonders of the age. It is to be copied after the great bridge over the Menai Straits, in Wales, and will consist of huge tubes of iron, averaging over 200 feet in length, supported on 17 stone piers. The case will cross the St. Lawrence through this iron tunnel, and a half long, and if ed for above the river. The masonry to be of the most massive description, and the whole cost will not be far from seven and a half millions of dollars.

BY A COPY, FOR MERCHANTS, etc., etc.

FOR THE EDITOR, BY A COPY, FOR MERCHANTS, etc., etc.

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The Tennessee Baptist.

NASHVILLE, TENN. SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1854.

Published weekly, except on Sundays, by the Nashville Baptist Association, at the office of the Nashville Baptist Association, No. 100 Broadway, Nashville, Tenn.

Persons writing to us on business would confer a great favor by giving their Post Office Address; also that of each individual for whom they write.

Minutes of the Central Association are ready for distribution. Churches entitled to receive them will please call at this office and receive them. This announcement should have been made in our last issue.

Examination.—The examination of the various classes in the Mary Sharp College, at Winchester, Tenn., will commence on Tuesday the 12th of the present month, and close on the 15th. Patrons of the school and the public generally are invited to attend.

Detax.—Our types give the amount contributed for printing the minutes of this Association, \$96 25, whereas it should be \$76 25. We state this in justice to the Treasurer of the Association.

The Churches in the above Association can receive their minutes by calling at this office.

We hope the brethren that have sent us articles very justly denouncing the course pursued by the editor of the late N. O. Chronicle, will excuse us if we decline giving their articles to our readers, although they are well written, and treat the subject justly, yet we think the editor of that defunct sheet has been honored over much, by the attention he has already received from this paper. We therefore prefer "to leave him alone in his glory."

We call the attention of our readers to the Prospectus of the new Monthly Review, found in another column. We bespeak for this paper a brilliant career. Its pages will be enriched by the ablest pens in the great South-Western Valley. All agree that such a work is greatly needed; and we feel confident that it will be successful.

Who will be first in sending a club of five, and thus secure the sixth copy as a premium? Also, The Child's Own Book. Whose little hand will send us the first little dollar for the little book? Uncle Robin and Aunt Alice will do up some nice talk for "The Little Folks at Home," our word for truth.

Books Received by Letters, which came during our absence to North Carolina, the following sums for the Bible cause in China: O. H. W. Pickett for Prosperity Ch., \$3 00 For Bro. M. Fite, 1 00 For the church at Smith Fork, 7 00

Also, from a little girl four years old, at Edward's Depot, Miss. (may God bless the little darling), one dollar, and from Sister Lucy W. Gordon at Centon, Ala., two dollars. The donors will accept our hearty thanks. We hope many such letters will come during the coming month.

I am just starting again to be absent some two or three weeks, to visit the Alabama Convention. Let correspondents not be troubled if their letters are apparently neglected for a little time. We trust they will all come safely, and they will receive prompt attention so soon as my traveling duties permit me to remain at my post. Brethren and Sisters don't forget to pay for us, and be sure to remember us in your contributions. God has a great work for the Bible Board to do.

Brother Graves.—Permit me through the medium of your paper to say to Mr. William Brown, Postmaster at Woodridge's Stone, Ky., that at present I am about my master's business, engaged in a great work, and cannot recollect it to my sense of propriety to come down.—Mr. Brown will please excuse me at present—save his paper and ink—and believe me as ever his well wisher, A. W. MCCRACKEN, Bellview, Ky., Nov. 18, 1854.

Brother Graves.—The second meeting of the Mountain District, or Johnson Association, of Old's River, Overton co., including the second Sabbath in October.

We had a very interesting session, and the church with which we met, was much revived, and many souls were converted.

This is a small body, and its territory eminently missionary ground.

The two objects most interested the Association were Home Missions and Education. We are doing something for both these objects. We now need teachers for both our Male and Female Schools. We have a number of noble hearted brethren. I could be impressed with the fact that we have quite a number of very promising young brethren.

Resolutions were passed unanimously, and most enthusiastically, strongly commending the Tennessee Baptist. Also, denouncing Campbellism, and clearing this Association of the manumission cast upon us by A. Campbell. The clerk was instructed to furnish you with a publication a copy of the resolutions.

"Tekel" Frogge.

The above is the title, and a peculiarly appropriate one too, we think, which the mail has brought to our table.

We have glanced through this book of 100 pages and find that it purports to be a reply to Pendleton's "Three Reasons for being a Baptist," by a certain Tim C. Frogge, rider of a Methodist circuit in Kentucky, by the grace of his lords the Bishop. If any are curious to know more of this Frogge, we submit the following as connected with his early history—it may be:

Mr. Frogge, a tailor, who had left Charleston at the commencement of the war, returned some years after the capitulation, and got acquainted with a certain J. W. Gibbs, who was requested by Frogge to stand as godfather to one of his children, which was agreed to by Gibbs, provided he should have the naming of the child. As they were going to the church the father asked Gibbs if he had thought of a name.

