MINUTES

OF THE

TWELFTE ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

WEST FLORIDA

RAPCIST ASSOCIATION.

HELD WITH THE

CHURCH AT BREENWOOD,

JACKSON COUNTY, FLORIDA,

ON THE

22nd, 24th and 25th of October, 1858.

QUINCY, FLORIDA:

Printed at the Office of the "Quincy Republic."

1859.

1. The congregation assembled in the house, and at the request of Brother D. P. Everett, the Introductory Sermon was preached by Bro. J. B. Taylor, from 2nd Timothy, 2nd Chapter, and 3rd verse: "Thou, therefore, endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."

2. After one hours intermission and suitable refreshment, the Association convened in the house, and organized by singing and

prayer. Prayer by Bro. Z. Nix.

3. The letters from the Churches were then handed in and read. 4. Elected Bro. Joshua Mercer, Moderator, and Bro. Stephen

5. Bro. A. L. Martin was appointed to preach at the stand, this afternoon.

6. Appointed the following Committees, namely:

On preaching, D. P. Everett, G. W. Underwood, Wm. Hartsfield, F. T. Allen and Wm. Lorey.

On business, Sims, Myers and Drumond.

On finance, T. Barnes, Wm. Borum and Hatton.

On publications, C. N. Hartsfield, H. B. Parker and J. Collier.

On Sabbath Schools, Parker, Laurence and Collier.

On Missions, Sims, J. Mercer and Mashbern. On Documents, Drumond, Bell and Minching.

On Nominations, A. J. Sims, Barkley and Minching.

To write the corresponding letter, S. Rowe.

7. Called for petitionary letters from newly constituted Churches, whereupon a letter was presented from the Friendship Church, which being found orthodox and orderly, was received into connection with this body, and the hand of fellowship extended to her Delegates by the Moderator.

8. On motion, invited Baptist Ministers, not members of this body, to seats with us. Brethren E. W. Warren, Z. Nix, W. B.

Lacy, J. B. Taylor and A. L. Martin present.

1 9. Called for correspondence, and received from the Judson Brethren, Lacy, Taylor, and Martin, and from the Bethel, Bro. E. W. Warren.

10. Received, and read, an interesting letter from the Sabbath

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School Missionary Society at Orange Hill, with a contribution of eleven dollars for Missions.

11. Brother Laurence is appointed to preach to-night, and Bro. Lacy to-morrow at 11 o'clock, and Bro. Taylor at 2 o'clock.

12. On motion, adjourned to half past 8 o'clock on Monday morning.

SABBATH, Oct. 23.

After administering the Ordinances of Baptism in the morning, the congregation assembled at the stand, and the brethren Lacy and Taylor preached, in the order of their names, to a large and attentive congregation.

After the Missionary Sermon by Brother Lacy, from 1st Kings, 18th Chap. 21st verse, a collection of \$48 \$0 cts. was made for Missions.

Bro. L. R. Sims preached to the colored people at 11 o'clock, and Bro. S. Rowe, in the afternoon.

Bro. Wombwell preached at night.

MONDAY MORNING, Oct. 24.

Met according to adjournment. Prayer by Brother Rowe.

1. On motion, invited Brother Tally, a member of the Antioch
Church, to a seat with us.

The report of Committee on business was read and adopted.
 Called the roll and read the Minutes of the past two days.

4. Received and read a letter from the colored part of the Apalachicola Church, requesting brethren R. Webb and J. H. Wombwell to act as their agents, sending up \$1.50 cents for minutes, and \$3.50 cents for African Missions.

5. Renewed the call for correspondence from sister Associations, and were informed that Bro. Battle had arrived from the Eufaula, but, probably, from the inclemency of the morning, he was absent.

6. Renewed invitation to Ministers to seats with us.

Bro. Wombwell present.

Appointed correspondence as follows, namely:

To the Tuskeegee, J. Mercer, T. Barnes.

The Eufala, J. Mercer, L. B. Myers. The Salem, J. Mercer, L R. Sims.

The Judson, D. P. Everett, L. R. Sims, G. W. Underwood, G. J. Giles, T. R. Mercer, C. N. Hartsfield Minchin, J. Mashbern, W. A. Bell.

