

bell's Reform movement. Dr. William Defee reported to the *Millineal Harbinger*, edited by Alexander Campbell, about "winning some Baptist preachers to the simple faith." He said, "We had a meeting twelve days ago in Sabine County with Brother Peter Eldridge and G. W. Slaughter, Baptist preachers, on union and creeds and agreed to unite on 'one Lord, one faith, and one baptism for the remission of sins.'"<sup>38</sup>

Under the leadership of such men as those named above, the Baptist movement made rapid strides. In 1840 there were about a dozen weak churches in the state. By 1848, when the Baptist State Convention was organized under the leadership of such men as R. E. B. Baylor, Rufus C. Burleson, James Huckins, and William M. Tryon, there were at least fifty churches in the state. In 1851, the churches were grouped into five associations. The number of associations had increased to sixteen in 1860. By 1884, there were ninety-four Baptist associations in Texas with 1,210 churches having a total membership of 128,134.<sup>39</sup>

~~The Methodist movement in Texas, begun by such preachers as William Stevenson, James P. Stevenson, Henry Stephenson, Needham J. Alford, Dr. J. G. Lawhon, and others prior to 1830, gained momentum in 1837, when the Missionary Society and Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States assigned Dr. Martin Ruter, Littleton Fowler, a Mason, and Robert Alexander, a Mason, to engage in missionary work in Texas. Ruter was designated as superintendent of Texas missions, and he served in that capacity until his death on May 21, 1838. Within ninety days after the arrival of these missionaries, twenty Methodist missions had been organized.<sup>40</sup>~~

After Ruter's death, Fowler was named "Presiding Elder and Superintendent of the Texas Mission District of the Mississippi Conference." In December, 1839, the Mississippi Conference divided the work in Texas into two sections. Fowler was made presiding elder of the eastern district, while Alexander was made presiding elder of the western district.<sup>41</sup>

In September, 1838, there were about twenty to thirty local Methodist preachers in Texas, according to a report sent by Littleton Fowler to the *New York Christian Advocate and*