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MINUTES

OF THE

FORTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Alabama Baptist State Convention.

HELD AT

SELMA,

November 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th, 1866.



ATLANTA, GEORGIA:

FRANKLIN STEAM PRINTING HOUSE—J. J. TOON, PROPRIETOR.
1866.

Officers of the Convention.

Rev. J. L. M. CURRY, *President.*

Rev. W. H. McINTOSH, *1st Vice President.*

Rev. L. T. TICHENOR, *2d Vice President.*

A. B. GOODHUE, *Recording Secretary.*

T. W. TOBEY, *Corresponding Secretary.*

S. H. FOWLKES, *Treasurer.*

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JOHN MOORE,

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J. B. LOVELACE,
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FIRST DIVISION—WHOSE TERM OF OFFICE WILL EXPIRE IN 1869:

W. H. McINTOSH,
E. A. BLUNT,
ENOCH FAGAN,

J. H. LEA,
J. H. BROWN,
JOHN MOORE,

I. BILLINGSLEY,
D. GORDON.

SECOND DIVISION—WHOSE TERM OF OFFICE WILL EXPIRE IN 1871:

H. TALBIRD,
L. B. LANE,
W. P. CHILTON,

J. T. BARRON,
J. F. BAILEY,
T. P. MILLER,

J. O. SHORTER,
J. M. NEWMAN,
T. H. WATTS.

THIRD DIVISION—WHOSE TERM OF OFFICE WILL EXPIRE IN 1867:

S. H. FOWLKES,
J. B. LOVELACE,
J. W. ORENSHAW,

W. N. WYATT,
R. H. LEA,
S. HENDERSON,

L. W. LAWLER,
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Board of Trustees of Judson Female Institute.

W. N. WYATT, *President,*
S. H. FOWLKES, *Secretary,*
JOHN MOORE,

O. BILLINGSLEY,
E. A. BLUNT,
W. H. McINTOSH,

R. HOLMAN,
L. Y. TARRANT

PROCEEDINGS.

SELMA, NOV. 9, 1866—10½ o'clock, A.M.

THE CONVENTION was called to order by the President, the Rev. J. L. M. Curry, and religious exercises were conducted by Rev. R. Holman. The letters were read and the names of Delegates enrolled as follows—viz :

ASSOCIATIONS.

- Bethel*—J. Talbert, J. C. Foster, N. C. Booth, W. J. Parker.
Coosa River—J. J. D. Renfroe, J. Headen, W. A. Welch, Wm. Chapman.
Alabama—P. H. Lundy, I. T. Tichenor, B. H. Crumpton, J. E. Bell.
Bigbee—J. C. Wright, Wm. Howard.
Cahaba—M. T. Sumner, J. S. Ford, R. Keith.
Pine Barren—C. W. Hare.
Eufaula—W. N. Reeves, J. A. Walker, W. S. Paullin, J. E. McCormick, J. S. Paullin.
Union—W. Ashcraft, J. W. Taylor, J. C. Foster.
Unity—W. Wilkes, A. Andrews.
Tuskegee—W. E. Lloyd, M. B. Hardin, E. B. Teague, T. C. Boykin, S. Henderson.
Liberty—J. F. Bledsoe.
Tuskaloosa—B. Manly, Sr., C. Manly, J. H. Foster.

CHURCHES.

- Selma*—J. E. Prestridge, J. W. Hudson, J. T. S. Park, J. Brazer, H. R. Lyman, M. Burns.
Centre Ridge—H. Talbird, D. R. Lide.
Talladega Town—L. W. Lawler, J. J. D. Renfroe.
Providence, Dallas Co.—C. M. Cochran.
Siloam—W. H. McIntosh, T. W. Tobey, W. B. Lawson, D. G. Sherman, J. L. M. Curry.
Uniontown—A. G. Hudson.
Montgomery First—I. T. Tichenor, B. B. Davis.

Eufaula—A. Van Hoose, J. A. Walker.

Mission, Mobile—M. G. Hudson.

Wetumpka—R. Figh.

Montgomery Second—A. C. Barron, C. H. Scott.

St. Francis Street, Mobile—J. R. Malono, C. E. Thames.

Unity—B. F. Smith.

OTHER BODIES.

Sabbath School, Talladega Town Church—J. H. Joiner.

Sabbath School, Selma Church—A. G. Thompson, H. Haralson, S. N. McCraw, W. P. Law, — Wright.

Ann Hasseltine Society, Judson Female Institute—A. J. Battle.

Sabbath School, Siloam Church—J. G. Apsey.

LIFE MEMBERS.

W. N. Wyatt, E. A. Blunt, R. Holman, A. B. Goodhue, W. B. Haralson, J. F. Bailey, S. H. Fowlkes, L. B. Lane, D. Gordon.

CORRESPONDING BODY.

Georgia Baptist State Convention—J. H. DeVotie, J. Kendrick.

Adjourned till 3½ o'clock, P.M. Prayer by Rev. W. Ashcraft.

3½ o'clock, P.M.

Prayer by Rev. C. W. Hare.

Organized by the election of Rev. J. L. M. Curry, President, and A. Goodhue, Secretary.

Adopted, as the hours of meeting, 9 A.M. and 3 P.M., and of adjournment, 1 P.M. and 5 P.M.

Invited brethren Shackelford and Coulson, from the General Association of North Alabama, to seats, and to a participation in the deliberations of the Convention. Also, brother Barrow from the Arbacoochee Association, and brother Hardie from the Ten Islands Association.

Resolved, That the Convention spend one half hour each day, commencing at 9½ A.M., in special prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon our churches and upon our land.

Referred a communication from Rev. A. W. Chambliss to Committee on Sunday Schools.

Filled vacancies in the following committees—viz:

On Education—W. Chapman.

On the State of Religion—E. T. Smith.

On Sabbath Schools—A. J. Battle.

Resolved, To receive Rev. M. T. Sumner in his official capacity as Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Domestic Missions of the S. B. C.

Appointed the following committees—viz :

On Preaching—J. T. S. Park, J. W. Hudson, A. G. Thompson, W. N. Wyatt, C. M. Cochran.

On Finance—J. E. Prestridge, J. G. Apsey, W. P. Law.

Auditing—W. N. Wyatt, C. W. Hare, J. Headen.

To nominate the remaining officers of the Convention—E. A. Blunt, P. H. Lundy, B. H. Crumpton.

On Letters and Documents—W. N. Reeves, W. Ashcraft, J. C. Wright.

To nominate Preachers for the next session—L. W. Lawler, H. Haralson, W. B. Lawson.

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

Appointed committee to nominate delegates to the Southern Baptist Convention : W. Wilkes, P. H. Lundy, S. R. Freeman.

Made the report of the Committee on Education the special order for to-morrow night at 7 o'clock.

