

MINUTES
OF THE
CHIA'TTAHOOCHEE
UNITED BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,
CONVENED AT
MOUNT GILEAD CHURCH,
HARRIS COUNTY, GEORGIA,

OCTOBER 14TH, 16TH, AND 17TH, 1848.

MINUTES, ETC.

THE Sermon introductory to business, was delivered in appropriate style by Brother DAVID J. APPERSON, from Galatians 5th chapter, and 26th verse: "*Let us not be desirous of vain glory,*" &c. After which the Delegates assembled at the house, and were called to order.

PRAYER by Bro. Benson.

1st. Read letters from several Churches, and minuted their state.

2d. Elected Elder JOHN REEVES, Moderator, and W. T. PARK, Clerk.

3d. Read the Decorum.

4th. Petitionary letters being called for, one was received from Good Hope, Taladega county, Ala., by the hands of Jas. N. Martin, her delegate; also, one from Shady Grove Church, Chambers county, Ala., by the same—the right hand of fellowship being extended by the Moderator.

5th. Called for correspondence, and received a letter and minutes from the United Baptist Association, by her delegates T. B. Cooper, J. C. R. Lockhart, W. C. Cameron and John Davis.

6th. Appointed the following Committees:

On Preaching—The Delegates from this Church; Lott, Powell and Cism, from the Body.

On Arrangement—J. Reeves, W. T. Park, W. F. Benson, J. N. Martin and D. J. Apperson.

On Finance—J. Powell, E. Lott, and S. Fulford.

7th. Called for and received the Circular Letter, but declined publishing from lack of funds.

8th. Adjourned until Monday morning, 9 o'clock.

PRAYER by the Moderator.

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SUNDAY, Oct. 15th, 1848.

The brethren, T. B. Cooper and J. N. Martin, preached in the order of their names to a large and attentive congregation.

MONDAY MORNING, Oct. 16th.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Bro. Cooper.

1st. Called the names of Delegates, and marked absentees.

2d. Resolved, That all the Ministers belonging to the Churches composing this Association, be entitled to all the privileges of other Delegates in this body, and that each Church be authorized to send its compliment of Delegates besides.

3d. Received the Report of the arranging Committee.

4th. Agreed to re-publish, as a summary of our doctrinal views, what is usually termed the Sharon Confession of Faith. (Appendix A.)

5th. Received the Report of the Committee appointed to set forth the causes of the division between the United Baptist and the Flint River Association, in 1830.

6th. Received the report of the Executive Committee. (Appendix B.)

7th. Appointed Jas. N. Martin and D. J. Apperson to correspond with the Concord and Mount Zion Associations in Tennessee, and agreed to remunerate them for the expenses thereby incurred; also, appointed brethren James Rees, J. Reeves, Moses Duncan, D. J. Apperson and W. F. Benson, to correspond with the United Baptist Association at Pleasant Hill, Upson county, 10 miles South from Zebulon, on Saturday before the 2d Sabbath in September, 1849. John Reeves to write the Corresponding Letter.

8th. Appointed the following Union meetings, viz: At Good Hope, Talladega county, Ala., 2d Sabbath in May, 1849; at New Prospect, Crawford county, 4th Sabbath in July, 1849; at Shiloh, Macon county, 8 miles South of Lanier, 1st Sabbath in July, 1849, all to commence on Friday night before.

9th. Appointed the next session of this body to be held at Republican Church, 8 miles South of Columbus, Muscogee county, commencing Friday night before the 3d Sabbath in October, 1849.

10th. Elected Bro. James Rees to preach the next Introductory Sermon—Moses Duncan his Alternate. Brother John Reeves to preach on Sabbath on Missions, after which public collections will be taken; K. Massey his Alternate.

11. Appointed Bro. W. M. Reeves to write the Circular.

12. Appointed an Executive Committee, viz: H. S. Rees, of Antioch; W. T. Park, of Corinth; Thos. Barron, Mt. Gilead; Solomon Averitt, Providence; Wm. Shepherd, New Prospect; E. Lott, Republican; J. Hartsfield, Shiloh; S. Fulford, Union; Hugh Wallace, Shady Grove; and B. Hurst, of Good Hope, to solicit subscriptions and make public collections, for the support of a Domestic Missionary, who is to preach to all the Churches, and in destitute places in the bounds of the Association.