The Florida, J. Mercer, D. P. Everett, N. Minching, L. B. Mvers.

The Bethel, C. N. Hartsfield, M. Todd, B. P. Barkley:

7. The report of the Committee on Missions was read and adopted. [See Appendix A.]

8. The report of the Committee on Sabbath Schools was read

and adopted. [Letter B.]

9. The report of Committee on nominations was read and adopted. [C.]

10. The report of Committee on Publications was read and

adopted. [D.]

11. Agreed to purchase from Bro. Lacy one hundred copies of arguments against Infant Baptism, (compiled by himself,) and have them distributed among the Churches.

After one hour's intermission, resumed business.

12. The report of Committee on Finance was read and adop-

ted. (E.)

13. On motion, agreed that we recognize brother J. Mercer as agent for the revision of the Bible, upon which brother Mercer delivered an interesting discourse on the subject of the revision, accompanied by interesting remarks by other brethren.

14. The report of the Executive Committee was read and

adopted. [F.]

15. Whereas, the Church at Apalachicola has petitioned to the Executive Committee to refund to them the amount sent up

by them to the Association for the last four years;

RESOLVED THERSFORE, That the Executive Committee be requested to inform that church that they cannot refund the money heretofore contributed by them, but if they can raise the amount needed to relieve their necessity, they will take pleasure in affording them that aid.

16. The Treasurers report was read and adopted. [G.]
Brother Lacy is appointed to preach to-night, and brother E.
W. Warren to preach the closing sermon to-morrow.

Adjourned to 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Prayer by brother Sims.

TUESDAY, Oct. 25.

Met according to adjournment. Prayer by brother Underwood.

On motion, agreed to elect 7 in number, as Ex-Committee.
 The following brethren were elected Executive Committee, namely: Wm. Lorey, C. N. Hartsfield, J. A. Collier, D. P. Everett, Thos. Barnes, L. B. Myers, Wm. Hartsfield. Brother Lorey, Treasurer.

8. The following brethren were elected Delegates to the Flo-

rida Baptist State Convention, namely: J. Mercer, D. P. Everett, G. W. Underwood, L. R. Sims, S. Rowe, J. H. Wombwell, H. B. Parker, F. T. Allen, C. N. Hartsfield and E. Barnes.

4. The report of Committee on Documents was read and adop-

ted. [Letter H.]

5. Business was suspended to take a voluntary collection for the benefit of the church at Apalachicola. The sum of \$21.95 cents was raised, which, in connection with \$12.00 already in the hands of the Treasurer, is ordered to be turned over to the Executive Committee for the use of that church.

6. Appointed the next session of this Association to be held with the church at Orange Hill, commencing Saturday before

the 4th Sabbath in October next.

7. The corresponding letter was read and adopted.

8. On motion, adopted the following as a standing resolution: RESOLVED, That the Clerk be instructed to have, hereafter, the Constitution, Decorum, and confession of faith of this Association, published with the Minutes, and that he be required to keep a file of the printed Minutes of every Session, for the inspection of the body, and deliver the same over to his successor in office.

9. Appointed the following Committee to revise the scripture references in support of our confession of faith, and, also, to prepare a Decorum for this Association, and to make their report at our next session: Committee, J. H. Wombwell, C. N. Hartsfield

and F. T. Allen.

10. Invited brother Warren to deliver an address in behalf of the South-Western Baptist Female College, at Cuthbert, Georgia, whereupon, brother Warren delivered an interesting address in behalf of that Institution.

11. On motion, adopted the following resolutions, namely: RESOLVED, That the Clerk have 500 copies of our Minutes printed and properly distributed among the churches, and that

he have \$20 for his services.

RESOLVED, That the thanks of this body are due, and are hereby most heartily tendered the church and community for the bountiful accommodations afforded us during our present session.

12. The business closed. Bro. Warren preached the farewell sermon from the songs of Solomon. 1st. chapter and 16th verse, "My beloved is mine, and I am his."

After which the parting hand was taken, and prayer led by the Moderator. The Association then adjourned to the time and place before mentioned. JOSHUA MERCER, Moderator. STEPHEN ROWE, Clerk.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The West Florida Baptist Association to the Sister Associations with whom she corresponds in Christian Love.

