

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

**1823-1842**

[i. c. 1841]

# MINUTES

OF THE

**FOURTEENTH ANNIVERSARY**

OF THE

**BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION OF ALABAMA.**

HELD AT

**ENON MEETING-HOUSE, MADISON COUNTY.**

COMMENCING ON

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>, 1837.

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**Tuscaloosa:**

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AT THE OFFICE OF THE "FLAG OF THE UNION."

1837.

had been unable to spend much time in the service of the convention—I ad spent only two and a half months, and should charge for but one and a half.

Elder A. Travis through T. Atkinson reported that he had collected for the convention \$60 00.

On motion, it was agreed that the convention should adjourn, so as to admit the Alabama Baptist Bible Society to meet at half past 2 o'clock, P. M.

The reports of domestic missionaries were called for, when Elder Atkinson reported that he had spent 10 months in the service of the convention; had travelled about 3400 miles, preached 150 sermons, assisted in the ordination of one deacon, and baptized one person—his expenses were \$26 00. He had collected for Domestic Missions, in Covington county, \$3 90; Dale, \$26 75; Henry, \$4 20; Barbour, \$93 81; Pike, \$50 50; Conecuh, \$58 00.

All the other domestic missionaries failed to make any report. —

On motion, G. L. Sandidge was appointed Treasurer, pro tem.

Appointed a committee on education of Elder Hodges, G. L. Sandidge, T. Sargent and S. Dubose.

On motion, it was agreed that a general committee, consisting of seven, be appointed, who shall be authorized to transact any business within their power, which is to come before the convention, and report to-morrow: B. S. Fant, H. Holcombe, J. Wright, W. H. Holcombe, T. Atkinson, J. Seal, and A. J. Holcombe were appointed on said committee.

The time having arrived for the Bible Society to meet, the convention adjourned till 10 o'clock, A. M., on Tuesday.

TUESDAY, Nov. 14.

Met agreeably to adjournment—and after prayer by Elder Fant, the general committee presented their report which was approved, and the committee discharged.

The convention then proceeded to the election of officers, (the report on nomination having been received,) whose names will be found on the 10th page.

The report of the committee on the agency is as follows, viz :

BROTHER PRESIDENT—Your committee viewing the great importance of sustaining the convention in the accomplishment of its benevolent designs, recommend an increase of effort through the agency. We would recommend that two suitable persons be appointed as agents, to travel and impart correct information relative to the convention and its objects, and that they be requested to solicit subscriptions and take collections for the same. Respectfully submitted.

A letter from the Church at Irwinton, Barbour county, was received by the hands of Elder Atkinson, and was recognized as an expression of the kindest feeling towards this body; therefore,

*Resolved*, That the convention cordially reciprocate that manifestation of brotherly kindness.

Appointed Elder Atkinson to occupy his former field of labor, as domestic missionary.

Elders Hodges and Gibson to occupy the destitute parts of Blount, Walker, Marion and Fayette counties; Elder Taliafero of Talladega, to labor in Benton, Jackson, Marshall, De Kalb, and Cherokee counties; for which services they are to receive the same compensation specified in the minutes of last year. They are further requested to consider it their duty to use all laudable efforts to promote all the objects of the convention.

*Resolved*, That a resolution passed by this body two years ago, applying all public collections taken on Sabbath during the annual meetings of the conven-

tion, to foreign missions, be and the same is hereby repealed; and that the collection taken up at this place, on last Lord's day, be applied to domestic missions.

The committee on the history of the Baptists in Alabama, presented their report, which was adopted, and is as follows:

**BROTHER PRESIDENT**—Your committee, to whom the subject of a history of the Baptists in Alabama was referred, having had the matter under consideration, beg leave to report, that we are decidedly of opinion that the accomplishment of the object will be of inestimable utility to our denomination; and we regret that so much indifference has hitherto been manifested relative to it.

The fact that so little of the necessary information has been received, has delayed the publication beyond what was anticipated; and as the convention has during the present session, adopted this as one of its objects, we hope it will be carried forward with increased energy. We would recommend the adoption of the following resolution, viz:

*Resolved*, That Elder H. Holcombe be requested to continue to collect materials, and write out said history; and that it be considered the duty of our agents and domestic missionaries to collect all the materials in their power, from associations, churches and individuals where they may travel—such as the constitution and progress of associations, of churches, when and where constituted, by whom, their numbers, progress, revivals, pastors, pastoral supplies, anecdotes, and any other matter concerning the churches deemed worthy of a place on the page of history, also, biographical sketches of Baptist ministers, who have lived or are living in our State, their system of doctrine, labors, &c., whether effort or anti-effort, where their fields of labor, &c.