This committee will report their success in person or by letter, to W. T. Park, chairman of said committee, at a general meeting to be held at Corinth Church, on Saturday before the 3d Sabbath in March, 1849, Searsville P. O., Marion county, Georgia.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning.

MINUTES.

3

TUESDAY MORNING, 17th.

Met according to adjournment. Prayer by Bro. Duncan.

1st. Called for contributions for minutes :

Received.....	\$15 00
From the body.....	3 50
	<hr/>
	\$18 50

2d. Appointed Bro. W. M. Reeves to transcribe and correct these Minutes.

3d. *Resolved*, That the thanks of this body be tendered the brethren and citizens of this vicinity, for their kindness and attention to us during our stay with them.

4th. Ordered that the Clerk superintend the printing and distribution of 300 copies of these Minutes.

5th. The Association adjourned to the time and place specified. Concluding prayer by the Moderator.

JOHN REEVES, Moderator.

W. T. PARK, Clerk.

APPENDIX.

(A.)—ABSTRACT OF PRINCIPLES.

1. We believe in one only true and living God, the Creator and Preserver of all things, and only Law-Giver, and that there are three persons in the God Head, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and these three are one.

2. We believe the scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the Word of God, and only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

4. We believe in man's inability to recover himself from the fallen state which he is in by nature, by his own strength.

5. We believe in a Covenant between the Father and Son, in which all Grace is treasured up; and in the doctrine of Election, according to the foreknowledge of God, through sanctification of the Spirit, and belief of the truth according to 1st Peter, 1st chapter, 2d verse; and 2d Thessalonians 2d chapter, 13th verse: "God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation, through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth." But that Election should not be so construed as to make God the author of sin either directly or indirectly. Nor on the other hand do we believe the creature can do any thing meritorious in his salvation.

6. We believe that good works are the fruits of faith, and follow after justification; that they are the evidences of faith, and absolutely necessary to justification before men.

7. We believe in a general Judgment, when all shall be judged according to their works; that the happiness of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

8. We believe that Saints will persevere in Grace to the end of their lives.

9. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are standing ordinances of the Church of Christ, and that immersion only is Baptism, and believers the only subjects.

10. We believe that no Minister has a right to administer the ordinances of the Lord's house, except such as are called of God, approved by the Churches, and regularly ordained.

11. We believe that men by nature are so morally depraved that they will not come to God for life and salvation, and but for the influences of the Holy Spirit none would ever come to him.

12. We hold that it is the command of God to his people, to publish His Word, and promulgate the Gospel of Christ to all nations, making known to the human family the plan of redemption through the atonement of Christ; and we believe it is the duty of every rational descendant of Adam, to whom the Gospel message of reconciliation is addressed, to exercise repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

(B.)—REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

We, the Committee appointed to set forth the principal causes of the division between the UNITED BAPTIST and the *Flint River Association*, which occurred about the year 1830, beg leave to report as follows:

1st. The Flint River Association made complaint against two Churches in Henry county, viz: Teman and Sharon, on an unfounded report of a departure from Faith, and without examination into said report, received small minorities of those Churches into full fellowship, not recognizing the majorities. This also being done over the head of part of her body, twelve delegates representing six Churches, withdrew from the Association. There being no accusation whatever against said delegates.

In justification of this course pursued by the twelve delegates, and condemnation of the Association, we here present the *impartial testimony* of the Georgia and Sarepta Associations, found in the Minutes of the Flint River Association of 1833:

THE GEORGIA EXHIBITON.

The undersigned delegation from the Georgia Association, being requested by the Flint River Association to present the complaints of their Association in as condensed and simple form as possible, with the specifications on which each is founded, and said delegation being willing to adopt any measures that may afford any hope of an amicable adjustment of the difficulties between the two Associations, do, in compliance with said request present the complaints of their Association in the following form :

1st. We complain of a breach of orderly discipline in your justifying a minority of a Church, composing a part of your body, over the majority of said Church, before the case is examined into before the Church, or before suitable labor is used to reconcile the parties. The dealing of the Association with Teman Church, we present as a specification of this error, and appeal to your own Minutes.

2. Our second complaint is against the association for encouraging disorder and division in a church not of their body. Our specification of this complaint is the justifying the acts of the Sharon Committee, who encouraged a minority of Sharon Church to set themselves up in opposition to the majority, and represent themselves in the Association.

3d. Our third complaint is, your offering to receive into your body churches in disunion, and so promoting a principle of disregard to fellowship between the churches. Our specification of this complaint is the tendering of admission to the minority and majority of Sharon Church.