Adjourned. Prayer by Rev. E. T. Smith.

NOVEMBER 10—9 O'CLOCK, A.M.

Prayer by Rev. A. Andrews.

Resolved, That Rev. A. E. Dickinson be received as the representative of the Foreign Mission Board.

Referred a communication from Rev. J. B. Taylor to Committee on Foreign Missions.

Report of Committee to nominate the remaining officers of the Convention adopted. (See back of title page.)

Devoted one half hour to special prayer.

Resumed business.

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

Report of Committee on Foreign Missions read and made the special order for to-morrow night at 7½ o'clock.

Resolved, To receive Rev. J. P. Boyce as the representative of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and invited him to present the claims of the Seminary on Monday at 11 A.M.

Added Rev. I. T. Tichenor to Committee on Education.

Report of Committee on Domestic Missions read, and pending the

discussion of it, suspended business and raised, in cash and pledges, \$905 00.

Adjourned. Prayer by the Rev. Dr. Manly.

3 O'CLOCK, P.M.

Prayer by Rev. G. A. Coulson.

Report of Committee on Domestic Missions adopted. (Appendix A.)

Appointed Committee on Periodicals: E. B. Teague, W. Lloyd, J. C. Foster.

Resolved, To recognize brother T. G. Blewitt as a member of the Mississippi Convention.

Report of Committee on the State of Religion read, and pending the discussion of it, adjourned.

Prayer by Rev. E. B. Teague.

7 O'CLOCK, P.M.

Prayer by Rev. W. N. Reeves.

Report of Committee on Education read, and pending the discussion of it, suspended business, and raised by subscription \$4,000 00 toward the salary of the President of Howard College.

Adjourned.

SUNDAY.

At Sunday School mass meeting, at 3 P.M., raised in cash and subscription for Sunday School Board \$110 00. At Missionary mass meeting, at 7½ P.M., raised in cash and subscriptions for Foreign Mission Board about \$700 00.

MONDAY, 9 O'CLOCK, A.M.

Prayer by P. H. Lundy.

Report of Committee on Education adopted. (Appendix B.)

Report of Committee on the Religious Instruction of the Colored People adopted. (Appendix C.)

Report of Committee on the State of Religion adopted. (Appendix D.)

Report of Committee on Foreign Missions adopted. (Appendix E.)

Appointed J. T. S. Park a committee to arrange for furnishing certificates of membership to the members of the Convention.

Report of Committee to nominate Preachers for the next session adopted—viz: To preach the Introductory Sermon, I. T. Tichenor; J. J. D. Renfroe, alternate.

Report of Committee to nominate Delegates to Biennial Convention adopted, and the committee added to the list. Delegates: B. Manly,

H. Talbird, J. L. M. Curry, R. Holman, M. T. Sumner, W. N. Wyatt, E. A. Blunt, J. E. Prestridge, J. W. Hudson, D. Lee, W. B. Haralson, I. T. Tichenor, W. P. Chilton, T. H. Watts, J. E. Bell, J. B. Hawthorne, A. C. Barron, S. Henderson, J. F. Bledsoe, E. B. Teague, W. N. Reeves, J. G. Shorter, M. B. Harden, T. C. Boykin, C. A. Battle, C. W. Hare, A. T. Spalding, J. R. Malone, T. P. Miller, R. H. Erwin, C. Manly, J. C. Foster, J. H. Foster, J. J. D. Renfroe, L. W. Lawler, W. E. Lloyd, A. Andrews, D. Rast, W. Howard, T. M. Bailey, W. J. Parker, L. L. Fox, A. J. Battle, R. Figh, A. Van Hoose, W. Wilkes, P. H. Lundy, S. R. Freeman.

Empowered the delegates who may be present to fill vacancies by the election of any members of our churches.

Report of Committee on Periodicals adopted. (Appendix F.)

Called up the special order—the consideration of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Address by Rev. Dr. Boyce. Raised for the Seminary by subscription \$3,200 00.

Report of Finance Committee referred to Auditing Committee.

Report of Treasurer referred to Auditing Committee.

Adjourned.

3 O'CLOCK, P.M.

Resolved, That when this Convention adjourns, it will adjourn to meet with the St. Francis Street Church, Mobile.

Resolved, That the Convention recommend to the Board of Trustees of Howard College to employ an agent to raise funds to meet the current expenses of the College and to support beneficiaries.

Report of Committee on Letters and Documents adopted. (Appendix G.)

Resolved, That this Convention feels a deep interest in the success of the efforts being made to reestablish the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and that we recommend to the Baptists of this State to raise the sum of \$26,000 00 for the endowment of an Alabama Professorship in that institution.

Suspended the order of business and raised \$62 65 for the benefit of brother Barrow.

Report of Auditing Committee adopted.

Authorized the Committee on Finance to pay over to brother Boyce the funds belonging to the Sunday School Board; to brother Dickinson those of the Foreign Mission Board; and the balance to brother McIntosh, as Treasurer *pro tem*.

Returned correspondence as follows—viz:

To the Mississippi Convention—M. T. Sumner, J. C. Wright, J. L. M. Curry, J. R. Malone.

To the Georgia Convention—I. T. Tichenor, E. B. Teague, B. B. Davis, T. C. Boykin, C. W. Hare, J. P. Bledsoe, W. H. McIntosh, J. J. D. Renfroe, M. B. Harden, W. B. Haralson, M. T. Sumner, J. L. M. Curry, W. N. Reeves, W. S. Paullin, A. Van Hoose, J. A. Walker, B. S. Milner, E. Y. Van Hoose, J. G. Shorter, R. Figh, R. Holman, H. Talbird, B. Manly, Sr., A. C. Barron, J. T. S. Park, A. G. Thompson, W. E. Lloyd, J. S. Paullin, S. Henderson, H. E. Taliaferro, R. D. Mallory.

To the General Association of North Alabama—J. J. D. Renfroe, H. Talbird, J. L. M. Curry, R. Holman, E. T. Smith, J. R. Malone, J. Headen, S. Henderson, T. C. Boykin, W. R. Stone, S. G. Jenkins, W. H. Carroll.

To the General Association of Virginia—M. T. Sumner.

Resolved, That we are pleased to learn from our brethren Shackleford and Coulson of the organization, by the Baptists of North Alabama, of a General Association in that part of the State, and assure them of our warm sympathy in their benevolent enterprises, and that we shall be happy to exchange correspondence with them.

Appointed Standing Committees, as follows—viz :

On Foreign Missions—E. G. Baptist, P. H. Lundy, S. B. Freeman, W. Wilkes, J. C. Foster, of Clarke county.

On Domestic Missions—J. J. D. Renfroe, A. S. Spalding, W. N. Reeves, R. Figh, J. C. Wright.

