

**THE**  
**ALABAMA BAPTIST**  
**CONVENTION**

**1823-1842**

[L.C. 1841]



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2010 with funding from  
Lyrasis Members and Sloan Foundation

*Edw. King*

PRINTED AT THE  
**BEACON OF LIBERTY OFFICE,**  
GREENSBOROUGH, ALABAMA,

*Where all kinds of Book and Job Printing will be executed  
in a neat manner and on accommodating terms.*

☞ **LAW BLANKS** of every description, printed in a  
splendid manner on superior paper, kept constantly on hand  
and for sale at the Beacon Office.

☞ **ALSO, STATIONARY** of the best quality for  
sale as above. Orders from a distance for printing or other  
articles promptly attended to.

126 110

# MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTEENTH ANNIVERSARY,

OF THE

## ALABAMA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION,

HELD AT

FELLOWSHIP MEETING-HOUSE, WILCOX COUNTY, ALABAMA.

COMMENCING ON

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12th, 1836.

---

.....  
Tuscaloosa:

DAVID FERGUSON, PRINTER,

1836.



# MINUTES.

SATURDAY, November 12, 1836.

The members composing the Convention met according to appointment, at Fellowship Meeting-house, Wilcox county.

The Introductory sermon was preached by Elder H. Holcombe, from Solomon's Song iii ch. 4 v; "Thy neck is like the tower of David, builded for an armory," &c.

1. After an interval, the members re-assembled—prayer by Brother Devotic. Letters were read and Delegate's names enrolled; also the names of annual subscribers who were present.

## DELEGATES.

- From Canaan Association—H. HOLCOMBE, H. H. ROCKETT, T. D. ALMSTRONG,† R. WOOD,† and W. H. HOLCOMBE,  
" Tuscaloosa county Society—J. H. DEVOTIE, G. W. BAINES,† and J. A. HODGES,†  
" Perry county Society—Wm. Ford, S. J. LARKIN,† and O. M. PETERSON,†  
" Baptist Church in Mobile—G. F. HEARD, B. L. BERNES,† and J. G. DAVENPORT.  
" Coosa River Association—J. M. SCOTT, O. WELCH, and H. C. *Taliaferro*.†

## ANNUAL SUBSCRIBERS.

Samuel Dubose,	WM. WOOD,	Joseph Rives,
ALEX. TRAVIS,	Thos. Chiles.	J. R. Yeldell,
B. S. FANT,	W. J. Calloway,	John Scott,
WM. MANNING,	J. J. SESSIONS,	Neal Munn,
J. E. RIAL,	Garrett Longmire, Jr.	Thos. Scott,
Green Rives,	JEREM. REEVES,	<i>Isa. Russell,</i>
M. B. CLEMENT,	Wm. Haralson,	A. G. McCRAW,
W. J. HARLEY,	Leonard Scott,	<i>W. Harrington,</i>
C. H. CLEVELAND,	C. H. Cooper,	DAVID LEE,
<i>W. N. Farrar,</i>	<i>H. E. Courtney,</i>	<i>Alama Prichard,</i>
K. HAWTHORN,	J. W. Campbell,	J. H. McCRAW,
A. J. HOLCOMBE,	<i>L. W. Lindsey,</i>	WM. KIRVEN,
DAVID PEEBLES, Jr.	L. H. Stone,	JOHN CRUMPTON.

2. Elected by ballot, officers as follows, viz: H. Holcombe, President; Wm. Manning and J. M. Scott, Vice Presidents; A. J. Holcombe, Rec. Sec.; M. B. Clement, Cor. Sec.; and A. G. McCraw, Treas.

3. Appointed Committees as follows, viz:

On arrangement of Preaching—Brethren Hawthorn, Scott, McWilliams, Cooper, Jefferson, Sessions and Harrington.

On Domestic missions—Clement, Chiles and Travis.

On Foreign missions—McCraw, Devotic and Heard.

On Agency—Manning, Cleveland, Lee, Peebles, Heard, Welch and J. M. Scott.

On Nomination—Hawthorn, Travis, G. Rives, Kirven and Crumpton.

Minister's names in SMALL CAPITALS—Licenciates in *Italico*—Absentees thus (†)

**On Arrangement of Business**—Wood, Fant, W. H. Holcombe, with the President and Secretary.

**On History of Baptists in Alabama**—J. G. Davenport, Heard, G. Rives and H. Holcombe.

**On Religious Paper**—Wood, Ford, Travis, McCraw, Heard, Fant, DeVotie and H. Holcombe.

**On Education**—J. G. Davenport, McCraw, Clement, DeVotie and G. Rives.

4. The committee on Preaching, reported Brethren Scott, McCraw, Welch and Manning to preach on Sabbath.

Adjourned till Monday, 9 o'clock, A. M.

The glad tidings of salvation were dispensed, on the Sabbath, to a large and attentive congregation; and it is confidently believed, that the power of the spirit attended the word thus spoken; saints were made to rejoice, and sinners to weep.

MONDAY, November 14.

5. The Convention met at 10 o'clock—after public prayer, the report of Committee on arrangement was read, and the committee discharged.

6. The reports of Agents were called for; Bro. Travis stated that owing to circumstances beyond his control, he had not been able to serve as a travelling agent; but reported as a local agent. Bro. Holcombe reported as travelling agent; Brethren McCraw, Haralson and Hawthorn, as local agents; all of which reports were referred to the committee on agency.

