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MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Alabama Baptist State Convention,

HELD AT

Marion, April 10-13, 1857:

AND OF THE

ALABAMA BAP. BIBLE SOCIETY,

HELD AT THE SAME TIME AND PLACE

TUSKEGEE, ALA. :

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE S. W. BAPTIST.

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OFFICERS OF THE CONVENTION.

A. G. McCRAW, President,
H. TALBIRD, 1st Vice Pres't,
W. H. McINTOSH, 2d "

A. B. GOODHUE, Rec. Sect'y,
S. S. SHERMAN, Cor. Sec'y,
S. H. FOWLKES, Treasurer.

Directors.

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WM. HORNBUCKLE,
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I. BILLINGSLEY,
A. A. CONNELLA,

J. F. BAILLY,
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I. W. GARROTT,
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ENOCH FAGAN,
Dr. O. L. SHIVERS,
Gen. EDWIN D. KING,
J. F. BAILLY,
T. J. BARRON,
Dr. L. B. LANE.

Trustees of the Judson Female Institute.

Gen. EDWIN D. KING,
SAM'L H. FOWLKES, Esq.,
E. A. BLUNT, Esq.,
C. BILLINGSLEY, Esq.

LARKIN Y. TARRANT, Esq.,
JOHN LOCKHART, Esq.,
WM. N. WYATT, Esq.,
Dr. O. L. SHIVERS.

MINUTES.

MARION, FRIDAY MORNING, APRIL 10, 1857.

Reading of the Scriptures and prayer by the President.

Letters read and names of Delegates enrolled, as follows :

Associations.

BIGBY—Wm. Howard, W. F. Bell, J. Sears, D. P. Bestor, J. G. Robertson, ——— Porter.

ALABAMA—D. Lee, I. T. Tichenor, D. R. Lide.

BETHEL—J. Talbert, E. G. Talbert, L. B. Lane, W. J. Parker.

LIBERTY—J. F. Bledsoe, E. W. Henderson.

EUFaula—E. Y. Van Hoose.

CENTRAL—J. D. Williams, P. Stout, A. T. Holmes.

UNITY—A. Andrews, J. H. Ray, J. I. Lamar.

TUSKEGEE—S. Henderson, H. E. Taliaferro.

PINK BARREN—J. J. Sessions, J. S. Abbott, D. Cook, J. C. Jones.

TUSKALOOSA—A. J. Battle, R. Dodson, J. K. Barry, B. W. Justice.

CAHABA—J. Y. Jackson, D. Woodfin, J. M. Waters.

SHELBY—W. H. Carroll, Edmund King, S. Clabaugh.

JUDSON—W. B. Lacy.

UNION—J. U. Foster.

PROVIDENCE—P. E. Collins, A. B. Couch.

CANAAN—A. J. Waldrop, ——— Heygood.

Churches.

UNITY—Thomas Tarlton.

SHILOH—O. C. Cleveland.

SPRING HILL—L. B. Lade.

SELMA—A. G. McCraw, F. M. Law, J. Haralson, W. Wilkes, J. W. P. Law.

MONTGOMERY—I. T. Tichenor, J. Peters, R. Figh.

CENTRE RIDGE—R. P. Lide, D. R. Lide.

BENTON—I. Lyon.

TUSKEGEE—O. Echols.

UNION, Coosa County—Funds.

UNIONTOWN—L. L. Fox, D. Woodfin, I. B. Valden, B. Lee, L. A. Wyatt.

SILOAM—N. K. Davis, R. Holman, A. B. Goodhue, W. P. Holman, W. H. McIntosh.

NEWBERN—J. C. Wright, W. T. Hendou, J. R. Hendou, G. Huckabee.

O. C. Huckabee, J. L. Underwood.

CAHABA—S. W. C. Weston.

BETHANY—Funds,

ROCK WEST—J. S. Abbott, D. Cook.

HOPKELL, Perry County—J. Evans, S. R. Freeman, E. Tubbs, C. Billingsley, Wm. Holmes.

GOOD HOPE—J. Heuden.

HERRON—J. Reeves.

GILGAL—S. Hanner, J. Phifer.

GREENSBORO—R. Holman, C. C. Bramo.

CONCORD, Perry County : J. M. Waters.

FORKLAND : R. P. Mattison.

GRANT'S CREEK : J. C. Foster.

MISSION BAPTIST CHURCH, Mobile : A. B. Couch, K. Hawthorn.

ST. FRANCIS ST., Mobile : A. B. Couch, J. G. Robertson, K. Hawthorn, P. E. Collins.

AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH, Mobile ; K. Hawthorn.

JONES' CREEK : D. P. Bestor.

SUMTERVILLE : D. P. Bestor.

Other Bodies.

JUDSON FEMALE INSTITUTE MISSIONARY SOCIETY : S. S. Sherman.

GAINESVILLE BIBLE SOCIETY : W. Howard.

EAST ALA. FEMALE COLLEGE MISSIONARY SOCIETY : S. Henderson.

THE JUVENILE SOCIETY, Marion : J. T. Barron.

Life Members.

Edmund King, E. D. King, H. Talbird, W. N. Wyatt, L. C. Tutt, G. Z. G. Henderson, J. F. Cocke, D. Lee, E. Fugan, E. A. Blunt, J. Talbert, I. Billingsley, J. H. Lee, J. G. Huckabee, D. Kinerd, Thos. Barlow.

Corresponding Bodies.

B. F. M. S. B. C. : A. M. Poindexter, Cor. Secretary.

BIBLE BOARD S. B. C. : A. C. Dayton, Cor. Secretary.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY ; J. P. Tustin, Cor. Sec'y.

B. D. M. S. B. C. : R. Holman, Cor. Secretary.

The Convention was organized by the election of the following Officers, viz. : Rev. A. G. McCRAW, President ; A. B. GOODRUE, Recording Secretary ; W. P. HOLMAN, Assistant Secretary.

Invited the following brethren to seats and to participate in the deliberations of the Convention, as officials of the bodies they respectively represent, viz. : Rev. P. Stout, Agent Southern Baptist Publication Society ; Rev. Z. G. Henderson, Agent Howard College ; Rev. F. M. Law, Corresponding Secretary Alabama Baptist Bible Society ; Rev. T. G. Freeman, Agent Alabama Baptist Bible Society.

Appointed Committee on Preaching, during the session : Pastor and Deacons Siloam Church, J. Jackson, D. Keinerd.

Appointed Committee to nominate the remaining of the Convention : D. Lee, L. B. Lane, E. King.

FRIDAY—3 P. M.

Report of Committee to nominate the remaining Officers of the Convention, adopted :

H. TALBIRD, 1st Vice President ; W. H. McINTOSH, 2d Vice President ; S. S. SHERMAN, Corresponding Secretary ; S. H. FOWLKES, Treasurer.

Board of Directors.

E. D. King, W. Hornbuckle, J. T. Barron, I. Billingsley, A. A. Connelly, J. F. Bailey, W. N. Wyatt, I. W. Garrott.

Trustees of Howard College.

E. D. King, W. H. McIntosh, E. Fagan, O. L. Shivers, I. Billingsley.

Committees to report during the session announced :

On Finance, D. R. Lide, I. B. Vaiden, J. Headen.

To nominate Preachers for the next session, W. T. Hendon, A. Andrews, B. W. Justice.

Visiting Committee, W. N. Wyatt, J. T. Barron, I. B. Lane.

On Letters and Documents, J. S. Abbott, C. C. Huckabee, C. C. Cleveland.

On Periodicals, N. K. Davis, J. C. Wright, J. F. Bledsoe.

Invited ministering brethren present to seats. Invitation accepted by Rev. Mr. Griffith.

Excused I. T. Tichenor from preaching the Missionary Sermon, and appointed A. M. Poindexter in his place.

Report of Committee on Domestic Missions read and made the special order for to-morrow at 11 A. M.

Appointed the following Committees, the members appointed last session being absent, viz. :

On Southern Baptist Publication Society, S. Henderson, P. Stout, J. Talbert.

On Temperance, H. E. Taliaferro, W. B. Lacy, J. H. Ray.

Report of Board of Trustees of Howard College referred to Committee on Education.

Resolved, That when this Convention adjourns, it will adjourn to meet in Gainesville, on Friday before the second Sabbath in November next. [Afterwards reconsidered.]

Adopted the following preamble and resolutions, viz. :

Whereas the remains of the late lamented Hosea Holcombe, for many years the President of this Convention, and author of the "History of the Baptists of Alabama", lie unprotected and without any tomb-stone to mark their resting place : Therefore

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to raise by subscription funds to erect a suitable monument to the memory of one so eminently identified with all our benevolent enterprises, and so sacredly enshrined in our hearts.

Appointed S. Henderson and W. N. Wyatt said committee.

Adjourned.

SATURDAY--9 A. M.

Report of Committee on the relation existing between the Judson Female Institute, and this Convention, adopted. [Appendix A.]

Appointed Committee to procure an act of incorporation for this Convention—I. T. Tichenor, A. B. McWhorter, T. H. Watts.

Appointed Committee to revise Rules of Order, to report on Monday—D. Lee, A. B. Goodhue, L. L. Fox.

Resolved, That when this Convention adjourns this morning, it will adjourn to meet on Monday at 9 A. M., in order to give the Bible Society this afternoon for the transaction of business.

Reconsidered the resolution passed yesterday, fixing the time and place of the next meeting at Gainesville, in November next.

Resolved, That when this Convention adjourns, it will adjourn to meet in Talladega on Friday before the second Sabbath in November next.

Report of Board of Trustees of the Judson Female Institute referred to Committee on Education.

Report of Treasurer referred to auditing Committee.

Report of Committee on Education read.

Suspended the special order (Report of Committee on Dom. Missions) for this hour (11 A. M.) to consider the Report of the Committee on Education.

Resolved to dispense with the Sermon on Education to-night, and to hold a business session to consider more fully this Report.

Adjourned.

SATURDAY—8 P. M.

Resumed the consideration of the Report of the Committee on Education, Suspended the order of business ten minutes for the purpose of raising funds for the support of the Beneficiaries of Howard College.

Adjourned.

SUNDAY—11 A. M.

Missionary Sermon by Rev. A. M. Poindexter.

SUNDAY—3 P. M.

Mass meeting for Foreign and Domestic Missions. Addresses by A. M. Poindexter, R. Holman, D. P. Bestor and I. T. Tichenor. Collections, \$187 55.

SUNDAY—8 P. M.

Bible Sermon by Rev. A. C. Dayton.

MONDAY—9 A. M.

Appointed Committee to nominate Delegates to the Southern Baptist Convention: P. Stout, F M Law, S R Freeman.

Report of the Board of Trustees of Howard College adopted. [Appendix B.]

Report of Board of Trustees of Judson Female Institute adopted. [Appendix C.]

Report of Committee to nominate preachers for the Convention. Adopted.

J S Abbott, Introductory Sermon.

S R Freeman, Missionary Sermon.

J K Barry, Sermon on Education.

Report of Committee on Domestic Missions adopted. [Appendix D.]

Appointed Committee to nominate Delegates to Corresponding Bodies :
I. Lyon, J. Talbert, J. Haralson.

Resumed the consideration of the Report of the Committee on Education.

Suspended the order of business in order to pass the following preamble and resolutions, viz. :

Whereas it has been announced to this Convention, that Bro. J. H. Brown has on several occasions, during the last few months, contributed to the objects of this Convention sums amounting in all to one thousand dollars; and whereas he has now sent us an additional contribution of five hundred dollars; therefore

Resolved, That we offer this public acknowledgment of his liberality.

Resolved, That in accordance with his wishes, we divide this amount equally between Foreign and Domestic Missions.

Resolved, That the fifty dollars sent up by the Jones Creek Church, be appropriated to the support of the Beneficiaries of Howard College.

Amended Report of Committee on Education, by appending to it certain resolutions. [See Report, Appendix E.]

Adjourned.

MONDAY—3 P. M.

Resolved, That when the Agent of Howard College shall visit the Associations and Churches we represent, we pledge ourselves to assist him to the utmost of our ability by our attention and influence to forward the work of endowing the College within the limits of our Associations and Churches.

Report of Committee on Education adopted. [Appendix E.]

Report of Committee to nominate delegates to Corresponding Bodies adopted.

To Georgia Baptist State Convention, S. Henderson, W. Wilkes, W. S. Barton, D. Gordon, R. Holman, W. H. Carroll.

To the Cherokee Convention, L. B. Lane, J. D. Williams, J. K. Barry, J. C. Foster.