On Education—I. T. Tichenor, W. C. Ward, E. B. Teague, T. H. Watts, C. Manly.

On Sunday Schools—A. B. Goodhue, J. H. Joiner, T. C. Boykin, A. G. Thompson, C. W. Hare, A. C. Barron.

On the State of Religion—M. B. Harden, J. H. Foster, A. Andrews, J. E. Bell, W. E. Lloyd.

On the Religious Instruction of the Colored People—S. Henderson, E. T. Smith, J. S. Paullin, B. H. Crumpton, A. Van Hoose.

Resolved, That the Board of Directors be instructed to take charge of the house of worship made over to this body by the Baptist Church in Greensboro, and make such disposition of said property as in their judgment will best subserve the cause of Christ.

Resolved, That in the absence, from some cause, of any report on Sabbath Schools, this Convention express their deep interest in this subject, and hail with sincere gratification an interest manifested by many of our churches in this respect, and that our efforts must not abate until there is a Sunday School in every Baptist Church or neighborhood in our State.

Resolved, That we will cordially cooperate with the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in its efforts to supply our

country with a sound Sunday School literature, and that we invite its Corresponding Secretary to visit our churches and ask their contributions to aid that Board in its work.

Instructed the Treasurer to pay for the blank certificates of membership.

Referred unfinished business to the Board of Directors.

Resolved, That the thanks of this body are due to the citizens of this place for their hospitality, to the Presbyterian, Methodist, and Cumberland Presbyterian Churches for the use of their houses of worship, and to those Railroad and Steamboat Companies which have passed the delegates to this meeting at half price.

Ordered, The printing of a thousand copies of minutes, and appropriated fifty dollars for the services of the Secretary.

Ordered, The printing of a notice of the Judson Female Institute, similar to that of Howard College, upon the cover of the minutes.

Instructed the President to correspond with Rev. A. W. Chambless in regard to the revision of his "Catechetical Instructor."

After some remarks by the President, and prayer by the Rev. Dr. Boyce, the Convention adjourned to meet with the St. Francis Street Church, in Mobile, on Friday before the second Sunday in November, 1867.

J. L. M. CURRY, *President*.

A. B. GOODRUE, *Secretary*.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

(APPENDIX A.)

ON DOMESTIC MISSIONS.

Your Committee to whom was referred the subject of Domestic Missions, submit the following report:

"Begin at Jerusalem," was the command of the Prince of Missions to his disciples. This injunction embodies the spirit of home Missions. Perhaps at no time since the return of the disciples from the "Mount of Ascension" to that upper room in Jerusalem, prayerfully awaiting "the promise of the Father," has this divine direction had more significance than the present.

Villages, towns, and cities, once enterprising and thriving, with prosperous churches, flourishing Sabbath schools and stated ministry, are now without houses of worship, membership diminished, impoverished,

dispirited, and demoralized. Many churches have already been dissolved; many more have no pastoral supply--no stated meetings; their light is gone out, and their candlestick may soon be removed. A large proportion of our ministers deem themselves reduced to the necessity of devoting their time in part, or whole, to procure a support for their families. The general degenerate state of society all over our country is such as should arouse most earnest solicitude on the part of those who have any just conception of the power of sin and the value of souls. Intemperance, Sabbath breaking, licentiousness, infidelity, and irreligion in various forms--the legitimate fruits of war--are on the frightful increase.

The rapid influx of foreign population is adding largely to difficulties to be overcome and labor to be performed. The change in our industrial department will increase this class of citizens more and more.

The Board has, from its organization, paid special attention to the spiritual wants of the colored people. These labors have not been without gratifying results. Their changed relation, the greatest seeming calamity that could have befallen them, does not place them beyond the scope of the "Great Commission." With their peculiar instincts, marvelous credulity and strange superstition, released from all those wholesome restraints which their late state furnished, they will form an unhappy element of society. That they are doomed to an early extinction, as a race in this country, is the firm conviction of many scrutinizing observers. Yet while they survive they will mostly live among us. The duty of giving them religious instruction, improving their condition in every possible way, and qualifying them for the world of bliss, is urged by every valuable consideration.

Such is a faint view of the field which we have before us. How sad its condition--how ripe for the harvest--how few the laborers!

The Board of Domestic Missions is employing all its energies to gather the means to meet these wants. Some eighty laborers are now under commission, who are making many solitary places glad; under their culture deserts begin to blossom. They have reported over 200 baptisms for the last quarter. Other applications are numerous and urgent. The liabilities already assumed for the current year are not less than \$50,000. During the past history of the Board, up to the surrender, Alabama has occupied the first place in contributions and labors of love. It is still able to retain it. It may require self denial and sacrifice, but it can be done. Your committee express the hope that this body, before its final adjournment, will furnish substantial demonstration of its purpose to do it.

Respectfully submitted, R. HOLMAN, Chairman.

(APPENDIX B.)

ON EDUCATION.*

Your Committee on Education beg leave to report :

Whoever has noticed the history of the Baptists for the last twenty years, can not have failed to observe the increasing interest manifested by the 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. Previous to the cruel and bloody war, which has been so ruthlessly waged against us, large and flourishing female colleges had sprung into existence, as if by magic, in almost every section of the State. Many of these were broken up and destroyed by the war. Since the downfall of our country, the brethren in many sections, acting in accordance with the instincts and promptings of a genuine prudence, have resumed these efforts in the cause of female education. We congratulate the brethren of the Tuskegee Association on the revival of their institution. Located as it is at Tuskegee, and under the able management of Rev. E. B. Teague, 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 your attention to the school of Prof. J. A. H. Granberry, at Lafayette. Prof. G. has a strong claim upon the sympathy of the great Southern heart. He is a most able and efficient instructor; but, more than all, he was a gallant and unfaltering soldier in the fight for Southern independence. May God bless his efforts and crown them with complete success. And may his compatriots, who fought and bled by his side, render him the assistance of their sympathy and patronage.

In addition to the above, your committee are glad to learn that our Female College at Tuskealoosa, under the management of Prof. Geo. Y. Browne, is prospering. Prof. B. is favorably known as one of the best and most efficient female instructors in the South. We are glad in being warranted in commending his school to the favorable notice of the denomination.

The Judson Female Institute became the property of the Convention in 1842, and has ever since borne to you a peculiar relation. 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. It was not (except for a few months) suspended during the war. And now, under the able and judicious management of Prof. A. J. Battle, it is still advancing—when we consider the circumstances of the country—in reputation and patronage. The freshness of its youth is still upon it, and it is going on to a yet more 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 back and girdle it around. It is our duty to nourish it, and rejoice to

* See Report of Committee on Education for 1857.

see it expand its boughs and lift its top toward 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, and it become unceasingly in the future, what it has been in the past—a school of piety and nursery of the church.

