

home without her. When I was coming home on the train meditating over the sad calamity, it seemed to appear to me that those three of the family had died and had gone to heaven, and that I had to die and go to hell, and hell seemed to be presented to me. Oh! I was in so much trouble; I felt like I was lost forever and there was no chance for me; I was going to die, and where God and Christ was I never could go; all I could do was to beg for mercy. My very breathing was in prayer to God for mercy. Brother Gold, I can't describe my feelings. Oh! I felt that I was the worst sinner on earth. I would try to read the Bible, but could not read much: I could read this passage, The soul that sins shall surely die, and if in your sins where God and Christ is you cannot go. Oh! I felt I was a sinner. I felt like I was going to die; it seemed that I could feel something in my heart that would kill me, for it seemed to grow and get larger, and thought it would burst and then I should die. I only could beg for mercy.

Went on this way for about three months, getting worse every day of my life: tried to get rid of that great trouble, but could not: tried many fashions but could not. It had hold of my heart. Oh! how I longed to see the light, but it was all darkness, woe and misery, sinking down. I felt that I must go down forever. Oh! that load in my heart it was as a cage of unclean birds; yes as a troubled ocean casting up mire and dirt all the time. Oh! I wanted to be good. I longed to see the day when freed from sin; but all is dark. Oh! every sin, every foolish thought seemed to rise between me and God. Yes, as a mountain without top. Oh! such a sinner, and God could not look upon sin with the least degree of allowance.

Went on this way, begging the Lord for mercy, but could not see how he could have mercy on such a wretch; that was all I wanted, but thought it was not for me. One night it seemed to get worse: the burden heavier; thought I was gone forever. No help for me; though I felt that God was just if he sent me to hell. Could see no other way, for the law was good, just and holy. I felt to give everything to God, for him to dispose of as was proper to him. His will be done, not mine. Felt like I would never see the sun rise again; and had asked God to have mercy until I was afraid and ashamed to ask any more; but thought I would go to my lot and ask him one more time, for the last; for I was gone. I got to the door but could get no further. I was so frightened that I turned round and fell on my face on my bed, and asked God to have mercy if it could be his will; but his will be done not mine; when it seemed that something said, "Go thy way, thy faith hath made thee whole."

Brother Gold, I can't describe my feelings at that time. My burden was gone; all seemed to be calm and serene, and I was compelled to praise the Lord. My soul was filled with joy, and had I ten-thousand tongues I could not have praised

the Lord enough. Why? Because as David says, he had done great things for me, whereof I was glad. Yes, he had taken me out of that horrible pit of mire and clay, and placed me on a rock, and put a new song in my mouth; even praises unto God.

I thought my troubles were over and all my sorrows gone. But alas, it was not. I went to Church the next Sunday and was sitting hearing old brother Baker preach, and enjoying myself very well; thinking I should never see any more trouble, and that I would praise the Lord the balance of my days, whether many or few. All my days were his, and that all should be devoted to him. Sitting there in this way, and brother Baker told in his preaching how he viewed Jesus. Something seem to say to me, "ah! you thought you were a christian, but you are not, if you were you would have viewed Christ as he did; he is a christian, you are deceived about the whole matter, and it is all an imagination; you were just in trouble because your sister died." Oh! I did not know what do; but I only could pray to the Lord if I was deceived to undeceive me. I was in great trouble all that night, and the next day. I could not eat nor sleep. All I could do was to pray to the Lord to undeceive, if I was deceived.

That day about one o'clock I was plowing in that deep trouble, when a voice seemed to say, blessed is he that hath not seen and yet believeth; arise and be baptized. That cheered my feelings, and I never have doubted so much since, though doubts and fears often arise; but I can't help relying on that promise, for I believe the mouth of the Lord spoke it.

I was then drawn out to the Church. Oh! it was so beautiful, all so near like Christ. The brethren and sisters it seemed were almost the image of Christ. Oh! I loved them so well, and could they ever love me? No, I was too mean for good people to love.

Saturday came, the 3rd Saturday in June 1873. It seemed that I was bound to go to the Church; I wanted to hear preaching, and I wanted to go. I set apart some time that week to go to Church. Part of the family said I had better stay at home and work, and kill some of my grass, for everything was very grassy. So then I thought I would not go. I would stay at home and work; but when the day came and time to start, I was fixing to go the first I knew, so I went on. Conference was opened, and the first I knew I was up and talking. I was received without a question, and it was a pleasure to me. There was something that hindered baptism the next day; but on the next meeting, July meeting, I was baptized. That was a happy time with me,

And if our happiness below
In Jesus be so sweet;
What height of raptures shall we know
When around the throne we meet?