And we hope that not only agents and domestic missionaries, but all our brethren, especially ministering brethren, who can collect any materials for the history, will do so, and forward the same immediately to Brother Holcombe, at Jonesboro', Jefferson county, that he may be enabled to proceed with the work, and report his progress at the next annual meeting of this body.

Respectfully submitted.

A. J. Holcombe presented the reports of the Board of Directors, of the Corresponding Secretary, the Trustees of the Institute, and that of their Treasurer, all of which were referred to the committee on education, except the report of the Corresponding Secretary, which was referred to a special committee, consisting of Elders J. L. Dagg, and J. H. De Votie, with the recording secretary.

A historical sketch of our denomination in the State, was presented by Elder H. Holcombe, which was ordered to be spread upon the minutes.

*A brief view of the most important matters relative to the Baptist Denomination in the State of Alabama, as collected from the Minutes of the different Associations.*

**1. FLINT RIVER ASSOCIATION.** This body was organized in the year 1804, and is the oldest Baptist association in the State, (it was constituted in Tennessee, and two of its churches are now in that State.) From the minutes of the year it appears there are 20 of the churches in Alabama; 39 were baptized in the associational year; the number of ministers 6; total 1074. The churches in this body are much divided on the subject of benevolent effort. The colossal, soul-destroying doctrine of anti-nomianism is much promulgated among those brethren; and the churches are in a declining condition.

**2. BETHLEHEM.** Constituted in 1816, and has had a gradual progress: the blessings of the Lord have rested on them. They numbered last year 33 churches, 15 ministers, 3 licentiates, 64 baptized, total 1414. We believe the

are generally, and perhaps entirely friendly to the missionary operations. Since the date of their last minutes we learn the Lord is carrying on a glorious work in some of the churches.

3. **CANAUBA.** This association was constituted in 1817, of 10 churches, and has since that time been the fruitful mother of several other associations. The present number is 19 churches, 21 ministers, 3 licentiates, 313 baptized, total, 1583. They generally speak favorably of all the benevolent plans of the age, yet they seem to keep at a distance from effort, from fear of injuring the feelings of their opposing brethren. We think it is time for our brethren to arouse from their lethargy, for the time is short, and souls are perishing for lack of knowledge.

4. **ALABAMA.** Was constituted in 1819, and has become the largest association in the State; from their minutes of 1836, we find there were 37 churches, 19 ordained ministers, 1 licentiate, baptized 50, total, 2079. The members of this body are divided in their sentiments relative to benevolent operations; they have, however, encouraged and supported a domestic mission within their own bounds for two or three years.

5. **BETHEL.** Organized in 1820; present number, 32 churches, 10 ministers, baptized 70, whole number (including those churches not represented at their last meeting) 1080. This body favors benevolent effort, the churches having done more to encourage and support domestic missions, than any other association in the State. May the Lord bless their attempts to advance his cause.

6. **MUSCLE SHOALS.** Constituted in 1820; now numbers 25 churches, 10 ministers, 28 baptized, total 1308. They are considerably divided in their views on missionary subjects. We have recently learned that a revival has commenced within the bounds of this association, and that the Lord is blessing some of the churches abundantly.

7. **BUTTAHATCHA.** Constituted in 1825; numbers 16 churches in Alabama, and 8 in Mississippi. In Alabama, 6 ministers, 2 licentiates, 61 baptized, total, 499. The views of this association may be known by the following edict adopted at her last meeting: "*And moreover, we, your committee, recommend to this association that she enter her protest against the popular institutions of the day, called benevolent, in her body.*" Alas! alas!!

8. **MOUNT ZION.** Was constituted in 1823, and flourished for awhile; but by dismissions and otherwise, her number is now very small. After dismissing 7 churches last year, there remained 14 churches, and we believe 4 ministers, (1 of them an ex-communicant,) baptized 40, total 253. The members of this body generally, are violently opposed to nearly all the benevolent plans of the age.

9. **CONECUH RIVER.** Organized 1827; from the minutes of 1836 we find it contains 19 churches, 9 ministers, baptized 42, total 593. The spirit of missionary effort seems to be on the advance, among the brethren of this body.

10. **MULBERRY.** Formed 1827; it numbered in 1835, 22 churches, 6 ministers, 41 baptized, aggregate 842. This association, like most others in the State, is divided in sentiment on the subject of missions, yet supports an itinerant within its own bounds.

11. **CANAAN.** Constituted in 1833; now embraces 15 churches, 8 ministers, baptized 45, total 821. All the churches of this body are professedly effort; and the constitution secures to each individual and church the right to do as they will with their own, which is disallowed by some other associations in the State.