"Yes," said Gibbs, "what do you think of our Lieutenant Gov. Dull?"

"Very good," said the father, "I approve of it very much."

The child was accordingly named Dull. Frogge did not immediately think of the drollery of the name, but when he did, he could have killed Gibbs for this imposition on his reliance and friendship.

He thought to have recourse to the Board of policy to get permission to re-baptize the child; but when he saw Lieut. Gov. Dull presiding there, he thought it would be an affront to relate the story, therefore he postponed the matter until he should remove to a distant State, where he determined to apply to the Legislature to have it changed.

If this refers to our author, the name was changed to Tim. C. Frogge.

We have some slight knowledge of this author. He was Mr. Lee's Moderator in Stottsville, Ky., in his debate with Elder J. B. Evans, and the laughing stock of the occasion. But his simplicity and weakness were not imputed to him for crime, for all considered them *noted to him*. It was prophesied that he would soon commit some act, from the assiduity which he noted down Mr. Lee's speeches. We have a faint recollection that he threatened that he would get up a "spite" with some one soon as he had "stuck" off all Mr. Lee's arguments—at all events in a week or so after, we heard of him charging upon a poor Baptist minister some where down in Panchon Creek, at a furious rate. It was evident to all that while they were Mr. Lee's arguments it was Frogge's voice—and never did a poor frog suffer severely for his rashness.

But what about this Tekel? We think its very weakness will protect it. Will not Elder P. reply? What, to this book? He would lose all his self-respect to do it. We expect it is a stammering gopher up—a book beited with this Frogge with titles to catch him—to undignify him. Reply to it—and what is there to reply to? Humph! we would as soon undertake to eat soap with a three tined spoon, or carve frog spawn with a case knife.

The author has blunderingly, or it may be, some way, determined to victimize him, written its verdict over every page and upon the back, Tekel Frogge.

No Tekel signs, weighed in the balance and found wanting. The title of the book then is, a Frogge weighed in the balance and found wanting. He put Pendleton's Reasons into one scale and himself into the other, and he finds himself altogether lighter than vanity.

We open the book to the title page and we find again the most appropriate motto under which a defence of infant baptism and assiduity was ever written. The reader can't guess. Here it is, "Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which ye have been taught." etc.

We glance at the running head, and that reads, "Tekel—Infant Baptism," which means Infant baptism weighed in the balance and found wanting. A better running title no man or Frogge could have selected. Truly this author is the most severely conscientious man or the greatest blunderer living.

The author has through these 100 pages, only assiduously *imposed* upon the most eminent Pedobaptist divines in christendom day.

He affirms that the covenant of circumcision is a clear warrant for infant baptism, when such men as the late Moses Stuart of Andover, openly admits that "The Covenant of Circumcision furnishes no ground for infant baptism." Dr. Hodge, Professor at Princeton, Old Side Presbyterian, says that the rite of circumcision simply constituted the natural descendants of Abraham into a commonwealth, and that "when Christ came the commonwealth was abolished, and there was nothing put in its place." Again, "In no part of the New Testament is any other condition of membership in the church prescribed than that contained in the answer of Philip to the Eunuch who desired baptism, 'If thou believest with all thy heart thou mayest.' And he answered and said, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God.' The church, therefore, is in its spiritual nature a covenant or fellowship." Where are the hopes of infant baptism and membership founded in the identity of the old Jewish commonwealth and the christian church now?

NASHVILLE PRICES CURRENT.

RECEIVED WEEKLY BY JOHN LEVITT.

Stocks are light and broken. Sugar is mostly in the hands of speculators, and held high. Flour—Stock light, and very fine at the quotations—55¢/60¢—small arrivals, which go off at high figures—55¢/60¢, for rec'd—75¢ for fine. Freight very high.

But it is needless to notice the other passages, since so many honest Pedobaptist commentators have since confessed that they do not teach infant baptism—indeed they confess that the New Testament contains no precept to warrant the rite.

Martin Luther says, "It cannot be proved by the Sacred Scriptures that infant baptism was instituted by Christ or by the first christians after the Apostles." So admits all the Reformers.

Dr. Wall says, "Among all the persons that are recorded as baptized by the Apostles, there is no express mention of any infants."

Dr. Woods says, "We find no express precept or example for infant baptism in all our holy writings."

Prof. Stuart admits that he cannot find commands or plus or certain examples in the New Testament relative to it "infant baptism." We could fill this whole paper with similar admissions. It is known to every intelligent Pedobaptist that this question is conceded by Pedobaptist divines. They frankly admit that the Sacred Scriptures do not teach it by either precept or example, and we can but suspect the honesty or intelligence of the minister who will now urge it. We consent, therefore, to the inscription which Mr. Frogge has written over his New Testament proof and example.

