

[From the Primitive Baptist, 1857.]

Dear Brethren and Sisters:—I feel too unworthy to attempt to write for the Primitive, but I have neglected to pay for my paper, and while writing on that business, I thought I would give you a short sketch of my experience. If I thought I could write something that would comfort God's children, I should be willing to try, but when I look at myself I am made to cry out and say,

"I am a stranger here below,
And what I am 'tis hard to know;
I am so vile, so prone to sin,
I fear that I'm not born again."

When I was young I promised myself that when I become old I would get religion; but I think if it had been left to my choice I must have sunk to everlasting woe and misery. At an unexpected time, I think the Lord showed me what a helpless sinner I was. I saw, in a vision, the skies burst, a north east course, I saw God and his Son coming before; the element looked darkened with the saints. I thought that awful day of judgment had come. O! I knew I was not prepared to die! what horror seized my poor guilty soul. O! my dear sisters, tongue cannot express how awful I felt; I tried to pray with all the powers of my soul—Lord, have mercy on me, a poor lost, miserable sinner. I think I felt like them that will hear that awful sentence, Depart, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels! I then thought if religion could be had I would try and get it. I read, I prayed, I attended public worship; but instead of getting better I grew worse. I would go to hear brother Ichabod Moore preach, he could tell my distress better than I could, but no relief could I find. Amazed I stood, but could not tell which way to shun a moving hell, for death and hell drew near: sometimes distressed very bad and sometimes not. I would grieve because I wanted to feel like I heard others say. But I never shall forget the time I shall now mention. I thought that awful day had come, I heard Gabriel blow the loud alarm, Awake ye nations under ground. Of all the roarings, thunders, lightnings and blazes that I ever beheld, then it was; I saw the people gathering, I saw every knee bow, and I recollect what sad countenances they had, there was not a part kneeling nor a part sitting up, all appeared to be engaged in prayer. O, what a time of sorrow it was

to me! I felt so glad that I was not in torment! When I awoke up I was saying these words, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. O, sinner, if you read these few lines, do not say there is no such thing as revealed religion. Our Saviour rejoiced in it, for he said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and revealed them unto babes: for it seemed good in thy sight. I have a hope that he revealed himself to me.—One night when wide awake, I prayed that I might find peace to my troubled soul; I thought the day of grace was past with me. These words came in my mind, In me ye shall have peace. I did not feel as happy as I had heard others say; it was not a voice—I thought all christians heard a voice. But from that time I felt distressed about joining the church; I was afraid I was deceived. I prayed to the Lord that if I was a christian to show me a sign and I would go and join with the people of God: I was awake and a light darted before me, and these words came in my mind, You are without spot or blemish before God. Dear sisters, I felt happy for two months; and I could sing this song from day to day,—

"Come, saints and sinners, hear me tell
The wonders of Emmanuel,
Who saved me from a burning hell,
And brought my soul with Christ to dwell,
And gave me heavenly union."

I then felt willing to be baptized, and was, by Elder Ichabod Moore, the 1st Sunday in November about 16 years ago. I thought my troubles were gone, but O, those dark and dreary hours that I have passed through since then! So it is mixtures of joy and sorrow that we daily pass through.

Sisters, do you ever think of Job and wish you had his patience? You could adopt the language of him, "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away: Blessed be the name of the Lord." I know the Baptists are evil spoken of, for I read of no other. I do not read of John the Episcopalian, nor John the Presbyterian, nor no other but John the Baptist. When I hear so much said, it strengthens me. Our Saviour said, "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: ye know that it hated me before it hated you." John 15th chapter 18th, 19th vs. O! sinner, don't say, If I believed as you do, I would take my fill

of sin. Recollect that you are only punished for the deeds done in the body. Yes, but you all say, we can't do nothing—if your doctrine be true, God's not just. "Nay but, O man, who art thou that replieth against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump, to make one vessel unto honor, and another to dishonor?"—Rom. 9th chapter, 21st 22nd vs.—You ought to read the scriptures more than you do, and not think so much about what such a preacher says. Sinner, you can live moral, and not be calling on God to damn your immortal soul. How heart-rending it is to parents to hear it from their children. You can keep from getting drunk, you can keep from cheating; do as you would be done by; living with a clear conscience is a great pleasure, it constitutes good neighbors, it is an ornament to society. Take revenge from no man—the good Book says, Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord. I do believe he is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I believe God is carrying on his work every day, and will until eternity ceases to roll her ample round. I do not believe he loves to-day and hates to-morrow. He found Jacob in a waste howling wilderness, he led him about and instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye.—"For thine is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written: The just shall live by faith."—Rom. 1st, 17. By Faith Noah was warned of God to build his ark that rode on the lofty billows, when the flood came and destroyed the world. By Faith Moses stretched his rod over the boisterous sea, and the waters parted, they were a wall on the right and on the left unto them; and the children of Israel went through the Red Sea safe. God promised to deliver his people from the Egyptians: Pharaoh and his hosts pursued after them and they were all drowned.—Exodus 14th, 21, 22.—By Faith Joshua was enabled with his trumpets, to cause the walls of Jericho to fall down, and they straightway took the city.—Joshua 6th, 20th. By Faith Gideon with three hundred men went forth and took the Midianites, they were like grasshoppers for multitude, or as the sand of the sea. You see the battle is not to the strong, it was the

Omnipotent arm of God that was with him—Judges 7th, 17. By Faith Samson called on the Lord to strengthen him so that he took hold of the pillars of the house and overthrew the Philistines, and he slew more at his death than he did in all of his life.—Judges 16th, 28, 29.—By Faith David went forth and took Goliath, the great champion of the Philistines, and took his own sword and slew him, and cut off his head.—Sam. 17th, 51. By Faith Elijah called on God to destroy the burnt sacrifices, he prayed to the Lord, and he heard his prayer, and fire came down from heaven and licked up the wood, stones, and water that was in the trench. I Kings 18th, 38. By Faith Elijah and Elisha took their mantles and wrapped them up and smote the waters, and they were divided: so the two went over the river on dry ground.—ii. Kings 2nd, 18. By Faith Elijah caused the axe to swim in the river Jordan, when his servant dropped it in.—ii. Kings 6th, 6. I believe his eye is ever over the righteous: He was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, when they were cast in the burning fiery furnace: so the smell of fire had not passed on them. He was with Daniel when he was cast into the lion's den, he locked the jaws of the monster lions so that they had no power to hurt him. What a beautiful display of God's Elect! for he has promised that he "will be with us in six troubles, and in the seventh he will not forsake us."

Dear brethren and sisters, when it goes well with you, remember me and my children in your prayers—that we may live to His praise, and when we have to leave the trials and troubles of this world we may die in the triumphs of faith.

Yours, with much love and esteem,
G. T. STANTON.

Stantonsburg, N. C., April 5, 1857.

The natural man is a spiritual monster, His heart is where his feet should be—fixed upon the earth; his heels are lifted up against heaven, which his heart should be set on. His face is toward hell, his back toward heaven. He loves what he should hate, and hates what he should love; joys in what he ought to mourn for, and mourns for what he ought to rejoice in; glories in his shame, and is ashamed of his glory; abhors what he should desire, and desires what he should abhor.—Boston.