

several years after, without having any knowledge of Mr. Jones.—Subsequently they became co-workers. Smith had been for ten years a regular Baptist; Jones, however, never would be recognized by any other name than Christian. Mr. James O’Kane in the Southern States, a Methodist, being displeased with the Episcopal form of government which they were then adopting, came off from them, with others, and at first called themselves “Republican Methodists;” but when they ascertained that this designation was not in the Bible, they re-nounced it, and called themselves Christians. We have no means at hand of knowing the particular year that this took place; and what became of those churches is to us a mystery.

While these things were going on at the north and south, a great religious excitement in Kentucky warmed the hearts of some of the Presbyterian ministers to such a degree, that they formed a new Synod, called the “Springfield Presbytery:” but like Mr. O’Kane and others, they were soon aware that all such associations and designations were unscriptural, and they therefore resolved to renounce every thing connected with their former distinguishing peculiarities as Presbyterians. Their renunciation is a curious specimen of antiquity, too good to be lost. We, therefore, publish it entire as it has come to us in “Benedict’s History of the Baptists.”

“*The Presbytery of Springfield*, sitting at Cane Ridge, in the county of Bourbon, Kentucky, being, through a gracious Providence, in more than ordinary bodily health, growing in strength and size daily; and in perfect soundness and composure of mind; but knowing that it is appointed for all delegated bodies once to die, and considering that the life of every such body is very uncertain, do make, and ordain this our last Will and Testament, in manner and form following, viz.

“*Imprimis.* We will, that this body die, be dissolved, and sink into union with the body of Christ at large; for there is but one body, and one spirit, even as we are called in one hope of our calling.

“*Item.* We will, that our name of distinction, with its Reverend title, be forgotten; that there be but one Lord over God’s heritage, and his name one.

“*Item.* We will, that our power of making laws for the government of the church, and executing them by delegated authority, forever cease; that the people may have free course to the Bible, and adopt the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus.

“*Item.* We will, that candidates for the gospel ministry henceforth study the Holy Scriptures with fervent prayer, and obtain license from God to preach the simple gospel, &c.

“*Item.* We will, that the church of Christ assume her native right of internal government &c.

“*Item.* We will, that each particular church, as a body, actuated by the same spirit, choose her own preacher, and support him by a free-will offering, &c.

“*Item.* We will, that the people henceforth take the Bible as the only sure guide to heaven; and as many as are offended with other books, which stand in competition with it, may cast them into the fire if