Brother Gold, it has been up and down with me ever since.

Brother Gold, pray for poor unworthy me.

Yours, in hope of eternal life,

STEPHEN B. MOORE.

HURDLE'S MILLS, Person County, N. C.,
November 5th, 1875.

I PROPOSE, through the columns of the LANDMARKS, to write to the brethren, sisters and friends who have requested me to write, that they may hear from me after my return home from my late tour in visiting the four Associations held in the Eastern portion of our State.

I will state to them that I was greatly blessed in health and strength so as to fill all my appointments, and met with many warm Baptists at Little River, Kehukee, Contentnea and White Oak Associations; also, a great many attended my appointments, between the different Associations who appeared to receive me in love, for which I desire to return thanks to the God of heaven for his great love, that we hope he has bestowed on us; for when I see so many strange faces all come together from the East, West, North and South and all speak the pure language of Canaan, it brings to mind the words of our Savior: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth give I unto you; let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." I do believe, my brethren and sisters, that I both saw and felt the power of that peace which is given only by him who has all power in heaven and earth.

Though I met with many difficulties by the way, hearing that some of my family was quite sick and wishing to see me; also, many brethren falling in with me for several days at a time, and enjoying their company so much. When they would fill their appointments they were then at liberty to return to their homes and loved ones. But, let my feelings be homeward or onward, I felt bound to the Lord and his people—to go on in the strength that the Lord would give. But, I often thought of Lot being led out of the City leaving many that were near him in the flesh, and going forth in obedience to the word of the Lord. Also, the words of Job, when he heard of the destruction of his property and the death of all his children, he exclaimed, "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord." Also think I received some comfort from these words: "All things work together for good to them who love God, to them that are called according to his purpose." And having a hope that I was obeying his call, at times, could take courage, and would admonish all the brethren and sisters not to fail to assemble themselves together; pray with and for each other, for in so doing we receive spiritual strength and lose nothing; for all we enjoy, both temporal and spiritual, are the gifts of God, and from my short experience would insist on all the ministering brethren to travel as much as they can, in visiting the saints in many places, as it appears to strengthen our weak faith. When we can meet with one we never saw before and hear him testify of the dealings of God with his people, and expound the scriptures so much to our feelings, it shows us that the Lord has his faithful witnesses in many parts of

the earth, and we feel that he has sent them to comfort us with his truths in our weak and dark days.

I have spent as much as six weeks in my late tour to the Eastern portion of our State, and feel amply rewarded for all my time and trouble both in spiritual and carnal things. The brethren, sisters and friends, appeared to receive me with the spirit of love, and proved it to me by their liberal contributions to my necessities, for which I ask liberty to return to them the most profound thanks, and when I think of their smiles and their tears, when time came for us to part, my heart burns in love towards them, and only can say:

Though many miles apart we be
I hope they may remember me,
And hope the time will shortly be
That we may each other see.

I will say that when I returned home I found my family in a very good condition: had been some sickness with them, but were at that time all able to be up. My wife (Sister Burch) was much pleased at my return home, and to hear that I had enjoyed myself so well with the brethren, sisters and friends.

Yours in the bonds of love.

JAS. A. BURCH.

NOVEMBER 10, 1875.

Dear Brother Gold:—

THIS is an endeavor to write to you as was promised Brother Ayeock who requested me to write out our trip to the Association and back.

September 30th we arrived at Josiah Vick's and found him and family well. There we stayed all night and enjoyed ourselves finely.

Friday October 1st we started to the Falls in company with Brother Vick and wife, Brother Odum and sister Odum and others. We arrived safe at the Falls and heard brother J. A. Burch preach a most excellent sermon. We went home with brother Bass in company with brother Burch where we were hospitably entertained by brother and sister Bass: found them to be genuine Baptists, indeed and in truth.

Saturday October 2nd we started to the Association in company with brother Bass and brother Burch where we arrived safe and found a large congregation and still more coming and heard brother Hassell preach a most excellent sermon when we repaired to the house. The Association was organized by prayer and praise by Elder Clayton Moore and electing brother C. B. Hassell Moderator and J. D. Biggs, Clerk. The Association proceeded to business in the usual way in much union and harmony as heretofore. We went that evening to friend Jesse Powell's where we were kindly entertained by him and his lady for the night. Friend Powell is a wealthy man, but we are bound to think they (he and his wife) possess more than the wealth of this world.

Sunday October 3rd we again started to the Association with many of the dear brethren and sisters. There we found a large and attentive congregation. We were entertained during the day by the following brethren, viz: Dameron, Hassell, Gold, and Woodard. Having a press-