

RALEIGH REGISTER, AND NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE.

"OURS ARE THE PLANS OF FAIR DELIGHTFUL PEACE, UNWARD'D BY PARTY RAGE, TO LIVE LIKE BROTHERS."

VOL. XXXII.

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 1831

NO. 27.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY, BY Joseph Gates & Son, Raleigh, North Carolina.

TERMS. THREE DOLLARS per annum, one half in advance.

Those who do not, either at the time of subscribing, or subsequently, give notice of their wish to have the Paper discontinued at the expiration of their year, will be presumed as desiring its continuance until countermanded.

ADVERTISEMENTS. Not exceeding sixteen lines, will be inserted three times for a Dollar; and twenty-five cents for each subsequent publication: those of greater length, in the same proportion. If the number of insertions be not marked on them, they will be continued until ordered out, and charged accordingly.

Communication. FOR THE RALEIGH REGISTER.

It was in the month of April the present year, that circumstances induced me to visit North-Carolina. I engaged a passage in one of the canal boats that ply between Norfolk and Albemarle Sound for that purpose. Two reasons induced me to take this route; one was to see the Dismal Swamp Canal, and the other to save expense. By the way, I was poor, miserably poor. Reader, wert thou ever in a strange place, without money and without friends? If you were not, you cannot appreciate my feelings, prior to leaving Norfolk. If there are any pleasures attached to poverty, I have had opportunities for discovering them; but that hypothesis has been set to rest forever in my brain. But to return to my passage. The day on which we started from Norfolk, was beautiful for the season. Every thing wore an animating aspect. Nature had just emerged from winter's chains, and joyous at her emancipation, smiled voluptuously. The placid bosom of the spacious bay which forms Norfolk harbour, presented a cheering spectacle to one at leisure to contemplate its beauties. The sun beams playing upon its ripples—the numerous boats plying backwards and forwards—vessels of various descriptions, with their canvases spread, courting the breeze—the towns of Portsmouth and Gosport on the distant shore, and that monument of our country's gratitude & humanity, the Naval Asylum occupying a prominent situation to the right, formed altogether, a very imposing sight as we receded from the wharves. It was not until we had passed the Navy Yard and the harbour of Norfolk, with all its beauties, had closed upon my vision, that I began to circumscribe my observations. I had fallen into a mood of contemplation occasioned by passing the Corvette, JOHN ADAMS, then fitting out for Sea. Three years before, I had arrived in that Ship from the West Indies, under most auspicious circumstances. Care had not at that period contracted my brow. I was young, and possessed a heart as light as any tar that ever reeled a top-sail. My prospects were bright and glowing, my young and warm imagination revelled in anticipated pleasures, friends smiled, strangers looked complacently, and I was happy. How changed! how sad! how reversed the scene, thought I to myself, as I threw a casual glance on the deck of the little vessel in which I was embarked. The Captain, who was a scrawny looking, withered up, little man, caught my eye—"Mister, says he, you appear darnation solemnly, wont you take a dram to cheer up your spirits?" I declined taking any; not because I am averse to drinking any thing stronger than cold water, but because I did not at that moment feel an inclination to wet my whistle. "May be, says he, as he pulled an enormous chew of tobacco out of his mouth and laid it carefully by on the companion way, may be, you belong to the Temperance Society? If you do, I ax as many pardons as a North-Carolina Nigger can tot in his wallet, for I have a great veneration for that Society, and should be sorry to offend any of its members." I consider the Temperance Society, the best thing that ever was got up. I have a heap of notion to join it myself, by way of encouraging so laudable a design as that of persuading people not to drink. Why Mister, Rum is as cheap again as it used to be, and I hope to see the day when we shall be able to get it for nothing—and as if that day had already arrived, he took a very heavy swig of the r'ral Jamaica. Two lank, sallow faced, fever and ague looking fellows, whom the Capt. termed shipmates, followed suit, and drained the bottle of its contents. These effluvia of men, and a boy whom the Capt. informed me he had picked up in the Dismal Swamp, and who had been forsaken by his parents, constituted the crew of the Experiment. The wind was favourable and our vessel glided along without much trouble, which afforded the Capt. a good opportunity of displaying his volubility of speech. I remained very passive under his harangues, and assented to every argument he advanced. In fact, I was so pliant, that he declared