To Florida Baptist State Convention, A. G. McCraw, P. Stout, D. Lee, D. Peebles, K. Hawthorn, J. C. Jones, S. Henderson, I. Lyon.

To the General Association of North Alabama and Middle Tennessee, H. Talbird, F. M. Law, Z. G. Henderson, P. Stout, S. Clabaugh.

To the Mississippi Baptist State Convention, W. S. Barton, J. C. Foster, D. P. Bestor, S. S. Sherman, W. T. Hendon.

Report of Committee on Southern Baptist Publication Society adopted. [Appendix F.]

Report of Committee on Foreign Missions adopted. [Appendix G.]

Raised by subscription during consideration of Report, \$105.

Report of Committee on Periodicals adopted. [Appendix H.]

Resolved to recognize brother J. H. Low, of New Orleans, as a member of this Convention.

Invited brother Low to state to the Convention the object of his mission.

Report of Committee on Finance referred to Auditing Committee.

Report of Committee to nominate Delegates to Southern Baptist Convention. The Delegates are

H Talbird, D Lee, S Henderson, P H Lundy, J Reeves, W J Parker, L B Lane, A A Connella, J Talbert, E G Talbert, W H McIntosh, A G McCraw, C H Cleveland, Z G Henderson, A J Battle, J J Sessions, J S Abbott, D Cook, P E Collins, A B Couch, K Hawthorn, D Rast, A Van Hoose, W B Lacy, W Wilkes, H E Taliaferro, C Battle, W W Mason, W P Chilton, G W Gunn, B Brown, D Peoples, I T Tichenor, W W Waller, B F Noble, W P Vanderveer, J G Shorter, J P W Brown, A T Holmes, J D Williams, J M Russell, J M Newman, A T M Handy, O Smith, W Hill, W Reynolds, O Welch, W Mallory, J J Bullington, J A Collins, S G Jenkins, J L M Curry, J Headen, J J D Renfroe, E Smith, W C Mynatt, J Lawrence, A W Cunningham, A W Jones, J Falkner, J C Jones, D P Bestor, W Howard, J H Brown, R F Mattison, J K Barry, J C Foster, J H Foster, Jordan Williams, Edmund King, E D King, A J Waldrop, Z Haygood, S S Sherman, H H Bacon, W H Carroll, J C Wright, T G Freeman, W B Haralson, D Gordon, J G Williams, L L Fox, I B Vaiden, C F Sturgis, R P Lide, R Carson, J T S Park, F Callaway, S F Williamson, W H Hibbler, L Oliver, R H Whitfield, D Giddings, C C Kuckabee, P Stout, F M Law, S R Freeman, W S Barton.

Report of Committee to revise Rules of Order adopted. [Appendix I.]

Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools adopted. [Appendix J.]

Standing Committees announced:

On Education—A. Battle, J. Haralson, ——— Iatham.

On Domestic Missions—W. Howard, E. Y. Van Hoose, J. F. Bledsoe.

On Temperance—R. Holman, W. T. Hendon, J. S. Ford.

On Foreign Missions—D. P. Bestor, P. E. Collins, J. K. Barry.

On Sabbath Schools—L. L. Fox, W. H. Carroll, A. B. Couch.

On Southern Baptist Publication Society—I. T. Tichenor, H. T. Holmes, J. D. Williams.

Report of the Committee on Temperance laid on the table.

Report of Auditing Committee adopted.

Appropriated ninety dollars for printing Minutes.

Appropriated forty dollars for distributing Minutes.

Authorized the Treasurer to pay over the funds to the Agents of the Societies to which they belong.

Requested of J. C. Wright, for publication in the South Western Baptist, a copy of his address delivered on the occasion of the erection of the monument to Harry.

• Referred all unfinished business to Board of Directors.

Adjourned to meet in Talladega, on Friday before the second Sabbath in November next.

A. G. McCRAW, *President.*

A. B. GOODHUE, *Rec. Sec'y.*

W. P. HOLMAN, *Ass't Sec'y.*

APPENDIX.

[A.]

REPORT

Of the Committee on the Relation existing between the Judson Female Institute and this Convention.

Your committee find recorded in the office of the Judge of Probate of the county of Perry, a deed of transfer bearing date Nov. 6, 1843, made by Edwin D. Klug, L. Goree, J. L. Goree, A. B. Moore, and others, to Jesse Hartwell, Jas. H. De Votie, and G. W. Guffa, as "Trustees on behalf of the Baptist State Convention of Alabama." This deed conveys to the said Trustees the property commonly known as the Judson Institute, "to be held by them in the name and for the benefit of the Baptist State Convention of Alabama", until said Baptist State Convention shall by act of the Legislature of this State become a corporate body—at which time the title to this property is fully and absolutely to vest in the Baptist State Convention, or in such Trustees as they may appoint."

The conditions on which this property is transferred, are as follows: 1. It is to be "used and continued as a seminary of learning for Young Ladies." 2. That the "nett proceeds thereof, after deducting all necessary expenses, are to be expended in boarding and educating poor young ladies, to be selected by that body in which the title to the property vests." 3. That in case this "Convention should be dissolved, or in case it as a body should ever put off the orthodox faith of Regular Baptists", the deed and title to this property "is to pass to and be vested in the Cahaba Baptist Association of Regular Baptists, in as full and ample a form and under the same restrictions and stipulations" as the conveyance is made to this Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

I. T. TICHENOR, *Chairman.*

[B.]

REPORT

Of the Board of Trustees of Howard College.

The Board of Trustees would respectfully present their annual Report of the condition and prospects of Howard College.

Since the last session of the Convention, there has been no change in the Faculty. The number of students connected with the College during the collegiate year ending July, 1856, was 75. Out of these, six graduated and

received their diplomas, at the last annual commencement. One of this class is now an ordained minister of the Gospel, and is pastor of one of the most prominent and interesting churches in the State. Another is a licensed minister, and is now in a Northern University, for the benefit of a more extended course in Theological studies than can be afforded in any Southern institution. Thus the College, year after year, is making its contributions to the ministry of the Baptist church. And the Board are persuaded that the young men who enter the ministry's graduates of Howard College, if sustained by the grace of God and kept faithful to his service, are destined to occupy high positions in their sacred calling. This is a feature in the College which should endear it to every Baptist heart, and the Board would earnestly commend this branch of the institution to the special attention and fostering care of the Convention with the confident hope that they will cheerfully promote its interest in all possible respects.

The Board have done all in their power to provide suitable accommodation for the College in buildings. One dormitory and the main College building are so nearly completed as to be fit for occupancy. But before the opening of another session, the College will greatly need a second dormitory building. The foundation of this building is laid, but the amount of funds in the hands of the Board, which may be appropriated to that purpose, does not warrant them in proceeding with its erection. The number of students who have registered their names up to this time in the present session, is about 75—nearly as many as can be accommodated. Until this difficulty is removed, there can be no material improvement in the College, so far as the number of its students is concerned. Your Board would respectfully inquire whether the Convention, at its present session, cannot suggest some plan by which this want of the College may be speedily supplied.

The Apparatus Rooms and Chemical Laboratory are now finished and fitted up. No pains or expense have been spared to make them adequate to the wants of the institution. The Apparatus was reported upon at your last session. The chief need is in Optical Instruments and a Cabinet of Minerals. The other branches are well supplied, and all the Apparatus owned by the College is in the newest style and first class.

Last year it was reported that the Ladies of Marlon had presented to the College \$450 to purchase a Telescope. Since then, they have with their usual liberality, increased the sum to \$1,000. The instrument has been made by Churk, of Boston, and its arrival is daily expected. It will be necessary to erect an observatory building for its reception. The Board congratulate the Convention on the prospect of possessing for its College such a Telescope. There are only seven colleges in the United States out of one hundred and twenty seven, which own larger instruments.

During the year 1856, the Rev. W. Wilkes filled the office of Financial Secretary and discharged its duties with success, and in a spirit of devotion to the interests of the College, which has won for him the esteem and admiration of its friends. The Board could not induce him to continue in his office for another year. They are happy to state that they have secured the services of Rev. Z. G. Henderson. He has entered upon his work with zeal and devotion, and with the most encouraging success. The present financial condition of the College is as follows: Theological and Literary fund, \$95,528 21.

The above is the results of your labors—less, it is true, than we could have wished, and wholly inadequate to the wants of such an institution of learning as the Convention desire to establish. Your Board are persuaded, however, that the denomination is beginning to regard its educational enterprise with increasing favor, and that in a few years it will be their privilege to report a sufficient amount of endowment fund to place the College beyond all reasonable contingency.

The College is greatly in want of a Library. This want presses especially upon the Theological department of your institution. Your Board would respectfully solicit contributions in books or money to supply this pressing want. It is due to the students that the Board should testify to the general propriety of their deportment and to their industry and application to their studies.

The term office of the following members of the Board of Trustees (R. D. King, W. H. McIntosh, E. Fagan, O. L. Shivers, and I. Billingslea) will expire before the next session of this body, and it will be necessary to elect others to fill their places.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

I. W. GARROTT, President.

[C.]

REPORT

Of the Board of Trustees of the Judson Female Institute.

The Trustees of the Judson Institute have the pleasure of reporting to the Convention, the continued and increasing prosperity of the Institution under their charge.

At the last annual commencement, twenty-one young ladies received the honors of graduation. This is much the largest class that has yet completed the full and regular course of instruction. The number of pupils registered, during the scholastic year, was two hundred and thirty.

Towards the close of the session, an exceedingly interesting state of religious feeling pervaded the Institute. A large number of pupils became hopefully pious, and twenty-one were baptized in the presence of their relatives and friends, on the Sabbath preceding commencement.

The present session has fully sustained the past reputation and success of the Institute. The number of pupils registered at the present time, is two hundred and forty-two. The health of the young ladies has been good—no death or serious case of illness having occurred.

The large and increasing number of pupils having rendered additional accommodations indispensable, measures were taken near the close of last session to meet this demand. About \$ — were promptly subscribed by the members of the Board and a few liberal friends. A building three stories high, (besides the basement) and 45 by 70 feet, was contracted for, with expectation that it would be finished early this spring. But circumstances which the Board could not control, have delayed the work greatly. It is, however, progressing, and when finished, the accommodations of the Institute will be much improved. The basement will furnish a large and commodious dining room, 45 by 70 feet; the first floor will be appropriated to parlors and apartments for the steward's family; the two upper stories to dormitories. It is proposed to enlarge the school room by removing partitions and throwing several rooms into one. The accommodations of the music department, will also be greatly improved.

If the Board can realize the funds for affecting all the improvements embraced in the present plan of enlargement, the Institute will possess one of the largest and best arranged buildings in the United States.

Respectfully submitted,

E. D. KING, President.

S. H. FOWLER, Sec'y. Board of Trustees.

[D.]

REPORT

Of the Committee on Home Missions.

Your Committee beg leave to report that Home Missions, viewed from any given point, seems to have claims upon us, equal if not superior, to any other object fostered by your Body.

Millions of our countrymen yet remain in darkness and sin. Many of them on our widely extended frontier, are destitute of the means of salvation.—The Gospel of Christ ought to be heard as far as the sound of the woodman's axe. Our frontier is not alone destitute. In every State of this confederacy, missionaries of the cross are greatly needed. There are many

thousands of foreigners amongst us—many of whom have become citizens. They have brought with them every species of intolerance, and almost every shade of religious error. And we may truly say of some, "We have the heathen at our own doors. History tells a sad tale of the tyranny, the anarchy and civil wars of some of the nations which they represent. Every patriot, as well as every philanthropist, should lend his aid in giving them the Gospel of Peace. For without morality, and the pure principles of the religion of Christ, a popular government like ours cannot long stand."

But that man, who has "tasted the good word of God and the powers of the world to come;" and who is "looking diligently lest any man fall of the grace of God," cannot disregard the spiritual wants of any class of the family of man. It appears to your committee, that it would accord with the will of our Heavenly Father, to appoint missionaries with special reference to the salvation of foreigners, and send them at least to all our large cities. In California, Elder Shuck is preaching successfully to the Chinese. And why not send the gospel to others of foreign birth? Are the Chinese sinners above all men? Many other nations are more largely represented in the United States than China. And if they are not in a popular sense heathen, they are sinners and ought to have the gospel preached to them "in their own tongue wherein they were born."

The Indians have our sympathies, our prayers, and our alms. With regard to them, you have reason to "thank God and take courage." But no reason to slack your hand. "What is to be done must be done quickly." The red man is rapidly passing away. Tribe after tribe has become extinct. They can no longer turn their faces to the setting sun and escape the destroying influences of an unsanctified white population. They are surrounded by a cordon of military posts, which is dividing them from the fertile prairies of the Mississippi valley, and from the fruitful vales of the Pacific, to the bleak mountains. But there they have no refuge. Already in the midst of those mountains the "vale of Sidim" is on fire. Their only refuge is on the hill of Calvary under the shadow of the cross. Continued and increasing efforts should be made to save them from annihilation as a people, and from everlasting destruction as immortal beings.

