

are the foundation of every man's best work. Here a man must learn to think as well as to listen, and to school himself with others as they sit, teachers and students alike, at the feet of their Lord.

When the Master bade His disciples not to rejoice that the devils were subject to them, but rather that their names were written in heaven, He laid down for all time the principle that there is a sense in which the workman matters more than the work. We need trained men, efficient men, more and more of them, but, above all, in the future as in the past, men whose names are written in heaven, men well-known at the throne of God.

M. E. AUBREY.

Baptist Church Discipline.

PART II.

31d 1m 1695

It being the First or Lords day after the publike meeting was over, And the Church was intire, Bro : Steed presented againe to the Church the case of Bro : Claridge with his importunate desire to be dismisst from his communion with the Church. And they saw that as He sayd he did not come that day to keep up his place as in times past. Also it was presented to their consideration that it was impossible to detain him in his communion without the endangering the peace and union of the Church, because of necessity if he continued they must have the troubl of hearing Mr Wards case which had already been above a yeare in debate and consideration and had caused much trouble distraction and division amongst the ministers and members that had been employd in that affaire. Moreover the peopl that belongd to Mr. Warburton would bring in a charg against Bro : Claridge which they had already attempted to but because of the disorder that was manifest in their manning of it was rejected. But it must be expected they would again endeavour to introduce it, which would occasion much contention and might in the end make a breach amongst them. Therefore as they would avoid these great and sore inconveniences it was reckoned their best and safest way to dismiss him according to his desire, or else their present Elder could not comfortably keep up his station among them. These things were debated a long time variously by the Brn : Some as Bro : Watson and Bro : Gold with some others were for his being treated with to see if they could make up this breach. But considering the present danger

the Church was in which was like to increase and contention like to break in as a flood upon it should there be any delay in this matter it was still urged by severall of the Brethren that it was most expedient to grant him his desire and to dismiss him. And accordingly it was put to the vote, And by the majority it was carryd for his dismission. And there being a letter of recommendation in readiness produced, it was read. It was a letter of recommendation for him to the Ch: at Broomsgrove from whence he came, which was readily signed by most of the Brethren. And then the Church assembly was dismisst

A copy of the letter (of) recommendation signed at the time aforesayd To the Church of Christ assembling at Broomsgrove whereof our beloved Bro : Joh : Ekels is pastor
Dearly Beloved in our Lord

We salute you with deare Christian affection, heartily desiring that the gracious presence of our Lord Jesus may be with you whereby you may be comforted and edifyd, That being more and more established in the truth of the Gospell you may in love and peace walk together shining in the beauty of holines, adorning your holy profession by abounding in all the fruits of righteousness to the praise of his holy name

Deare Brethren the occasion of these lines are to recommend our beloved and Honored Brother Claridge to your Christian care, love and communion, who having been received by us from you and having walked with us in the fellowship of the Gospell and having laboured amongst us in the ministration of the word of the grace of Christ, we have and do esteem him as one whom the Lord hath graciously chosen and called and made to beare a faithfull and bold testimony to his despised ways. He now being desirous to be dismisst from his communion with us to you, we doe hereby intreat you to receive him againe into all the priviledges of the House of God, watching over him and being tender to Him as Brother in Christ and a labourer in his vineyard. We shall add no more but commend you and our beloved Brother to God and to the word of his grace. Desiring to remaine through the grace of God

Your Brn in the faith & fellowship of ye Gospell

Robert Steed

El :

From the Church assembling neer
Newgate Street London

This 31 d 1m 1695

5d 3m (vulg. may) 1695

Br Brooksby having been often and frequently admonisht & warned (by the Elder of the Church) in private for his sinfull miscarriages in railing at a very unseemly rate & manner against Mr. Lane who is a member of another Church calling him rascall

and knave with other such approbrious language, And for his threatening to ruine him; To which end he had informed against him at the Court called Doctors Commons that he might be excommunicated whereby he might be prevented from teaching school which was the way of his livelyhood; And that thereby he might have no benefit to defend himselfe in Law, There being a law-suit depending between them against each other. But Br Brooksby not hearkening to him The Elder had Bro: Lampitt and Bro: Skinner with Him to discourse with Him about it, which they did with love and faithfulness. But he manifested no repentance to them whereupon finding all these endeavours were in vaine, And his offences growing very scandalous, The matter was brought before the Church at the time above written, Where his evils were againe layd before him. But he manifested no repentance only saying to this purpose that wherein he had spoken hastily or wherein the name of God might be dishonored he was sorry, But wherein in those matters he had done anything to his owne vindication or to the preventing his adversary from having any advantage against Him therein he was not sorry, with many other words that rather shewed a hardned than a penitent frame of heart. Which being considered by the Church his evils the scandal that followed them and his persisting in them, They unanimously agreed to withdraw their communion from him, which accordingly was solemnly performed and declared. And he being present was acquainted with it