that I was the only sensible gentleman (for he honoured me with that appellation) that he had conversed with for a long time. I asked him if he was much acquainted in North-Carolina? As I was desirous of knowing something of a country which was in all probability to become my future abiding place. He observed that he was not abundantly acquainted there, being a Virginian himself, but (pointing to a tawny looking fellow who was regaling himself with some mackerel bones) thought Philip could tell me a heap about it. Philip, in answer to my enquiry, said that he was right smart acquainted in North-Carolina, having been raised in Currituck, or some tuck since he was no bigger than a sweet fater. He had according to his own account, seen considerable of the world;—having been up the Chowan as far as Murfreesborough, and sailed three times across the Sound; he was eloquent in his praises of North-Carolina. In answer to my question whether he thought there was any prospect for obtaining a situation in the country, he replied that he considered my choice very good, if I weren't a Yankee; from which I concluded that it would be no recommendation to hail from the land of wooden Nutmegs. What are most in demand down your way, I asked this fresh water tar? Fishermen, sir. Well, do you think I could get employment at the fisheries? O yes! I reckons so, if you don't ax too much. Thinks I, when you catch me a fishing, you may expect to see the sun shining at midnight. Do you stand in need of any Schoolmasters down your way? I believe the fellow did not know what I meant, for so far from ever having been at school, it is doubtful in my mind whether he ever was in the neighborhood of one, until he left home to see the world and seek his fortune, at all events he made me no answer, but gaped at me as if I had been the Grand Turk, or some wild beast, and as he turned to go away, he gave me a side-ling look which is indescribable. In order to get to the Canal, we were obliged to go up a small stream, called Deep Creek, which feeds its northern section. We arrived at the Canal about one o'clock, which the Capt. informed me was a very quick run. Dinner was served up by the Dismal Swamp boy, whom I called dismal John altogether, for there were more dismal qualities combined in him, than ever were concentrated in any son of Adam that ever crossed my vision. And the dinner—it was a nondescript, and corresponded very much with the cook's qualities—it was one, that would have defied the pencil of a Hogarth or the pen of a Walter Scott to delineate. A thousand vague ideas and curious reflections came across my mind as we glided along the Canal. The scenery around me was well calculated to produce unique reflections. On each side an almost impenetrable forest presented itself, while beyond the embankments a person would have sunk to his armpits in mud and water. The Canal is 22 miles in length and contains five locks. The Erie Canal and all other Canals sink into insignificance, compared with this monument of human enterprise—not in grandeur—not in magnificence—not in extent—but in the conquest which it exhibits of art over nature. The length of time which elapsed from its commencement, to its completion, is sufficient evidence of the difficulty attending its construction. But the noblest bulwarks of nature must yield to science and human enterprise.—The embankments of this Canal are firm, and one side presents as good a turnpike as is to be found any where in the country. The southern stage to Elizabeth City passes along this turnpike. The principal feeder of the Canal is Lako Drummond, a large sheet of water in the middle of the Swamp. The water of the Canal is impregnated with Juniper and is of a reddish cast. This arises from the immense number of Juniper trees growing in the swamp. After passing the second lock, which is located about midway the Canal, we halted for the night, and fastening our vessel along side the embankment, the Captain and crew retired to rest, leaving me on deck to ruminate on my situation and indulge in reflections which were any thing but enviable. The day which had been unusually pleasant for the season, closed rather portentously. Clouds indicative of a thunder storm, gathered in the western horizon towards sunset; and ere the grey twilight had given way to the dusky hues of night, distant peals of thunder caught the ear. The lofty Cypress waved mournfully, and the Juniper bowed its head gracefully, as now and then, a gust of wind came sweeping and sighing across the forest, which added to the incessant croaking of the frogs and the buzzing of the night beetles contributed very much to fill a reflecting mind with gloom, particularly one that had been meliorated in the school of affliction. The reminiscences of youth, the remembrance of early and reciprocated love—the first budgings of ambition—the tender admonitions of fond and doating parents—and a thousand other endearing recollections, came uncalled for and unspicered. My juvenile days were as tranquil and