Dear Brethren: - With pleasure we are permitted again to address you by way of correspondence. We have just closed the twelfth annual session of our Association, and feel that we are brought under renewed obligations of thankfulness and praises to the Great Author of all good for his rich mercies toward us. Our churches have been more fully represented than usual, and we are happy to say that the cause of Religion within our bounds is improving. We have been favored with the company and the kind labors of some of our dear brethren from our Sister Associations, but have to regret that the correspondence has not been more full. Dear brethren, keep up your correspondence with us, and let us ever share in your prayers that the Father of our mercies would bless our labors in endeavoring to promote the interest of the Redeemers Kingdom.

May his richest blessings rest upon you in the prayer of your

brethren in the Kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ. JOSHUA MERCER, Moderator.

STEPHEN ROWE, Clerk.

CHURCH STATISTICS

names of Ordained Ministers in SMALL CAPITALS.

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Pastors.	f Wombwell, P Everett, R Sims, Rowe, G B Laurence, m Borum, Webb, R Sims, W Underwood Nix, R Sims,
NAMES OF DELEGATES.	enwood, Lorey, W. Hartsfield, T. Barnes, A. J. Sims, C. N. Hartsfield. J. Merger, D. P. Everett, G. J. Merger, D. P. Everett, G. J. Merger, D. P. Everett, G. J. Merger, John Bird, H. A. Lamier, P. Barkley, L. B. Myers. dis, { S. Rowe, John Bird, H. A. Lamier, R. C. B. Lauverner, Wm. A. Bell. w Hope, { J. A. Collier, Sterling Arnold. alachicola, Well, as agents, J. Mashbern, G Pagett, J Nelson. lowship, { J. Mashbern, G Pagett, J Nelson. endship, { J. Mashbern, G Pagett, J Nelson. T. R. Mercer, Seaborn J. Hatendship, { Lon, J. G. Gyles, Mid. Stevens. w Hope, { L. R. Sims, William Williamson.
Names of Churches.	Greenwood, Jackson, Orange Hill, Wash'n, Gre Bechelem, Jackson, Saden, New Hope, Rellowship, Holmes, Holmes, Valley, W'n, New Hope, Walton, New Hope, Walton, New Hope, Walton, New Hope, Walton, New Hope, Friendship, Jackson, New Hope, Kalley, W'n, Friendship, New Hope, Kalley, W'n, Friendship, New Hope, Kalley, W'n, Friendship, New Hope, New Ho

Letter 42 Recapitulation. -- Baptized 91; Received by Le Ministers 8; Licentiate 1; Fifteen Churches, twelve

# APPENDIX

[Letter A.]

Committee on Missions have to report great blessings at the hands of our merciful Father, whose watchful care is over all his

work, and who is the keeper of his own glory.

From far, and near, on the wings of every wind come the glad tidings of sinners converted, while, at home, the labors of the Missionary have been blessed of God with the salvation of souls, and many have learned of Christ the things that pertain to eternal life; from distant lands comes the joyful news of hundreds born of God. True, here, and there, the weary servant has fallen at his post, and gone to his rest. Mighty oppositions have risen around them in days past, and cruelly have they suffered at the hands of those whom they sought to benefit. But God has remembered his people and strengthened their arms, and conquered for them mighty nations, and they are invited to go in and pos-sess the land in the name of Jesus. Shall we sitilly down where there is so much to do, and that kind of work that delights the good heart. But not only abroad is our work required; the destitute are at our very doors calling upon us for the bread of life, and shall we deny them that bread in holiness, and within countries there are numerous small neighborhoods, and many of these are without the preached Gospel; these desire very much the Gospel. Your Missionary has spent most of his time in these countries this year, and from all around persons from this and other neighborhoods are constantly saying, come and preach for us now, and if our Saviour requires his people to preach the Gos-pel to every creature, surely, we, as a part of his people, must perform a part of this work.

Your Committee need not say to you how this work is to be done, only to remind you that all that we have and are is the S. R. Sms, Chairman.

Lords.

[B.]

The Committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to make the following report: That they feel encouraged to hope that the interest felt by our churches, in the cause of Sabbath Schools, is not waining, but on the increase. There are no regular Sunday Schools in the churches with which our esteemed Missionary, brother Sims, has been called to labor, and though, as we have been informed, it will be attended at present with difficulty, wefeel it right to suggest what will doubtless recommend itself to

their favorable consideration, the importance of making every possible effort for the organization, at an early day, of such schools in their midst. In Chattahoochee several ladies have endeavored to start a Sabbath School. It is conducted by a few only, a part of whom are now of the Baptist order, a part of other denominations, and a part of non-professors. They are without a Superintendant, and are using the Union books—while this cannot be called a Baptist School, it yet exhibits an interest in the cause, and gives us ground to hope, that good can be accomplished in this field, if the proper effort is made. The two schools at Greenwood are larger than they were last year, and a Bible class is now connected with each of them. They are not, however, a church enterprise. At the Bethlehem church, a Union School has, within the present year, been organized, and, as such, is in a flourishing condition. New Hope church reports, in her letter, a school in her midst under the superintendance of brother Hinson. At Orange Hill there is a Sabbath School which receives Baptist patronage, but is not entirely under baptist direction. There is a little Missionary Society connected with the School there, which has, this year, sent up \$11, and here we take pleasure in commending their liberality, and in recommending to the Sunday Schools in the various churches within our bounds, where they exist, the propriety of following their example, and inviting their zeal in sending up contributions in their S. S. capacity for Missionary purposes, to the Association. The S. S., at Sardis, though it was discontinued the warmer months, is again on foot and doing well. They have procured a supply of Davton's S. S. question books. We would, in this connection, recommend to all the very great necessity which there is, for the adoption of a more Baptistic, a more scriptural literature in our Schools, and the propriety of discontinuing the use of books which teach only a part, and the adoption of such as furnish us with truth as it is in Jesus. We are aware that an argument may seemingly be urged against this, to the effect, that if we do this, those children and teachers will be driven off, who are now connected with us, but who, either because they themselves, or their parents, do not agree with us in all points, would no longer be, were such a course adopted. With regard to teachers, your Committee would beg leave to submit, as their opinion, that, only those are properly qualified to teach, who, themselves; know and feel, and believe the whole truth, and further, that, however, much we should sympathize with such children as might thus be removed from within the reach of our instruction, we could not · feel at liberty, from the plain teachings of Scripture, to encour-

age their presence upon the condition that but a part of the truth

should be taught them.

We learn that there is a Sabbath School in progress, also, at Apalachicola. We vou'd close our report by commending the cause of Baptist Sabbath Schools with an increased and unabating interest therein, to the hearts and minds of all our churches, and by reminding the brethren, that as a good and worthy work, an individual responsibility is laid upon each of them to do all in his or her power for the furtherance in this way among others, of the pure word of God. In the Sunday School it is, that many receive the only education they ever get. So that they are a praiseworthy Institution, even, in a charitable point of view, and how many, blessed be God, may not there have become, and still become subjects of impressions that have told, and shall tell, upon their eternal destinies. Sabbath Schools thus viewed, may well be said to be valuable auxiliaries to the churches of Jesus Christ, and as such, your Committee cheerfully and warmly commend them to your watchful care and attention.

Respectfully, H. B. PARKER, Chairman.

[Letter C.]

Your Committee on nominations beg leave to report that they have nominated brother Joshua Mercer to preach the introductory sermon for our next session, brother Parker his alternate. Brother L. Sims to preach the Missionary sermon, brother J. H. Wombwell his alternate.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

A. J. Sims, Chairman,

# ]Letter D.]

# REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS.

Your Committee would respectfully recommend to Baptists to read all our religious publications that are scriptural in their teachings, written and conducted in a christian like spirit, especially those of the South-Western Publishing house at Nashville, Tenn., together with their religious newspapers and periodicals.

To Sabbath Schools we would recommend Elder A. C. Dayton's Question Book as one thoroughly adapted to Baptist Sabbath Schools.

We would, also, endorse and recommend the purchase and circulation of a pamphlet by brother W. B. Lacy, entitled arguments against Infant Baptism.