Your committee would respectfully submit, whether it be not the duty of your Body to attempt to supply that part of our slave population who are without the gospel of Christ, with the Bread of Life. They are dependent on the churches of the South for the means of grace. No people are more accessible to us. And none perhaps more readily receive the glad tidings of salvation. And as God in His providence has placed them under our guardianship, there is an imperative duty resting upon us to give them the Bread of Life.

If we of the South, withhold it from them, they must live and die without it. But it may be asked, how are we to obtain men and means to supply so many wants? "The harvest truly is great." "Pray ye the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." Christ says: "Give, and it shall be given unto you good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over shall men give into your bosoms." "Have faith in God." Let us do our duty, and then leave the result with Him.

We offer the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That it is the duty of every christian to pray importunately that Christ would send forth more laborers into his harvest.
2. *Resolved*, That it is the duty of all, to give cheerfully according as God has prospered them.

DAVID LEE, Chairman.

[E.]

REPORT

Of the Committee on Education.

Your Committee on Education beg leave to report—

Whoever has noticed the changes of the last few years, cannot have failed to observe the increasing interest manifested by the Baptist denomination in the cause of religious education. It is an occasion of devout thanksgiving that the Baptists of Alabama have shared largely in this feeling. Among them, it has been specially exhibited in the cause of female education. In several sections of the State large and flourishing female colleges have sprung into existence, as if by magic; and, under the fostering care of the denomination, are bearing a noble part in the good work of religious education. We congratulate the brethren of the Tuskegee Association on the complete success which has crowned their efforts in establishing a female college of the highest order. We rejoice in the unvarying prosperity of their institution. Located, as it is, at Tuskegee, in the midst of one of the most healthy and delightful regions of the State, and under the able control of Prof. H. H. BACON, your committee are persuaded that it has every claim which a school can have to the confidence and patronage of the friends of female education. With equal pride and pleasure, your committee would invite attention to the school of Profs. SMITH and BRIDGEMAN, at Lafayette. Institutions of similar character are rapidly springing into existence in different sections of the State, and with the most encouraging prospects of success and usefulness. We are particularly gratified to learn that the brethren of Tuscaloosa and vicinity have with great spirit and energy entered upon the work of establishing in their midst a female college of the highest order.

The Judson Female Institute was founded by the munificence of the citizens of Marion and Perry county, in 1839. It became the property of the Convention in 1842, and has ever since borne to you a peculiar relation. It has never been a tax on this body; for its annual income has always been sufficient to meet its current expenses, and in several instances it has contributed funds for the education of young ladies in the school, who could not otherwise have availed themselves of its advantages. One feature in the history of this institution must have attracted the attention of the denomination. From the time of its origin, in 1839, up to the present, it has enjoyed an ever increasing prosperity. Over one hundred young ladies are numbered in the list of its graduates, the greater majority of whom made an intelligent profession of religion while studying in the institution, and have returned to their families (among the most wealthy and influential of the south and west,) carrying their religious principles with them. When Prof. Jewett announced his intention to resign his place as principal of the school, many of its friends were ready to predict that the days of its prosperity were numbered. But under the judicious management of Prof. S. S. SULLIVAN it has only advanced more rapidly in reputation and patronage. It is increasingly becoming a school not only for Alabama, but for the entire south and west. Its students are from Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Florida, Mississippi, Tennessee, and the distant Indian territories of the West. The beginning of the Judson was auspicious, and the result has not disappointed the anticipations of its founders. The freshness of its youth is yet upon it, and it is growing on to a glorious maturity. It becomes us to watch its growth and control the upward shooting of the noble trunk. We should guard it so that no vandal hand may mar its beautiful symmetry, or outlawed band hack and girdle it around. It is our duty to nourish it and rejoice to see it expand its boughs, and lift its top towards heaven. We should prop it around with the supports of prayer and Christian sympathy, until religion has thrown its sacred influence over all its interests—until it is so firmly rooted and grounded in the affections of the denomination, that nothing short of a direct interposition of Providence may blight or wither its prosperity.

If equal success has not crowned our efforts in building up academies, and a college for the education of our young men, it is not because we have

failed to make liberal contributions for these objects. We are persuaded that the secret of our failure is graphically disclosed in the Report on Education read before the Convention at its session in Montgomery, May, 1855. The passage to which reference is made, is as follows—

“We venture to affirm that the main cause of the failure up to this time, has been owing to the evil working of that down-pulling demon which has ever too much influenced the Baptist church—sectional prejudice. God forbid that we should ever lift up our voice against the independent or congregational form of government held to by the Baptist church; (we would not oppose Christ and his Apostles) but against their frequent abuse of it, we would ‘lift up our voice like a trumpet, and tell our people of their transgressions.’ We would go further, and become exorcist, for if the Holy Messiah would not assist us against a demon so loathsome and filthy, we would, if Satan would for once depart from his usual policy, form an alliance with him, and it should be proclaimed to an astonished world that ‘Satan had cast out Satan.’ This infernal spirit gets into every Baptist community, however small, magnifies their territory into the dignity and importance of an empire; makes their existence depend upon the ill-success or downfall of every other interest unpromotive of their own. ‘God shall smite thee, thou whitened wall.’ Will any one vindicate him and say, ‘thou shalt not speak evil of the ruler of thy people?’”

Then, we have disclosed to us the secret of our want of success. The Demon of Sectional Prejudice is in our midst, dividing our councils and defeating our plans, however carefully devised for the religious education of young men. We must then, in self defence, drive this foul spirit from our churches and associations, and address ourselves with renewed energy and vigor to this great work. Let us not, however, pass over in silence what has really been accomplished, lest we should seem to undervalue it.

The brethren of the Central Association have succeeded in establishing an academy of high order for the education of boys. It is located on the plank road, about twelve miles from Wetumpka, and is under the able and efficient control of Rev. A. T. HOLMES. Your committee are persuaded that the Central Institute is already occupying an important place in the diffusion of knowledge among the young men of Alabama. The brethren of the Coosa River Association made a noble effort to establish a high school in the town of Talladega. For a time it seemed that they were destined to be disappointed in the results of their effort. But at the opening of the present session they were fortunate in securing, as the Principal of the school, Prof. LATHAM, and its condition is now highly encouraging. In addition to these are quite a number of private enterprises in different sections of the State.

These Institutions are not under the control of this body. But they are all doing a good work, the extent of which the records of the future, and the disclosures of eternity alone can fully reveal. We bespeak for them a place in the prayers, the confidence and patronage of every friend of education in Alabama. In the name of our common Master, we welcome them as co-laborers in this noble work of driving ignorance—the mother of error and superstition—from the land. We say to them all—Increase your means of usefulness, extend the circumference of your moral power. Our only wish is, that such institutions may increase in number and efficiency. In proportion as they prosper and are multiplied, the brighter becomes the prospect before us. They are all stars of varied brightness, forming one glorious constellation, looking down benignly from the moral and intellectual heavens, upon the ignorance and darkness beneath. We would not pluck one from its high sphere of usefulness, nor cast a shadow on its brightness.

But after all these admissions, let it be deeply impressed on our minds that the intellectual and moral appliances for securing a thorough education, are incomplete until we have established a well endowed College. It occupies a place which cannot be left vacant without marring our entire system of education. We are prepared to go further, and say, that so long as the controlling minds of the country are, and must, as a general thing, be formed in its colleges, it is only by sustaining well endowed colleges that the acade-

mies and high schools, under the control of the *Baptist denomination* in Alabama, can be kept from utter extinction. They must live or die together, for our *Academies* and *College* mutually support, and are supported by each other. And hence we see that any jealousy between them is unwise, and, in the end, self-destructive.

The want of an institution for Collegiate and Theological education had long been felt by the denomination in Alabama. We were compelled to look on and see our sons educated under influences different and adverse to our own. And, in relation to the ministry, it was still true, that not many wise men, after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called, and our young men, without mental training, and with wholly inadequate views of the obligations and duties of the ministry, were hastening to assume the solemn responsibilities of the sacred office. These considerations induced the Convention to enter upon the difficult and arduous work of establishing a College and Theological Institution; and at the session of November, 1841, held in Talladega, incipient measures were taken having this end in view. At that time a resolution was offered and passed, to establish a college of the highest order; Marion selected as the place of its location, a plan of endowment proposed, an agent appointed, and a Board of Trustees elected to preside over its destinies. You have to-day listened to the reading of the Report of that Board. After sixteen years of ardent striving, they are compelled to say, that the endowment is inadequate to the wants of the College. Thus you are forced by sad experience to realize how difficult it is to endow a college. Even under the most favorable circumstances, it is not the work of a day, nor a year—it is one of time and labor amidst a thousand discouragements and perplexities.

Are we then to abandon, as hopeless, a work upon which so much depends, merely because great results are not speedily achieved. It is almost invariably true, that it is by slow, but well directed progress, the greatest of human undertakings are ultimately accomplished. It is manifest that the endowment is inadequate, but it is equally manifest that the importance of the subject is forcing itself upon the denominational mind with a constantly deepening impression. There are all the indications of a more enlightened policy; and our people are coming up to the measure of their responsibility to the cause of Collegiate and Theological education. Your committee are persuaded, therefore, that you have abundant cause of grateful acknowledgment in the measure of success which has attended your efforts. Much remains to be done; but the work is progressing, and if the Convention will resolve to persevere in the glorious undertaking, with renewed and becoming vigor, the result will not disappoint your expectation. Complete success will crown your labors, and reward you for all your sacrifices, and your most sanguine hopes be fully realized.

And, in order that you may be prompted to the acts of yet greater self-denial to which you will be called, in this good work, let us reflect that we are laboring for our own loved State,—yea, for a part of ourselves,—for bone of our bone, and flesh of our flesh. The sacrifices we are called upon to make are in behalf of our children and our children's children—the sons and grand-sons who are to come after us, and into whose hands we must, in the ordinary course of Providence, commit the dearest interests of the church. Our relationship, by blood, and by religious and political ties, clearly indicates our duty, and urges us forward to its performance. God has bestowed upon us our capabilities and invested us with the oversight of the young and rising generations, and we cannot escape the responsibility. Nor should we wish to escape; for whatever of time or money it costs us, we are only carrying out one of the most common dictates of Christian benevolence; there is no work of equal importance with this. No public enterprise, so far as the *Baptist denomination* is concerned, whether we consult duty or interest,—whether we act from the promptings of sympathy or piety, can, in importance, stand by its side. No work in which we are engaged, can impose upon us equal claims with equal power and pathos. For Missions, Domestic Missions, Indian Missions, Christ-like as are their objects, must, under the circumstances in which we as Baptists are placed, dwindle into comparative im-

significance, when compared with the moral and intellectual training of our sons. If we fail here, we bring ourselves, in one sense, under the withering rebuke of the Apostle. We neglect to make provision for those of our own household, we deny the faith, and are wiser than infidels. Self-preservation drives us to this work. There is involved in it the conservation of our privileges, civil and ecclesiastic. And, if the alternative were forced upon us, whatever else is neglected,—if every dollar we now expend in sending the gospel to the dark nations of the East,—if every contribution we make in behalf of the wild tenants of the deep unbroken wilderness of our Western territories, must be withheld for the next ten years, and as that alternative would be, and harrowing to our Christian sympathies, still we would say, let the sacrifice be made rather than desert the cause of Collegiate and Theological education. "For us, us Baptists, there is no middle course; it is victory or defeat, honor or dishonor, life or death." Deprive us of the knowledge which can be acquired only in these institutions, and there are many fields of controversy, in which, even with truth on our side, we must sink under the power of our enemies. We may have deep and ardent piety, but without knowledge this will not avail us in our conflicts with error,—unless, indeed, God should do for us what he did for the early disciples of Christ,—miraculously endow us for the hour of trial. But do we look for any such interposition? We believe, if it were absolutely necessary, that God would interpose; but it is not necessary, and to expect it would be the extreme of madness and folly.