7. The report of the committee on Domestic missions, was presented by Bro. Travis, and is as follows, viz :

**BROTHER PRESIDENT :** Your committee attach much importance to the subject of Domestic missions, and it is our opinion, that could the services of well qualified and active Brethren be obtained, that much good would be done, through their instrumentality; not only in building up Churches, but also in removing objections to the objects of the Convention; yet we conceive the subject, at this particular crisis, to be one of great delicacy, from the fact that there now exist several societies in this State, the operations of which are directed entirely to domestic missions, some of which are local, while one is co-extensive with the bounds of the State. We are therefore of the opinion that it would be assuming too much responsibility, for us to say what would be the most advisable course for the Convention to pursue on this subject; yet we beg leave to suggest, that in our opinion, this body should take some step, in the spirit of brotherly kindness, to procure the co-operation of those several societies.

8. Appointed a committee to write communications to all the domestic missionary societies in the State, which are not directly connected with the Convention, viz : Brethren Heard, Davenport, DeVotie, Kirven and Welch.

9. The committee on Foreign missions, reported as follows :

**BROTHER PRESIDENT :** The cause of Foreign missions, like most of the other benevolent enterprizes which distinguish our day, is advancing with rapid strides. Prejudice is gradually yielding its icy grasp on the hearts of our brethren at home, and the blessing of God is crowning the efforts of our brethren abroad. A few years ago it was regarded, even by Christians, as a species of enthusiasm, for a man to leave his native country, to bear to the heathen, messages of mercy. Now it has become an every day event, and many a timid *female* emboldened by the example of our sainted sister, Judson, and by divine grace, resolutely sunder the tender ties which bind

her heart to home, her kindred and country, and goes to encounter the perils and privations, of savage countries, on the other side of the Globe. Lateiy our missionaries sailed almost one by one, and their departures were few and far between. Now they go in groups, and there is not a month in the year, which does not witness some departures for heathen shores. Nor are these laborers entering the field in vain; they are reaping, and shall continue to reap a rich harvest for Christ and the Church.

The time has come when native converts, the ultimate hope of these nations and of our cause, are in no inconsiderable numbers echoing the sound and the spirit of the gospel caught from our Missioners; and are also rendering important aid in the more difficult tasks of translation and juvenile instruction; and the time may not be distant when at some of our stations, the work may safely be committed to themselves. How important the efforts we are making, considered in their reflexive influence! How pleasing to reflect that the dark idolater converted by the instrumentality of the missionary sent and supported by us, becomes himself a missionary to his own nation; and that his sons and other converts perhaps follow in his steps down to the latest of time.

Yes brother President, the name of our Immanuel is already echoed from Continent to Continent, from Island to Island; and it shall ere long reverberate from every part of heaven's vault, upon the ear of the dying pagan.

The Son of Righteousness is spreading beams of the glorious light of the Gospel over many a gloomy realm of superstition and error; with a power more resistless than the ear of Juggernaut, the wheels of this blessed gospel are crushing in their course the grim god of the pagan, and levelling the proud temples of national superstition. Heaven's luminary is rising on all the world, and the Ottoman crescent, with the feeble lights of the pagan philosophers and modern reformers are gradually fading from the moral horizon.

Shall any still sleep on, heedless of the brightning glories of the millennial morn? May its rising beams fall on every eye, and arouse every sleeping soldier of the cross to effort and to arms!

Your committee have not had the time or means of collecting such statistical information as should have been embraced in this report; and they must request the indulgence of your body, in the acceptance of the foregoing.

10. The committee on Agency presented the following report, which was accepted.

Brother President: Your committee viewing the great importance of, sustaining the convention, in the accomplishment of its benevolent designs recommend an increased effort through the agency. We would recommend that four suitable persons be appointed as agents, to travel and disseminate correct information relative to the Convention and its objects, and that they be also requested to solicit subscriptions for the manual labor institute. We are of opinion that brother H. Holcombe, B. S. Fant, K. Hawthorn and D. Peebles, are well qualified to act as travelling agents.— Brother Fant to travel in North Alabama; brother Halecombe to occupy the middle part of the State, as far south, as the lower part of Sumpter county, and east of the river above Selma; brother Hawthorn in the southern part of the State Generally, and brother Peebles in Mobile.

11. On motion it was agreed that brother A. G. McCraw be also appointed an agent to occupy Greene and Perry counties.

12. Appointed brethren H. Halcombe, J. M. Scott and W. Wood a committee to examine the constitution, and report such amendments as they may consider necessary, at the next annual meeting of this body.

13. Appointed brothers Wood, Davenport, and DeVotie, a committee to write to corresponding bodies — Brethren Wood and Hawthorn to visit the Coosa river association, and brethren McCraw, Crumpton and Fant, the Canaan.

14. The report of the Trustees of the manual labor institution was presented by brother Clement, some of which as relates to finance, was referred to an auditing committee, consisting of brethren Peebles, Haralson, Crumpton, Rivers and Clement; and that part of it which relates to literature, was referred to the committee on education.

15. The committee to whom the subject of a history of the Baptists in Alabama, was referred presented the following report.