12. CHATTAHOOCHE RIVER. Constituted 1825, but yet remains small: 2 churches in Georgia, 3 in Florida, and 5 in this State, in which are only 2 ministers, 10 baptized, total 190. We hope the missionary spirit is on the advance, and that strife for the mastery will no longer exist among them.

13. CHOCTAW. Formed in 1834; from the minutes of 1836 we find 17 churches in Mississippi, and 10 in Alabama, in which are embraced 4 ministers, 18 baptized, total 283. We understand considerable changes have taken place, that 12 churches were received at their last meeting. They are divided in their views on the effort question.

14. COOSA RIVER. Formed 1833; from the minutes of 1836 it appears there are 12 churches, 6 ministers, 30 baptized, total 403. We believe the churches composing this body are generally in favor of the effort system, but they seem to be afraid to urge it, lest division should ensue; but we look forward to the time when the holy fire kindled in their hearts shall burst into a flame.

15. SHOAL CREEK. Constituted 1825; from the minutes of 1836 it appears there are 23 churches, 15 of which are in Tennessee, and 8 in Alabama, in these there are 5 ministers, 2 licentiates, 8 baptized, total 329. We believe the members are chiefly anti-effort; though there are some real missionary brethren who are pressed down by their opposing brethren.

16. TALLISHATCHY. Constituted 1834; no account since the minutes of 1835. They then had one church in Georgia, and 13 in Alabama, 8 ministers, 4 licentiates, 63 baptized, total 491; but we believe considerable changes have since taken place. They are discordant in their views on missions.

17. TUSCALOOSA. Was organized in 1834, and now embraces 18 churches, 8 ordained ministers, 3 licentiates, 36 baptized, 911 total. The brethren of this body, as is usual, are divided in sentiment on benevolent operations, yet we hope the opposition is declining.

18. UNION. Formed 1834; had in 1836, 20 churches, 9 ministers, 56 baptized, total 1156. Great contention has existed among them on the missionary question, and at their meeting in September last, they parted asunder. The moderator (brother Henry Petty) left his seat, and the house, and about 26 followed him, leaving about thirty in the house, who proceeded and finished the business in much harmony.

19. MUD CREEK. We know not when constituted; in 1836 it had 11 churches, 2 in Tennessee, and 9 in Alabama, supposed to be 6 ministers, 49 baptized, aggregate 280. We believe from authentic information these brethren are decidedly anti-effort.

20. LIBERTY. Constituted 1836, of 11 churches, 7 ministers, 7 licentiates, total 467. Divided on the mission question.

21. WILLS CREEK. Constituted last November; of 7 churches, supposed to be 4 ministers. Received 3 churches, which we estimate at 20 each, aggregate 264.

22. PEA RIVER. Constituted 1833; they deny the imputation of sin to Christ, for which cause the Chattahooche River association withdrew from this body, and claims 8 churches, 3 ministers, 1 baptized, total 119.

Whole number of Baptists in Alabama—22 associations, 390 churches. (11 of these are unassociated, having 4 ministers, and 326 members) 179 ministers, 26 licentiates, 1120 baptized, whole number 16740—nett increase in one year 73.

The committee on education reported as follows:

BROTHER PRESIDENT—Your committee on education have had that subject

under consideration, and find their means so limited, in the absence of the reports of several of your agents, that we recommend the postponement of the subject, especially so far as relates to the manual labor institute, until an adjourned meeting of the convention, at which time the means may be more ample.

The report of the committee on missions was received, and ordered to be spread on the minutes, which is as follows:

**BROTHER PRESIDENT**—Your committee on the subject of missions have, in the first place, taken a mental survey of the destitution of our State, and whilst we behold the entirely uncultivated, and therefore, barren fields, we cannot without intensity of feeling make any expression on this subject. We have learned that some of the domestic missionary societies within our borders are doing but little; others, we rejoice to say, are effecting much in supplying those who lack, with the bread of life. The convention has been gradually progressing in this good work, and we trust her course is still onward; but alas! how little has been done, when contrasted with what yet remains to be effected. There is an overpowering reflection which crosses our minds: within a few days journey of our sweet abodes, where we enjoy the copious means of grace, and where the gospel trump, with a halo of peace, oft salutes our ears, there are many who for years together never hear one gospel sermon. Some of those persons are pious, having removed from places where they enjoyed the blessings of gospel light; many others are resting under the awful shades which forbode eternal night; and yet no heavenly voice is heard to break the fatal charm.

Conscious we are that too tardy have been our movements, we recommend a redoubling of diligence and hope the time may not be distant, when instead of two or three domestic missionaries the convention will have many, yea, very many, actively engaged in the field.

We are aware that the pecuniary resources of your body are at present very limited; but let us venture to act, trusting in God to succeed the effort.