We have only to demolish our colleges and scatter their professors, and we should soon find ourselves, *as a denomination*, traveling the downward road to ignorance and barbarism. A moment's reflection will enable us to perceive that this is a self-evident proposition. As we have said, nearly all the learned professions are supplied from our colleges. A large portion of our young men, and a constantly increasing portion, are seeking distinction in these fields of human ambition. And as success is almost inseparably connected with the intellectual training which go to make up a liberal education, they will seek these advantages wherever they can be found. Somebody, then, must take the lead in educating and moulding these hearts and intellects into forms of elegance and power for future usefulness. And the point to be decided, and to be decided very soon, is, whether this shall be done by our friends or by our enemies—by Baptists or Pedobaptists. This is the great question before us. And no question of deeper importance, and of more lasting consequences, of weal or woe, has been settled by the denomination since the day in which Roger Williams proclaimed, for the first time in the history of the New World, the great Baptist doctrine (as held by the early fathers of our churches,) of civil and religious liberty.

Let us now spend a few moments in contemplating some of the specific influences which combine to urge us forward in this work; and then let us notice some of the probable effects of our labors in the cause of Collegiate and Theological education.

Ages ago the interesting truth was discovered, that all things are made double. There is a world without, and a world within us. And they are so correlative, the one to the other, that the condition of the inner ought always to correspond with that of the outer world. Now let us look at the condition of the world in which we live, and so determine what duty requires at our hands in the work of educating the young. On every side, we see the evidences of great enterprise, and in every direction scope is afforded for the boldest experiment. Genius, having aroused herself from the slumber of ages, is everywhere on the stretch for improvement. Her railroads are piercing through great mountains, lifting up valleys and arching wide rivers. Her telegraph lines are bearing our messages on the lightning's wing. She is constantly throwing out her new discoveries; and, in shining hosts, they are taking their march in this bright career of improvement. Nor is the intellectual world unaffected by this spirit of the age. Who does not stand amazed at the rapidity with which the press is throwing out its periodicals and volumes? When in the history of philosophical research was there ever a time of greater enthusiasm, or more brilliant success in all the departments of

scientific investigation? In what age of the world has the pulpit, the bar of justice, and the halls of legislation exhibited severer conflicts of mind, or a more electrifying eloquence? Never: no, never has the mind of man, in all the departments of human enterprise and ambition, exhibited the intense and absorbing action which characterizes the age in which we live. These grand influences are abroad in the land, and they are jostling and contending with each other, until it almost seems as if Milton's battle of the Angels was being re-enacted around us:

"From their deep foundations loosing to and fro,
They pluck the seated hills, with all their load,
Rocks, waters, woods, and by the shaggy tops
Uplifting bore them in their hands.

• • • • •
The rest in imitation to like arms
Betook them, and the neighboring hills upter:
So hills amid the air encountered hills
Hurld to and fro with jaculation dire."

Now how are all these contending and jarring agencies to be controlled and sanctified, and made subservient to the cause of Christ? The answer is obvious: We must for Zion's sake have a *loyal and ministry*, not only of deep and ardent piety, but of almost unerring wisdom, foresight and power.

And does it need any labored argument to convince us that Colleges and Theological Institutions are imperatively needed to meet this state of things, and to supply this acknowledged want of our churches? Let us have such institutions well endowed, with large and well selected libraries, and all the other appliances and aids of a finished education, and we have nought to fear.

All these discoveries in the arts and sciences, all this spirit of enterprise, all the absorbing and imposing grandeur of these worldly pursuits, instead of being adverse to the cross of Christ, will become the meek hand-maids of his religion, and offer rich gifts on the altar of truth. But if, *as Baptists*, we content ourselves with a few sickly establishments, bearing the name of college and high-school, the cause of evangelical religion will go down in our midst; and our churches, resting under the curse of ignorance and superstition, sink into imbecility and ruin.

If we attempt to estimate the probable effects of our labors in the cause of collegiate and theological education, we are overwhelmed, as we contemplate the well-nigh morally certain results. Let the imagination wander over mountain and valley, stream and river, town and city, hamlet and village, until the map of the broad and beautiful State is imprinted on the mind. The generous soil yields an hundred fold to the industry of the agriculturist. The earth bears her bosom, teeming with mineral wealth, to the pick-axe of the miner. Her noble harbors and rivers invite the commerce of the world. What mind short of the infinite can predict what Alabama will be when her resources are fully developed? Her population will then be numbered, not by thousands, but by millions, and untold wealth will be hers. Now what would be the results, if under benign influences, set in motion by the Alabama Baptist State Convention, this broad territory could be dotted all over with schools and academies of every order, each one a radiant point from which light and truth are sent out through the length and breadth of the land? What, as if by a crowning glory in the midst of these, you could point to one well endowed college, with portals wide extended, and offer to the aspiring student ample means of instruction in all the higher departments of literature, science and theological learning? Who then could estimate the happy results of your well-timed labors? It is true these are all feeble instrumentalities, and without the blessing of God they can accomplish nothing. But, with his smiles resting upon the works of your hands, their influence in the progress and civilization of society can hardly be over-rated.

If we would estimate the influence and probable effects of colleges and theological institutions, on the future destiny of the Baptist denomination, we must consider what they have done for others. On this point the argument is one of simple facts. Look at the history of Yale College. For the first twelve years of its existence nearly three-fourths of its graduates entered

the ministry, and, for the first thirty years, a little less than one half. If we look to the history of Harvard University, we find that for the first sixty years of its existence, more than one half of its graduates entered the ministry. Of over one thousand graduates of Middlebury College, nearly one half have devoted themselves to the same sacred work. If we turn to the records of civil life, a long list of presidents, governors, justices of the supreme court of the United States, senators, and distinguished members of congress, judges of the highest State tribunals, and the lights of the legal and medical sciences, bear record to their pre-eminent indebtedness to these Colleges and Universities. The institutions of which we have spoken, with many similar ones, are under Presbyterian influence. And what have they not done for that church? They have given her an intelligent laity, and, in many respects, the ablest ministry in the world. Despite the withering and darkening influence of *Pedo-baptism* which was brooded over the councils of the church, warping her judgment and crippling her energies, she is still, *of the whole Pedo-baptist family*, the only salt and reliable defenders of Protestantism against Popery. Thus we have seen what colleges and theological institutions have done for the Presbyterian church. It is true, that church has fallen into the grievous error of excluding from her pulpits men of limited education, and has thus, to a very considerable extent, weakened the efficiency of her ministry. Still it must be admitted, that, as a class, they constitute a body of the most intelligent and well educated men upon earth; and if they could only cast from them the miserable relics of that Popery against which they are so nobly battling, they might fairly challenge the gratitude and admiration of the world.

But if, notwithstanding the adverse influences with which Presbyterians have had to contend, their system of education has done so much for them, what may it not do for us? We embrace the same essential principles of doctrine; but we have a purer faith, and a more scriptural organization than they. And, acting merely under the influence of these advantages we, as a denomination, have accomplished wonders. Without wealth or power, without talent or learning, without combination, and, almost, in defiance of ourselves, we have gone on increasing in numbers and wealth, in power and knowledge, until in *actual communicants*, we, perhaps, exceed any other body of religionists in the United States. But the point before us is this: We cannot continue to occupy our present position. We must advance or recede. And if we would go on increasing in *all* that gives worth and dignity to our churches, we must grow not only in the graces of God's Spirit, but we must develop our latent resources. We must keep pace with the general progress of society and aspire to a more elevated intellectual as well as moral character. Can we be satisfied to remain stationary while all around us are advancing? Do we not see that by losing our relative standing we lose our hold upon public esteem and confidence, and thus cripple our influence? The Presbyterian system of collegiate and theological education, we admit, is not suited to us in the present condition of our churches. It is not even adapted to our peculiar church organization, and, we hope, it never will be, if its tendency should be to exclude partially educated men from our ministry,—the Shamgars of our Israel who have done more to subdue our enemies, and establish our churches, than all others combined. Still, we insist that true policy requires us to develop our resources, and, by a thorough system of education, prepare our *laity and ministry* to grapple with the stoutest minds and to become, by intelligent and well directed efforts, objects of respect and veneration, instead of scorn and pity. Let us have in our churches the learning that can enlighten every circle, the reasoning that can convince every mind, and the eloquence that can move and charm, and with the blessing of God on our efforts, all the powers of earth and hell combined shall not be able to retard our progress, nor obscure the severe, but simple majesty of that system of doctrine and practice by which we are distinguished. In all of its simple beauty, it is instinct with immortal life—it is that Gospel which is the "*power of God*", and which he has promised to bless to the moral renovation of the world.

Our subject is by no means expanded, but as your Com., we have already, tresspassed on the patience of the Com., and we add but a single closing remark. Education is a sacred interest, which we are bound to favor and promote, by every reasonable means. The religion of the Gospel, it is true, is the great conserving power which has descended directly from heaven; and nothing but this, as a ligature, binding society to the throne of God, can save it. But education is the vehicle of religion, and of all the means employed for its furtherance—aside from the immediate preaching of the Gospel—education is the most powerful and efficacious. Here, then, we have the future in our charge, and it becomes us to see the sacred trust faithfully fulfilled.—To save our denomination from the incubus of ignorance, and superstition; to make it the leading christian influence upon earth; first in learning, the dispenser of light to a darkened world; and—what is best and highest—first in every moral excellence, the symbol to mankind of the genial and ennobling power of the Gospel and a simple christian faith—this is the charge which God has, in part, devolved on the Baptists of Ala—this we accept, and this, with His blessing, we mean to perform, in a spirit worthy the magnitude of the trust.

But what body of men on earth are sufficient for such an undertaking? It is not money, it is not men, it is not merely human wisdom, which can sustain us under the weight of this mighty responsibility. Let us hasten then to seek the guiding influences of the Holy Spirit. Let us ask the direction of that Wisdom which cometh from on high. Then shall we be able to link our educational enterprise into that great chain of instruments which God has promised to bless in carrying out his purposes of mercy to a ruined race.

Respectfully submitted,

H. TALBIRD, *Chairman.*

The following preamble and resolutions were offered by Rev. S. Henderson during the consideration of the above report; and were appended to the Report, viz :

Whereas the prosperity of Howard College depends in a good degree upon the Theological Department; and whereas the Rev. Dr. Talbird was originally elected to the Professorship of Theology, and afterwards in obedience to a necessity to which he reluctantly yielded, accepted the office of President;—and whereas the wants of the College are now such as to require his entire time and attention in the discharge of the duties of his Professorship alone, as well as the addition of another Professorship in Theology; and whereas this change when it can be made with safety to the College will vacate the office of President;—and whereas, Dr. Talbird has signified to the mover of these resolutions, and to the other members of the Convention, his decided wish to consummate such an arrangement. Therefore,

Resolved, That the Board of Trustees be instructed to take the earliest and most efficient means to endow the Presidency of Howard College, with a sum of not less than \$30,000.

Resolved, That said Board be authorized to take measures to consummate the arrangement above referred to, at as early a day as the means at their disposal will allow.

Resolved, That the endowment of another Professorship in Theology, is essential to the final success of the Institution, as well as to the accomplishment of the original design of the Convention in founding it.

[F.]

REPORT

Of Committee on the Southern Baptist Publication Society.

The Committee to whom was referred our publication interests, beg leave to offer the following Report :

It is a matter of devout gratitude to God, that the efforts of our denomination in this respect, have been so signally blessed, whether we regard its increased means of usefulness, or the gratifying results of its agencies. The South-

ern Baptist Publication Society has at length been placed in a position in which it combines all the advantages of an independent publishing concern. Acting in harmony with it, is a system of local agencies employing a larger number of colporteurs—the salaries of which are paid by the several Societies and Associations by whom they are employed. The wisdom of this policy must suggest itself to every reflecting mind. This union of these local and this general interest, secures the advantages of all the capital wielded by all these agencies.

The Committee would assign a high degree of importance to the recent endowment of this Society. The success of this movement under God, was greatly owing to the impulse given to it by the benevolent and considerate measure proposed by Bro. Edmund King, of Montevallo, in this State. His liberal donation, and his timely suggestions, were at once responded to, and in the prescribed time, an endowment was secured, amounting to the sum of about \$25,000.

Previously to this period, the germ of this Institution had been nursed and cultivated with a good degree of promise; but now the full expansion of this Society may be properly considered as commencing. The endowment, now applied chiefly as it was first intended, to the publishing department, now enables the Board in Charleston, to supply all the appointments and facilities for producing the books which are likely to be needed. All branches relating to the manufacturing of books, can now be as successfully carried on by this Society, as by any other similar Institution in the country. Your Committee learn that the Board in Charleston are now applying their newly acquired resources, to the establishment of a complete system of book-making facilities. This includes the providing of a suitable building, with steam engine, sundry presses, apparatuses for binding, stereotyping, and other branches all of which previously were conducted at a great disadvantage, by farming out the work to separate contractors, and giving the highest prices and profits of journeymen's wages, and of contractors' emoluments to various parties, all of which profits will now fall back and inure to the Society itself. The effect of all this will be, to put down the manufacturing and producing cost of the Society's publications to the lowest price cost; and the Society can thus compete with any similar institution in this country. A Southern and a denominational literature is now a thing not merely to be contemplated and desired, but is among the things possible and within our reach.