Brother President—Your committee, appointed to consider the Ms. history of the Baptists in this State, now in progress, under the hand of our esteemed brother, Hosea Holcombe, regard the preparation of such a work as highly desirable. Facts of much importance to the future operations and success of our Zion might be embraced in such a work. Experience is the school of wisdom, whether for individuals or communities; but how can we be benefitted, if we do not retain the lessons we learn? And how shall facts be presented for our reinspection, and the instruction of our children, unless in such a work as is now being prepared?

Your committee would recommend the adoption of the following resolution viz:

*Resolved*, That brother H. Holcombe be requested to proceed as heretofore, in the preparation of a history of this body, and of our denomination in this State generally. And that he be requested, so soon as he may deem it expedient to issue, at the expense of this body, a prospectus of his work, to be distributed by our agents, and the members of this body in general, preparatory to the future publication of this history.

On motion the report was received, and the resolution adopted by the Convention. Adjourned till 10 o'clock to-morrow.

TUESDAY, Nov. 15th.

16. The convention met pursuant to adjournment.—After prayer by Brother Heard, the Committee on education presented their report, thro' brother Davenport which is as follow viz:

17. The committee on education to whom was referred so much of the report of the Board of Trustees of the Manuel Labor Institute, as relates to its literary success, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report that they are gratified to learn that the institution went into operation on the third Monday of January last, under the superintendence of able and competent professors; that the number of pupils who have resorted thither, for instruction, has increased from 30 to 50, all of whom are cheerful and happy under the regulations of the Institution, requiring the performance of manual labor; and are pursuing their studies with alacrity and success; that the institution is succeeding, in every respect equal to their most sanguine expectations.

The committee beg leave to state that they are of opinion that the promotion of the cause of education, and the advancement of our Institution, form one of the most important objects of the convention. The influence of education, in the foundation of character, and in preparing the way for enlightened and religious sentiment, has long been felt and acknowledged;

and in proportion to the diffusion of education, will the public mind be enlightened, liberalized elevated and directed to objects of high purpose; such as the improvement of the physical moral and religious condition of mankind; thereby advancing all of the objects embraced within the sphere of the convention. They are of opinion that there is an intimate connexion between science and religion; and that the promotion of one in a proper and legitimate manner, will be the means of advancing the other. With this view of the subject, they would urge upon the friends of the institution to increase their exertions in its behalf and to encourage in every laudable manner the dissemination of useful knowledge among every class and sex of rational beings, in our extensive country. Besides these general remarks, the committee find but little to urge upon the consideration of the convention. They would however recommend the adoption of the following resolutions.

*Resolved,* That the sum of two hundred dollars be appropriated out of any moneys belonging to the education fund, not otherwise appropriated; to the purchasing a library for the manual labor institute, and that the Trustees be recommended to make provision, and form rules for the organization of a library, for the institution, and that they appoint some suitable person to expend the money hereby appropriated, in the purchase of books for said institution.

*Resolved,* That the trustees be requested to give, in their next annual report, a more detailed statement of the condition of the institution, to wit: The number of professors engaged; their several chairs; the number of students in the institution; and the number which could be accommodated; the result of their efforts to procure a chemical and philosophical apparatus, as directed by a resolution passed at the last session of the convention; the prices of tuition and board, and the arrangements of the manual labor department, together with such other matter as they may deem advisable to lay before this body. We would farther recommend the adoption of the following preamble and resolutions.

Whereas we consider the education of young ladies as saving and important bearing upon the future destiny and well being of our denomination, Therefore

*Resolved,* That as an institution for this purpose (denominated the "Alabama female Athenaeum") has been established and successfully carried into operation, in the city of Tuscaloosa, "in aid of and under the control of the Baptist denomination," we recommend it as well worthy the patronage of the friends of the convention, and of the denomination in general.

The report was received, and the resolutions adopted.

18. Brother Haralson reported in behalf of the auditing committee as follows:

Brother President—The committee to whom was referred the report of the Treasure of the trustees of the "Alabama Institute of Literature and industry" (or so much of the report of the Trustees as relates to finance) beg leave to report that they find the amount of cash received by him from Dec. 9th 1835 up to May 7th 1836 to be \$6782 82 cents, and the amount paid out by him, from Dec. 1835 to May 21st 1836 to \$6586 67 cents, leaving a balance of \$196 15 cents on hand at that time, which has been added by him to the probable amount due the institution. We find a balance against the institution of \$4044 92 cts. which amount we would respectfully recommend the convention to meet as soon as practicable, out of the funds raised for the institution.

## Report of the Board of Trustees of the Alabama Institute of Literature and Industry.

Brother President—We feel highly gratified to have it in our power to state, that the institution under our control is, at this time in a flourishing condition, and presents flattering prospects of future usefulness to the community—It has not yet, as you know been in operation twelve months and may be justly regarded as in its infancy, and will require time as well as industry on the part of those under whose fostering care it is placed, to acquire a character abroad especially one like this that is supported by private munificence. It has increased the present session from thirty to fifty students—It will no doubt be a source of high gratification to you to be informed, that harmony and good order have prevailed in the institution, and that the students perform the tour of labor assigned them with cheerfulness. They have raised on the farm this year about seven hundred bushels of corn and about one hundred and fifty bushels of potatoes.