serene as the surface of an unruffled lake—all was sunshine and gaiety—scarce a cloud intervened to obscure, for a moment, the brightness of my destiny. But alas! the waves of an ocean, agitated by storms and howling tempests, were analogues to the then state of my feelings.—And as the sea retains an undulating motion, after the storm has subsided, so do I still continue to feel the effects of that tempest of the mind which I then experienced. Should these effusions of a mind, overwhelmed and borne down by misfortune, arrest the attention of the young man who, relying on the sincerity of friends and basking in the sunshine of prosperity, feels himself secure from vicissitudes, let me admonish him not to rely on the professions of those who most flatter his vanity. For as the gay insect flutters around the lighted candle, so will these minions flutter around the man whose prospects are gilded with the charms of wealth and fame. But as the insects forsakes the candle, as soon as the light becomes extinguished, so will that man lose his attractions and be forsaken by his friends, when riches have vanished. "The birds, when winter shades the sky Fly o'er the seas away, Where laughing isles in sunshine lie And summer breezes play. And thus the friends that flutter near, When fortune's sun is warm, Are startled if a cloud appear, And fly before the storm." If however, you are desirous of securing to your bosom a friend, that will not forsake you when the sunshine of your prosperity becomes overshadowed by the clouds of adversity, you may possibly find one in the humbler walks of life, where unobtrusive merits, unconscious of their worth, neglected and unknown—amidst obscure recesses, sequestered hamlets, & humble cottages. But where there is much glitter and show, you will find little sincerity. Treachery and perfidy haunt gilded canopies and splendid palaces. But a truce to philosophy. And a thousand pardons for having permitted my pen to play truant; but it has been so accustomed to follow the wanderings of my mind, that it is with difficulty that I can ever keep it within the bounds of reason. I left the reader in expectation of a thunder storm—the vessel fastened to the embankment of the canal—the Capt. and crew paying their respects to Morpheus—myself on deck in a fit of meditation; which would have been a pretty situation enough for a romantic lover in his teens, or for a man given to Quixotism. The former could have sighed his soul away in solitude—the latter could have fancied himself a Commodore—the little vessel a ship of the line—the Canal, the Hellespont or Peleponessus. But the storm commenced and rather than any of my readers should get wet, I will introduce them into our cabin; which under any other circumstances, I should not feel myself justifiable in doing. I am not very fastidious, having experienced life in all its modifications; but the nauseous smell that pervaded the atmosphere of the Experiment's cabin, was almost intolerable.—The rain poured down in torrents, rendering it necessary to have every avenue closed, by which air was accessible.—There were but three births in the cabin—the Captain occupied one; and rest were lumbered with goods. I was obliged to sleep on the locken with my coat for a pillow, which was my couch for five subsequent nights. There is but one man in the world besides Capt. Basil Hall, that I could wish in the same situation; and that is the author of the Pleasures of Poverty. The ensuing morning proved as pleasant as the preceding day had been.—We got under way at an early hour, and proceeded through the canal into the Elizabeth river, which empties into Albemarle Sound, about thirty-five or forty miles below its junction with the Canal. The navigation is bad, the stream running through the Cypress Swamp for the distance of nearly twenty miles—is very serpentine in its course, and so narrow as to preclude the idea of sailing.—We were obliged to pole our vessel nearly to Elizabeth City, a town in N. Carolina possessing considerable trade, located on the Elizabeth river, about twenty miles from its mouth. I was surprised to see so many vessels trading from different ports in North Carolina for Norfolk. Scarcely an hour intervened, without passing a vessel loaded with N. Carolina produce for Norfolk, and very frequently five or six passed in a range. Albemarle Sound, up which we sailed, is a very fine and spacious Bay. Its shores are skirted with some very pretty residences, and it is the reservoir of several very noble rivers. The trade of the country bordering on the Sound and its rivers, is confined principally to Norfolk. Indeed Norfolk appears to be, to this section, what Philadelphia is to West-Jersey. We arrived at our place of destination in about seven days from the time of our departure. I have located myself in a very pleasant village on the banks of the Chowan. The land is elevated; the water good, the air pure, the inhabitants moral and hospitable withal. I was prepar-