4th. Our fourth complaint is, your receiving members into the Association by majority only, over the head of the minority. This manifests disregard to fellowship. Our specification of this complaint is the receiving the minority of Sharon Church over the head of a part of your body.

5th. Our fifth complaint is, of a departure from an acknowledged principle of good order in all deliberate bodies ; that an original body cannot explain the acts of its committees. Our specification is the act of your body in attempting to explain the proceedings of your Sharon Committee.

In conclusion, we beg leave to assure this Association that there was no design or intention on the part of our Association, to hurt any brother's feelings by any harsh expressions in our last year's letter, but only to state our grievances in plain terms. We assure the Association of the warmest desire on the part of the Georgia Association, to remove as far as we can every hindrance to an amicable adjustment of our differences, and in this presentment of our complaints, have carefully endeavoured to avoid every thing harsh or offensive, and shall rejoice to find the same conciliatory spirit on the part of your body. We can assure you that the Georgia Association has no complaint whatever against the Articles of Faith of the Flint River Association, in these we most heartily agree with you ; nor have we any connection of any sort whatever, with any of the Churches that have separated from you.

JESSE MERCER,
B. M. SANDERS,
JACK LUMPKIN,
ENOCH CALLAWAY,

JONATHAN DAVIS,
MALCOMB JOHNSON,
V. R. THORNTON,
THOMAS STOCKS.

P. S. We, the messengers of the Sarepta Association, accord with the views of the Georgia brethren, so far as respects Sharon and Teman Churches, believing it to be the view of our Association.

FRANCIS CALLAWAY,
JEREMIAH REEVES.

ADJUSTMENT OF THE DIFFERENCES OF THE GEORGIA AND
FLINT RIVER ASSOCIATIONS.

The joint Committees from the Georgia Delegation and the Flint River Association, to whom was referred the differences between the said bodies, Report: That the cases of the Teman and Sharon Churches have been under their serious and they hope prayerful consideration. The Flint River Association, by their Committee have made many explanations in justification of the course she has pursued in relation to her unhappy difficulties, and yet believes she has pursued strictly the spirit of her Constitution. The Georgia Delegation Committee entertain a different view of the case, and think that the Flint River Association ought to have pursued a different course, but nevertheless are willing to admit, that under all the circumstances she *may have endeavored* to do the best she could.

The Flint River Association confesses that she may have departed from the better principles of discipline, and gone too far, and feels sorry that she has given cause of complaint to her sister, the Georgia Association. The Delegation of the Georgia Association regret the hasty and unfavorable decision which she made in relation to the acts of her sister from the view of her Minutes alone, and particularly that her expressions of complaint in her last year's letter, which she has now withdrawn, had not been in more mild and conciliatory terms.

B. M. SANDERS,
JACK LUMPKIN,
ELIAS BELL,

W. MOSELY,
JOSHUA S. CALLAWAY,
THOMAS STOCKS.

By a strict perusal of the above Documents, we think it sufficient proof to every candid mind, that those people now denominated United Baptists were justifiable in their course, believing as they sincerely did, that the Flint River Association had departed from the spirit of her Constitution; and having in vain, but repeatedly entreated her to alter her unjust and tyrannical course, they had nothing left but to bear oppression and persecution or withdraw. Of the two the latter was considered preferable. And for the information of all concerned, especially the Baptist denomination in Georgia, we publish the following letters found in the Minutes of the United Baptist Churches assembled in Convention at Bethlehem, Jasper county, in 1831, setting forth the grounds they then occupied, and which we still claim.

LETTER.

The convention of the Churches which have withdrawn from the Ocmulgee and Flint River Associations to the Georgia Association:

DEAR BRETHREN:—Being yet Baptists, and feeling all that interest in the common cause of Christ which every Christian should feel; understanding also, that you had taken such an interest in our case as to remonstrate against the proceedings of those Associations for their rash conduct towards us; (for which we feel grateful to you,) hearing, too, that the Flint River Association had appointed five persons to attend your next session, we deem it expedient to send six of our brethren, viz: B. H. Wilson, B. Strickland, J. Reeves, C. White, J. Travis and J. Wilson, who are furnished with all the testimony to give you a correct view of our case. We hope you will hear them on our behalf; and we pray God that you may be instrumental in reclaiming us from error, if indeed we have erred. But if the error should be found in them, may they through you be reclaimed, and a happy union amongst all Baptists effected is our prayer for the Redeemer's sake.

