

each day, before and after preaching, all that desire can hear all the proceedings of the Association, and the delegates can also hear all the preaching at the stand.

We visited the Staunton River Association including the second Sunday in August. It met among the hills of Virginia and in the midst of a sterling population who kindly entertained the brethren. There are a number of churches in that region with but few preachers. The few preachers there are very able and interesting brethren. We heard Elder John C Hall with much pleasure. Elders McDowell and Martin are gifted preachers. Some young brethren are coming on—these we did not hear. It was a delightful trip and a great pleasure to be among such Baptists and their friends.

Communicated.

ATHENS, MENARD COUNTY, ILL.

"Praise ye the Lord: oh! ye redeemed of the Lord praise ye the Lord."

I will praise him for his great word and for his wonderful mercies. He has led me through dark valleys and over narrow paths and rugged places while the furious storm was gathering over my head, the wolf and the lion roaring on my right and on my left. The Lord has been my shield and stay amid the storm of trouble—I found shelter under the covering of his mercy wing. My lamentations of most bitter distress he changed into songs of sweet praises, my most lonesome and desolate hours into prayers and thanksgivings. He preserved my feet from the many snares that were laid for them, and shielded me from the fatal darts of the enemy; and, I now feel to say: his ways are ways of pleasantness, and all his paths are peace. Some say, "Praise God on the seventh day." I say, "Praise God six days and then praise him the seventh!" Some say, "The heavens glorify God" and "The angels glorify God." Let me tell you, of a time when it pleased God to show me the little pebbles under my feet praising God, and the little low blades of grass praised God on the highest key, then I looked around on the lofty trees of the forest and the bright Sun that shone on them, and they were joined in the same sweet concert praising God in more lofty tones according as he had given them power. Then it pleased the Lord to open to my view, a door in heaven, where I saw the bright angels rejoicing over the repentance of me, a sinner. Then I was permitted to join the sweet concert praising God, with the little pebbles, the little low blades of grass, the lofty trees of the forest, the bright Sun that shone on them, and the bright angels. What a mercy is this, what a heaven of bliss, how unspeakably favored are we who have had our feet taken from the mire of sin and placed on the rock

of eternal ages. Oh! what a blessed habitation has a sinner on earth, of abiding through life in the great field of the Lord's workmanship singing praise to his most holy name; where we may be found waiting to meet the bridegroom at his coming, and be welcomed home to heaven—there to sing praise to God through all eternity. Oh! sinner how can you live content in ungodliness? how can you roll sin under your tongue as a sweet morsel? how can you forget our God?

Oftimes I hear the gospel sound and in a joyful call say—monsters come to Christ our King, for he is Lord of all! Oh! brothers come. Oh! do not stand here idle all the day. Oh! sisters come to Christ our King. Oh! do not make delay. Dear children, all of you I call, each one alone I greet, submit in love to God's own will, and bow at Jesus' feet.

ELIZABETH A. BENNETT.

SOUTH LOWELL, N. C., May 28th, 1874.

Dear Brother Respass:—

Your communication in the LANDMARKS, of the 15th, of May 1874, giving some details of your trials and conflicts spiritually, is so much to the point, and so comforting to me, that I feel constrained to thank God for his infinite mercy, in thus leading you about and instructing you, and then causing you to write out so graphically and so accurately the dealings of His Spirit with you, so that these dealings should reach me just in time; when under similar conflicts and trials, I was about to conclude that surely I must be cast away, a poor deceived wretch, different from any one else, one to whom this world could no longer give any happiness, but had seemingly rather gained in power and inclination to annoy and distress me; one from whom it seemed that God had withdrawn his presence, and left overwhelmed with doubts and fears. In fact my dear brother, I was reduced to a state of complete wretchedness? It seemed that the consolations of religion were denied me, the very thought of seeking relief from the world or from any source but Jesus, only served to distress and sink me lower into despair. You certainly are gifted in your descriptions of these secret internal heart operations; when the heart is taken possession of by God and instructed and set apart for uses of His own glory. And I doubt not but that your honesty and truthfulness in thus unbosoming yourself, revealing the inmost secrets of your heart, not only to sister Phillips and sister Crutcher, but to all of the christian readers of the LANDMARKS, who have been led in similar ways caused you to say, in so doing, you were aware that you were exposing your great weakness; and probably making a fool of yourself. Did it never occur to you my dear brother, why it was or is, that God has thus shown to you, your weakness, and your foolishness as you call it? Paul says, when I am weak then am I strong &c. Or why it is that

this you have been, are now, and will continue to be, tried and afflicted? Why, remember that God's sheep are a poor, ignorant and afflicted flock, and how futile would be your efforts to feed them if you had not been thus prepared to feed, comfort, and sympathize with them: instead of being prepared, in a theological school, God took you into His own school, and He has taught and prepared you by His Holy Spirit and laden you with just exactly such food and in precisely such quantities as He wishes you to dispense to them in His own time. Then rejoice with me, my dear brother, that notwithstanding these afflictions of yours are hard to bear, and are great crosses to the flesh, that while you are going through them you cannot understand them and that they sorely try you; yet remember that God's ways are not our ways, and think that this has been, is now and probably ever will be the way that God, in his infinite wisdom, mercy, and love, has prepared his shepherds to feed his sheep, I say rejoice that God has seen fit to give you such bright and soul cheering evidence, that you are one of his chosen shepherds, as I hope he has me, by being fed and comforted by one of his shepherds who has proven to me that he has been led by the same way and arrived at the same conclusions that I have.