In reference to foreign missions, the committee are gratified to be able to speak in favorable terms. The holy fire which has been kindled in Burmah, and fanned by the prayers and alms of thousands of saints, under Divine Providence, begins to flame, and streams of ineffable light are pouring into every part of that once benighted, dreary land; and there now remains in that government but little opposition to the circulation of the Holy scriptures. Our foreign stations throughout the world, send forth a savoury influence which speaks volumes in behalf of the efforts we are making.

China will soon throw open her bolted doors, and those who now stand and knock for entrance, will carry in the blessed treasure, to enrich that idol plain.

The Baptist board for foreign missions already begin to realize to a large extent the result of their labors; the morning star has already arisen, and the diabolical shades are being dispersed. A heavenly day is bursting upon many of the once benighted Isles. The glorious sun which shone upon the barren hills of Judea, is dispelling every remaining cloud, and its luminous rays will soon be felt in all the world. Respectfully submitted.

*Resolved*, That the Alabama Baptist Bible Society have the privilege of publishing the minutes of that body in connection with those of the Convention, provided, they defray an equal proportion of the expense of printing.

*Resolved*, That this convention is decidedly of opinion that the manual labor system of education has not been fairly tested in the short progress of our Institution, near Greensboro', the operation of which has been suspended.

*Resolved, further*, That we appeal generally to the friends of that Institution.

to consider deeply its importance, and its present embarrassed condition: and that our agents be urged to make immediate collections on outstanding subscriptions for that object, so far as may be practicable.

The committee to whom the report of the corresponding secretary was referred, think it unnecessary to publish at present, that part of the report which relates to the Manual Labor Institute, as an adjourned meeting of the convention has been appointed to consider that subject. The remainder of the report will be retained by the Secretary, for the use of the convention at said meeting.

### REPORT.

BROTHER PRESIDENT—The time has arrived when your Secretary is reminded that it becomes his duty to transmit to you his report. Though exceedingly desirous to be present at your deliberation, he cannot think it his duty, at this season of the year, to take so long a journey northward.

Although I have not corresponded extensively, yet I have endeavored to obtain while travelling the opinions of the brethren respecting the objects of the convention. The mass of the community is becoming more favorable to said objects.

Through the labors of our much esteemed brother, J. Hartwell, much information has been imparted, respecting the subject of Foreign missions. In many places, where a year ago, preachers favorable to the missionary exertions could not gain admission to preach, they are now welcomed, and chosen pastors of the churches.

A deep interest is also felt for the American and Foreign Bible Society. This has been manifested by liberal contributions. The cause of Sabbath Schools is progressing, but it is believed too little interest is felt on so important a subject.

It is doubtless known to many of your body that the publication of a religious paper has been deferred, since the first number was issued. The probability is, however, that the publication will be resumed early in this month. Possessing, as Brother Heard does, in a high degree, the confidence of the brethren, he has recently received much encouragement, and there is reason to believe his paper will be liberally patronized. \* \* \* \*

M. B. CLEMENT, *Cor. Sec'y.*

*Resolved,* That it is with deep regret we find there are many of our brethren who act like him, who said, "*I go, Sir,*" but went not. Many who, when called upon to forego their own interest, in order to promote the cause of our blessed Lord and Master, find insurmountable barriers in the way.

*Resolved, further,* That we earnestly request and admonish them to be more punctual in their attendance upon future meetings of this body, so as to render said meetings more interesting, and enable us to transact our business more efficiently.

*Resolved,* That those brethren who may in future be appointed agents or missionaries, will be expected to treat the convention with so much Christian courtesy as to render their annual reports, and not let trivial excuses prevent them from forwarding the work of the Lord.

*Resolved,* That this convention notice with much regret that a number of our brethren who subscribed to the Manual Labor Institution, have removed from the State and have not paid their subscriptions.

*Resolved,* That we recommend to all the brethren who feel interested in the cause of education, to take under consideration the expediency of removing the Manual Labor Institute, now located at Greensborough, to some point north.

of Jonesborough, or some place in the northern part of the State, where lands and provisions are more cheap.

Appointed J. Hartwell, O. Welch, B. S. Fant, and A. J. Holcombe, delegates to the General Convention, to be held in New York, in April next.

Appointed correspondents, as follows, viz :

To the Tennessee Convention, which meets Friday, before 2d Sabbath in October next—H. W. Hodges, J. Leal, W. H. Holcombe, and B. S. Fant. Brother Fant to write.

To Georgia Convention, which meets Saturday before 2d Sabbath in May next.—A. Travis, and T. Atkinson. Brother Atkinson to write.

To Flint River Domestic Missionary Society—H. Holcombe, H. W. Hodges, and J. Leal. The latter to write.