24 d 5 m 1695

The case of Br. Brooksby aforesayd was againe under the serious consideration of the Church his crimes before mentiond being highly scandalous and immoral, for which he had not only manifested no repentance but had aggravated them by his undue reflections on the Brethren that had endeavoured to reduce him to repentance and had faithfully testifyd against his miscarriages. And also had accused Bro: Carter for speaking lyes before the Church because he had endeavoured to prove that Br Brooksby had not made a just defence for himselfe in his alledging that he never saw the hopps he bought of Br Lane till after he had given bond for them which being examined by Brn appointed by the Church they could not find that Br Carter was guilty of telling a ly in what he declared concerning ye matter but it still remained dubious some of the Brn rather reckoning that Br Brooksby might not speak truth in his excuse or defence in saying he had not seen the hopps till after he gave his bond to Br Lane. But that which greived the Church most of all was that Br Brooksby brought forth a paper & read it in the Church wherein there was an attestation as under the hand of one Mr Winchester about a bargain that had been between him and Br Brooksby about

some horses which he had bought of that person aforesayd with the name of the sayd Winchester to it: when it appeared that the person before mention'd never wrote that paper nor subscribed his name to it, nor gave his consent that his name should be sett to it: whereby it appeared that he was guilty of lying and forgery before the Church. He having also by his violent pashions and bitter reflections greatly offended many of the Brn dishonoured his holy profession and thereby caused the good ways of Christ to be evill spoken off It was agreed that the sayd Br Brooksby should be putt out of the Communion of the Church and excluded from being a member thereof as an impenitent obstinate person that refused to heare the Church; which accordingly was solemnly declared on the day above mentioned

27th 3m 1696

One the day aforesayd the Church being assembled the case of Bro: Provo (?) was before the Church presented that He had been formerly a member of this Church and had been dealt with for neer twenty yeares since or more and had been ever since absent from the Church till of late He came to the Church and without giving any account of himselfe attempted to break bread. For which he being called to account He denyd that ever he was withdrawn from by the Church and could give no reason for his long absence and no sense of his miscarriage in these things. Therefore the Church reckoned it their concernment no longer to beare with such miscarriages but by an unanimous consent He was excluded and putt out of their communion as an impenitent person which was solemnly declared at the time before mention'd

1697

Bro: Simon A journey man shoemaker living neer Clare Market was charged in the Church by Bro: Jackson for inhumanely beating his wife and giving himselfe to much idlenes not minding to be diligent in his calling and imployment whereby he went into debt and did not provide for his family as otherwise he might. And though he had been often privately admonished and warned of those evils yet still he persisted. And especially in his barbarous cruel handling of his wife whereby the name of God was greatly dishonored and our holy profession reproached. He being before the Church had those scandalous enormitys layd before him. But he appeared not to have any due sense of his miscarriages. Therefore considering the heinous nature of his iniquitys and the publike scandall it brought on our holy profession he was solemnly excluded or cast out of the communion of the Church.

Oct 11: 1699

The Church being assembled together there was a complaint

made and a charge presented against Bro: Hind for his forsaking his holy profession not attending on the solempne assemblys of the Church to worship God and for being immorall and scandalous in his conversation in not paying his due debts and giving himselfe to intemperance in drink indulging himselfe to spend away his time in foolish and vaine company to the dishonour of God and of his holy profession whereby the holy ways of our God were reproached and the spiritts of his people greived. For these things He had been severall times warned and admonished by the Elder and others who in faithfulness had pleaded with Him about these miscarriages. And though he had seem'd to repent and to promise amendment, yet he still persisted in such evill practises: whereupon there being full proof of all these foul enormitys, It was judg'd it to be the duty of the Church to putt him out as a wicked person no longer to be reckoned as a member of such a holy society. But to be delivered over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh &c which was accordingly solemnly done at the next opportunity wch was on the 18th of the same month

