

the proper time. They have also the charge of the place of worship to keep it in repair and comfortable; in a word, they have the charge of all the worldly or pecuniary affairs of the church.

In choosing their office-bearers the Scotch Baptists paid more attention to the scriptural qualifications than any people I have been acquainted with. Others in choosing their ministers or teachers look chiefly to a good speaker, and if he has a good moral character, this is considered enough. Not so with the Scotch Baptists; let a man be ever so good a speaker, if he is evidently deficient of some of the other qualifications, they would not trust him in the elder's office; yet they would take advantage of his abilities as a speaker; for it was a maxim with them, as every man has received the gift, so minister the same one to another. Weekly communion and weekly contributions for the necessities of the body were always a part of the plan of the Scotch Baptists. Brotherly exhortations were also regularly attended to, a general invitation was given at the proper time; any male member might embrace the opportunity whether he had one, two, five, or ten talents. No case of private offence was permitted to come before the church until it had come through the first and second step of discipline, as laid down in the 11th of Math. They also introduced into their church the reading of the scriptures in large portions, at least two chapters (one from the Old, and one from the New Testament) at each meeting; always two meetings every Lord's day; and generally a meeting weekly on a week day evening. Dr. Shepard charges electioneering strifes upon the Scotch Baptists but we have only his bare word for this: he gives no proof. My experience for ten years among these people contradicts the Dr.'s assertion, and I do not believe this charge; but if any of the Scotch brethren can help the Dr. on this point, I am willing to hear them. I now invite Dr. S. or any of his friends to prove that I have given a false statement, or that any of the above practices are unscriptural.

The Scotch Baptists have sent to America a respectable company of brethren and sisters; these generally united with the people called disciples, as they considered them nearer their own views than any other people on this Continent; a goodly band of these proved their intelligence, zeal, and activity in the localities where they labored. A few of their names deserve to be recorded for the information of the future age. I first name a few who have departed to the promised land. W. Ballantine, A. Crawford, D. Oliphant, sen., A. McQueen, J. Milne, H. Jamison, each of them highly respected I believe by those that knew them. I shall now mention a few more who are waiting for their passage on the banks of Jordan: D. Sinclair, J. Murray, J. Black, J. Stevenson, and many others both dead and alive.

I now respectfully ask the readers of the Banner, many of whom I know to be intelligent, if they consider that it reflects credit upon a man of Dr. Shepard's station in society to speak so disrespectfully of a body of people holding such sentiments as are mentioned in this paper,