

order. I hope to hear from Elders Gold and Patman in due time,

E. J. WILLIAMS.

Tarboro, N. C. Nov. 12th, 1876.

Elder P. D. Gold—Dear Brother:—

For some time past my mind has been much exercised to write for the LANDMARK. Often when reading the letters of the dear brethren and sisters who are scattered over the world they seem very precious to me, and I have felt a desire to respond to them: for they express what I feel, and I hope we are all taught in the same school.

I have been thinking much of late of the goodness of God to poor, lost and ruined sinners; where we would have gone and what would have become of us if left to ourselves. All of us would have been lost, ah! lost forever! But thanks be to his name he has provided for us; but the scriptures inform us that in the world we shall have tribulation, but in Christ peace. "Be of good cheer," says Jesus, "for I have overcome the world." This is very cheering to the children of God, and I often enquire and wonder if I am one of that happy number, and if I am why am I thus? why this dull and lifeless frame. One thing however I do know; if I am one of God's children it is not through any thing that I have done to merit it. It is through the goodness and grace alone of the merciful and sin-pardoning God.—By him alone have I been brought to see and feel my entire dependence upon the blessed Savior.

I do not write thinking I can communicate any thing that will compare with the communications of my dear brethren and sisters, but I rather feel it to be a duty and a privilege to tell of some of the way in which I have been led since I became identified with the church of Christ. I hope you will bear with me in my broken way and I will try to tell you of some of my joys and sorrows since I united with the church at Conetoe, which was about eight years ago the 17th of last September. In this time I have had many trials; but of Israel it is written, "In all their afflictions he was afflicted," and God has graciously promised that he will never leave nor forsake his children. I have had many trials, yet I have been made to rejoice in the God of my salvation, and have often felt to say, "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want; he leadeth me in green pastures and beside the still waters." How beautiful the expression, "The still waters." No turmoil or confusion, but all is calm. May we all pray for that Christ-like spirit which is mild and lovely, forgiving one another in love and bearing one another's burdens, that we may so fulfill the law of Christ. If I know my own heart I do feel to forgive in love all the dear saints, for I love them beyond description. I love their company and delight to meet them when and wheresoever I can.

Seven years ago I lost my mother and was left with three brothers to mourn our loss. My father died when I was quite small, but our dear Savior has promised to be with us

in all of our troubles and be a father to the fatherless, and I feel to put my trust in him, knowing that he is too good and too wise to be unkind. Why then should we not trust him at all times since he has brought us thus far. I feel to say, "Though he slay me yet will I trust in him."

Our dear brother, Eld. David House, is now our pastor. I have felt as though we were not worthy of such an one. I hold him in high esteem for the work's sake, and I hope the Lord will make him very useful among us. If I know what the gospel is he preaches it to the comfort and edification of the saints. I pray that he may long be spared to go in and out before us, and break the bread of life to us. The scriptures declare that we must be born again or we cannot see the kingdom of God.

Our dear brother King has gone to rest with his blessed Savior. The dear old soldier of the cross: we shall greatly miss him. We sympathize with his dear family in their bereavement. May they cast all their cares on him who is the father of the fatherless and the husband of the widow.

May the Lord be with our dear brother Hodges who is now the only deacon of the church at Tarboro, of which brother King served for over forty years. May the Lord spare you many years yet to wield the sword of the Lord and of Gideon, as he has enabled you to do in by-gone days: and as one by one the faithful watchmen on the walls of Zion are receiving their discharges and laying by their armor never again to take it up, may others as strong and valiant be prepared for the strife and step in and take their places on the watchtower. May the great Shepherd and Bishop of our souls keep us unspotted from the world and prepare us for the coming of that great and notable day of the Lord which shall try every man's works of what sort it is.

Your sister, in hope of eternal life,
EMILY COGGINS.

Wilson, N. C., May 23rd, 1876.

Elder P. D. Gold, Dear Brother, and to all the dear children of God:

In weakness I make the attempt to give my views on Rev. 12: 7, 8. "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon: and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was there place found any more in heaven."