It is worthy of notice in this place, that the part which the Baptists of Alabama have taken in sustaining the Southern Baptist Publication Society, has placed them among the foremost of its contributors and benefactors. The amount given to the endowment fund from this State, in the recent effort, is \$1,550, which has been realized or is reliable. The amount contributed to the Society, for its general objects, including this endowment, from Sept. 20, 1855, to April 1, 1857, is \$7,669 50.

It is also worthy of note, that the publications of the Society, derived from authorship in this State, have not been without interest. The Discussion on Methodist Episcopacy, by Messrs. Hamill and Henderson, has gone through five editions, of 1000 copies each, within a single year.

The recent work of H. E. Tallierro, one of the Editors of the South Western Baptist, entitled the "Grace of God Magnified," has been issued in a double edition of 2000 copies, and is a book calculated to have a wide circulation, and a most beneficial effect. It is adapted to promote a deeper work of experimental and practical religion; and as it is a cheap book, costing but 30 cents, it should be put into the hands of all our ministers and members—and especially into the hands of our ministers.

We would also mention in this connection, that the Alabama Baptist Bible and Colporteur Society is steadily enlarging its operations, so that its receipts and expenditures during the past year, are double those of any previous year—amounting to some ten thousand dollars. The Board have resolved to raise this year, twenty thousand dollars as a permanent endowment. We are happy to know that the most flattering success has attended their efforts up to this time. We cannot too highly commend this enterprize to the favorable consideration of our brethren.

We may mention, too, that efforts are being made to establish book stores in the cities of Mobile and Montgomery, Elder K. Hawthorn has already established one in Mobile, and it is hoped that our brethren in Montgomery will soon succeed with the endowment of theirs.

Elder Platt Stout is still the agent of the Publication Society for Alabama, for the purpose mainly of closing up the old business—of securing funds for the gratuitous distribution of books to indigent ministers, and to further the Sunday School department of the enterprise.

S. HENDERSON, Chairman.

[G.]

REPORT.

Of Committee on Foreign Missions.

Your Committee do not deem it necessary to enter into a detailed account of the operation of our Foreign Board for the past year. Many of these details have been laid before the denomination by our Religious Periodicals. It only remains for us to present for due consideration of the Convention, the general aspects of this department of our labors.

1. Our Missions during the year have enjoyed the Divine blessing. Numbers have been added to our membership, and the hearts of our Missionaries have been encouraged by witnessing the turning of the heathen from dumb idols to serve the living and true God.

In China where the field presents few inducements to hope for immediate results, our labors have not been in vain. Two or three men of promise have embraced Christianity, and others it is hoped will soon follow the example. Our beloved sister Crawford—Alabama's first Missionary to the heathen—was the instrument in the hand of God of leading one of them to Christ.

On the Coast of Africa, our Missionaries report a number of baptisms, not only of emigrants and their descendants, but of natives. On one occasion when twenty were baptized, there were representatives of five different tribes among them. In Central Africa, our Mission work has become intensely interesting. The report of the brethren engaged in this field—of the large cities visited—of the cordiality with which they are received—of the readiness with which thousands listen to their preaching, leads us to believe that the seed they are now sowing, will shortly produce an abundant harvest. It is well known that Bro. Bowe, the pioneer Missionary in this field, is now in this country. His recent work on Central Africa, issued by S. B. P. Society, ought to be in the house of every Baptist.

We would love to dwell upon these pleasing indications of prosperity; but duty demands that we present other facts which pain the hearts of the Board, and of many of the friends of Foreign Missions.

The large fields opened to us in the providence of God, demand more than double the number of laborers for their cultivation.

Our Mission force in China ought to be increased, especially at *Canton*, where brethren Gilliard and Graves are laboring among its hundreds of thousands. We are occupying but two points in that large empire, embracing about one third of the entire population of the earth.

From Liberia and along the Coast of Africa, our Missionaries are sending over to us continually the Macedonian cry, "Come over and help us"—while in Yoruba, we could profitably employ, and ought to have three times the number now engaged in preaching the gospel. This increase is necessary to give the highest degree of efficiency to our present operations. Every body knows that a Missionary working alone, labors under many difficulties. The doubling of our force in these fields would, in all probability, increase its efficiency there, perhaps, four-fold.

The Board has urged the claims of the heathen upon the minds of the thousands of our Baptist Israel; but few have responded "here am I, send me."

Another painful fact is that the state of the Treasury does not permit the Board to supply the *proper facilities* to the few now in the field. The estimates of the Missionaries are often reduced one-half when the Board fully con-

ours in their plans, and would gladly (if in their power) make the appropriations without deducting a single dollar. To the arguments of the Missionaries there only reply is "our poverty admits of no remedy."

These appropriations often relate to those things which are necessary to the health if not the very lives of our Missionaries. Let every man look at the amount paid for building houses in Central Africa, and then remember that good houses are absolutely necessary to the existence of white men in that damp unfriendly country, and he will wonder that Southern Baptists are so regardless of the lives of men who have devoted themselves to the work of preaching Christ in that dark land. To supply our Missionaries now in the field with what is necessary to the highest degree of usefulness of which they are capable, will require double the amount now placed at the disposal of the Board.

The most discouraging feature in our attempt to give the Gospel to the heathen, is the fact that our brethren are so reluctant to contribute the amount adequate to the wants of our Field.

The receipts of the Board from the Baptists of the South, ought never to fall below one hundred thousand dollars per annum—while facts show that it is about thirty thousand. The Baptists of Alabama, alone, might do all that is now done in the foreign field without diminishing their contributions for the field at home, and without the smallest injustice to themselves or their families.

When God is blessing us so abundantly—blessing us at home by prospering us in our worldly pursuits—by adding members to our churches and giving influence to our denomination—blessing us abroad by converting the heathen through the instrumentality of our brethren whom we have sent to foreign lands—blessing us by opening before us doors of usefulness, and thrusting us into fields white unto harvest—why is it that we are so unmindful of the last command of our Redeemer, so insensible to the calls of Divine providence, so little grateful for the abundance poured into our laps, is a subject for deep humiliation before God as well as thorough investigation.

It is not the fault of the Board of Foreign Missions. No Board ever discharged its duty more faithfully. None ever enjoyed more fully the confidence of the people it represented. None ever labored more unflinchingly to bring the duty to give the Gospel to every creature, before the minds of Christians. By the press with its many voices ringing out appeals sent from beyond the sea—by the tearful articles penned by its Secretaries—by their agents—by the personal visits of our beloved Brethren, Taylor and Poindexter, to our State Assemblages, they have labored to impress the minds of our brethren with the vastness of the field and the urgencies of its claims. But their efforts have too often been in vain—their appeals unheeded—their calls unconsidered.

We cannot in this report, investigate the causes which have led to this painful result. We must leave them to be sought for by the individual members of the Convention.

Before concluding this report, we must be permitted to say that, a gleam of morning is to be seen upon the darkened sky. The last number of the Home and Foreign Journal brought to us the pleasing intelligence, that a brother whose name was not given, had determined to support a Missionary in the Foreign field. We regret to say that he was not found among the thousands of Alabama; but that Georgia is entitled to the honor of numbering among her Baptist citizens, the man who first felt it to be his duty to support a Missionary while he preached Christ to the perishing. We note with pleasure, that several Associations of our own State have resolved to raise an amount sufficient for this purpose, and we hope all of them will execute so praiseworthy a determination. The plan of supporting men to preach Christ to others by churches or association of churches, is not only right and Scriptural, but well calculated to enlist the hearts and hands of the masses of our people in the work of evangelizing the world.

We conclude this Report, by submitting the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That our duty to God and to the world, demands of us a more earnest and self-sacrificing effort to give the Gospel to all nations.

2. *Resolved*, That the Baptists of the South ought to raise at least, one hundred thousand dollars for Foreign Missions during the next Conventional year—that we invite our sister Conventions of other Southern States to join us in the effort to raise this amount, and that we pledge ourselves to try to raise ten thousand dollars in the State of Alabama.

I. T. TICHEÑOR, Cha'n.

[II.]

REPORT

Of Committee on Periodicals.

Your Committee call attention to the S. W. Baptist. Its interests cannot be too fondly cherished. It is one of our most powerful engines for battering the walls of Man's soul. It preaches every week to a congregation of over ten thousand people. Who can estimate its influence? We believe it to be the duty of every one to extend its circulation. All of us know the great ability and christian spirit that characterize every issue. It teaches our faith purely, and therefore ought to be, as a bond of union, in the hands of every Alabama Baptist. The more so, as it devotes itself to the interest in especial charge of this body. We wish to see it enlarged, and recommend for consideration;—whether we, its real owners, shall not aid in its enlargement. At least we recommend to concert a plan to extend its circulation.

Attention is also called to the Home and Foreign Journal. For twenty-five cents, it will make twelve visits in the year. And for this, each may learn a multitude of important facts constantly developing in the history of our Home, Indian and Foreign Missions, and Bible operations. We recommend it to every Baptist.

We call attention, lastly, to The Commission. This serial published by the Foreign Board, contains a larger exposition of Foreign Missionary operations, and that important and deeply interesting literature which springs from the conduct of this glorious scheme. We heartily recommend it to all.

Respectfully submitted,

N. K. DAVIS, *Chairman.*

[I.]

REPORT

On Rules of Order.

1st. At each meeting of this Convention, the President shall take the chair at the hour to which the Convention shall have adjourned, and call the members to order.

2nd. He shall preserve order and decorum; may speak to questions of order by preference to other members, and shall decide questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Convention by any two members; on which appeal no member shall speak more than once, unless by leave of the Convention.

3rd. He shall rise to put a question, but may state it sitting. He may speak in debate on any question, but shall call some other member to the chair while he is speaking. He shall appoint all Committees, and discharge such other duties as the convention may direct.

4th. In the absence of the President, one of the Vice Presidents shall fill the chair and discharge the duties of the President.

5th. Members shall observe due respect to the officers, and courtesy to each other.

6th. 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—confine himself to the question and avoid personalities.

7th. No member shall speak more than twice to the same question, without leave of the Convention; unless it be to explain what may have been misunderstood or misapplied.

8TH. While the President is putting a question or addressing the Convention, no one shall walk out of, or across the house, or when a member is speaking shall pass between him and the chair; entertain private discourse, or in any way interrupt the business of the meeting.

9TH. When a motion is made and seconded. It shall be stated by the President or read by the Secretary before being debated.

10TH. If any member, in speaking or otherwise transgress the rules of the Convention, the President shall, and any member may call to order; in which case, the member so called to order, shall sit down; unless permitted to explain; and the House shall, if appealed to, decide without debate; if there be no appeal, the decision of the chair shall be submitted to; if the decision be in favor of the member, he shall be at liberty to proceed; if otherwise, he shall not be permitted to proceed, in case any member object, without leave of the Convention.

11TH. After a question is stated by the chair, it shall be deemed in possession of the Convention, but may be withdrawn by the mover before amendment or decision by leave of the House.

12TH. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received but to adjourn, to lie on the table, for the previous question, to postponed to a day certain, to commit or amend, to postpone indefinitely; which several motions shall have precedence in the order in which they are arranged.

13TH. A motion to adjourn, and a motion to fix the time to which the Convention shall adjourn, shall be always in order. These motions, and the motion to lie on the table, shall be decided without debate.

14TH. The Previous question shall be in this form: "Shall the main question be now put." It shall only be admitted when demanded by a majority of members present, and its effects shall be to put an end to debate, and bring the Convention to a direct vote upon the amendments reported by a committee if any, upon pending amendments, and then upon the main question.

15TH. On a previous question there shall be no debate. All incidental questions of order, arising after a motion, is made for the previous question; and pending, such motion shall be decided whether an appeal, or otherwise, without debate.

16TH. When a question has been once decided, it shall be in order for any member who voted in the majority to move a reconsideration.

17TH. All questions except such as relate to the constitution, shall be decided by a majority of voters.

D. LEE, *Chairman.*

[J.]

REPORT On Sabbath Schools

In the absence of reliable information as to the extent and efficiency of this department of christian effort, your committee can speak of it but in general terms. The Sabbath School system has long been regarded as one of the most hopeful means of advancing the Redeemer's cause, and a province of christian labor that must ever commend itself, not only to the pious, but also to the patriot's heart. That the morals of a nation underlie, and are interwoven with its greatness, the records of every people testify. God has written in the facts of History, as well as in his Word, that "righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."