The report of the Board of Trustees of Howard College has been read before the Convention. If success equal to the above has not crowned your efforts in building up your College for the education of our young men, it is not because you have failed to make liberal contributions for these objects. The report of the same Board for 1860, shows that the College possessed, in property and funds, \$279,250 20. A large portion of this fund has been lost, as you have heard, in Confederate securities, and the remainder is not now available. All has been engulfed in that same vortex which has devoured all else of your worldly possessions, except honor. You have in this enterprise to begin anew. Your resources are limited, and your labor must be great, and your expenses enormous. But if you will resolve to persevere in this glorious undertaking with renewed and becoming vigor, the results will not disappoint your expectation. Do this in humble dependence on God, and you will realize, even in these enterprises, that it is not by might or by power, but by the spirit of the Lord.

And in order that you may be prompted to the acts of yet greater self-denial, to which you must be called in this good work, it becomes you to consider that you are laboring for your own loved State—yea, for a part of yourself, for bone of your bone and flesh of your flesh. The sacrifices which you are called upon to make are in behalf of your children, and children's children—your sons and grand-sons who are to come after you, and into whose hands you must, in the ordinary course of Providence, soon commit the dearest interests of the church. Your relationship by blood, and by political and religious ties, clearly indicates your duty, and urges you forward to its performance. God has bestowed upon you your capabilities and invested you with the oversight of the young and rising generations, and you can not escape the responsibility. Nor should you wish to escape; for no public enterprise in which we are engaged, whether we consult the obligations of Christianity or patriotism, can, in its importance, stand by its side. If you fail here, you bring yourselves, in one sense, under the withering rebuke of the apostle: you neglect to make provision for those of your own household; you deny the faith, and are worse than infidels.

You have only to demolish your Colleges, and scatter their Professors, and you would soon find yourselves, as a denomination, traveling the downward road to ignorance and barbarism. You see, then, dear brethren, that your College must be sustained. Education is a sacred interest which you are bound to foster and promote by every reasonable means. But the great point before you at this particular juncture is this—What do the facts and circumstances by which you are surrounded require at your hands?

In determining this point, your committee would express it as the conviction of their humble judgment, that the greatest misfortune

which could now befall the College, would be to lose the services of its able corps of instructors. The income of the College, for tuition, is inadequate to their support. There is not a college in this or any other land whose faculty is thus supported; and it is not to be supposed that such an exceptional case will occur in connection with Howard College. Something, then, must be done, and done now, for the support of the Faculty. Your committee would urge upon the Convention the importance and absolute necessity of securing, by notes or pledges, if possible, during the session of the Convention, a sufficient amount to meet annually the expenses of the College for the salary of its President. These pledges may be given for two or more years, to be paid annually, or otherwise.

The wisdom of the Convention may devise and put in operation some set of measures which shall meet the necessities of the future. Surely the 60,000 Baptists of Alabama can make an annual contribution of from \$4,000 to \$6,000, to the support of its College. With the tuition fees of the College, this would enable the Board of Trustees to pay the salary of the President until the returning prosperity of the country would warrant them to resume the work of reëndowing the College, and of collecting that portion of the outstanding fund which is yet good.

Respectfully submitted.

H. TALBRO, Chairman.

(APPENDIX C.)

ON THE RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION OF THE COLORED PEOPLE.

The anomalous condition of the colored people presents questions, as to their future history, of the most serious importance. Suddenly released from the bonds of slavery, they were as suddenly deprived of its blessings. Whether wisely or unwisely done, the fact is nevertheless accomplished, and is so recognized by the civilized world—no where more fully than at the South—and by those who lately sustained the relation of master. Grave questions are involved in the issues precipitated upon us, and such as call for wise statesmanship in the adjustment of the new order of things, and appeal to the sympathies of the benevolent. It is in the moral aspects of this subject that we have to deal with it. This is not new to us. The history of the past bears the record of a growing concern and of increasing efforts on the part of the people of God for the religious instruction and salvation of these children of Africa, transported to our soil, and domesticated in our homes, as involuntarily on our part as on theirs. And now, that the institution of slavery has been abolished, the question of duty to them, as freedmen, naturally presents itself. Shall we abandon them to the inevitable fate of the masses, if uncared for by the white man—indolence, superstition, and the rapid return to barbarism—or shall we leave them to the teachings of others who are strangers to their character, and who, however pure in their motives and purposes, must, from the very nature of things, labor under many and serious hin-

drances to success? Or shall we demonstrate to mankind by a frank recognition of our responsibilities, and assiduous care to meet them, the truthfulness of what we have heretofore claimed—that the master is the negro's best friend? We sincerely believe the latter to be the sentiment, and, as far as possible, the deliberate purpose of a large majority of thoughtful men at the South—so large as to approach unanimity as near as it is possible for human minds to agree. The utterances of religious organizations, in their various assemblies, the tone of the religious press, the general favor in which efforts to benefit the blacks are held, and the actual engagement in the work of instruction in common schools and in Sabbath schools, are indications, we think, pointing in the right direction. The action of this Convention a year ago was significant of their conviction that the changed relation of the negro does not release us from our religious obligations to them, but "demands renewed exertions for their moral and religious improvement." The observations of the year that has intervened have but strengthened that conviction. They are in many respects helpless, and appeal to us for counsel and aid in devising and carrying forward plans for their future development and success in the untried paths that Providence has opened to them. We can not, without guilt, withhold our help. We must not abate in interest or in efforts for their physical, intellectual, and moral advancement. We are pleased to know that Southern men, and Southern Christians especially, are taking hold of this subject with an earnestness that promises happy results.

We recommend to our churches increased efforts in Sabbath school instruction for their special benefit, wherever it is practicable; and it is practicable wherever there are pupils and those who are qualified to instruct them. Young Christians who desire to labor for Jesus, but know not what to do, can here find work in the master's vineyard that will bring a noble compensation. Pastors can generally subserve the cause of religion, in addition to the stated preaching of the word on the Sabbath to these people, as is usual in many of the churches, by seeking out young men of piety and promise, who give satisfactory evidence of a call to the ministry, and affording them instruction in the doctrines of the Gospel, and in a course of instruction preparatory to, or connected with, the study of the Scriptures.

Intelligent and pious colored men would be valuable co-laborers in this work, as pastors and evangelists. Very few among them are now fitted for it; and it would be a most valuable service rendered to the cause of Christ, to encourage those whom we may have reason to believe God has called to this work, by affording them the best instruction possible in each case. Will not pastors think of this, and act upon the suggestion wherever it is practicable?

