

We would call the special attention of our readers to the following communication from the Rev. Mr. Breaker, former pastor of the Baptist Church at Brooksville.

We had ourself heard the allegations herein referred to, but having some knowledge of the state of affairs in that church, we believed his motives to be pure and disinterested and hence the allegations to be but the result of that spirit, which is ever seeking to impair the characters and destroy the usefulness of God's faithful ministers.

Mr. Breaker's delicacy and tenderness of feeling towards the church of which he had so long been Pastor, constrained him, no doubt, to withhold facts, which if brought forward, might possibly disarm, _____ prejudice itself of all grounds of censure. His labors in that church were more(?) originally blessed, than usually falls to the lot of Pastors. Between one hundred and fifty and two hundred members were added to that church, we think in the winter of 1862.

If the church had appreciated his labors, and shown that appreciation by disciplining its disorderly members no grounds would ever have existed, perhaps for a severance of connection of Pastor and church. But in this remark we would, by no means be understood as casting the least reflection upon the whole body of the church, for we are persuaded, that there are found in its communion as good, pious and devoted christians as can be found anywhere, but their influence for good had become enervated, and it was rendered useless by a counteracting influence(?), which was used in sustaining disorders which must eventually destroy

the vitality of any christian church and hence, it has resulted, in the loss, to that church, of a faithful Pastor, whose place can scarcely ever be filled with the same efficiency. We would hold up this case and its results as a beacon of warning to others churches, to be faithful to God, to themselves and to the cause, in promptly putting away all disorders from among them.

(Communicated)

Brooksville, Fla., June 26, 1866

Mr. Editor: Will you please publish the following explanation, that the minds of those who have been led astray by the false reports concerning my ministerial position here may be disabused:

1st. It is reported, I have manifested a preference to preach to the colored people, here by accepting their call the present year, and after accepting their call, ^{declining} ~~decling~~ to be a candidate for the Pastoral office, of the white members of the church.

In reply to the above, I will state, I had not accepted the call ~~to~~ preach to the colored people, this(?) present year, at the time I declined being a candidate for re-election to the Pastor of office of the church. My reason for declining being a candidate for re-election to the Pastoral charge of the church are the following:

1st. I had labored arduously to counteract the depressing influence which the issue of the year had brought upon the minds of the people and to urge a higher estimate of the rich provisions of the Gospel, which should be manifest to the believer from the vale of adversity. But intreaty and argument alike failed with

many who were too much engaged, I fear with the "cares of life and the deceitfulness of riches," to allow the word of divine truth to grow and flourish in their hearts. The seats of many were vacant in the house of God, at the hour appointed for divine worship, and the Pastor was compelled to preach to a larger proportion of empty seats than those occupied by the congregation. A few faithful brethren and sisters were always in attendance, when not providentially detained, and of course the above remarks do not apply to them.

2nd. My conviction of duty, to select another field of labor, where I might be more useful, and the hope that the novelty of a change, might awaken at least a temporary interest in the congregation here, - I cherished no personal feelings of opposition to the members of the church, or congregation that could have prevented the regular discharge of my Pastoral duties.

I will now state the most important realities why I have consented to preach to the colored members of this church, the present year.

1st. Providential circumstances, which I could not control, prevented my removal to my field of labor, the present year.

2nd. It has been my custom, with the united sanction and approbation of the church to hold separate meetings for the colored people here, during my pastorate with this church of more than ten years. These meetings were suspended a part of the time during the war, but resumed again about the middle of last year.

The colored congregation is too large to be accommodated at the same service for the whites. - They have been uniformly regular

and punctual in their attendance, and orderly in their deportment, manifesting an interest in the services, designed for their special b_____(?).

3rd. I discovered an evil influence among the colored people here, affected(?) by a colored man professing to be a religious teacher that might prove destructive to their interests and also to that of their community and I felt it was my duty to arrest(?) the difference, which I believe has been effected(?) by the preaching of the Gospel to them. At a meeting of the church for business held during the present year the members of the church declared by their vote they are in favor of having the Gospel preached to the colored people and they have tendered to me the use of their house of worship for that purpose. I am now devoting two Sabbaths in each month to this service. The rest of my time is employed upon the missionary field abroad, where I preach to more whites than blacks, with encouraging results.

In conclusion, I would respectfully suggest would it not be well for Pastors of churches and ministers in charge of churches and ministers in charge of religious congregations to make arrangements for the special preaching of the Gospel to the colored people of their charge. If Pastors cannot perform this service, supply them with the ablest and most judicious ministers that can be found, whom they will recognize as their Pastors and who can exert a good influence among them. Experience has already taught the lesson in some localities, that unless arrangements of this kind are made for them, they will be subject to evil influence that will be felt by this community at large.

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Respectfully, _____(?)

J. H. Breaker

P. S. I think separate organizations of colored churches
should not be encouraged.

J. H. B.