ed to find the people in Carolina very dissipated, but have been most happily disappointed. In the town where I am at present located, there are three taverns—it is the County town, and there is no such thing as a bar in either of them. I have been here upwards of two weeks, and have not seen a glass of liquor sold during that period. As some of my readers may appear anxious to know what is "Othello's occupation," I beg leave to inform them that I am acting the part of a country school-master. Only think of that master Brook! School-master, pedagogue; the "no plus-ultra" of fashion and the soul of gallantry. The key to all village mysticisms, syllogisms and problems and the umpire of all village disputes! There is no calculating the importance which my new dignity has bestowed on me—that is, in my own estimation.—It is a matter of little consequence what other people think, providing they don't think too loud. But as long as I wield the birchen rod and "porte l'air savant," I think there are few who will have the temerity to insult me. The Schoolmaster appears to be the only person in the world on whom poverty sits with grace, or with whom it is justifiable. The thread-bare coat or the half-worn hat does not in the least detract from his dignity—they indicate a mind superior to the little vanities which influence mankind in general.—Priding himself on his intellectual treasures, and knowing the importance which is attached to them, he contemplates with stoic indifference the glitter and pomp of wealth. His character and office exempt him from the contumely of the rich, and render him wherever he goes, an object of respect. But I must conclude. The hour has arrived for me to resume the dignitary chair. The little fry are already assembled on the green, in front of the school-house, and are looking this way, in trembling expectation. The ball remains motionless at their feet, and their little hands, that a minute ago were elevated in the air, remain now listless by their side. I am almost induced to cry out, in the language of the poet, Delightful task! to rear the tender mind, And teach the young idea how to shoot. C. R. Winton, N. C. April 19, 1830.