We earnestly recommend the encouragement of education among them. Day schools for the children, and night schools for those who must labor, but desire to acquire knowledge, are in successful prosecution in many portions of the country, and we trust will become general. Let our young men and young women who are capable of teaching, engage in this employment; as some have already done. In the reverses

of the times, many who were rich, are now poor. Here is work in which they may win an honorable support, and at the same time confer inestimable blessings upon a class who have benefited us in the past, and whose services in the future, must be identified with the prosperity of our country. Let us not be diverted from this object by the indifference of the negroes to their own interests, nor by the unkind and uncandid statements of those who speak ignorantly, "understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm," or who wilfully misrepresent us. Time and patience will correct the first; and as to the last, if we address ourselves to the work which God in his providence has assigned us, with the steady purpose to meet our obligations in his fear, we can afford to bide our time, and wait the approval of the Judge of all the earth.

WM. H. McINTOSH, Chairman.

The following resolution, in reference to the ordination of Colored Ministers, was passed as an amendment to the above report:

Resolved, That we recommend to the Churches throughout the State, that they be governed entirely by existing circumstances—the spiritual and mental qualifications as ascertained by examination—in the ordination of colored ministers, being careful to abide by Scripture directions.

(APPENDIX D.)

ON THE STATE OF RELIGION.

The Committee appointed to report on the State of Religion, in the bounds of this Convention, beg to submit the following:

It is difficult to obtain data, on this important subject, of sufficient minuteness and comprehension, for a report as accurate as is desirable, nor is it easy to make satisfactory choice and arrangement of the material at hand. It is believed, however, that a fair investigation of the condition of the churches throughout the State, in view of all the circumstances, will show a result worthy of general Christian gratulation. Your Committee cherish the opinion that the churches reported as many baptisms to the Associations at their last sessions, as at any time in the past ten years; and otherwise gave good evidence of a healthy state of religion, and a hopeful degree of prosperity. Many of the churches have been visited with gracious revivals of pure religion; where his word has been preached and his people have been faithful, God has shed forth refreshings from his presence. Where his churches have brought their tithes into his storehouse, and made their spiritual offerings upon his altar, he has poured them out blessings to revive their Christian graces and reward their works of faith.

Many of our ministers have been faithful to the great work of preaching the tidings of salvation, almost entirely regardless of material rewards. We should thank God and take courage, when we witness the faithful and successful labors of good men, who, despite the hard times, despite the question of salary, do go forth sowing precious seeds, calling sinners to repentance, and edifying the poorer churches of God. In

their ears there is sweetest music in the words: "The poor have the gospel preached unto them." Verily, they shall have their reward. Faithfulness, however, requires that we admit that there are many who bear the titles of ministers of religion that are doing almost nothing in the holy calling. This is very injurious; let it result from whatever cause, it is still injurious and greatly to be lamented. Some are driven into secular employments by sheer necessity; others are forced to divide their time between the world and the churches, while others seem indisposed to discharge the solemn obligations assumed in their ordination to the work, under any circumstances. All this, of course, argues unfavorably for the state of religion, but these evils have always existed.

There is reason to believe that our Churches and Associations have made, and are making, advancement in the work of Sabbath schools. This we regard as one of the most hopeful signs in our Zion, furnishing a suitable field of labor for the private membership, and leading many to the Savior, and giving us an influence over the young that promises much. But this work is mostly done by the younger membership, while the older people of God retire from the useful calling, seemingly satisfied with "a numo to live" in the church. This is to be lamented.

When our people have been appealed to in behalf of objects of benevolence, it is perhaps true that a reasonable degree of liberality has been manifested. We say a reasonable degree, keeping in view the impoverished condition of the country. Yet we think that vastly more ought to have been done, and vastly more can be done, for ministerial support, for missions, and for the poor, than has been done. The Lord requires it at our hands, and it is essential to a healthy state of religion.

The pleasures of the world, "innocent amusement," falsely so-called, have come in like a desolating flood-tide, and are sweeping over our churches in more threatening attitude than ever before in this country. There is perhaps no evil among us more alarming, none more convincing, of the low state of religion, and none that calls more earnestly for heroism in the pulpit, and for faithfulness at the bar of the church.

If there is among us any evil of greater magnitude, and more injurious to the cause of religion than that mentioned above, it is the neglect of family religion. We venture the opinion that there is not, in one house in ten of the families connected with our churches, an altar of family devotion. At any rate, this duty is neglected to a degree that argues most painfully against the state of religion in our land. Thousands of children are growing up in Baptist families who never hear their parents offer up a supplication at the family altar. It is not strange that the children of such Christian parents are lovers of pleasure, more than lovers of God. These things ought not so to be!

And if there is still another evil among us worse than those alluded to, it is the want of consecration—individual, personal consecration; it is the want of vital godliness in the soul. David could say: "I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart." Many Christians hide God's righteousness in their hearts. They do not cultivate the religion of their souls, neither do they manifest it in practical life. They live and act like other men. You can not "discern between the righteous

and the wicked." No Christian belongs to himself; he is not his own; he is the servant of Christ; he is bought "with precious blood," and he can never accomplish his high calling without honest consecration to the cause of his Redeemer. A church of Jesus Christ in any community is a society of God's appointment, having for its chief object the conversion of that community to the religion of the Bible. And the moral character and social power of any church will be just what its members make it. The character of the members will be the character of the organization to which they belong. Then how infinitely important is it, that our churches be comprised of a devoutly spiritual consecrated brotherhood! The old Waldenses held it as a distinguished truth, that, "the surest mark of a true church is the sanctity of its members." And it is by similar marks that the son of God says we shall be known as his disciples.

Now, may we not ask, What pastor in the State of Alabama has the cooperation of his members? Can the church be found where this happy state exists? And yet, is it not the duty of every Christian to devote himself to the work of the Master? Is it not his duty to be as zealous as his pastor? Your committee cheerfully admit that it is both the privilege and the duty of brethren to make money, to be diligent in the business of life; but while they are "not slothful in business," they must be "fervent in spirit, serving the Lord." They must work for Christ while it is called to-day. This they can do by the cultivation of their own experimental religion and personal piety; by growing in grace and in the knowledge of Bible truth; by earnestly supporting the holy doctrines of Christianity; by zealous activity in the church, in the Sabbath school; and by all other agencies of the Christian enterprise.

If any ask, Why is it that the state of religion is so low and the churches so barren? Is it not the result of unfaithfulness on the part of church-members and ministers? Is it not the result of worldly-mindedness, selfishness, and little faith and little work in the pulpit and in the pew? How can we expect greater success under such general inattention to the things that make for our peace, and such common neglect of the weightier matters of the Redeemer's kingdom?

If we will have a different, a better state of religion, our people must renew their strength in the power of genuine consecration, and lengthen their cords in diligent, self-denying exertions to extend the holy cause, with a purpose of heart that they will not rest until this cause is a praise in all the earth. Then may we expect to see our churches come forth again in all their moral power; then will the desolations of our country rejoice, and the desert blossom as the rose; then will Sabbath schools, missions, family religion, and all other departments of the glorious work receive the contributions, prayers, and cooperative efforts of the holy people, and the righteousness of our whole Zion will go forth as "brightness and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth."