In forming a judgment in respect to the result of labor, due regard should be had to the number and size of the students, many of whom were small—since our last report a professor's house (which was then under contract) and an additional dormitory have been completed together with some small items which need not be mentioned here.

Our financial affairs, so far as we have been able to ascertain, which we presume, is a near approximation to the truth; stand thus including professors salaries and bank debt:

The probable amount of claims against the Institution including Professors salaries, and bank debt is

\$6784 07

Probable amount due the Institution	1629 15
A pledge from 8 trustees to raise \$100 each by 1st March	800,00
Same pledge by Professors Willeford and Clement	200,00
Same by David Stephens and J. Calaway	200,00

Leaving a balance against the institution of

\$4044 92

That your body may have a complete exhibition of this matter, we herewith transmit the Treasurer's report at full length.

In conclusion we beg leave to acknowledge in humble gratitude to Almighty God, the signal display of his divine power in our Institution.—Seven of our students have been constrained to yield to the all conquering power of divine grace, and have been the happy subjects of its renovating power, and have since been added to the church by Baptism.

Done by order of the board of 7th November 1836.

GRAY HUCABEE, Pres't *pro. tem.*

M. B. CLEMENT, Sec'y.

20. The report of the Directors was received and is as follows:

The Board of Directors of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, met agreeable to previous appointment on Saturday the 7th May 1836, at the manual labor institute. (A quorum present.)

After public prayer, Brother H. Holcombe took the chair, and Brother W. L. Willeford was appointed Secretary *pro tem.*

On motion it was voted, that brother W. J. Haley be employed as a domestic missionary, to visit and preach to the destitute parts of our State, and that his compensation be that which is allowed to unmarried men.

*Resolved*, That Brethren W. L. Willeford, H. Tinker and A. G. Mc-~~Raw~~ be a committee to draft a subscription for the purpose of raising a per-

ment fund, for the institution, who, returned one which  
by the board.\*

*Resolved*, That the Secretary forward a copy of said subscription to each of our agents.

21. The committee on agency presented their report, which, with the accompanying documents was referred to a special committee, consisting of brethren DeVotie, Davenport, and Rial, to act with the Secretary, and attach so much of them to the minutes as they may think proper.

#### THE REPORT OF BROTHER HOLCOMBE IS AS FOLLOWS:

DEAR BRETHREN: The time has arrived when it becomes my duty to lay before the Convention an account of my very feeble efforts during the past year. I have not spent so much time in the service of the Convention, as I anticipated, by two or three months at least; Principally on account of affliction in my family, in the early part of the present year. I travelled chiefly in the upper part of the State, and during the last two months, I visited four associations, and feel truly gratified to state to you that the blessed cause in which we are engaged, is in the main, on the advance; notwithstanding it is a time of coldness and of peril, in our churches in general; and divisions are taking place; yet there are some encouraging prospects, at one or two Associations which I have attended; and at several protracted meetings, and I do earnestly hope that the good Lord is about to revive his work amongst our churches, for which let us earnestly and devoutly pray.

I have travelled about 2200 miles, and spent 6 months and 25 days in your service; yet I have done but little for the Manual Labor Institute. I have obtained subscriptions only to the amount of \$213, and have collected principally on former subscriptions \$11 91, for the institution \$200 00 given specially for the benefit of young Ministers. I have likewise collected, \$101 50 for printing the Scriptures in foreign languages. To this object, I never paid any attention until very recently; that is, I made no attempts to make collections, or I should have obtained much more, for I had that the people seem to be as much awake to this subject as any other. The subject of Foreign Missions is an important one, and should be encouraged; but I am seriously impressed with an idea that there is one which is more important and that our attention should be particularly directed to that, viz: that of Domestic Missions. I firmly and unhesitatingly believe if Domestic Missions were urged in a proper manner, that it would serve as a main spring to all other benevolent objects. I have conversed with many brethren on the subject since the last meeting of the convention, who are decidedly of the opinion, that it should occupy the special attention of this body during its present session. The churches would see and feel the great good resulting from such a procedure, it would imbue their minds with that holy unction, which is from above, and cause them to feel more sensibly impressed with the subjects of missions in general. I feel happy to state to you that this subject is claiming the particular attention of a number of brethren in several associations in this State; indeed several have already formed societies for this purpose; and oh that God may bless them in their attempts. I do hope that the subject may be more thoroughly investigated at the present meeting than it has been heretofore.

I have often been asked, why we had no religious periodical published in some central part of the State, as a vehicle of communication, and as a denominational paper; such a paper we ought to have and such an one we must have, before our brethren in different parts of the State will ever be united even those who are friendly to the objects of the Convention. If a suitable plan can be devised, and proper exertions used, we can soon have a paper in circulation, conducted by an able editor. This important subject should not be slighted, or passed lightly over.

Another particular point, which has occupied my attention, I cannot pass by without naming; i. e. a History of the Baptist Denomination in Alabama, I have collected some materials for this purpose, but it is comparatively little to what will be really necessary. I recommend this to the consideration of the Convention, and will present a statistical view of the denomination so far as I have been able to obtain the means for preparing such record, which will be seen below.

I have endeavored, in my very feeble manner to promote the objects of the Convention which objects, I have no hesitancy in believing stand connected with the glory of the blessed God. In this I delight—here in the strength of the Lord I will stand or fall; and if I fall I will endeavor to fall with sword in hand, and leave my bones on the field of battle.