To the Bethlehem Mission Society—Elders Travis and Atkinson. Travis to write.

To South Alabama Missionary Society—A. G. McCraw, and Geo. Everett. McCraw to write.

Appointed an extra session of the convention to be held at Marion, Perry county, on Saturday, the 30th December next, for the purpose of acting on the subject of the Manual Labor Institute, and on other business if necessary.

The Secretary to publish notice of said meeting in the papers of the State.

Elder B. S. Fant was appointed to preach the introductory sermon, and Elder Geo. Everett his alternate; Elder J. H. De Votie to preach the Missionary sermon, and Elder W. Manning his alternate.

The next annual meeting is to be held at Grants' Creek M. H., 11 miles south of Tuscaloosa, on Saturday before the 2d Sabbath in November, 1838.

Edward Baptist to preach the introductory sermon, and P. Crawford his alternate; D. P. Bestor, to preach the missionary sermon, and H. Holcombe his alternate.

Ordered, that the Treasurer, J. A. Hendon, be authorized to pay, so soon as he may have funds for the purpose, to B. S. Fant, eighty-five dollars which is due to him, for services rendered as agent; and to Thos. Atkinson one hundred and two dollars, which is due to him for services as domestic missionary.

The Recording Secretary is to superintend the printing of the minutes: have 1500 copies printed, and is to receive thirty dollars for his services. And he is hereby authorized to draw upon the Treasurer for the necessary amount to defray this expense.

The Treasurer's report was read and ordered to be spread on the minutes. The convention then adjourned.

HOSEA HOLCOMBE, *President.*

A. J. HOLCOMBE, *Recording Secretary.*

#### OFFICERS.

H. HOLCOMBE, *President.*

J. M. SCOTT, } *Vice Presidents.*

W. MANNING, }

J. H. DE VOTIE, *Corresponding Secretary.*

A. J. HOLCOMBE, *Recording Secretary.*

J. A. HENDON, *Treasurer.*

*Directors.*—R. S. FOSTER, B. S. FANT, K. HAWTHORN, J. V. CROSSLAND, E. D. KING,

P. CRAWFORD, H. W. HODGES, G. W. HENDON, E. BAPTIST.

*Trustees of the Institute.*—W. J. CROOM, E. RODGERS, J. A. HENDON, THOS. GRESHAM, J. H. CROOM, GREY HUCKABEE, J. SILVERS, H. TINKER, — HART, D. P. BESTOR, J. L. GOREE, JNO. MAY, L. GOREE.

*Agents.*—H. HOLCOMBE, B. S. FANT.

*Domestic Missionaries.*—H. W. HODGES, T. ATKINSON. — GIBSON, — TALIS-

FERO.

The Treasurers's report was ordered by the convention to be printed with these minutes, but the superintendant having since the adjournment, learned that there are some funds in the hands of individuals, who had not an opportunity of putting them into the treasury, and believing also that it is unnecessary to publish more than one report of the treasurer annually, he has, therefore concluded, with the advice and consent of several of the friends of the convention, to omit the publication of the report until the adjourned meeting, which is to take place in next month, so that it may be more complete.

## CONSTITUTION OF THE BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION IN ALABAMA.

ARTICLE 1. This body shall be known by the name of "*The Baptist State Convention in Alabama*," and shall be composed of Delegates from Churches, Associations, Missionary Societies, &c., in good standing in the Baptist Churches—together, with such brethren, (who shall be in good standing,) as choose to attend, and co-operate with us, by annually contributing to the funds of the Convention,

2. This Convention disclaims all right of exercising authority over any Church, or Association; hereby acknowledging that every Church is independent, and, within its own sphere, is accountable to no body of men on earth.

3. The business of this Convention, shall be to encourage and promote, by all lawful means, the following objects, to wit: Missions, both Foreign and Domestic; Ministerial Education, of such as may have been licensed by the Churches, especially those who are in indigent circumstances; Bible Translations and Distribution; Sunday Schools; Religious Periodicals; Tract and Temperance Societies; a History of Baptists in the State; as well as all others, warranted by Christ, in the Gospel.

4. The Convention shall have the supreme control of any Literary or Theological Institution, which has been, or may be originated by this body. And it shall choose for the present Institute, a Board of Thirteen Trustees biennially, according to the charter; seven of whom shall form a quorum to transact business—and said Trustees shall, on all occasions, be subject to the direction of the Convention and report annually.

5. The Convention shall at each annual meeting, elect by ballot, out of her own body a President, two Vice Presidents, a Corresponding, and a Recording Secretary, and Treasurer. And those with nine others, to be chosen by nomination, shall constitute a Board of Directors: all of whom shall hold their offices, until successors are elected; five of whom, including the President, or one of the Vice Presidents, shall form a quorum, authorized to transact any business of the Convention; and the Treasurer of the Convention shall be the Treasurer of the Board of Trustees.