C. N. HARTSFIELD, Chairman,

Letter E. The Committee on Finance beg leave to report:

Greenwood, Apalachicola, Celored members, Salem, Camp Creek, Bethlehem,	00 1	-			
New Hope, Walton county,  Homes Valley, Fellowship, Homes county, New Hope, Walton county,	50 50 50 50 00 200 200 100 100 150 150 185		6.50 3.50 9.95 11.00 4.90 5.00	3 50	46 25 2 50 5 00 8 00 1 00 5 50 11 95 11 00 6 00 1 50 6 15 1 85 48 90

All of which we have paid over to the Treasurer. RECAPITULATION. -Sent up by the churches, &c., for Minutes, \$21.35; for Domestic Missions, \$38.55; for Associational purposes, \$83.20; for African Missions, \$3.50; collections on Sabbath, \$18.90; Total, \$166.60.

All of which is respectfully submitted. THOMAS BARNES, Chairman,

# [Letter F.] REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Your Committee beg leave to report that they organized by re-electing brother C. N. Hartsfield, Chairman. There being a remnant of books on hand, we thought best to continue the services of brother G. W. Underwood as colporteur and Missionary until the end of the year, during the time he sold all the books. Your Committee then thought best to discontinue the colporteur work, and converted all the funds into the Missions funds; we paid him \$65.60 for his services.

In accordance with a resolution passed at your last session, we sought a Minister to settle in the bounds of the Association, west of the Chattshoochee river, and succeeded in obtaining brother L. R. Sims to settle in the county of Walton; we are rejoiced to hear that he is kindly received by the brethren, and has been instrumental in doing much good among them. He reports se

traveled 1081 miles; preached 131 sermons; baptised 27; received by letter 11; besides having performed other Missionary work, in visiting, exhortations, &c., for which we paid him \$350. We, also, employed brother H. B. Parker to preach at Marianna and Chattahoochee, he reports an increasing incerest at Unactahooche; where there is only five members; at Marianna the interest is, also, increasing. The Baptists there has set about to build a house, which they have under contract at \$1,700, they have on subscription about \$1,000, the balance yet to be provided for; he reports fifty-three days service, besides prayer meetings, religious visits, &c., for which we paid him \$150.

Agreeably to a resolution passed by your last session, we appointed sub committees to visit the churches not represented, and report upon their respective condition. The Committee to

New Providence report that they found the church virtually, but not formally dead, and recommend that she be stricken from the list of churches. They requested that we recommend to the Association the following change in Missionary operations: That the Executive Committee be instructed to employ consecrated ministers without defining any particular field of labor. The Committee to Union report that they found the church dissolved, but that a few of the brethren had erected a house, and desired a new constitution, which they have since entered into; that they had procured monthly preaching. Committee to Econna report only one male member; they plead for help. 'The Committe to Holmes Springs, Allagna, and Harmony, report them as dead. The other churches west of the Chattanoochee river in a better condition than ever. Committee to Antioch, Chatta-

hoochee, and Holmes creek, have never reported to us. The Apalachicola church petitioned to us to refund to them the funds paid by them for the last four years, which we respectfully refer to your body. Your Committee desiring that the great cause of salvation may be perfected, not only 11 our own membership, but that the spiritual welfare of our fellow men may be advanced, would recommend a renewed effort in the cause of Missions. If we would pray, and work together faithfully, how many more souls we would hear telling the joyful tidings

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of salvation time alone can reveal.

C. N. HARTSFIELD, Chairman.

	The	Treasurer begs leave to report:			
1857		DR.			
		The amount of cash on hand last year, Cash received of W. L. Hatton, collected from	\$25	20	96
		some brother,		1	50
1858					
Oct.	26-	-Received on subscription,		26	00
66	66.	Received of G. W. Underwood, for books sold		23	30
46	"	Received of D. P. Everett, subscription, -		42	30
"	"	Received of L. R. Sims,		5	00
- 46	"	Received of Clerk, a balance,	4	19	06
"	"	After paying for Minutes,		3	00
Oct.	24-	-Received of Financial Committee,	1	66	00
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Oct.		-By cash paid clerk for his services, -	- 8	20	00
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1858	8				
		-Paid L. R. Sims through C. N. Hartsfield,		87	50
Feb	. 26	-Paid G. W. Underwood,		1	60
		- " L. R. Sims for services as Missionary, tw		00	. 00
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[H.]
The Committee on Documents report that they find in the letters the following items claiming the attention of your body: The church at Apalachicola requests this body to assist them in procuring a Pastor. The churches in our mission field, west of the Choctawhatchee, all-request the Association to assist them in sustaining Bro. Sims in their midst; and the church at Orange Hill, desires your next session to be held with them.