\* A copy of this instrument was ordered by the Convention, to be spread on the Minutes; the Secretary not having a copy cannot publish it without a considerable delay in the publication of the minutes. The plan of raising the permanent fund, (which is called the *new* fund) the amount of which is to be fifty thousand dollars, is for the subscriber to pay the interest annually on the amount of the subscription, and at the expiration of ten years to pay the principal which is to be retained, and the interest only expended.

1836.

A SUMMARY VIEW OF THE BAPTIST DENOMINATION IN THE STATE OF ALA.

No. Associations.	No. Ch's.	O. M.	Lic.	Bap'd.	Members.	Constitu.	Date of Minutes.
1 Flint River,	23	9	1	33	1173	1814	1836
2 Bethlehem,	33	13	1	31	1475	1816	1835
3 Cahawba	23	17	3	61	1310	1817 ✓	1835
4 Alabama	35	19	4	174	2362	1819 ✓	1835
5 Bethel	30	11	2	63	1073	1820 ✓	1834
6 Muscle Shoals	23	11	2	48	1289	1820 ✓	1835
7 Buttahatchie	14	3	2	23	461	1825 ✓	1835
8 Conecuh River	16	3	1	51	467	1827 ✓	1834
9 Mulberry	22	6	1	41	842	1827 ✓	1835
10 Mt. Zion	21	8	3	29	411	1823 ✓	1835
11 Canaan	14	9	1	72	845	1833 ✓	1835
12 Chat. River	14	5			337		1825
13 Choctaw	9	3		15	249	1831 ✓	1835
14 Coosa River	10	6	1	3	213	1833 ✓	1835
15 Shoal Creek	3	4	1	10	376	1825 ✓	1835
16 Tallishatchy	10	6	4	20	333	1831 ✓	1835
17 Tuscaloosa	14	5	4	103	920	1834 ✓	1835
18 Union	19	3			1037	1825	1835
19 Mud Creek	9	7		9	277		1835
20 Liberty	11	7	7		467	1836	
Unassociated	3	1			356		
Western Georgia } & Leaf River Mis. }	2	1		10	166		
<b>Total</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>16667</b>		

Here we have 20 Associations, several of them are only partially in Alabama; but I have been particular and endeavored to place no other churches on the list, only those in this State. And here are 368 Churches—171 ordained Ministers—33 Licentiates—372 Baptized in twelve months—and the total number is 16667. The oldest Association was organized 22 years ago; but I cannot now say how long since the oldest Church was constituted but the increase has been rapid—a little one has become a thousand, and a small one a mighty host.

O that the Lord may make us more bold and active in his cause—more benevolent in disposition—more beneficent in acts—more obedient to his commands—more vigilant—more humble—more persevering—more holy, and more like Jesus; and finally save us in his kingdom for his Son's sake, Amen. All of which is respectfully submitted.

*Summary of the Reports of the several Agents,*

H. Holcombe collected for printing Bibles in Foreign Languages	\$101 50
By individual donations	10 00
Rupes Valley Church	13 62½
C. Cleveland, specially for Burman Bible	20 00
For Domestic Missions, Dr. Evans \$5, M. Buck \$3	3 00
For Burman Bible, Abner Stoue	2 09
William Wood	3 00
	<b>\$163 12½</b>

*Subscriptions for Institutions.*

	OLD PLAN.	NEW PLAN.
Obtained by H. Holcombe	\$818	\$1326
“ “ W. B. Haralson	105	300
“ “ A. G. McCraw	520	8100
“ “ A. Travis \$15 paid	745	530
“ “ K. Hawthorn	500	400
	<b>\$2688</b>	<b>\$10655</b>

23. The Committee on a religious periodical reported through Bro. Fant, as follows :

Brother President : We, your committee beg leave to report that we believe a denominational paper, is a subject of the greatest importance, and one that claims your immediate attention; as with it stands connected the prosperity of our institution, and all the objects of the Convention. We are therefore of opinion that you should invite some suitable persons to publish a paper which will be exclusively of a religious character, at some central point in our State, and that you pledge your favor, and recommend all your members, and the Baptists in Alabama generally, to patronise and use their zealous efforts to sustain the same.

Upon the reception of this report the following resolution was adopted

24. Resolved, That we consider Brother George F. Heard, a suitable

erson to publish said paper : and that we will pledge our individual and collective influence, to sustain him in the enterprize.

25. *Resolved*, That this body suggest to the board of Trustees, the propriety of inviting a number of literary gentlemen to attend on the public examinations of the Manual Labor Institute, and report concerning the progress of the students in literature : and that other gentlemen be invited to examine at the same time, the farm and premises, and make out a report in the same, and that we further suggest, that their reports be published in various periodicals, and presented to this body, at its next meeting.

26. *Resolved*, That all our agents, domestic missionaries and ministering brethren, throughout the State, be specially requested to collect historical sketches of the churches where they may travel, or where they may have it in their power to do so; and that all the clerks in the different Associations write sketches of those bodies, send copies of the minutes, and forward the same, to Brother H. Holcombe, at Jonesborough, so soon as practicable, together with all other matter relative to our denomination, which may be considered worthy to be recorded.

27. The committee on correspondence, presented a form of a corresponding letter, which was read and approved by the Convention; and they were instructed to write accordingly, to corresponding bodies in this State.

