

THE OLD BAPTISTS ON ALIEN IMMERSION

The Sandy Creek Baptist Association is the third oldest in America being organized in 1758. In 1839 the association convened at Antioch M. H., Orange County, N. C., on the 26th day of October. The following "Query" was received from the church at Pleasant Grove:

"Is it consistent with the spirit of the gospel, and according to the Scriptures, for any regular Baptist Church to receive into her fellowship any member or members of another denomination, who have been baptized by immersion, without baptizing them again?"

"Answer: 'We think it is not.' " The vote on this query was unanimous.

Elder George W. Purefoy, the historian of the Sandy Creek Baptist Association, adds the following:

"The Baptist is the only denomination that is not guilty of schism—of making a division when it came into existence. They existed prior to any Pedobaptist denomination now in existence. Baptists have never seceded from any other denomination. All other denominations have either seceded from Rome or one another; they made a division when they came into existence, instead of receiving their baptisms as valid, they are to be marked and avoided for causing divisions (Rom. 16:17).

"We cannot admit the validity of their baptisms without admitting that they are true and scriptural gospel churches, if we do this we unchurch ourselves, for God never set up or authorized but one Christian denomination. He is not the author of *confusion, or antagonistic denominations.*

"The Baptist is the only denomination that can claim descent from the apostolic churches, through the true persecuted and witnessing church, that fled into the wilderness from 1260 years. See Revelation 12:6, 14.

"That the Baptists have descended from this true church is susceptible of the clearest proof. This is not true of any other denomination. We all know the day when, and the man or men who set them up, and not one of them had existence before A. D. 1500. Ordinances cannot be validly administered by both Baptists and Pedobaptists, God is not the author of but one of them, consequently, we cannot receive members upon baptism administered by them, without repudiating the ordinances administered by ourselves.

"We have no right to admit the validity of baptism administered by those who were once Baptists and have seceded from us, for they in doing this, caused a division, for which they are to be marked and avoided. See Romans 16:17."

(A HISTORY OF THE SANDY CREEK BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, pp. 179-180, 1859 edition). ■