6. The President shall have power to call a meeting of the Board, at any time, when the exigency of circumstances may appear to him to require it. The Recording Secretary shall keep a true, minute record, of all the proceedings of the Convention, and the Board shall keep a regular file of the printed minutes. And the Treasurer shall take charge of the funds of the Convention, and hold them subject to the order of the same; and shall give security for the faithful discharge of his duty, and shall make an annual report of all receipts and expenditures, which shall be audited and published with the minutes,

7. The funds of the Convention especially designated for the education of young men called to the Ministry, shall be applied to that object; and those for Foreign Missions shall be transmitted to the Treasurer of the Baptist General Convention in the United States; and those for Domestic Missions shall be applied to that purpose, agreeable to the order of the Convention.

8. The Convention shall employ Agents, whose duty it shall be to make collections, obtain subscriptions, form societies, solicit Churches and Associations to unite with the Convention, and to further all the objects of this body. And all contingent expenses, such as printing minutes, &c. shall be proportionally taken from the several funds, sent up annually to this Convention.

9. The Convention shall have power to send Delegates to the General Convention of the Baptist Denomination in the United States; or to any other Assembly, with which, in its wisdom, it may wish to communicate.

10. The Convention shall hold its meetings annually, commencing on Saturday preceding the second Lord's day in November, at such place as it shall from time to time direct; and, also, appoint extra sessions, when necessary—and shall require of the Board a specific report of all its proceedings, at each annual meeting.

11. Every Church, Association, Society, or Individual, contributing to either of the objects above specified, shall have the privilege of sending one delegate to the Convention, for every ten dollars, so contributed.

12. The above constitution may be altered, or amended; by the concurrence of three fourths of the members present, at any annual meeting, so as to preserve inviolate, the second article; *Provided*, the same shall have been introduced in writing at a previous annual meeting.

### BYE-LAWS OF THE BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION IN ALABAMA.

1. At each meeting of the Convention, the President, or in his absence, one of the Vice Presidents, shall take the Chair, and shall call the members to order; shall preserve order and decorum, and shall decide questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Convention by any two members. He shall open and close the Convention by prayer to God, or call on some brother to perform this service. He shall appoint all committees, with the sanction of the Convention. He may speak in debate on any question, but not until he has given other members a fair opportunity to give their views, and appointed some other member to fill the Chair.

2. The names of the members shall be called each day previous to proceeding to business.

3. Invitations shall be extended to Ministering brethren present, to a seat in the Convention.

4. The members shall observe that respect to the officers, and to each other, which becometh those who reverence the God whose they are, and whom they serve. When any member is about to speak in debate, or deliver any matter to the Convention, he shall rise from his seat, and respectfully address the President, and shall confine himself to the question under debate, and avoid personalities. No member shall speak more than twice to the same question, without leave; nor more than once, until every member choosing to speak, shall have spoken.

5. Whilst the President is putting any question, or addressing the Convention, none shall walk out of, nor across the house; nor when a member is speaking, shall entertain private discourse, nor pass erect between him and the Chair.

6. When a motion is made and seconded, it shall be stated by the President, or being in writing, it shall be handed to the Chair, and be read aloud by the Secretary before debated.

7. After a motion is stated by the President, or read by the Secretary, it shall be deemed in the possession of the Convention, but may be withdrawn at any time, by the mover, before a decision or amendment.

8. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received but to adjourn, to lie on the table, to amend, or to postpone indefinitely; which several motions shall have precedence in the order in which they are arranged. But no motion or proposition on a subject different from that under consideration, shall be admitted under color of amendment.

9. When a motion has been once made and carried in the affirmative or negative, it shall be in order for any member who voted in the majority to move for a reconsideration thereof on the same day.

10. When the reading of a paper is called for, and is objected to by any member, it shall be determined by a vote of the Convention.

No member shall absent himself from the service of the Convention, unless he have leave, or be sick and unable to attend.

12. All questions, except such as relate to the Constitution, shall be decided by a majority of votes.

13. Should the presiding officer fail to enforce the foregoing rules, he shall be deemed wanting in duty, and shall be liable to be reminded of the same, by any member present.

**NOTE.**—Any individual who may have minutes of the Convention for 1823, '25, '26, '30 or '33, and will be so kind as to forward them by mail to A. J. Holcombe in Tuscaloosa, will thereby confer a favor which will be highly appreciated.

# MINUTES

OF

## THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY

OF

## THE ALABAMA BAPTIST BIBLE SOCIETY,

Held at Enon Meeting-house, Madison Co., Monday, Nov. 13, 1837.