28. *Resolved*, That we write a letter and send delegates to the Georgia Baptist State Convention, to convene on Saturday before the 2d Sabbath in May next, for the purpose of petitioning a correspondence with that body; and that brethren Wood and Manning be the delegates—Bro. Wood to write.

29. *Resolved*, That we petition the Tennessee Baptist State Convention to correspond with this body; and that we appoint Brethren Fant and Manning delegates to meet with that body, at their next meeting to be held at Nashville, on the second Saturday in October next, and days following—Bro. Fant to write.

30. Whereas erroneous reports relative to a misapplication by the Convention, of funds contributed for special objects, and that they are wasting moneys confided to their care, by lavishing it on officers of the body, i. e. the convention has given one of her agents Hosea Holcombe one thousand dollars or more for his services as agent for one year, and that he has received 60 or 70 dollars as a part of his salary which belonged to the Foreign Mission fund, and that A. C. Horton, former Treasurer of the Board of Trustees received 1600 dollars as his salary.

Therefore, *Resolved*, That we say to our Brethren and the public generally, that these reports are entirely unfounded, and that brother Holcombe never received one dollar of the Foreign Mission funds, as any part of his compensation; nor did any other person. For his services last year, including all expenses he received 393 dollars, and no more. And we do certify that A. C. Horton never received one dollar for services rendered the Convention.

31. *Resolved*, That the general agents of the Convention be authorized to select any brethren, members of this body within the bounds of their circuits that they may think proper, to collect moneys due upon subscriptions, and that the brethren who have acted as local agents be requested to furnish the general agents with a list of the subscriptions obtained by them.

32. *Resolved*, That any member of this body, presenting a copy of our

1831

minutes, containing his name, to any association or missionary society shall be considered a messenger from this body.

33. Whereas many of our brethren have been imposed on, and have subscribed to the 'South Alabama Institute,' while they thought they were subscribing to our own Institution near Greensborough, Therefore

*Resolved*, That we recommend to our brethren and friends generally, to be careful in future, to whom they give their contributions.

34. *Resolved*, That the committee on the Constitution be instructed to consider the propriety of so amending the Constitution, as to make it recognize the Manual Labor Institute as the creature of this body, and under its care; and also of so amending it as to make the treasurer of the Convention, the treasurer of the Board of Trustees.

35. *Resolved*, That as a means of collecting a library for our Institution all its friends be requested to present to our agent, or forward to the Institution, all such books, pamphlets &c. as they may be disposed to present for this purpose; and that we recommend to the Board of Trustees, to have a list of such donations, carefully recorded, and preserved in a bound volume, at the Institute.

36. *Resolved*, That in as much as the subject of domestic missions is of the highest importance, though it has not received so much of the attention of our agents as we think it should, we do now hereby instruct them to have in view for the future, this as well as the other objects of the Convention.

37. *Resolved*, That all the collecting agents of the Convention, for the Institution, be requested to report to Brother H. Holcombe, the names of subscribers, with the amount which they have paid.

38. The committee on motion reported the following named brethren as suitable officers of the convention, which report was concurred in.

H. Holcombe, Pres't.

W. Manning, } Vice Pr'sts.  
J. M. Scott, }

A. J. Holcombe, Rec. Sec.

M. B. Clement, Cor. Sec.

A. G. McCraw, Treas.

Wm. Ford,

L. Goree,

G. L. Goree,

E. D. King,

G. Rines,

G. Everett,

W. B. Haralson

Edward Baptist,

Harris Tinker,

L. B. Lane

Alford Calloway

W. J. Croom,

Directors

39. Brother A. J. Holcombe, as secretary of the "Alabama Baptist Bible Society," presented a Resolution passed by that body, requesting permission to publish the Minutes of the Society, in connexion with those of the Convention, which was granted, provided the Society bear a proportion of the expense of printing.

40. Appointed brethren Travis, Wood and Kirven, a committee to prepare an article on admitting beneficiaries into the Manual Labor Institute, with instructions to report before the adjournment of the Convention.

41. The reports of Brethren W. H. Holcombe, W. J. Harley, and K Hawthorn, as domestic missionaries were read and approved.

Brother H. H. Rockett, who had been recommended by some of the members of the Convention, to take the place of Brother Baines (declined) as a domestic missionary, was on motion, recognized as such, and his report read and approved.

42. Appointed a committee to nominate suitable persons as domestic missionaries, and assign to them their respective spheres of action, namely Brethren Wood, II. Holcombe, Travis, Heard and Hawthorn, to report to-morrow. *Adjourned till to-morrow 10 o'clock*

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 16.

43. Met pursuant to adjournment, and after prayer by Brother McCraw, the committee on beneficiaries reported by brother Wood as follows, viz:

44. Whereas much inquiry is made, by many of our Brethren, respecting the use the Convention will make of its Institution, your committee recommend the adoption of the following resolutions.

*Resolved*, 1st. That the primary objects of the Convention in relation to the Institution, was the improvement of the ministry of our denomination, by affording to our young ministers, who do not possess the means necessary for their own improvements, such aid as may be in our power, which persons shall be distinguished by the term *beneficiaries*.