In order to this result let every one begin over against his own house, his own heart, in his own family, and then in his own church, in his own

Sabbath school, in his own prayer meeting, and in personal efforts to save souls, and the pleasure of the Lord will prosper in our hands.

J. J. D. RENFROE, Chairman.

Your Committee offer the following resolutions:

Resolved, 1st, That the pastors of our churches and all other Baptist ministers in the State of Alabama, be requested to devote four weeks of their time within the next conventional year to the work of evangelists—traveling through our State, visiting the churches, trying to establish Sunday schools, and to stir up our people to an ample support of their pastors, and in efforts to benefit the churches in every good work.

Resolved, 2d, That all our churches in the cities, towns, and country, are hereby requested to release their pastors for this missionary work.

Resolved, 3d, That our religious papers, which circulate in this State, be requested to publish these resolutions, and to call special attention to them, that the minds of our people may be turned to the subject at once.

(APPENDIX E.)

ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

At a time of great political and financial embarrassment, we are in danger of falling into the sin of selfishness, which would restrict the operations of our Christian activities within the narrowest compass. Outward circumstances powerfully appeal to this unsanctified principle within us, and we are easily persuaded that to attempt any thing beyond our immediate home interests would be a violation of our first and highest obligations. In the matter of giving our material substance to the cause of Christ, (which, by the way, is no less our duty than to give it our personal services,) it has come to pass that we have in a great degree associated our conceptions of temporal success with our conceptions of spiritual success; that is, that a given measure and quality of means will achieve a given degree of success. And since our poverty does not allow us to give on the scale we once did, and on the scale on which this mere worldly principle is based, we are apt to decline any service of the kind, satisfying our conscience meanwhile with the trite plea, that what little we have to give will accomplish nothing in the grand result. Thus, because we can not do what we once did—because we can not do what a false conception of means to ends will justify—because we can not do what would flatter an unsanctified pride, we resolve to do nothing!

Now, it might be well in this connection to start the question of the prophet, "Who hath despised the day of small things?" The birth of a poor child in the manger of Bethlehem, was a "day of small things," and that child was "despised and rejected of men." Yet what became of the "despisers?" They "wondered and perished." Is it safe to despise any thing that is essentially good and that stands connected with the success of the noblest cause ever committed to mortal agency? Have we forgotten the mustard seed of faith that removes the mountain

of obstacles in the way of Zion? Have we forgotten that "God hath chosen the weak things of this world to confound the wise—yea, the things that are not to bring to naught the things that are, that no flesh should glory in his presence?" We protest against the indulgence of this contemptuous spirit toward any service, however small, which tends to lessen the misery and increase the happiness of our fallen race, whether it comes from good men in the way of impatience or of self-importance, or from bad men in the way of impiety. The value of any service, great or small, is determined by the principle from which it proceeds.

It is a matter of the first importance that the piety of our churches should be symmetrically developed—that every divine quality wrought by the Spirit should be brought out in due plan and proportion. Now this can only be done by preserving a perfect harmony between the internal principles of piety and their external manifestation. Thus, if faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, etc., are all to grow up together in the same character, like the members of the natural body, it would seem that the like proportion should be seen in every field of Christian activity to which the word and providence of God invite us. Every department of labor should meet its due measure of attention—the home, the Indian and the foreign fields, educational interests, Sabbath schools, etc., all should be cherished with sedulous care, and prosecuted with unflagging zeal; for they all fit into each other, dove-tail, so to speak, so as to present one grand theater on which the collected energies of the Christian world may be expended. If faith can not say to virtue, I have no need of thee—if knowledge can not say to temperance, I have no need of thee—so neither can home missions say to foreign missions, I have no need of thee, etc. There is a moral coherence in every Christian enterprise that makes each one subserve the interest and prosperity of all the others. He who seeks to promote the missionary spirit in the home field by suppressing it in the foreign field, will soon dry up the fountains of benevolence in regard to the very interest he seeks to promote. That vigorous faith that devises liberal things, and that zealous hand that seeks to execute them, never fail to water and cherish every intermediate interest within the vast sweep of their horizon. He who gives his money and his prayers to the evangelization of China, is most apt to give them to the conversion of his own countrymen. The piety that sends forth its agencies that far, is most likely to send them to the destitute of its own "kindred according to the flesh." It is like the sun in the heavens that loses none of its power to illuminate all intermediate worlds, in sending his rays ninety-five millions of miles to reach ours. The truth is, the fostering of a foreign missionary spirit is essential to vitalize every work to which the churches of the saints are called. So that by how much we may wish to prosper the work of the Lord in our own land, by so much should we sustain and enlarge our operations in foreign lands. We can not too frequently recur to the great commission under which we act: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." The command is imperative—the field is immense—the duty is plain—and the perishing millions of earth supply a motive that piety can not resist.

In the spirit of these suggestions, we offer the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That our present poverty furnishes no excuse for any abatement of our interest in the cause of foreign missions.
2. That the cherishing of this particular phase of the missionary spirit is essential alike to the growth of piety in our churches, and the most enlarged and enduring prosperity of every other Christian enterprise.
3. That the Foreign Board be invited to send an agent to Alabama to stir up our brethren on this subject, and to collect funds for the maintenance of the missionaries now in the field, and to enlarge the field of its operations.
4. That in view of the indebtedness of the Board of \$8,000, the — day of — be suggested to our pastors and churches in which to take up collections to meet the present liabilities of that Board, and thus preserve its own credit as well as that of the denomination.

S. HENDERSON, Chairman.

(APPENDIX F.)

ON PERIODICALS.

The committee on periodicals have had the subject under such consideration as the time has allowed, and offer as their report the following brief suggestions:

Religious newspapers (for the appointment of the committee was intended, doubtless, to respect these,) supply a species of information to be had in no other way. In no other way can we be informed of the plans devised for the dissemination of divine truth, of the interests and progress of the cause of Christ, or, consequently, be stimulated to the proper discharge of our duty in relation to that cause. The religious newspaper would, therefore, seem to be indispensable to the intelligent and conscientious Christian man. It may also be made the means of cultivating a taste for wholesome reading in our families, and greatly aid us in training our children for usefulness and happiness.

The value of religious journals depends very greatly upon the objects before those who conduct them. These may be simply the supply of religious information and the advocacy of the cherished views of the denomination, or people, whom they may be supposed to represent; or, in addition to the character of a newspaper strictly, they may aim to guide men to higher and purer aims—may point out defects and urge improvement and progress. These higher aims are often, indeed, kept in view at the expense of pecuniary sacrifices. Nevertheless, they indicate the path of duty.