THE LATE BISHOP RAVENSCROFF'S ACCOUNT OF HIS OWN CONVERSION. Though a native of Virginia, being born in the county of Prince George, in the year 1772, of which State my progenitors, as far back as I have been able to trace them, with the exception of my maternal grandfather, were also natives—my first recollections are of Scotland, my parents having removed from Virginia the same year in which I was born; and, after an interval of about two years spent in the north of England, purchased and settled finally in the south of Scotland, where my mother and two sisters still reside.—Here I received the rudiments of my education; and I feel bound to record, that I owe much to the custom there established of making the Scriptures a school book—a custom, I am grieved to say it, not only abandoned in the schools and academies among us, but denounced as improper, if not injurious. Although I was unconsciously, at the time, of any power or influence over my thoughts or actions thence derived, yet what were memory retained of their life-giving truths, proved of unspeakable advantage, when I became awakened on the subject of religion; and I am constrained to believe, that what was thus unconsciously sown in my heart, tho' smothered and choked by the levity of youth, and abused and perverted by the negligence and sinfulness of my riper years; was nevertheless a preparation of Heaven's foresight and mercy, for grace to quicken me—a mighty help to my amazed and confounded soul, when brought to a just view of my actual condition as a sinner, both by nature and by practice. Without this help, I might, like thousands of others, have wandered in a bewildered state, in the prey of many delusions and ignorant mind, or by the fanaticism of those many well-meaning, perhaps, but certainly most ignorant men, who yet venture to become teachers of religion. For this reason it is that I have been earnest, during my ministry, in pressing upon parents, and upon those who have the care of youth, the great duty of furnishing their tender and pious minds with the treasures of divine knowledge and saving truth, contained in God's revealed word. No matter what schools arguments may be brought against this practice, we can reply, that it is a means of grace of God's own appointment, and one too which he has promised to bless and make effectual. No matter how trifling the benefit often is objected to by the unthinking multitude—it is that which children cannot comprehend such deep and unsearchable wonders—God, we know, is able to open their understandings, and out of the matrix of babes and sucklings to perfect his praise. No matter, though it be argued, that it is vain, if not actually wrong, to force their minds to religion, and thus give them a distaste, and even an antipathy against it. Alas! what a flimsy subterfuge of unbelief and opposition to God; and yet what numbers are swayed by it! For, is it thought wrong, or even improper, to force their minds, if we must use the words, to any other branch of learning? and yet the danger of distaste, and even of antipathy, to human sciences, must be equally great. Besides, is not this distaste, and even antipathy, to divine things, the natural state of fallen creatures; and religion, (the love of God, and goodness, a force that is, an unnatural state, to its spiritually dead and undone creatures, and therefore to be counteracted by every possible means? Let no parent then be led away by this infidel sophistry, to withhold religious instruction from the earliest years of his children, or to trust them in a school where the Bible is excluded as a class book. Having lost my father in my ninth year, it became necessary to return to Virginia, to look after the wreck of his property. In my seventeenth year, accordingly, I was separated from all I had ever known, and that was dear to me, & landed in Virginia on New Year's day, 1788—a stranger to all around me, and in great part my own master—at least without any control. I had been accustomed to respect. That under such circumstances I should quickly overcome those habits, which the restraints of education had imposed, and wander after the lusts of my sinful heart, & the desires of my darkened eyes, is hardly to be wondered at. Wander indeed I did, not even waiting for temptation, but madly seeking it, and soon lost every early good impression, and even those fears and misgivings about futurity, of which all men are conscious occasionally. In looking back upon this period of my life, I think it may be profitable to advert to a circumstance which had great influence in confirming me in the sinful course I was pursuing. It is thus determined by my friends that I shewed my attention to the profession of the law, as presenting the fairest prospects of honor and emolument, I entered the College of William and Mary, that I might attend the law lectures of the celebrated Mr. Wythe, together with the other sources of scientific acquirement there taught. The plan was doubtless good, and might have been of the greatest advantage to my prospects in life; but by throwing me still more upon my own guidance, and increasing my means of self-indulgence, by the liberal allowance for my expenses, it increased, in equal degree, the power of temptation, and I have looked back on the time spent in College as more marked by profligacy in extravagance, and juvenile vice, than in scientific attainment. Yet the means of improvement were fully within my reach, and that I did not profit more, is wholly my own fault. The professors in the different departments were able men, and the regulations of the institution