*Resolved*, 2d. That as a prerequisite to admission as beneficiaries, the applicants shall be members of some regular Baptist Church, and licenced by her, to preach the Gospel; shall present from her churches, vouches of good moral character; shall undergo an examination, by the board of directors, relative to a change by grace, and called to the ministry, and make it appear they have not the means to support themselves while pursuing their studies.

*Resolved*, 3d. That the beneficiaries shall pursue such studies as they and the board may think best; and preach as much as practicable.

*Resolved*, 4th. That should a beneficiary become immoral, in the judgment of the faculty, he shall appear at a meeting of the faculty and trustees; and should he not give satisfaction, the Faculty and Trustees shall have power to dismiss him from the benefits of the Institution.

45. The committee on Domestic Missions, reported as follows viz:

Your committee deem it expedient that you appoint four missionaries for the ensuing year; and that they be compensated at the rate of \$425 for an unmarried man, and 600 dollars for a man of a family; that they be compensated for those efforts only which are made within the designated field of their labors, and they be authorized agents to receive whatever moneys maybe offered them for the objects of the Convention. We would recommend to Bro. Thos. Atkinson, to labor in Buttler, Covington, Pike, Dale, Barbour and Henry counties; Bro. David Lee to labor in Macon, Talapoosa and Russel counties; Bro. W. Wood in Randolph, Benton, Cherokee, DeKalb and Marshall counties; Bro. H. H. Rockett in St. Clair, Blount, Fayette, Walker and Marion, to labor 6 months, and if he can collect funds for the Convention to enable your body to pay the whole or chief part of his wages, let him spend the whole year in your service.

All of which was approved by the Convention.

46. Appointed brother O. Welch to preach the introductory sermon at the next meeting of the Convention, and Brother Wood his alternate. Brother Travis to preach the Missionary sermon and brother Heard his alternate.

47. Agreed that 1500 copies of minutes be printed, and that the secretary receive 30 dollars as a compensation for superintending and distributing them.

48. Appointed the next meeting of the Convention at Enon M. H. 10 miles north of Huntsville Madison county on Saturday before the second Sabbath in Nov. next, at 11 o'clock A. M.

1836

49. The Treasurer presented his report which was received and referred to the auditing committee.

50. Ordered, That the Treasurer put into the hands of the Secretary 105 to pay for printing the minutes and for his services.

51. Ordered that the Treasurer send to the Treasurer of the General Convention, the funds for Foreign Missions; and that those for education (of young ministers) be retained in his hands, until further ordered.

HOSEA HOLCOMBE, Pres't.

A. J. HOLCOMBE, Sec'y.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

	F. Missi.	B. Bible.	D. Missi.	Educ.
Received from Perry co. Missionary do.	89 50	102 00		
“ Female Burman Bible Society		47 56		
“ Salem Church, Greene co.			98 68	
“ Ceder Spring Church Tal. co.			5 00	
“ Collection on Sab'th at Fellowship	64 00			
“ Baptist Church in Mobile			25 00	
“ Tuscaloosa Society	17 50		17 50	11 00
“ Mrs. Goree	10 00			
“ A. J. Holcombe			5 00	
“ J. M. Callaway			5 00	
“ W. S. Callaway			5 00	
“ J. R. Gresham			5 00	
“ J. L. Goree			5 00	
“ Jeremiah Reeves			1 00	
“ O. Welch for a friend			5 00	
“ O. Welch			1 00	
“ Thos. Harris	1 00			1 00
“ Remaining in Treasury			159 22	
“ On subscription			13 00	
Collected by W. H. Holcombe			32 00	
“ by H. Holcombe		22 00	11 00	546 00
“ by L. Scott			10 00	
“ by K. Hawthorn		77 00	10 00	
“ by A. Travis				15 00
Received of Thomas Chiles	4 00		10 00	
“ David Lee			1 00	
“ A. Prichard			2 00	
“ Samuel Dubose			5 00	
“ J. H. Shroebel			1 00	
“ J. A. Blakey	3 00			
Treas. collected from sundry Individuals				55 00
H. Holcombe coll'd to publish Bi. in F. lan.	130 12			
Received from convention in session			30 00	
“ From a friend present			50 00	50 00
	\$319 12	248 56	532 00	678 00

DISBURSEMENT.

Paid H. Holcombe, as agent*	\$391 00
“ W. Holcombe as Dom. Mission,	187 00
“ H. H. Rockett do	110 00
“ W. J. Harley do	100 00
“ K. Hawthorn do	19 39
Deposited with Secretary for Minutes &c:	105 00

\$912 39

\*A mistake occurred in the Treasurer's report of the last year, in noticing the payment of money to H Holcombe for services as agent. Money which he received in 1834 was noticed in that report, which made it appear that he had received a large amount, as a salary.

The probable amount owing to the Convention, on subscriptions, for the Manual Labor Institute, is about \$240 00.

# MINUTES

1836

OF THE

## PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING HELD FOR THE PURPOSE OF ORGANIZING

### AN ALABAMA BAPTIST BIBLE SOCIETY.

During the Session of the Baptist State Convention, a large number of brethren from various parts of the state, met at Fellowship M. H. on Sabbath evening, November 13th, 1836, for the purpose of forming a Baptist Bible Society.

On motion, Elder H. Holcombe was called to the chair, and A. J. Holcombe appointed Secretary.