Oct: 18th 1699

There was also a charg presented against Bro: Leeson that his conversation had been to the dishonour of God not only in his often fayling in his employment and busines in the world whereby he did not fully comply with those he was indebted to, But especially in his being greivously immorall and scandalous in his behaviour and walking with those he was related to or had occasion to be treating with. Particularly He was charged with taking up of money that was due to his wives father and spending of it without the order or consent of his Father-in-law. Who when he called him to account about it instead of a faire submissive answer falls into a pashion rayles at him and threatens him in such kind of language that if he had knife in his hand he could stab him. Moreover that in a letter he sent to one (Mr. Corbin (?)) dated July 7: 99) who lovingly imployd his wife as a nurse in his house he rayles at him calls him fool threatens him like a rude Hector as appears in that letter that was read in the Church. Also in a letter to his wife at the same time He treats with her not in a loving but after an imperious scoffing rate and therein also useth rayling reviling threatning language against Mr. Corbin aforesayd. All which being witnessed against him and clearly proved by undeniable or unquestionable evidence, It was seriously in the whole of it considered and debated in the Church with the holy rule of our Lord directing how such heinous transgressions should be witnessed against and what ought to be done to such notorious criminals who can indulge themselves in such extravagant paths under a forme of Godlines. From such we are to turne away II Tim iii. 5 Such are to be cast

out as old Leaven I Cor v. 5, 7, 11 : And not to be reckoned any longer as a member of the Church of Christ. And accordingly he was at that time solemnly excluded or excommunicated according to the command and counsell of the Lord Jesus our Lord and Lawgiver

The same day there was a charg against Sr Hewitts daughter presented in the Church which at first was as a complaint made by her husband against her that shee had abused Him with very uncivill and barbarous language. Some Brethren had been imploiy to inquire into the matter who made their report as they heard to the Church. The whole being impartially examind it was found that shee had been very badly and inhumanely treated by her husband, That deep distressing poverty had afflicted her through his incapacity or negligence to gett a livelyhood or subsistance, whereby great provocations had been given her to speak and act unadvisedly, which sometimes shee had done by her owne confession. Therefore though (thought?) it was not the duty of Church meetg to exclude her but solemnly to Admonish and warne her to repent of what of disorder was past and to be more cautious for time to come. And in the mean time to be withdrawn from as to the full enjoymt of communion with the Church, till by a carefull meek conversation there may be seen a reall reformation : which was accordingly solemnly performed at the time

Dec : 13 1699

Bro : Wood having a long time neglected to attend the assembly of the Church on the first days or to keep up in the holy communion of it according to his profession and solemn engagement, which was aggravated in that the Church had been helpfull to Him in the time of his distress and that after he had received their benevolence He then forthwith gave himselfe up to those omissions and neglects before mentioned : He then appeared and had little to say for himselfe : only complaind of poverty and of his being assaulted with many temptations. He was then solemnly admonished for his slothfull and careless neglects warned to repent and consider his ways and was left upon tryall to see how He would walk for time to come

Dec. 20 99

Bro : Naylor having been also a long time absent from the Church was then called to Appeare and his sinful omissions layd before him. He had littl or nothing to say for himselfe but also complaind of temptations and troublesome exercises that he had mett with all ; whereupon He also was solemnly admonished and so was left for further tryall of his walking and conversation.

Dec : 27 99

On that day severall persons that hed been members of the Church

over which Bro : Barret lately deceased was overseer : They being by his death in a scattered condition did then present their desire to be admitted into the communion of this Church Which accordingly was unanimously granted to them and they were solemnly taken into our fellowship according to their desire The persons then admitted were

Daniel Hanks Sen : with his wife and son

Daniel Hanks junior & his daughter Susanna Hanks

An Handford

living in Mile End towne altogether

Lawrence Rede in Petty Coat Lane next doore to the Bull

John Massman and his wife living in Weller Street

John Hatton living in Peter feilds York Street in Bednal green Hamlett

Thomas Allwood living with Mr Shepherd in Katharine Wheel Ally White Chappell

Isaac Debar living in Hig lane

Feb 14 99/700

Bro : Wood before mentioned then appeared againe before the Church and manifested his repentance with much seeming brokenness of heart for his miscarriages that had been charged upon him : which repentance of his being seriously considered by the Church, It was judged satisfactory and so he was restored in his communion as in times past

May 10th 1699

The Church being then assembled, And the question being putt whether Sister Mary Webb alias Bernard sinned in breaking the contract of marriage made to Mr. Swaine it was agreed in the affirmative by all

2ly It was inquired whether the sin of breaking this contract with Mr Swaine ly only upon her or her parents or both. And it was concluded and agreed by the majority that sin lys on both on her and her parents that is by all except 3 Brn that declared their dissent

Dec 6 1699

Then there was read a letter sent from Sister Webb aforsaid to the Church declaring her repentance for her miscarriage in the transaction (mentiond before) between her and Mr Swaine : which repentance was accepted by the Church as that which gave the members good satisfaction, which by their consent was declared. And a letter by the Churches order was drawn up and subscribed and sent to her according to their order and agreement wherein there is testifdy their forgiving of her wherein they were offended with her or by her in that matter with a renewd testimony of their Christian love and respect to her