How much the character of the man depends upon the training of the child, it is needless here to discuss. The religious instruction of the young, was a subject of divine legislation among the Hebrews—"These words which I command you this day shall be in thine heart, and thou shalt teach them diligently to thy children."

The system of Sabbath Schools is designed to afford religious instruction, to educate the conscience, to train the affections, to do for the heart what our literary schools and colleges do for the intellect. It is but an instrumentality. We know that no human system can, by any course of moral development,

bring one "from darkness into light," from the ignorance in which he is born to the knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus; but the Divine hand that remoulds the man into the image of his Maker, has set his seal to this as an instrumentality for good of mighty power.

Revelation commands, "Train up a child in the way he should go," and promises that, "when he is old he will not depart from it." Experience confirms the wisdom and truthfulness of the lesson. Hence we find this subject taking rank with other great moral enterprises that have at different times been developed.

At an early period in the history of the Protestant Reformation in Germany, Sabbath Schools were introduced. This fact is proved by Dr. Sears in his *Life of Luther*, and shows that a system of Sabbath Schools closely resembling that of our day was adopted.

More than two centuries and a half before the first public movement of Robert Raikes, and just 340 years ago, Luther "laid the foundation for the magnificent organization of schools, to which Germany owes so much of its present fame." At the same time religious schools on the Lord's day were regularly established for exercises in the Bible, catechism, singing and worship adapted to the capacities of the young.

The first effort of the kind in this country, originated in 1680, (103 years before Raikes), in Plymouth. By a vote of the church, the "deacons" were requested to assist the minister in teaching the children during the intermission on the Sabbath." From that time, Sabbath Schools have multiplied and spread over the land (accelerated no doubt by the benevolent efforts of Mr. Raikes), until they have become essential in the popular religious mind to the proper training of the young, and a church or community without one, is regarded as deficient in an important element of prosperity and usefulness.

The foregoing facts, derived from a reliable source, show that a system of Sabbath Schools is not of so late an origin as many suppose. Modified it has been, but *the thing* has long existed. It has come to us consecrated by the approval of God in the conversion of thousands, whose erring feet there learned the way to Calvary.

Here Christians by well directed efforts, may exert a powerful influence in the cause of Christ. It is to be feared, however, that many who could thus be useful, withhold from it their personal service, as well as their prayers, forgetting that no one labors for God in vain, and that "they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars for ever and ever."

W. M. McINTOSH, *Chairman.*

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Samuel H. Fowlkes, Treasurer, in Account Current with the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

Dr.	Cr.
ACCOUNT.	
SOUTHERN BAP. PUBLICATION SOCIETY 1856.	By J. P. Tustin's receipt.... 684 25
May 1, To cash received from Finance Committee..... \$684 25	
GENERAL PURPOSE	
May 1, To cash from Finance Committee..... 41 50	Jan. 3. By A. B. Goodhue's receipt..... 115 00
To cash from Foreign Mission Account..... 60 00	By amount reported by Ala. Association not sent up... 40 00
To cash from Domestic Mis- sion Account..... 26 00	\$155 00
\$127 50	
To Balance..... 27 50	
\$155 00	

Treasurer's Report—[Continued.]

FOREIGN MISSION	
May 1, To Balance—(See last Report).....	5 00
To cash from Finance Comm. for Foreign Missions.....	1591 23
" " for African Missions....	275 17
" " " China ".....	67 10
" " " Aid Priest.....	152 50
	<u>\$2091 00</u>

DOMESTIC MISSION	
May 1, To cash from Finance for Domestic Missions....	1481 41
To Cash from Finance for Indian Missions.....	1241 73
To cash from Finance for Aid to Buckner.....	6 00
To cash from Finance for California Missions.....	8 00
To Cash from Alabama Association.....	10 00
To cash from Union Church.....	12 00
	<u>\$2732 14</u>

BENEFICIARY	
May 1, To Balance—(See last Report).....	214 77
To cash from Finance Comm. " Benefit Webster.....	5 00
To cash from Finance Benefit Bayne.....	5 00
Sept. 25, To cash from D. Rust by H. Talbird.....	11 00
Sept. 30, To cash from W. B. Holman, for Cahaba Ass. .	13 10
Jan. 7, To cash from Mrs. M. A. Hendon.....	5 00
Feb. 9, To cash from J. A. Foscue by hands L. B. Laue	100 00
	<u>\$737 48</u>

BIBLE SOCIETY	
May 1, To cash from Finance Comm. Bible distribution..	151 17
To cash from Finance Comm. to Creeks.....	10 00
To cash from Finance Comm. Domestic Bible Cause.....	703 70
To cash from Finance Comm. Depository, (Selma).....	223 55
To cash from Finance Comm. Foreign Bible Cause.....	15 00
1857. To cash from Finance Comm. China.....	5 00
Jan. 7, To cash from Mrs. M. A. Hendon.....	5 00
	<u>\$1113 42</u>
To cash from Mrs. E Driver..	1 00
	<u>\$1114 42</u>

ACCOUNT.	
May 1. By J. D. Williams' receipt.....	2006 00
By amount retained for printing Minutes, &c.....	60 00
By balance on hand.....	25 00
	<u>\$2091 00</u>

ACCOUNT.	
Dec. 1. By Joseph Walker's Receipt.....	2706 14
By cash retained for Minutes, &c.....	26 00
	<u>\$2732 14</u>

ACCOUNT.	
May. By amount reported by Ala. Assn. and not sent up, including \$5 to J. R. Webster	74 42
By amount reported by Union Assn. and not sent up for benefit Bayne.....	5 00
July 4. By H. Talbird's draft	112 50
Sept. 25. " " receipt	11 00
Dec. 1 " Jos. Walker's "	5 00
By balance due this fund....	529 56
	<u>\$737 48</u>

ACCOUNT.	
Apr. 14. By H. E. Brooks' receipt.....	1103 42
Nov. 22. By F. M. Law's receipt.....	19 00
By balance.....	1 00
	<u>\$1114 42</u>

To the Members and President of the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

I herewith submit this, my annual Treasurer's Report, showing a balance of \$25 to the credit of Foreign Mission; \$1 to the credit of the Bible Board; and \$529 50 to the credit of Beneficiary Purpose Account; which after deducting \$27 50, amount overpaid on General Purpose Account, leaves a balance in my hands of \$528 06, which is now subject to your order.

Respectfully submitted.

S. H. FOWLKES, *Treas. Ala. Baptist State Convention.*

April 9th, 1857.

Report of the Committee on Finance.

Meeting.	Foreign Missions	General (Domestic Missions)	Indian	African Missions	Aboriginal Socy.	South A. Exp. Pub. Socy.	China	Howard College	Bible Board	Rockwell	Central African Missions	North Am. Missions	Rockwell	Johns Hopkins	Rockwell	AT Miss.	TOTAL
1861	61 50	48 30	12 00	7 50	4 50	1 50	12 00										123 60
1862	6 00	5 00	5 00	11 00		4 00		3 00	4 00	3 00							48 00
1863	85 30	123 02	50 45			0 05											29 00
1864	90 50	25 00	50 00								42 20						206 78
1865	50 50	25 00	50 00	4 30													41 20
1866	58 00	43 50	5 00		5 00			15 50									165 50
1867	30 00	20 00				5 00											6 30
1868	30 00	36 00	2 00			5 00											127 00
1869		78 00	3 00	18 00		87 50											55 00
1870	48 87	45 91	27 50			120 00		39 00									182 50
1871	3 00		2 00										3 00				290 24
1872		5 00															10 00
1873		60 00						53 00		5 00							14 25
1874	11 00	4 00															25 00
1875		5 00	10 00														270 22
1876	5 00	22 00	15 00			3 65		15 00			10 00						17 00
1877	29 50	15 50				40 00		39 00									20 50
1878						31 75											13 50
1879		12 00	18 50			3 50		5 00									15 00
1880	7 50	7 50	7 50			7 50		5 00									80 65
1881						61 50											133 50
1882	18 85	93 21		15 00		28 85	11 00	0 50	1 00								7 00
1883		45 95	20 45			1 00		5 00	5 00								31 75
1884			30 00														5 00
1885	20 00	20 00	20 00	20 00													30 00
1886		8 00	8 00														80 00
1887		27 00				100 00											10 00
1888			15 00			193 30											100 00
1889						11 85											82 00
1890			8 15														210 80
1891	12 50	120 30	112 85			20 50		52 00	67 00		343 10						11 85
1892		50 50	71 00	80 00		153 50	650 00	56 50									8 15
1893			100 00														728 34
1894		5 00	15 00					80 50			100 00						609 50
1895		5 00	16 00					4 00									200 00
1896		5 00	16 00														11 00
1897	100 00	100 00	40 00														20 00
1898		5 00	20 00														40 00
1899	250 00	250 00	5 50														220 00
1900																	10 50
1901								50 00									500 00
1902																	50 00
1903	43 77																1 00
1904	14 50	12 00	11 50					61 00									248 54
1905		7 00															38 00
1906		2 50															7 00
1907	539 40	600 00															2 50
1908																	1214 40
1909								5 00									255 00
1910	10 00																5 00
1911	90 50																10 00
1912	17 41	208 57	73 91	182 00	824 71	218 05	74 00	450 00	71 00	8 00	495 00	105 00	21 50	35 40			90 50

NOTES.—(*) J. Thomas, pt by R. Dodson, \$2 for Indian Library.... (†) Gilgal Church, \$14 25 to Domestic Missions for Blacks... (‡) Miss J. J. A. McKimley, \$5 for Bro. Crawford, China.... (§) In addition to the above, the Central Association has contributed \$122 50 to various Benevolent Purposes, as appears from Rev. P. Stout's statement, herewith appended.... (¶) Rock West Church, \$55 for Bro. J. D. Kendrick, Beneficiary Howard College.... (‡‡) Bethel Association, Clark Co., \$255 for rebuilding Howard College.... (a) St. Francis Street Church, \$5 for Mautes.... (b) King's proposition.

Respectfully submitted,

J. R. LIDE, Cha'n.

PLATT STOUT'S STATEMENT.

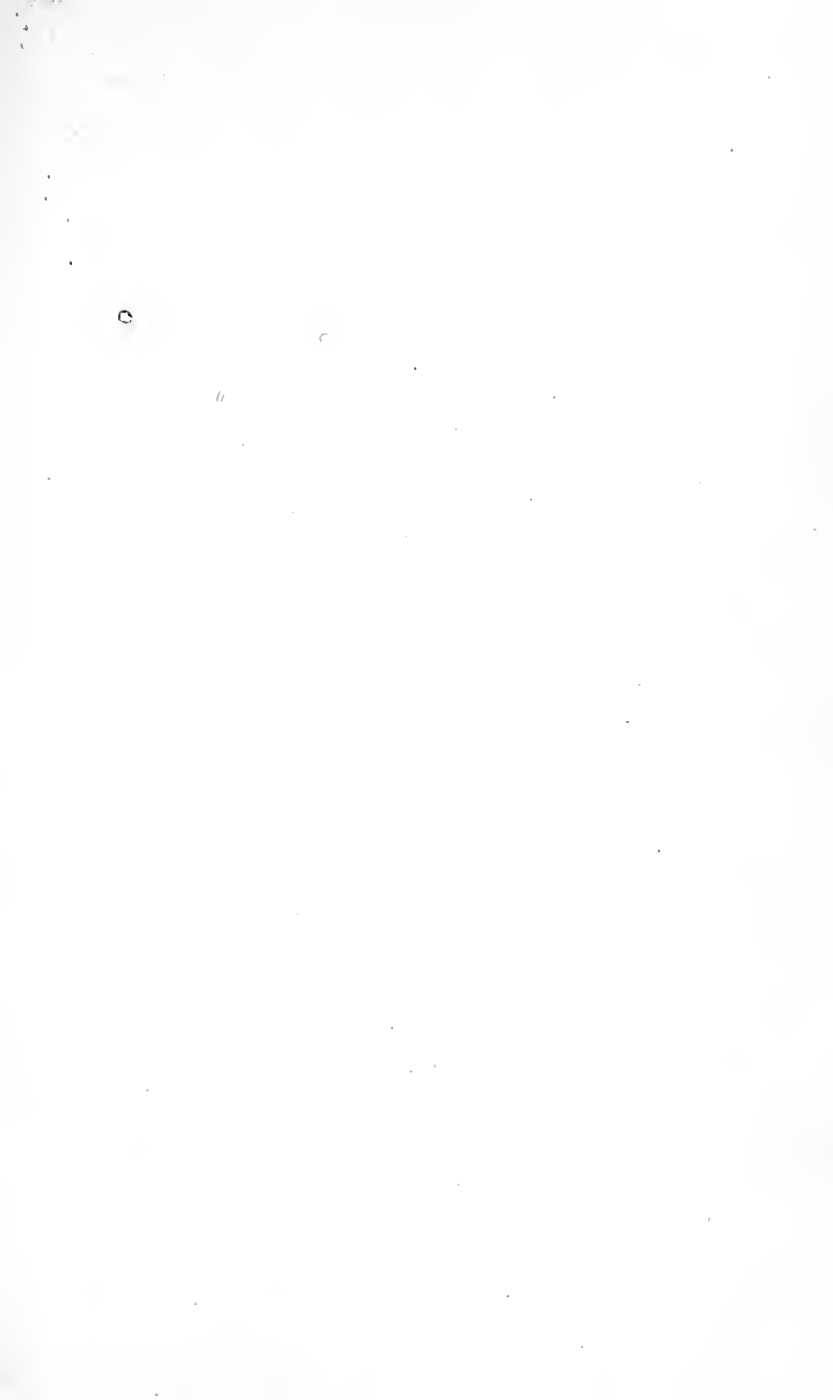
In the Minutes of Central Association, for 1856, the Committee on Finance reported as an addenda—
 Wetumpka Church has paid to S. H. P. Society \$85; to Domestic Mission agent \$21; to Foreign Domestic Mission agent \$21; to Foreign Mission agent \$1; to Indian Mission agent \$8 50; to Beneficiary Howard College \$1; to Bible Board \$3—Total, \$122 50.