After the subject had been discussed by brother DeVotie and others, it was Resolved, that it be considered expedient to form a State Baptist Bible Society.

A draft of a constitution was presented by brother DeVotie, on the revision and adjustment of which a committee was appointed as follows, viz: H. Holcombe, DeVotie, Rives Travis, and Manning; to report on to-morrow, during the recess of the Convention. Adjourned.

MONDAY Nov 14.

Met at 1 o'clock P. M. The committee appointed yesterday, presented the preamble and Constitution as amended which were adopted, and ordered to be published.

Whereas, the American Bible Society did on the 17th of May last approve a resolution passed by its board of managers on the 26th day of Feb. last, no longer to aid in printing or publishing any version of the sacred scriptures in which Baptizo and its kindred words are translated in the vernacular languages of the heathen word by some signifying to immerse, by which all conscientiously made Baptist translations are debarred assistance, Therefore

*Resolved*, 1st That we highly approve the conscientious manner in which our missionaries have rendered the scriptures from the only proper standards of translation, the original Hebrew and Greek, the languages in which inspired men wrote.

*Resolved*, 2d. That we regard the compliance of our missionaries with the directions of the Baptist Board of Foreign Missions 1833 "to endeavor by earnest prayer and diligent study to ascertain the precise meaning of the original text, and to express that meaning as exactly as the nature of the languages into which they shall translate the Bible will permit, and to transfer no words which are capable of being translated" a sufficient cause to render it our indispensable duty as Baptists to sustain them in giving a pure undisguised Bible to the heathens.

*Resolved*, 3d. That we deem it necessary to combine our efforts by uniting ourselves in a society for this noble purpose.

### CONSTITUTION.

ART. 1. This Society shall be denominated the Alabama Baptist Bible Society, the sole object of which shall be to aid in disseminating the sacred Scriptures, among all people in the most correct versions which can be obtained.

ART. 2. All Auxilliary Societies sending up five dollars or more to this body shall be entitled to five delegates.

ART. 3. Any individual paying fifty dollars for the object of the society shall be a life member.

ART. 4. Any person paying annually one dollar or more shall be a member of this Society.

**OFFICERS.**

ART. 5. The officers of this Society shall be a President, 3 Vice Presidents, a Secretary and Treasurer, who with seven other brethren, shall constitute a Board of Managers to control the affairs of the Society, a majority of whom shall form a quorum to transact business during a recess. The officers shall be chosen annually.

ART. 6. The President shall preside at all meetings of both Society and Board, and have power to call meetings of the Board at the request of three of the members of that body.

ART. 7. In case of the absence of the President, one of the Vice Presidents shall occupy the Chair, and in the absence of the Vice Presidents one of the members shall be elected to preside by a vote of the majority of the members present.

ART. 8. The duty of the Secretary shall be to record all the proceedings of the Society and Board, keep up a correspondence and report any communication to the Board which may be worthy of attention.

ART. 9. The Treasurer shall receive all monies and hold them subject to the order of the Board signed by the President and make a fair report at each annual meeting.

**MEETINGS.**

ART. 10. There shall be annual meetings of this Society to convene at the time and place of the annual meetings of the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

ART. 11. All meetings of the board shall be holden at the city of Tuscaloosa.

ART. 12. This Constitution may be altered or amended at any annual meeting of the Society by two thirds of the members present.

**OFFICERS NOMINATED.**

Rev. JNO. L. DAGG, Prest.

Rev. HOSEA HOLCOMBE

Rev. ALEX. TRAVIS

Rev. J. C. KEERNY

A. J. HOLCOMBE

ROBERT S. FOSTER

GREEN RIVES

JNO. E. RIAL

J. L. GAY

J. A. HODGES

JAMES FOSTER

J. H. DEVOTIE

JOSEPH LACY.

} Vice Presidents.

} Secretary.

} Treasurer.

} Directors.

The individuals above named were duly chosen as officers of the Society.

Nearly all the brethren present together with a goodly number of the sisters enrolled their names as members of the Society. The subject in its present form, having but recently engaged the attention of the denomination, very little has yet been done, but we confidently believe that much may be expected, from the Baptists of Alabama.

*Resolved*, That this society request the Baptist State Convention, to permit the Constitution and Minutes of this body to be published in connexion with the minutes of the convention, provided the society shall bear its proportion of the expense.

*Resolved further*, That the Treasurer be authorized to put into the hands of the superintendent of printing for the Convention, a proportionate amount, to defray the expense of printing provided that body grant the request of this society to print the Minutes of both in connexion.

*Resolved*, That the Treasurer be authorised to remit to Wm. Colgate, Treasurer of the Am. and F. Bible Society, for this year the funds of this Society, after defraying the expense of printing.

The Tuscaloosa Baptist Bible Society represented by J. H. DeVotie, J. E. Rial, and A. J. Holcombe, was received as an auxiliary to the State Society. Adjourned.

**FUNDS.**

Received from Members present

“ “ Tuscaloosa Society

\$30 00

105 00

A. J. HOLCOMBE, Sec'y.

HOSEA HOLCOMBE, 1st Vice Prs't.



SAMFORD UNIVERSITY LIBRARY



1 1 00266058

*Special Collections*

GENERAL

BX

'1823-41'

6470.1

.A4

Alabama Baptist State  
Convention.  
Annual

X

*ROOM USE ONLY*