We have appointed an annual meeting for Missionary purposes, to which we cordially invite all your ministers and brethren generally, who are friendly to the mission cause, that you may be with us and satisfy yourselves that we are the advocates of the cause of Christ, and that we love our brethren, and preach the doctrine propagated by your own ministers. Brethren pray

ADDRESS TO THE CHURCHES.

We, the Ministers and Delegates composing this Convention, recommend to the several Churches whom we represent, a strict observance of all Benevolent Institutions calculated to promote the Redeemer's kingdom here on earth. Such as Missions, both Foreign and Domestic, the education of pious young men, who are or may be called to the Ministry, Bible Societies, and Sabbath Schools. Let us also unite our utmost endeavors to put down that monster, ardent spirits, who has made and is still making such inroads in the ranks of the human family. We hope most earnestly that every member of our body will advocate the cause of total abstinence.

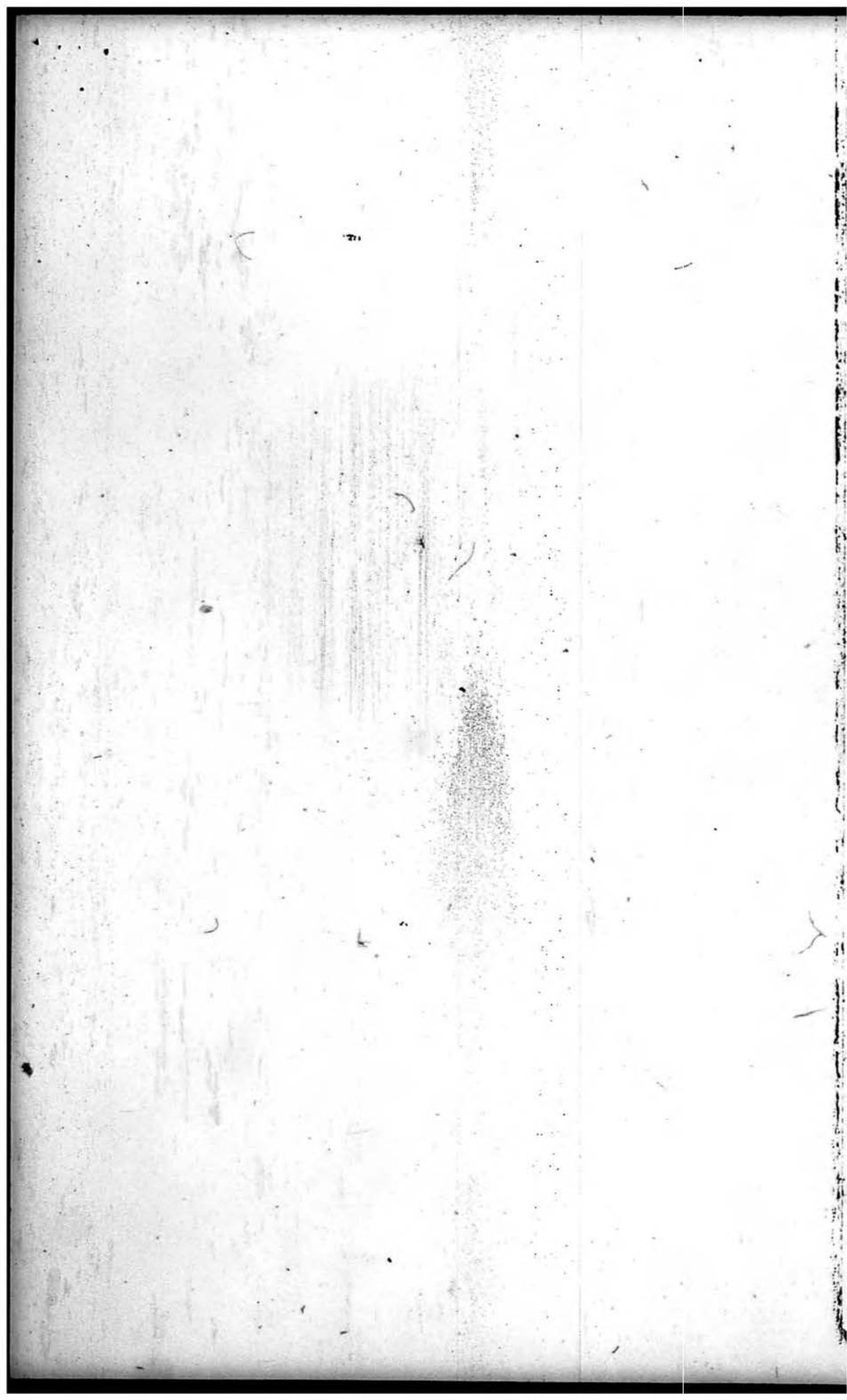
Finally, brethren, let us be earnestly engaged in every good word and work, forsake not the assembling ourselves together, but meet often and pray with and for one another. Let us live together in the strongest ties of Christian friendship, working while it is called to-day, knowing that the night of death cometh, when no man can work.