He devotes a few pages to the old and oft exploded argument from *prophetic baptism*, i. e. that the Jews, prior to Christ's day, were wont to immerse the families of *prophets*—and christen baptism was but a continuation of that baptism. Dr. Wall urges this, and of a few are still found so reckless as to teach that christen baptism was borrowed from one of the traditions of the Elders!

But we will let Moses Stuart settle this forever. See Review, p. 167.

Over the 70 pages Mr. Frogge devotes to prove that the Scriptures do not in any case countenance immersion but assiduity, we pass in silence. It is the merest quibble in the world—stale, seventh-hand tattle worked over and sadly diluted by the press, and now published under the terribly appropriate head of "Tekel."

The following is Mr. P.'s position: "Throughout the whole tenor of the Holy Scripture *affusion* is called baptism, while the Bible knows nothing of immersion as baptism." This is the position which Mr. C. claims, and authors are everywhere being compelled to take where religious discussions prevail—they are reduced to this absurdity. When they all take this ground it will not be long before the writing head of Mr. Frogge's book will be running lightly over all Pedobaptism, "Tekel." Baptists should encourage them to take this position—for why should we wish them to immerse when their immer-sions are not baptism?

In defence of the government of the Methodist Society, this author presumes to say something, and what do you think he has the conscience to say? He says that it is Berea-catholism. Hear him: "There is the most striking analogy between the political government under which we live and the republican government of the Methodist Church."

What is the definition of a Republic? A Commonwealth, or a State in which the exercise of the sovereign power is lodged in representatives elected by the people."

Is the Methodist Church such a government, *imposed* upon the most eminent Pedobaptist divines in christendom day? He affirms that the covenant of circumcision is a clear warrant for infant baptism, when such men as the late Moses Stuart of Andover, openly admits that "The Covenant of Circumcision furnishes no ground for infant baptism." Dr. Hodge, Professor at Princeton, Old Side Presbyterian, says that the rite of circumcision simply constituted the natural descendants of Abraham into a commonwealth, and that "when Christ came the commonwealth was abolished, and there was nothing put in its place." Again, "In no part of the New Testament is any other condition of membership in the church prescribed than that contained in the answer of Philip to the Eunuch who desired baptism, 'If thou believest with all thy heart thou mayest.' And he answered and said, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God.' The church, therefore, is in its spiritual nature a covenant or fellowship." Where are the hopes of infant baptism and membership founded in the identity of the old Jewish commonwealth and the christian church now?

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SPECIAL NOTICES.

A NEW PAMPHLET.—A selection of hymns for the use of the Southern Baptist Publication Society, by Rev. B. H. L. Howell, D. D., published by the Southern Baptist Publication Society, No. 100 Broadway, Nashville, Tenn., price 25¢.

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REV. DR. CUMMING'S WORKS.

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Communications.

Well, I should think, taking all North West...

Agam, to show the favorable opinion which...

Brother Graves:—I regret very much that...

In your 12th number, I see an article written...

But, should the brethren be sincere, I will...

First, it should be located according to the...

It was then argued that the denomination...

But since that time we have seen our mis...

The educational society seeing that we must...

But when you read those lines I felt like...

Brother Graves:—I was glad to see in your...

Brother Graves:—Having been requested by...

In answer to the repeated calls from Hea...

But when the wall from perishing hundreds...

And now, brethren, once more, I in their...

It is true, you may expect, and will me...

Only such as are willing to suffer, and en...

Men who can, 'mid winter's gloomy reign...

Come, brethren, who will make the sacrifice...

Brother Graves:—Though a stranger to your...

The Lord has graciously revived his work...

Revival—Intelligence.

Brother Graves:—The good work is still...

What more can the friends of Mossy Creek...

Now, if the brethren wish union, where can...

But Mossy Creek is too near Murfreesboro;

I fear this argument was for effect, to pre...

But Mossy Creek is too near Murfreesboro;

But Mossy Creek is too far from Virginia...

Brother Graves:—There was a meeting held...

VOL. XI.

Joining the Church.

What Church ought all Christians to join?

We come in the name of the principles essential to the church.

In the previous article upon this subject, it was shown that the church is to be composed of baptized believers.

It is in the more precise definition, that is, of compliance with the law of God, that the church is to be found.

A few of these things are: 1. The true church is the foundation of the Apostles.

2. The true church is the foundation of the Apostles.

3. The true church is the foundation of the Apostles.

4. The true church is the foundation of the Apostles.

5. The true church is the foundation of the Apostles.

6. The true church is the foundation of the Apostles.