good in themselves, but they were not enforced with the vigilance and precision necessary to make them efficient, in that moral discipline so supremely important at this period of life. Except at the hours appropriated to the lectures, my time was at my own disposal—and though expected to attend prayers every morning in the college chapel, absence was not strictly noticed, and very slight excuses were admitted. Attendance at church, on Sunday, was entirely optional, and the great subject of religion wholly unattended to. The students were required to board in college, but from the small number—not exceeding fifteen—from the low price of board, and the constant alterations with the steward—the public table was given up and the students permitted to board in the taverns, or elsewhere as suited them. This every way injurious, and most unwise permission, presented facilities for dissipation which would not otherwise have been found; and encouraged as they were by the readiness with which credit was obtained from persons whose calculations were formed on the heedlessness and improvidence of youth, temptation was divested of all process, and impeded to its power. This last is the evil which I believe attends all seminaries of learning, not from one of the greatest obstacles to the real usefulness, and of the most fruitful nurseries of vice. As such, it ought to be met and resisted by the whole power of the community, and by the arm of the law inflicting severe pecuniary penalty, independent of the loss of debt contracted—and even imprisonment of the person convicted of giving credit to a student at any college, or other public seminary of learning. Some such provision, if it ears to me, is essential to the public usefulness of such institutions; and if enforced with due vigilance by the professors, in whose name and at whose instance, the prosecution should be carried on, would go far to counteract this increasing mischief. And when it is considered that the practice of giving credit to minors under such circumstances, is a stab at the very vitals of society, hardly any penalty can be considered too severe. While I thus walked according to the course of this world, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, the custom and manners of genteel society imposed some degree of restraint upon my outward deportment; and the respect I really entertained for some excellent persons, who favored me with their notice and regard, preserved me from open debauchery. Strange creatures! we can submit to some restraint, & command ourselves to some self-denial, for the praise of man, but to some, while we madly defy the omnipotent God, we can be influenced by the fear of a fellow creature, while there is no fear of God before our eyes. What other proof do we need to convince us that we are fallen creatures, spiritually dead, and must continue such, unless quickened into life by God's Holy Ghost? These restraints, however, could not have continued to operate for any length of time against the natural tendency of vice to wax worse and worse; and that I became not totally and irrevocably sunk in its ruinous depths, I owe, under God, to a most excellent woman, who consented to become my wife in my 21st year. This event gave a new direction to the course of my life. I abandoned the study of law and embraced a country life, devoting myself to agricultural pursuits. Thus removed from the temptations and facilities to vice, which our cities and towns present so readily, with regular and pleasant occupation on my farm, and my domestic happiness studied and promoted by the affectionate partner of my life—my years rolled on as happily—as could reasonably be desired. Personal regard I entertained for my wife, increased to the highest esteem, and even veneration, as the virtues of her character opened upon me, while the prudence and discretion of her conduct won me gradually from my previous dissipated habits. She was a woman of high principle and of a very independent character; what she did not approve of, she would not smile upon; yet she never gave me a cross word, or an ill-natured look in her life, and in the twenty-three years I pleased God to spare her to me, such was her discretion, that though I often acted otherwise than she could have wished me to do, and though she was faithful to reprove me, there never was a quarrel between us. She opened her mouth with wisdom, and in her tongue was the law of kindness. So that when she left me for a better world, it was an exceeding comfort to me that I could look back upon so little to reproach myself with, respecting her; only this, that but for the last five years of our union, had I any sense of her real value, or of God's goodness in giving her to me, or of any communion with her in the love of that Saviour, who had been her hope and trust through life, though she was not formally a professor—the Church in which she was baptized having been cast down before she came to years of discretion—and who was her stay and support in the hour of death. "O how good it is," would she say to me as I watched her by her dying bed, "to have a Saviour and such a Saviour!" But though my marriage certainly produced a great change in my outward conduct, I was nevertheless as far from God as ever, without even a thought of religion, or once opening the Bible for eighteen years, to learn what God the Lord should say, or once bending my knees in prayer to him, on whom my all depended; and though twice in this time brought to the gates of death by sickness, yet no uneasy thought of an hereafter disturbed my mind. So true is the expression