The Christian Index and South-Western Baptist has peculiar claims upon the denomination in this State, not only as the successor and the continuation of the old Alabama Baptist and Georgia Index, but especially in consideration of its elevated character and superior mechanical execution. It is conceded to equal if not surpass, in these respects, any paper ever issued in the country. Its disinterested proprietor is sparing no pains nor expense to make it a model paper. The first minds of the South are engaged, from week to week, to fill its columns. We are glad

to observe that the Religious Herald has revived since the war, and come forth with more than wonted enterprise and ability to meet the wants of the many friends and admirers of the Old Dominion. Of the Christian Herald, also, published at Moulton, in North Albanna, and its editor, brother Shackelford, we have heard a good account. It is also specially proper to mention those excellent papers for children, Kind Words, published at Greenville, S. C., organ of the Sunday School Board of the S. B. C., and the Child's Delight, published at Macon, Ga., and edited by that amiable and gifted friend of children, Rev. Sam'l Boykin. The former has peculiar claims upon our patronage, as immediately connected with our Sunday School Board, and the latter as the paper of a most self-denying man, who has never spared his own means to further the interests of Baptist religious literature, and promote the welfare of the children in our Sunday schools.

We have most frankly alluded to these several papers, having but one object in view—the commendation of what seemed to deserve commendation. Conscious of no partialities, your committee deplore the fact that so many Baptist papers are being started throughout the land. Obviously, a few first-class sheets might not only meet every demand, but meet it more effectually than so many can do, to say nothing of the pecuniary risks and sacrifices that might be avoided. We are not prepared to suggest a remedy for this evil, but regard it appropriate to make this reference to the matter, that peradventure something may be contributed to the future adoption of a sounder policy.

Respectfully submitted.

E. B. TRAGUE, Chairman.

(APPENDIX G.)

ON LETTERS AND DOCUMENTS.

The only thing deemed worthy of your consideration, in regard to the Letters and Documents presented to this body, is their fewness and meagerness. Several Associations represented by delegates send no letters. Others, in sympathy with the Convention, are represented neither by letter nor delegates. Hence, as is usual, this report is merely a matter of form, containing nothing of interest; whereas it should be one of real interest and permanent value. This could be easily accomplished if every Association in sympathy with the Convention would represent itself each year by a letter, giving a fair exhibit of its condition, as to the number of its churches, number of members, number of Sunday schools, baptisms, amount of contributions, &c., &c. Thus the annual reports of this Committee would be permanently valuable for reference, showing as they would the condition of the denomination, from year to year, throughout the State. Your committee would, therefore, suggest the propriety of taking steps to secure this object, which seems to them desirable.

Respectfully submitted.

W. N. REEVES, Chairman.

(APPENDIX II.)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE JUDSON FEMALE INSTITUTE.

MARION, ALA., November 8, 1866.

The undersigned, President and Trustees of the Judson Female Institute, beg leave to submit this their annual report to the Alabama Baptist State Convention:

The Institute had upon its register during the session ending July 1, 1866, the names of 225 pupils. Of these 27 composed the Senior Class. The exercises proceeded smoothly and successfully until about the last of February, when they were interrupted by the small-pox. The boarders, about 75 in number, went home, with the exception of a few who found accommodations in town. Meanwhile the exercises of the school were conducted in the Baptist church for the day scholars and such of the boarders as remained.

About 140 pupils continued their studies to the close of the session in July. A few weeks previous to the termination of the session it was deemed safe and advisable to return with the school to the Institute buildings.

The final examinations were held in the Institute. These exercises, together with two concerts and the graduating ceremonies attracted large and interested audiences, and produced a most favorable impression.

Diplomas were conferred upon fourteen young ladies, who had honorably completed the prescribed course of study.

During the vacation the buildings and grounds were put in thorough repair. The dormitories were cleansed and partially refurnished. The buildings throughout were whitewashed and painted, and other improvements made. All the pianos belonging to the Institute were renovated and repaired by the extraordinary efforts of Prof. Blandner, (the director of music,) and were made nearly as good as new.

The present session opened October 1st, under the management of its former able and efficient Principal, the Rev. A. J. Battle. The Board congratulates itself in having been so fortunate as to retain the services of one who has filled that responsible position during the last session with such distinguished ability. We hazard nothing in saying that no one who has ever presided over the Institution has given more universal satisfaction.

He has associated with him the present session twelve accomplished ladies and gentlemen to share the labors of the different departments of the Institute.

An eminent artist and educator presides over the school of Design. In no former period, during the history of the Judson, has the department of music been so ably conducted. Prof. Blandner, with competent assistants, presides over this department, and is giving entire satisfaction to the friends of the Institute. We can conscientiously recommend all the various departments as possessing advantages unsurpassed.

The Board were fortunate in securing Bro. D. R. Lide as Steward of the Institute. Experience has now fully justified the wisdom of the selection.

In view of the stringency of means and the multiplication of schools in Marion and elsewhere, the condition and prospects of the Institute are encouraging. Already about 140 pupils have entered—of whom nearly 60 are boarders.

The current session is characterized by earnest devotion on the part of teachers, and good order, diligence, and cheerfulness and harmony among the pupils.

With the divine blessing, we look for results this year in the Institute, which will challenge comparison with the best years of its most favored period.

Respectfully submitted.

J. L. M. CURRY, *President.*

W. N. WYATT, *President,*

S. H. FOWLKES, *Sec'y,*

JOHN MOORE,

C. BILLINGSLEY,

E. A. BLUNT,

W. H. MCINTOSH,

R. HOLMAN,

L. Y. TARRANT,

} Board of Trustees.

S. H. FOWLKES, *Secretary.*

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF HOWARD COLLEGE.

At the close of the last session of the Convention the Board of Trustees of Howard College were in negotiation with Rev. J. L. M. Curry, with respect to the Presidency of the College. We are happy to state that our efforts resulted in his acceptance of the position, and that soon afterwards he entered upon the duties of his office. A year's experience has satisfied us that the selection was eminently judicious. In their last report the Board expressed the opinion, that, "if the friends of Howard College would, by voluntary contribution, for the next two years, put it in the power of the Board to sustain a President, at a salary of \$——, who would give as much of his time as could be spared from other duties, to securing that part of the endowment fund which has not been absolutely lost, reviving the hopes of the people, and taking advantage of opportunities as they arise, to renewed effort, we believe that a brighter day would dawn upon the Institution; and with the return of prosperity to the country would come back the former days with increased honor and usefulness." The unsettled condition of the country, and the failure of the crops, foreshadowed early in the season, forbade any attempt on the part of the President to raise money. In the opinion

of many among our wisest and most experienced business men, the effort to do so would be prejudicial to the interests of the College, when more prosperous times should favor the measure. His efforts have, therefore, been to prepare the way for this work when the time shall come. In this he has been much encouraged. Although the financial condition of the College is embarrassed, it is not hopeless. By proper management we think that its resources are sufficient to keep it in vigorous operation until a change in the state of the country will enable us to reöndow it. To support the Faculty we must use whatever funds we can collect.