These Documents show that the Central Association recognized the above as having been paid over to the different Bodies named.—in all \$122 50. I have no voucher from the Treasurer of the Association, other than the above and enclosed.

PLATT STOUT.

Your Committee report as follows—

To cash for Minutes \$94 35; for Domestic Missions \$27 25; for Indian Missions \$16 30; for African Missions \$16; for China Missions 60 cents; for Southern Baptist Publication Society \$11; for Bible Board \$10; for Associational Purposes \$2; for Howard College \$1; Given by friends for Indian Missions 80 cents; Sabbath collection \$54 55—Total amount in cash, \$301 75.
 Wetumpka Church has paid to Southern Baptist Pub. Socy \$85; to Domestic Mission agent \$21; to Foreign Mission agent \$1; to Indian Mission agent \$8 50; to Beneficiary Howard College \$1; to Bible Board \$3—Making \$122 50.



MINUTES
OF THE
ALABAMA BAPTIST BIBLE
AND
COLPORTEUR SOCIETY, 1857.

THE SOCIETY met for the transaction of business, in Marion, Saturday, April 11th, 1857. In the absence of the President, the First Vice President, E. D. KING, took the chair and called the meeting to order,

Delegates from the following Bodies took their seats :

BERNOL BIBLE AND COL. SOCIETY—W. J. Parker, E. G. Talbert, John Talbert, L. B. Lane, Jeremiah Rives.

MOBILE BAPTIST BIBLE SOCIETY—P. E. Collins, K. Hawthorn, A. B. Couch.

SHILOH BAP. BIBLE SOCIETY—Chas. C. Cleveland.

HOPWELL BAP. BIBLE SOCIETY—Rev. David Lee.

UNITY ASSOCIATION—A. H. Ray and J. I. Lamar.

LADIES' BIBLE SOCIETY, Gainesville—William Howard.

UNITY ASSOCIATION BIBLE SOCIETY—Rev. Samuel Henderson, Rev. H. E. Talliaferro.

MEMBERS BY ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION—Rev. I. Lyon, Rev. H. E. Talliaferro, Rev. Platt Stout, Edmond King, John S. Ford, S. W. C. Weston, Rev. James Abbot, Charles E. Brame.

Members from Churches sending funds—

FRIENDSHIP CHURCH—Rev. R. F. Mattison.

GREENSBORO' CHURCH—Rev. W. S. Barton.

MARION CHURCH—Wm. N. Wyatt, Rev. W. H. McIntosh.

HOPWELL CHURCH—Rev. S. R. Freeman.

TUSCALOOSA CH.—Rev. J. K. Barry, Rev. A. J. Battle, B. W. Justice.

UNION TOWN CHURCH—Rev. L. L. Fox, David Woodfin, I. B. Vaiden, B. Lee.

MONTGOMERY CHURCH—Rev. I. T. Tichenor, J. Peters, R. Figh, McWhorter, Watson.

BURNSVILLE CHURCH—Rev. A. Andrews.

SELMA CHURCH—Rev. A. G. McCraw, Rev. F. M. Law, Jona. Haralson.

Other members of the Society, entitled to seats, came in during the session, whose names were not enrolled.

The Rev. A. C. Dayton, of Nashville, and other ministering brethren, were invited to seats.

Bro. I. T. Tichenor, was elected President of the Society, and Jona. Haralson, Secretary.

On motion of Bro. Abbot, a committee of three was appointed by the chair, consisting of brethren Abbot, McIntosh, and T. G. Freeman, to nominate the remaining Officers of the Society.

On motion of Bro. McCraw, a committee of three was appointed by the chair, consisting of brethren A. G. McCraw, P. Stout, and E. D. King, to revise the Constitution of Society, and report at this session.

Chair appointed Finance Committee:—Rev. J. C. Foster, Van Hoose and Rev. D. Lee.

The committee to nominate remaining Officers, reported as follows: A. G. McCraw, 1st Vice President; E. D. King, 2d Vice President; Bible Board, A. G. McCraw, President; W. B. Haralson, C. H. Cleveland, sr., James H. Burns, A. Andrews, T. L. Johnson, J. E. Prestridge, George C. Johnson, Jerrie Johnson, W. M. Ford, F. M. Law, Corresponding Secretaries; and Dent Lamar, Treasurer; Jonathan Haralson, Secretary.

Report adopted.

Bro. Tustin, by permission, addressed the Society on the present condition and future prospects of the Southern Publication Society.

The Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer made their Reports. That of the Corresponding Secretary was adopted, and that of the Treasurer referred to the Auditing Committee.

Auditing Committee—Brethren Taliaferro, Howard and Fox.

A Memorial from the St. Francis Street Baptist Church, Mobile, was presented to the Society, by the members thereof, praying the removal of the *Depository* from Selma to Mobile, setting out at length the grounds of the petition.

On motion of Bro. John D. Williams, a committee of three was appointed by the chair, consisting of brethren John D. Williams, D. P. Bestor and Sam'l Henderson, to whom was referred the memorial for report at this session.

On motion of Bro. Howard, it was

Resolved, That the Board of the Society be requested to secure the services of some competent person, to take charge of the business and accounts of the *Depository* at Selma, and thus permit our Corresponding Secretary to give more of his time to such labors as may be required for increasing the permanent funds of the Society.

Society adjourned for the day.

MONDAY NIGHT, APRIL 13th, 1857.

Society was called to order for business by the chair.

On motion, the chair appointed brethren Goodhue, Latham and Sherman to nominate a minister to preach the next Annual Sermon, and to nominate Delegates to the next Southern Baptist Convention.

On motion of Bro. Law, it was

Resolved, That the Churches and auxiliary Societies and bodies, instead

of forwarding their contributions intended for this Society to the Convention, be requested to forward them directly to the Society.

On motion of Bro. Howard, it was

Resolved, That the Treasurer of the Society be requested to report to the Society the amount of funds sent through the Convention to this Society at this session.

The Committee to whom was referred the memorial of the St. Francis St. Baptist Church, for the removal of the Depository to Mobile, submitted the following Report, which was adopted :

REPORT.

Your Committee to whom was referred the Memorial of the St. Francis Street Church, Mobile, have decided in their own minds that the request to remove the Bible and Book Depository from Selma to Mobile, cannot be granted without serious injury to the cause you are seeking to promote. In coming to this conclusion, we do not undervalue the many and seemingly strong reasons in favor of Mobile, as set forth in the Memorial. They are, however, overbalanced, in our opinion, by the following considerations:—The loss of time in the transfer; the derangement which would be incident from the disturbance of the natural and commercial relations now existing between the present location and the Associations engaged in Colportage; the officers of the Society in charge of its interests, are in and around Selma; the denominational confidence has already been gained by their well directed course of management, and they are now in successful progress in enlarging the capital and widening the sphere of the Society's usefulness; it would therefore be hazarding too much to change either its location or its managers. But after this expression, we are free to admit, that a considerable portion of Western and South-Western Alabama cannot get their supplies as conveniently from Selma as from Mobile. We would on this account, as well as from the fact that it would be a convenient point for some States west and south-west of ours, to get their supplies of Bibles and Books, suggest to our brethren in the regions named, to establish an auxiliary or an independent Depository for the especial convenience of the localities concerned.

Respectfully submitted.

J. D. WILLIAMS, Cha'n.

The Committee to nominate a preacher to deliver the next annual Sermon, and to name Delegates to the South. Convention, reported as follows:

TO PREACH BIBLE SERMON—Rev. Wm. Howard.

DELEGATES TO THE SOUTHERN BAP. CONVENTION—R. Holman, F. M. Law, I. T. Tichenor, P. H. Landy, D. P. Bestor, David Lee—and recommend that the Delegates who may be present have the authority to add the names of any members who may be in attendance, not under appointment by the Society.

Report adopted, and, on motion, the President of the Board, A. G. McCraw, was added to the list of delegates.

The Board was authorized to appoint additional delegates to the Southern Convention.

On motion of Bro. I. Lyon, it was

Ordered that the Constitution of the Society and the list of the Life Members, be printed with the Minutes. [See Appendix A and B.]

The Committee to revise the Constitution, made their report; which was adopted. [See Appendix A.]

The Finance Committee reported. [See Appendix E.]

For the report of the Auditing Committee, and that of the Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer, see Appendix C. D.

It was ordered that all unfinished business of the Society be referred to the Board.

Adjourned to meet during the session of next Convention, to be held in Talladega in November next.

I. T. TICHENOR, Pres't.

JONA. HARALSON, Rec. Sec'y.

APPENDIX

To Minutes of Bible and Colporteur Society.

[A.]

Constitution of the Ala. State Bible and Colporteur Society.

ARTICLE 1. This Society shall be called the Alabama Baptist Bible and Colporteur Society, auxiliary to the Bible Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Its object shall be to aid in circulating Bibles and religious books in our own and other lands. A good supply of Bibles, religious and denominational works shall be kept constantly on hand at its Depository in Selma, Ala., for sale and for distribution by its Colporteurs, and other objects throughout this State.

ART. 2. This Society shall consist of such representatives of Churches, Associations, Bible Societies, and other organizations as shall contribute to its funds—each being entitled to one representative for every five dollars sent up. Also, all persons contributing one dollar annually, shall be entitled to membership.

ART. 3. Any person may become a life member by the payment of thirty dollars, at one time. The payment of one hundred dollars shall constitute a life director.

ART. 4. The officers of this Society shall be chosen at its annual meetings, and none but members of Baptist Churches shall be eligible to office.

ART. 5. The officers of this Society shall consist of a President, two Vice Presidents, a Corresponding and Recording Secretary, and a Treasurer, who, with nine Managers, shall constitute a Board of Directors, any five of whom shall constitute a quorum. In case of failure to elect these officers at an annual meeting, the incumbents shall remain in office until another annual election is made. The Board will be expected to hold meetings monthly, or oftener, if necessary.

ART. 5. The President, or in his absence, one of the Vice Presidents, shall preside at the meetings of the Board. In the absence of all these offi-

cers, one of the members of the Board shall be chosen to preside at the meetings.

ART. 7. The Treasurer shall receive all moneys collected, and hold them subject to the order of the Board, signed by the President, and countersigned by the Recording Secretary, and shall make an annual report at the meetings of the Society.

ART. 8. The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct the correspondence, keep a copy of all letters connected with the interests of the Society and Depository, superintend the general business of the Depository, give notice of called meetings, arrange the business to be brought before the meetings, and prepare a report for each annual meeting. Immediately after each annual meeting, he shall report to the Bible Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Publication Society, the nature of its operations, and the amount of its funds.

ART. 9. The Recording Secretary shall keep a correct record of all the proceedings of annual and Board meetings, and file a copy of such documents as are ordered to be preserved.

ART. 10. The Board of Directors, any five of whom shall constitute a quorum, shall manage the business of the Society during its recess, and adopt such measures as, in their judgment, are best calculated to promote the interest of the Society.