of the Psalmist that he stretched hath no bands in death. So great was my neglect, in fact, that from the year 1792 to the year 1810, I was not present at any place of public worship more than six or seven times, & then not from choice, but from some accidental accommodation to property, in surrendering to the opinions of others. Indeed the kind of person I had in my power to hear, was not of a description to engage the attention of any informed mind. I soon found that I knew more of the Scriptures from memory than the preachers, and was vain enough to think that I learned them better and could apply them more correctly, than the well-meaning men, but certainly most ignorant, unqualified, and of course the injurious, who appeared around in the character of ministers of religion. But as I had no spiritual sense as yet quickened in me, the preaching of the cross, even from an angel, would have been to me as to the Greeks of old—foolishness. Oh what a miracle of long suffering, that in all this time God was not provoked to cut me off! What a miracle of grace, that I am permitted to think and speak of it, and to adore the riches of his mercy, in bringing me to a better mind! It was in the year 1810 that it pleased God to set my mind at work, and gradually to bring me to doubt the dark security of my unawakened creature, will be readily imagined, as also, was on the review I found it had enough. This was no difficult thing for me to feel, and to admit, nor as yet did there appear much difficulty in reforming what I could not justify. An impatient and passionate temper, with a most sinful and hateful habit of profane swearing, in which I was a great proficient, were my most open and besetting sins. These however, I considered as within my own control, and as such a fortuitous about amending them, but without any reliance upon God for help, or without much, if any impression that it was at all needful. In this endeavor at reformation, which it pleased God thus to permit me to make, I set on my progress for a season, and began to seek myself in the self-conviction I seemed to possess. But my own weakness was yet to be shown me, and when temptation again assailed me, all my boasted self-command was but as a rush against the wall. I surrendered to passion, and from passion to blasphemy. When I came to reflect upon this, then it was that, for the first time in my life, I was sensible of something like concern—some consciousness of wrong beyond what was apparent. But without waiting to examine farther, I hastily concluded to exert myself more heartily, and yet to command myself thoroughly. During these my endeavors, however, the scriptures were more and more the object of my attention, and from them I began gradually to discover (what I was very loath to admit) the true state and condition of human nature.—What little I had lately come to know of myself, however, and all that I knew of the world, seemed to rise up as strong proofs that the doctrine of our natural depravity was true. Willing however, to escape from it, I resorted to the subterfuge of two many among us—that what we find in the scriptures is figuratively expressed, and is therefore, not to be taken in the strictness of the letter. But my own experience was to be the expositor of the word. Again and again were my self-righteous endeavors foiled and defeated, much as at the first; and humbled and confounded, I became alarmed at what might be the issue—if I was thus to remain the sport of passions I could not command, the prey of sin I could not conquer. Something like prayer would flow from my lips, but it was the prayer of a heart that yet knew not enough of its own plague. One more effort was to be made, and with great circumspection did I watch over myself for some weeks. Still did I continue, however, my search in and meditation upon the Scriptures; and here it was that I found the benefit of my early acquaintance with them. I had not to look after any for their doctrine, they were familiar to my memory from a child; I had known them thus far, though now it was that their living proof was to be experienced. The whole, I believe, was to be made to depend on my acquiescence in the turning point of all religions—that we are lost and undone, spiritually dead and helpless in ourselves, and so I found it. Again and dreadfully did I fall from my own steadfastness—temptation like a mighty man should be reason of Wiles, swept my strength before it, carried away my resolutions as Sampson did the gates of Gaza. I returned to the house convinced of my own helplessness, of my native depravity, and that to spiritual things I was incompetent. I now found of a truth that I was in debt no good thing. I threw myself upon my bed in my private room—I wept—I prayed. Then was showed unto me my folly. In trusting to an arm of flesh. Then did it please the Lord to point my bewildered view to him who is the Lord our Righteousness. Then was I enabled in another strength, to commit myself unto his way. From that moment my besetting sin of profane swearing was overcome, and to this moment has troubled me no more. But it was not to be done, which the same gracious friend of poor sinners continued to supply; and to lead me step by step, to proclaim his saving name, and declare his mighty power openly to the world. "In making an outward profession of religion I acted as multitudes, alas, do, without considering that any thing depended on my being a member of the Church of Christ, or that any difficulty existed as to what was and what was not truly said. In choosing between the different denominations, as to which the Christian world is split up, I considered nothing more, but that I was bound by agreements in points of faith and practical religion, with such a system of discipline as was calculated to promote the peace and edification of the society. This I thought I found in a body of Christians called Republican Methodists; and influenced in no small degree by personal friendship for one of the preachers, Mr. John Robinson, of Charlotte county, my wife and myself took membership with them. At this time, however, they had no church organized within reach of my dwelling, only a monthly appointment for preaching at one of the old churches eight miles distant. "It was not very long, however, before this want was supplied in the gathering together of