All men while in nature's darkness are led by the dragon and his angels, captured by the devil at his will. "When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace; but when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armor wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils."—Luke 11: 21, 22. This I believe is when the war begins in the breast. "All we like sheep have gone astray. We have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."—Isa. 53: 6. Before we can ever reach the peaceful presence of God there must be a turning to take place within us. "Turn me O Lord and I shall be turned; draw me O

Lord and I will run after thee." I think I well remember the time when I was turned. These words I believe I heard spoken: "For what is a man profited if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul, or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul."—Matt. 16: 26. I believe I was then drawn by the mercy of God to repent. "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil." That is the first lesson the Lord teaches his people: "For knowest not thou, O man, that the goodness of God leadeth to repentance." There is a worldly sorrow that worketh death, but there is a godly sorrow for sin that worketh repentance that needeth not to be repented of. While this work is going on there is war in heaven; there is then a famine in the soul. "They wandered in the wilderness in a solitary way; they had no city to dwell in: hungry and thirsty their soul fainted within them." If the light which is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness: and this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil; for every one that doeth evil hateth the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.—John 3: 19, 20. "And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject to us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld satan as lightning fall from heaven."—Luke 10: 17, 18. I believe the Lord's ministering servants are angels, and that wherever he sends them he goes with them and uses them as instruments in his own hands, and fights his battles through them. "And of the angels he saith, who maketh his angels spirits and his ministers a flame of fire. But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever, a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom."—Heb. 1: 1, 8. I believe the devil's angels are ever with him, and he also sends his ministers; for if satan transformed himself into an angel of light, no marvel if his ministers do the same. When I was in trouble on account of my sins, as I believe, my mind led me to believe I had committed the unpardonable sin, and the word said, If you die in your sins, where God and his Christ is you cannot come. But I could not believe in Jesus.—I thought I believed in God, but I did not; for if I had believed in God I would have believed in Christ also. I was yet trusting in the god of this world. When I was brought to the end of the law these words were applied: "And now also the ax is laid unto the root of the trees; therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire." I believe I viewed it as it will be at the end of time. The blow was struck and the trees fell, and I heard the crash and the cries when they dropped into the bottomless pit, as though there were thousands. I then, for the first time, felt the need of a Savior. I saw the need of a child being born, made of a woman, made under the law to redeem them that were under the law: for the wicked shall be cast into hell

with all the nations that forget God. "Look unto me all ye ends of the earth and be ye saved, for I am God, and besides me there is none else."—During this time I believe I was hanging over the pit with nothing but a brittle thread of life and the mercy of God keeping me out. I felt as though there was a sword pierced through my heart. I lay and trembled, and then, for the first time, I confessed God's justice. Without ceasing I continued to beg for mercy. If my soul had been sent to hell it would have been approved well by his righteous law: If I am saved it is an act of thy tender mercy.

Then, I believe my heavenly Father gave me faith to believe in Jesus; for no man can come unto me except the Father which sent me draw him, and him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out, but will raise him up again at the last day. A light shone around me as bright as the sun at noon day, and Jesus revealed himself unto me the chiefest among ten thousand. I was as the apostle Thomas, I had said within myself, except I could see Jesus I would not believe what any one said. The Spirit had been a great mystery to me, but I believe it was the Lord's will to let me look therein till I was convinced. I also believe I viewed the bodies of the saints that rose when Christ arose. When Christ died many of the graves of the saints burst, and when Christ arose many of the bodies of the saints arose and appeared in the city and were seen by many. I was not yet forgiven of my sins, but I hope they were forgiven me a short time after this.

I believe there are legions of devils in one person; for instance, "Come out of the man thou unclean spirit, and he asked him his name, and he answered, saying, my name is legion, for we are many."—But Jesus casts them all out. "Therefore being justified by faith we have peace with God." "How shall we that are dead to sin live any longer therein?"

Yours in Christ,

THOMAS FELTON.

EXPERIENCE

OF
Sister R. Anna Phillips.

I have for some time been publishing a pamphlet-style book, containing the experience of Sister Phillips, and her reasons for leaving the Missionaries and uniting with the Primitive Baptists.

The book contains two hundred and eight pages of matter—divided into twenty-one chapters—devoted to various subjects—important to an enquirer after truth.

It needs no eulogy to one that knows the ability of her pen. Nothing that I have ever seen from her is more instructive.

It will be very profitable to all that are searching for Bible truth.—To such I honestly and earnestly commend it. It may be obtained by orders sent to her at Rome, Georgia, or to me at Wilson, North Carolina. The price is 75 Cts. Orders can be sent with the money at once. The book is now ready. P. D. GOLD