ART. 11. There shall be annual meetings of the Society, held at such time and place, as the Society may previously appoint, at which time the several reports of its officers shall be presented, as provided in the Constitution, and such other business transacted as the interests of the Society may demand.

ART. 12. No alteration or amendment shall be made to this Constitution, except by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at an annual meeting.

(B.)

LIFE MEMBERS.

A. G. McCRAW,
THOS. P. MILLER,
J. H. BURNS,
A. ANDREW,
Dr. C. BATTLE,
Dr. S. RAMBO,
WM. M. FORD,
W. B. MILTON,
D. H. LLOYD,

THOS. H. WATTS, Esq.,
Dr. J. E. PRESTRIDGE,
JER. H. BROWN,
R. A. CLAY,
J. M. NEWMAN,
T. B. BURTON,
A. MUCKLE,
F. L. JOHNSON,
J. J. SESSIONS

[C.]

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD.

The Board have pleasure in stating that the work of the Society, during the last year, has gone on in harmony, and with a reasonable degree of prosperity. The number of Colporteurs has not been increased since your last meeting—not because, however, inviting fields have not presented themselves, nor that the present number is considered adequate to the wants of the State; but because of the inadequacy of the means at hand. The present laborers, with more ample means, could accomplish more good. Colportage has been confined, so far, mainly to the following Associations, to wit: Cherokee, Coosa River, Liberty, Tuskegee, Enfaula, Judson, Salem, Pine Barren, Alabama, Unlly and Cahaba, with a few books distributed in some others.

Our enterprise is one that will require time for its perfection in all its parts, and the accomplishment of the widely extended gracious results, for which we hope. Experience is a good teacher in this as well as other things. And it is believed the practical workings of our plans may be materially improved. A *system* in which there shall exist harmony and full co-operation, is essential to success. During the winter season, on account of the sickness of some of our Colporteurs and their families, the bad roads, and inclemency of the weather, comparatively little was done. It will be seen, however, that the result of the year's labors has been something more than double that of the preceding year. We believe the work of the Society has a deeper-rooted and growing sympathy in the great Baptist heart of our State—one that will secure for it all the means necessary, with God's blessing, to its final success. Feeling so much, as did your Board, the cramped condition of our work, for want of means, they determined to make a vigorous effort to place the Depository in a position which would make it supply the urgent and constantly increasing demand for Bibles and denominational books. Hence, after deliberate thought, and counsel with wise and prudent members of the Society, on the 12th of January last the Board adopted a resolution to raise an additional capital fund for the depository of twenty-thousand dollars, to be paid in four annual installments. It was thought that this would be the smallest possible amount, with which success, as a State enterprise, could be expected. So large a part of the time of the Corresponding Secretary is necessarily required to attend to the correspondence, and general interests of the work, that it was thought proper to employ, for the present, an agent to aid the Secretary in securing the desired amount. The Board were fortunate enough to secure, for this purpose, the services of Elder T. G. Freeman, whose commendation it is unnecessary to mention to the members of this Society, or to the Baptists of Alabama. He is already too favorably known to require this. Up to this time a generous response, on the part of our brethren, has been made to the call on them, and we are able to report in this proposition, independent of our usual contributions, the sum of six thousand dollars.

Should our agents continue in the field we have not a doubt but that the amount can be raised. In our Depository we have now a much better supply of Bibles and books than we have been able to keep at any previous time. With the present stock, and what we may reasonably expect to be added, we have good ground to hope that four times the Bibles and books may be distributed the next year that has been done this.

As to distribution, we are unable to give a statistical report that would make a fair exhibit of the facts. While some of the Colporteurs have faithfully reported those found destitute of the Bible, there are others from whom we could get no such reports. In some of the fields visited by us, we are assured, there is very considerable destitution of this kind. One brother says, "In one day, in a neighborhood not far from the county elite, I found seven families without the Bible." Another reports in six months seventy-three families destitute. The same Colporteur reports in addition to his other labors the baptism of fifty-five persons.

We hope to succeed in the adoption of such measures as will furnish to your next meeting valuable statistics on these points. The fields occupied to this time have comparatively but little Bible destitution. But everywhere there is found a scarcity of Baptist Literature. The field is, indeed, "white to the harvest," but where are the laborers? Let us not forget from "whence our help cometh," but pray earnestly "to the Father that he may send forth more laborers into his harvest."

Your Board feel that they have used all the means within their power to advancing the interests of the Society. In many parts of the State our people need information as to our plans, and the nature of our work. No pains have been spared to give this information, wherever it could be done. And your Board feel that it will not be out of place to mention here, the obligations under which they feel to Elder A. C. Dayton, Corresponding Secretary of the Southern Baptist Bible Board, for the supplies of his most valuable "Plan," furnished us for gratuitous distribution. It is a pamphlet that no Baptist should fail to read. Some of our brethren, seem yet not to understand the relation existing between our Society, and the Bible Board at Nashville. All should bear in mind that our State Society is auxiliary to that; and that funds intended for the Southern Board, should be sent through the State Society. — This is the wish of that Board, as has been repeatedly stated by their Cor. Sec. Brother Dayton.

Bro. Brooks, a short time after your last meeting, resigned the office of Treasurer, as he was leaving the State. The vacancy was filled by electing Dent Lamar, Treasurer, and Abner Williams a member of the Board.

By reference to the Treasurers Report, which is herewith submitted, it will appear more fully what has been done.

In behalf of the Board,

F. M. LAW, Cor. Sec. Ala. Baptist Bible Society.

ERRATUM.—On page 36, in Report of D. Lamar, Treasurer of the Ala. Bap. Bib. and Colp. Society, instead of "\$1,048 49," read \$10,498 49.

[D.]

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Dent Lamar, Treasurer, in Account with Ala. Bap. Bible and Colporteur Society.

DR.			
To following amounts, contributions received through F. M. Law, Cor. Sec.		Carey Association, by T. J. Kussell.....	7 35
Bro. Chambliss 3 30; Miss M. E. Lide 1 00; a lady 1 00; Eliza Jemerson 20 cents; Mrs. Lucy Gordon 5 00....	\$10 50	Miss M. Pearson 2 50; Garey Oden 2 50; Nat. Bozeman 10 00.....	15 00
Bro. Hays 2 00; Bro. Prather 3 00.....	5 00	Grant's Creek Bible Society.	36 00
A. G. McCraw 10 00; S. R. Freeman for Hopewell Ch., 50 cents.....	10 50	John West 5 00; W. Gandy 10 00.....	15 00
Lebanon Ch., Cherokee Co., Jacksonville church 3 60; J. D. Williams, by M. J. A. Keith, 9 75; Gadsden Ch. 5 00; J. A. Collins, for a friend, 5 00; Montgomery church 71 64.....	94 99	T. G. Freeman, Agent.....	100 00
Liberty Coosa ch. Cherokee Co Salem Association, JTS Park Treasurer.....	3 35	Union Church, Coosa county, by Barnes.....	7 00
Rock West church 8 50; Enon church 5 60; Flat Creek church 1 55.....	36 50	Canaan Ass. by A. J. Waldrop	18 95
J. H. Joiner 3 56; Jas. Hill, jr. 1 00.....	4 56	Dr. Cleveland, Treas. Shilo Ch.	1 25
E. A. Blunt 5 00; by J. R. Sartor 3 50.....	8 50	John Jones 2 00; W. B. Jones 5 00.....	7 00
By Elder Willis Burns.....	13 00	Buffalo Asso., by Callaway..	25 00
A. G. McCraw, for Coosa River Association.....	1 00	J. C. Foster, Cha'n. F. Comm. to Brooks.....	228 80
Elizabeth Jones 1 00; B. Stamps, Treasurer Liberty Association 131 15.....	135 15	Eld. P. H. Lundy, to Brooks	7 00
J. T. S. Park, Treas. Salem Association.....	30 00	A. B. Goodhue, Treas. Convention, to Brooks.....	510 35
I. Lyon, Treas. Ala. Asso. Bible Society.....	119 50	E. A. Blunt, Treas.....	586 96
J. E. Gullett, Treas. Pine Barren Bible Society.....	78 35	Est. Wm. Jenkins, by J. L. M. Curry.....	784 00
S. S. Anders, Treas. Pine Barren Association.....	13 50	A. Andrews 25 00; N. Bozeman 5 00; J. H. Burns, for self and son, 15 00.....	45 00
R. P. Lide 5 00; W. B. Harulson, Treas. Ala. Asso. 67 00	72 00	Richard A. Clay 12 50; Dr. C. Battle 20 00; J. M. Newman 12 50.....	45 00
Cuhaba Asso., by McCraw... 141 80	10 80	Amos Jones 20 00; A. Howard 10 00.....	30 00
Jas. Nuan, Treas. Unity Asso.	10 80	John E. Jones 5 00; W. G. McIver 5 00; B. A. Blakey 6 25; Dr. R. S. Williams 10 00; Dr. S. Rambo 12 50	38 75
J. H. Burns, by J. R. Sartor, 5 00; Bigby Association, by J. D. Williams, 28 00..	33 00	Cyrus Phillips 10 00; T. B. Burten 12 50; W. W. Waller 5 00.....	27 50
Jer. H. Brown 200 00; J. H. Burns, Treas. Unity Asso. Bible Society, 150 00....	350 00	Dr. N. Bozeman 5 00; Dr. Wilson 2 50.....	7 50
E. A. Blunt, Treas., by Etheridge.....	243 00	W. R. Stone, Treas. Coosa River Association.....	135 30
		F. L. Johnson 12 50; Wm. M. Ford 25 00; A. Muckle 12 50; W. B. Milton 12 50; A. Burr 6 25; L. A. Daniel 5 00.....	62 50
		W. H. Burr 6 25; T. C. Daniel 6 25.....	23 75
		Meritt Burns 5 00; T. Booth 6 25.....	11 25
		T. G. Freeman, Agent.....	275 00
		Collected by Garrott 13 55;	
		“ “ J. Williams 48 85	62 40
		Cash on sales.....	3108 98

Treasurer's Report—[Continued.]

Bibles from Wetumpka.....	70 00	By amount printing Minutes	
" " G. T. McAfee....	5 00	Coosa River Association..	10 56
" Rock West church....	8 25	By Amt. coal for Depository	8 25
Col'd by Eld. A. C. Dayton..	67 00	" " 1st quarter's salary	
Bigby Asso. Bible and Book		Cor. Sec. up to Apr. 1, 1856	187 50
Distribution.....	360 00	Incidental expenses.....	130 44
Bethel Asso. Bible and Book		By amount paid to G. W. P.	
Distribution.....	400 00	Law, Clerk.....	82 85
Judson Asso. Bible and Book		By amount 3'quarters Cor.	
Distribution.....	226 25	Sec's. salary up to 1st Janu-	
Eufaula Asso. Bible and Book		ary, 1857.....	750 00
Depository.....	510 00	Bibles placed in Depository..	83 25
Tuskegee Asso. Bible and		Amt. in hands of A. C. Dayton	67 00
Book Depository.....	1100 00	" " Exec. Board Bigby	
Total.....	\$10408 49	Association.....	360 00
Cr.		Amount in hands Exec. Board	
By amount paid for purchase		Bethel Association.....	400 00
Bibles and books.....	\$4275 05	Amount in hands Exec. Board	
By amount to Colporteurs... 1086 22		Judson Association.....	226 25
" " for Freights..... 197 17		Amount in hands Exec. Board	
" " Printing Minutes an-		Eufaula Association.....	510 00
" " nual meeting..... 15 00		Amount in hands Exec. Board	
By amount printing Minutes		Tuskegee Association.....	1100 00
Unity Association.....	3 00	Cash in hand to balance....	915 95
		Total	\$10418 49

Respectfully submitted,

DENT LAMAR, *Treas. Ala. Bap. Bib. and Col. Soc.*

The Auditing Committee have examined the Reports of the Treasurer and Financial Committee, and find them correct.

H. E. TALIAFERRO, *Cha'n.*

[E.]

R E P O R T

Of Financial Committee.

Received of Bethel Bible and Colporteur Society.....	\$10 00
" " Rev. R. F. Mattison.....	5 00
" " a friend to the Bible.....	1 00
" " Miss M. Hendon.....	50
" " Mobile Baptist Bible Society.....	20 00
" " brother Jas. H. Low, of New Orleans.....	10 00
" " Shiloh Bible Society.....	31 60
" " for annual membership.....	8 00
Amount, public collection Sunday night.....	142 05
	\$228 15
" Financial Committee of Convention.....	1001 47
	\$1229 62

Respectfully submitted,

JNO. C. FOSTER, *Cha'n.*

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