W. V. WHITE, Clerk.

JAMES WILSON, Moderator.

In conclusion we readily admit a disagreement existing, and which has ever existed, between us and other Baptists, relative to the 4th article of what is termed the ORIGINAL CONFESSION OF FAITH, to wit: (We believe in the Eternal Election of a definite number of the human race, to grace and glory, and that there was a covenant of grace or redemption made between the Father and the Son before the world began, in which their salvation is secure, and that they in particular are redeemed.) Believing as we do that this doctrine is not in accordance with the Word of God, and inconsistent with christian and missionary operations. Finally, we say to the world that in accordance with the Doctrine and Principles set forth in these Minutes, we heartily desire a union and co-operation with all Baptists.

JOHN REEVES, Chairman Select Committee.



SCALE OF THE CHURCHES FOR 1848.

CHURCHES.	COUNTIES.	POST OFFICES.	NAMES OF DELEGATES. ORDAINED. <i>Licentiates.</i> Absent.*	Time of Meeting,....									
				Contributions for Minutes,....	Dead,.....	Excommunicated,....	Dis. by Letter,....	On Confession,....	Restored,.....	Received by Letter,....	Baptised,.....	1	2
Antioch,.....	Muscogee.....	Columbus.....	JAMES REESE, K MASSEY, W F Benson, H S Reese,...	3,00	1 49	4 00	4 00	5 00	12	19	18	2	1
Republican,.....	do.....	Roland,.....	E Lott, W M Reeves, W H Parkman,*.....	2,50	00	00	00	00	2	6	18	4	1
Providence,.....	do.....	Columbus.....	JOHN REEVES, W PRESLEY,* Jas. Vinson.*.....	2,50	00	00	2 00	00	1	10	3	3	2
Mount Gilead,....	Harris,.....	Waverly Hall,....	Thomas Barron, Jonas Bradshaw,....	1,25	1 20	8 1	1 00	1 00	2	00	00	1	3
Corinth,.....	Marion,.....	Searsville,.....	Wm T Park, James Powell,.....	2,00	1 54	2 00	1 2	1 00	1	2	1	2	1
Union,.....	do.....	do.....	D J APPERSON, Stephen Fulford,....	2,00	00	00	00	00	1	00	00	2	1
Good Hope,.....	Talledega, Ala...	Court Hill,.....	JAMES N MARTIN,....	0,00	10 00	00	00	00	00	00	00	0	1
Shady Grove,....	Chambers, Ala...	Mount Jefferson,...	Hugh Wallace,*.....	0,00	20 00	00	00	00	00	00	00	0	1
Shiloh,.....	Macon,.....	MOSES DUNCAN, S Cism,....	1,25	19	00	00	00	00	3 00	00	0	1
New Prospect,....	Crawford,....	Laban Shepherd, Joel Bird,*.....	50	15	00	00	00	00	00	00	0	1
Macedonia,.....	Russell, Ala...	Girard,.....	Not Represented, 1847,....	0,00	17 00	00	00	00	00	00	00	0	1
Rehoboth,.....	do.....	Wacoochee,....	do.....	0,00	15 00	00	00	00	00	00	00	0	1
Ebenezer.....	do.....	do.....	do.....	0,00	26	00	00	00	00	00	00	0	1
RECAPITULATION,.....				15,00	3 2360	3	1 17	8 1	18 41	18 70	16 111	8 36	17 52
UNITED ASSOCIATION,.....				21,50	7 4465	7	10 35	8 10	18 70	8 18	16 111	35 36	52 52
TOTAL,.....				36,50	6 825	6	10 35	8 10	18 70	8 18	16 111	36 36	52 52