How strange and mysterious are God's doings, indeed his ways are past finding out. I feel grateful to him if my wicked heart should be led from so many trials, and that while I live here on this earth I can never feel thankful enough. I do not understand why it is that we so soon forget and doubt God's mercy, when he has so often delivered us from so many dangers and trials: sometimes after being troubled with almost despairing doubts and fears when the Lord has again revealed himself as altogether lovely, I think that surely I will never dishonor him again by doubting his love and mercy, under the most trying circumstances.

Dear brother, may a merciful God incline your heart to write often for the LANDMARKS, and when he calls on you to go through deep waters or undergo fiery trials, think not that you are any the less an object of his constant care and undying love but that rather he is preparing you to feed his poor downtrodden and oppressed little ones and that your reward will be sure to come hereafter. My his grace sustain you in every conflict, in every trial, and may you continue to reflect the image of the meek and lowly Jesus, for in this image you are most worthy to receive, and will be sure to excite the warmest love of all of God's people. Whether I am one or not I do now, but when I see his image reflected in any one it excites in my bosom not only entire confidence but fellowship and the warmest love.

Yours in hope.

I. G. CANNADY.

A copy of "Naaman the Syrian" will be furnished free to each new subscriber to Zion's Landmarks.

CONTRIBUTORS:—A building Primitive Baptist meeting house at Raleigh, N. C., can be sent to Jefferson Gulley, Raleigh, N. C. We hope that a house of worship of that order will be built there.

P. D. GOLD.

Appointments.

Appointments for Elder R. Shreve:

Fast Sunday and Sunday in October, Mt. Meeting House, Caswell County, N. C. Monday after, Country Line Tuesday, Bush Arbor Wednesday, Lynch's Creek Thursday, Deep Creek Saturday and Sunday, Big Meadow Monday 3 P. M., Gilliam's Tuesday, Pleasant Grove

Associational.

THE Union Association is appointed to meet with the Lebanon church, Brooks County, Ga., five mile North-East of Quitman, three miles and a half North-West of Overby Station, A. & G. R. R., on Saturday before the third Sunday in October 1874. Brethren are requested to visit us.

E. J. WILLIAMS.

THE Mayo Association will be held at Matrimony Church, Rockingham County, N. C., commencing Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1874. Those coming by Railroad will be met Friday before at Reidsville, N. C.

Subscription Receipts.

- Under G W Murphy, Aug 15, '74, \$— TENNESSEE. Through Elder Abner Hern: G Womack, Sep 15, '75, 1 50 TEXAS. Through Sannel C. Denton: Frank Abbott, March 1, '75, 2 00 M Saxon, May 1, '75, 2 00 Through J E Hardie: J P Ashby, May 15, '75, 2 00 Through C B Williams: Miss Judith Thompson, Sep 15, '75, 1 50 VIRGINIA. Through Elder James S Dameron: J B Gammion, Sep 1, '74, 2 00 Through John West, \$4: Eli Park at Feb 1, '75, 2 00 John West, Feb, 1, '75, 2 00 Through Mrs Elizabeth McNeely, \$3: G K Jones, Sep 1, '75, 1 50 Geo Griggs, Sep 1, '75, 1 50 Through W A Thomas, \$21: Wm E Linthicum, April 1, '76, 1 50 George Hodnett, Sep 1, '74, 1 50 Wm F Jefferson, Sep 1, '75, 1 50 John B Dodd, Dec 1, '75, 1 50 John B Shelhorse, Sep 15, '75, 1 50 John Hodnett, Dec 1, '75, 1 50 A B Owen, Sep 15, '75, 1 50 Thomas D Wood, Dec 1, '75, 1 50 Harman Cook, Oct 15, '75, 1 50 Cornelius George, Sep 1, '75, 1 50 C F Johnson, Sep 15, '75, 1 50 David R Collins, Sep 15, '75, 1 50 Ruth J Inman, Sep 15, '75, 1 50 S T Myers, Sep 15, '75, 1 50 O T Pickral, Sep 15, '75, 1 50 W A Thomas Sep 15, '75, 1 50 Through C B Williams, \$19.50: C Y Williams, Sep 1, '74, 1 50 C B Williams, Sep 1, '75, 1 50 J L Williams Sep 15, '75, 1 50 W H Giles, Sep 15, '75, 1 50 Mrs Mary May, Sep 1, '75, 1 50 James A Shields, June 1, '76, 1 50 Joseph Abbott, Sep 1, '76, 1 50 Wm Dawson, Sep 1, '75, 1 50 Felix Dodson, Sep 1, '74, 1 50 Eli Lewis, Sep 1, '75, 1 50 Wm P. Lanier, Sep 1, '75, 1 50 Drury Owen, Sep 15, '75, 1 50 Mrs Nancy H Flippen, Sep 1, '76, 1 50