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NOVEMBER 13th, 3 o'clock, P. M.

The Society met agreeably to constitutional provision, at the time and place above mentioned. Elder H. Holcombe, one of the Vice Presidents, took the Chair, and A. J. Holcombe recorded the proceedings.

The Constitution was read, after which communications were received from the Russell's Valley, the Canaan, and Tuscaloosa Societies, by their respective delegates; also, the Bethlehem Society was presented as an Auxiliary, by A. J. Holcombe, who had a communication from that society.

### SOCIETIES AND DELEGATES.

*Russell's Valley B. B. Society.*—T. Sargent, W. H. Hodges, and A. Paine  
*Canaan*—H. Holcombe. *Tuscaloosa*—A. J. Holcombe. *Bethlehem*—No delegate.

✓*OTHER MEMBERS.*—C. T. Ford, W. H. Holcombe, G. L. Sandidge, John Ford, Alfred Johnson, Samuel Dubose, J. Seal, W. Q. Sewell, Thos. Martin, B. S. Fant, J. Sandidge, J. Wright, Albert Johnson.

Josiah Barker was constituted a life member by a lady who will shortly transmit to the Treasurer, through an agent, fifty dollars—that being the amount necessary for that purpose.

Proceeded to the appointment of Officers for the ensuing year, when the following were chosen, viz:

Elder J. L. DAGG, *President.*  
H. HOLCOMBE, }  
A. TRAVIS, } *V. Presdt's.*  
J. C. KEENEY. }  
R. S. FOSTER, *Treasurer.*  
A. J. HOLCOMBE, *Secretary.*

*OTHER MANAGERS.*—Green Rives, J. E. Rial, Edm. Prince, J. A. Hodges, Jas. Foster, J. H. De Votic, J. Lacy.

The Treasurer being absent, A. J. Holcombe was appointed Treasurer pro tem.

## REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS.

DEAR BRETHREN:—Through the kindness of our heavenly father, we are permitted to present to you our first annual report. On the 17th December last, the board appointed brethren H. Holcombe, B. S. Fant, D. Peebles, K. Hawthorn, A. G. McCraw, G. W. Baines and J. H. De Votie, to act as agents for the society, some of whom have signified their willingness to serve, and we doubt not, you will hear from them at your approaching meeting. Since that time we have appointed brethren Edward Baptist, G. F. Heard and Jesse Hartwell, agents also;—have not heard from them.

Through our President, we requested brethren Cushman and Allen, of Philadelphia, to represent the Alabama Baptist Bible Society in the convention, held in that city, in April last; with which request they kindly complied.

On this day, we have adopted the following resolution, viz: *Resolved*, That the board recommend to the society to become auxiliary to the American and Foreign Bible Society and request that body to let their field of action be as unrestricted as is contemplated in the first article of our Constitution. It is further recommended that a copy of that article\* be forwarded to the A. & F. B. Society.

We have much to encourage us in this great enterprise. The simultaneous action of our brethren, in various parts of the United States, and the unparalleled success of efforts which have already been made to give the pure word of life, to perishing millions; together with the spirit of liberality manifested by the friends of truth in Alabama, furnish incentives to perseverance in this benevolent work.

The Treasurer's Report, which will accompany this document, will show the state of our finance. And although the collections may not be so large as we could wish, yet we are aware that large subscriptions have been raised, in various parts of the State, which we believe will be available some time during the ensuing winter.

In the fellowship of the Gospel, yours.

By order of the Board.

JNO. L. DAGG, *President*.

A. J. HOLCOMBE, *Secretary*.  
Tuscaloosa, Oct. 5th 1837.

\* That article reads thus, viz: "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."

## REPORT OF THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

BROTHER PRESIDENT—As the corresponding officer of the Alabama Baptist Bible Society, I consider it my duty to submit such facts as are in my possession, so far as they will subserve the interests of that society.

We have cause to thank God and take courage. The A. & F. B. S. which was provisionally organized, on the 13th May, 1836, (which organization was ratified by the convention assembled in Philadelphia, in April last,) has labored with a success unprecedented.

Within less than twelve months from its formation, the Treasurer had received from Auxiliary Societies, Associations, Churches and Individuals, more than twenty-one thousand dollars. Already has the heavenly influence of that society been felt in the benighted Nations beyond the Atlantic. Our missionaries have been furnished, to a limited extent, with the means, by which they can give the pure word of life, to the way-worn traveller in the idolatrous nations of the

East, who travel for many weeks, in search of 'the Jesus—Christ. Man,' [Missionary] enquiring for "the sacred book." "the book which tells of one God," and saying "we wish to read about that God before we die." The Chinese, the Koreans, the Bergalese, the Siamese, &c., have already participated in the beneficence of that body.