Respectfully submitted,

James Drumond, Chairman.

### ARTICLES OF FAITH

OF THE

## WEST FLORIDA ASSOCIATION.

ART. 1. We believe in the existence of one only true and living God; and that he has made himself known to his people under the name of the rather and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: the same in essence and equal in every Divine perfection. Refer to Mark xii, 32; 1 Tim. 2, 5; Ex. xx, 3; Isa. xlvi, 9; Ps. xlv, 3; Isa. ix, 6; John i, 14; v. 23; x. 30; Matt. xxviii, 19; 1 John v, 7.

ART. 2. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice. 2, Tim. iii, 16, 17; 2 Peter, i, 21; 2 Sam. xxiii, 2; Acts 1, 16.

ART. 3. We believe in the doctrine of Election; that God chose his people in Christ, before the foundation of the world; that they should be holy and without blame before him in love, having predestined them unto the adoption of children, by Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will.—Ephesians i. 4, 5; Jer. xxxi. 5, 2, ecix, 11.

ART. 4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin. Gen. iii. 6. 7; vi. 5; viii. 21; Isa. i. 5, 6; Ps. xiv. 1, 2, 3; Rom. v. 12; i. 28, 32; vi. 23; Matt. xv. 18—20.

ART. 5. We believe in man's impotency to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature, by his own will and ability.—

John vi. 44, 45; Rom. xi. 6; Eph. ii. 8, 9.

ART. 6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Christ. Rom. iii. 21—26; iv. 5—18; vi. 23; John x. 9—15; Isa. lvii. 8; Acts iv. 11, 12; Rom. v. 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 21.

ART. 7. We believe that God's Elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Ghost. Eph. ii. 1—10; 2d Tim. i. 9; Titus iii. 4—7; Col. i. 11—13; 1 Cor. ii. 10—12; 2 Cor. i. 10—12; iv. 6; John vi. 63; xvi. 13, 14.

ART. 8. We believe that nothing can separate the true believers from the love of God, but that they will be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. John x. 28—30; vi. 37; xiii. 1; Phil. i. 6; 1 Peter i. 5; Duet. xxxiii. 3; Cant. viii. 6, 7; Heb. vi. 17, 18; John xvii. 23.

ART. 9. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are

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jects of these ordinances, and that immersion only is Baptism.— Matt. iii. 5—12; Mark i. 5; Luke iii. 7; Acts ii. 38—42; John iii. 23; Rom. vi. 3, 4; Col. ii. 12; 1 Peter iii. 21; Acts xviii. 8.

Agr. 10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and a general Judgment. Job xix. 26, 27; Danl. xii. 2; Hos. xiii. 14; Mark xii. 21—27; 2 Cor. v. 10; 1 Cor. xv. ch.

Agr. 11. We believe that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting, and that the joys of the righteons will be eternal.

Matt. xxv. 46; 2 Thes. i. 9; Rev. vii. 14—17.

Asr. 12. We believe that no Minister has a right to administer the Ordinances, unless he is called of God, and come under the imposition of hands by a Presbytery, and is in fellowship in the Caarch of which he is a member.

# Names of Ministers with their Post Office address.

JOSHUA MERCER, Orange Hill,
D. P. EVERETT,
G. W. UNDERWOOD,
R. C. B. LAURENCE, Marianna.
JOSEPH H. WOMBWELL, Greenwood.
H. B. PARKER,
GREEN HARTSFIELD,
WILLIAM BORUM,
STFPHEN ROWE, Ochessee.
L. R. MERCER, (Licentiate) Greenwood.