Suppose each Bible to cost one dollar, and each family to consist of five members; thus the Baptists of America have, in less than one year given the sacred word, to more than one hundred thousand persons. What a happy reflection, to every Christian heart, that he who gives ten dollars, for this purpose, furnishes the word of eternal life to fifty perishing souls. Yet there is a vast field before us, the borders of which we have but just entered.

Permit me here to introduce an extract from the report of the Board of Managers of the A. & F. B. S. They say they are "satisfied that the providence of God has made it the duty of Baptists, to give to the whole world a faithful translation of the whole Bible, and that as a denomination, we cannot decline this labor of love, and yet remain guiltless." Hear their appeal: "Brethren, beloved in the Lord, throughout this wide spread continent; to you do we make our solemn appeal for India, and for the whole world." Shall this appeal of our brethren; shall the appeal of dying millions, who are upon the borders of everlasting death, be unheeded. No, we do not believe the appeal will be vain;—God will hear; Christians will hear.

The population of the earth is computed at eight hundred millions; of this number there are at least five hundred millions who are destitute of the Bible. If the American Baptists should have half the work to do, in giving the holy word to this vast number, and they should contribute one hundred fold more than the above named sum, (which would be \$2,100,000 annually) it would require fifty years to furnish each family of five members with a Bible. But, let not the faint hearted say, this stupendous work cannot be accomplished; nay, it is the work of God, and through his people, it can, it must, it will be accomplished.

Respectfully submitted, A. J. HOLCOMBE, Cor. Secretary.

Tuscaloosa, Nov. 5th, 1837.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT.

DR.	R. S. Foster in Account with the Alabama Baptist Bible Society.	CR.	
1836:—To Cash received from Tuscaloosa B. B. Society,	105 00	1836—By Cash paid A. J. Holcombe for the printing of minutes,	16 00
From the members present at the organization of the A. B. B. S.	30 00	By W. Colgate Treasurer of the A. & F. B. Society,	112 00
	135 00		135 00
✓ 1837:—Cash received through Tuscaloosa B. B. Society—		✓ 1837—To Cash paid A. J. Holcombe for expenses of printing,	26 25
J. L. Dagg, - - - - -	25 00	By order of the board for blank book and postage,	5 25
J. C. Keeney, - - - - -	20 00	Balance in Treasury to be remitted according to order,	271 50
E. Cowow, - - - - -	6 00		
B. Whitfield, - - - - -	40 00		
Prof. Hudson, - - - - -	5 00		
A. J. Holcombe's life membership in A. & F. B. S. - - - - -	30 00		
✓ Priscilla (colored woman) - - - - -	2 00		
Wm. Manning, - - - - -	5 00		
Russell's Valley Society, - - - - -	31 50		
From members present at meeting of A. B. B. S. - - - - -	12 00		
From Canaan Association by H Holcombe, - - - - -	11 50		
Sundry Individuals, - - - - -	34 00		
Canaan B. B. Society, - - - - -	31 00		
	\$303 00		\$303 00

*Resolved*, That this Society request of the Convention, the privilege of publishing its minutes in connection with those of that body; and that in case they comply with this request, our Treasurer is hereby authorised to pay into the hands of A. J. Holcombe, the superintendant of printing, the necessary amount, to defray an equal proportion of that expense.

*Resolved*, That R. S. Foster, the Treasurer, be instructed, after paying out the moneys ordered by the Society, and the board of managers, to transmit the remainder to the Treasurer of the A. & F. B. Society, so soon as the price of exchange will authorise it.

After prayer, the Society adjourned, to meet again during the next annual session of the Convention, at Grant's Creek, eleven miles South of Tuscaloosa, on Saturday before the second Sabbath in November next.

A. J. HOLCOMBE, *Secretary*.

H. HOLCOMBE, *Vice President*.

NOTE.—Auxiliaries and individuals may remit funds for the Bible at any time to the Treasurer, at Foster's Post Office Tuscaloosa.

The following are the names of Agents who are authorised to form Auxiliaries, make collections, &c. for the Society.

Elders H. HOLCOMBE,	<i>Jefferson County.</i>
B. S. FANT,	<i>Madison</i> “
D. PEBBLES,	<i>Lowndes</i> “
K. HAWTHORN,	<i>Wilcox</i> “
A. G. M'CRAW,	<i>Perry</i> “
J. H. DE VOTIE,	<i>Tuscaloosa</i> “
E. BAPTIST,	<i>Marengo</i> “
G. F. HEARD,	<i>Mobile</i> “
J. HARTWELL,	<i>Dallas</i> “



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