Recurring again to our report last year, it will be recollected the Board advised that the President's salary should be raised by voluntary contribution for two years. The report was accepted by the Convention, and the support of the President provided for. As the subscribers to that fund have given their bonds only for the present year, it will be necessary to secure their obligations for the next year, or obtain the amount from other sources. It will also be necessary to provide for a deficiency of nearly one thousand dollars, arising from the failure of the Convention to receive a bequest to that amount made by James Comer, which sum was voted to this object. Before taking leave of this part of their report, the Board would most earnestly impress upon the Convention the importance of retaining brother Curry in his present position. His separation from the College at this time would be fatal to its interests for years to come, if not to its life. If we would preserve this institution to the denomination, and perpetuate its blessings to the country, the President must be kept at his post at almost any cost. The Faculty consists of Prof. A. B. Goodhue, E. Q. Thornton, and I. B. Vaiden. The first two are well known to the Convention. Rev. I. B. Vaiden, also well known, has recently entered upon his duties as a member of the Faculty. His reputation as a successful instructor, gives flattering promise of usefulness in his position. They are all able men, and worthy of the confidence reposed in them. The Trustees selected, also, Rev. E. A. Steed, of Georgia, to a fourth professorship, and for a time hoped to secure his services. He finally declined, and, as it was then near the opening of the session, they determined to defer, for the present, the selection of another. The number of students present does not now demand it. Should it be increased so as to justify it, the place will be filled. The number of students during the session which closed the last of June was forty-two. For the present session, so far, the names of thirty-eight have been registered.

Many of the subscribers to the College, who owned scholarships, have cheerfully relinquished them. It is to be hoped that all will. The Board recommend to the Convention the adoption of some plan by which a certain number of young men who are desirous to obtain an education, but can not pay the tuition, may be permitted to enter and pursue their studies under such regulations as may seem best for their own and the interests of the College. We call attention to the fact that no provision has been made for the support of beneficiaries. Hence, young men who desire to enter the ministry, and have not the means of

support, can not avail themselves of the gratuitous instruction offered by the College. We hope that churches and individuals will at once place it in the power of the Executive Board of the Convention to meet this pressing demand.

The ladies of Marion, to whom the College is largely indebted for past favors, have increased our obligations by a recent appropriation of nearly \$600 for repairs, and improvements upon the buildings and grounds.

By the death of J. G. Huckabee, Esq., during the past year, a vacancy occurred in the Board which was filled by the election of R. H. Lee, Esq.

Appended to this report is the report of the Committee appointed to examine the Treasurer's accounts, and which exhibits the present financial condition of the College.

We can not close this report without an earnest appeal to the Convention to abate not in hope and labors to sustain our institutions of learning. They are not only endeared to us by past association, but indispensable to our future progress and prosperity. We can not afford to let them languish; the country can not afford to lose their power for good.

Respectfully submitted.

WM. H. McINTOSH, President.

Marion, Ala., Nov. 8, 1866.

TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF HOWARD COLLEGE:

The Executive Board submit the following report:

1. That they have examined the account of the Treasurer from the date of his entering upon the duties of his office (Nov. 7, 1858,) to the 1st May, 1865, and find his account sustained by the proper vouchers, showing debit entries to the amount of.....\$165,569 68
Credit..... 167,187 65

Leaving balance due Treas. May 1, 1865, of..... \$ 1,617 97

It is proper to state that the credit entries embrace amounts paid on building, salaries of agents and Treasurer, money loaned and converted into bills receivable and Confederate States bonds, which do not belong to the ordinary expenses of the College, reaching nearly one hundred thousand dollars.

2. That they have examined the account of the Treasurer from 1st May, 1865; to the 1st October, 1866, and find the same sustained by proper vouchers, showing debit entries to the amount of.....\$3,976 13
Credit..... 4,459 40

Leaving balance due Treas. on this account of.... \$ 483 27

3. That the Treasurer holds—

8.00 C. S. A. Bonds to the amount of.....\$ 9,200 00
7.30 " " " " 30,218 82
4.00 " Certificates " 18,900 00

Amount brought forward.....	\$58,318 82
Notes and interest supposed good, with interest computed to Oct., 1, 1866.....	68,882 83
Notes and interest supposed doubtful, interest as above.....	37,766 33
“ “ “ “ worthless, “ “ ...	44,432 25
Bonds Mobile and Ohio Railroad.....	1,000 00
Tennessee R. R. Certificates.....	3,500 00
Total assets.....	\$213,000 23

RECAPITULATION.

Amount of assets in Confederate securities.....	\$58,318 82
“ “ supposed worthless.....	47,932 25
Total.....	\$106,251 07
Amount of assets of doubtful value.....	37,766 33
“ “ bonds Mobile and Ohio R. R.....	1,000 00
Total.....	\$38,766 33
Amount of assets supposed available	68,882 83
Total.....	\$213,000 23

Present liabilities of the College in salaries to Professors, due and unpaid, for services since 1st May, 1865, to 1st Oct. 1866.....	\$3,300 00
Balance due Treas. on account 1865.....	483 27
Total on account 1865.....	\$3,783 27
Balance due Treas. on Confederate account.....	1,617 97

R. H. LEE,
J. B. LOVELACE,
Com. of the Ex. Board.

Marion, Ala., Nov. 8, 1866.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

S. H. FOWLKES, *Treasurer, in Account Current with the Alabama Baptist State Convention.*

1865.	FOREIGN MISSION ACCOUNT.	DR.	CR.
Nov. 12.	To cash from Finance Committee, Alabama Baptist State Convention.....	\$180 47	
	<i>Cr.</i>		
Nov. 12.	By cash retained for minutes etc.....		\$ 65 00
Jan. 28.	By M. T. Sumner's receipt.....		115 47
		<u>\$180 47</u>	<u>\$180 47</u>

DOMESTIC MISSION ACCOUNT.

Nov. 12.	To cash and vouchers from Finance Committee Ala. Baptist State Convention, for Domestic Missions,.....	\$411 72
Nov. 12.	To cash and vouchers from Finance Committee Ala. Baptist S. Convention, for Indian Missions,.....	23 50
<i>Cr.</i>		
Nov. 12.	By cash retained for minutes, etc.,.....	135 00
Jan. 24.	By M. T. Sumner's receipt.....	300 22
		<hr/>
		\$435 22-\$435 22

SABBATH SCHOOL BOARD.

Nov. 12.	To cash from Finance Committee Alabama Baptist State Convention,.....	\$ 17 00
<i>Cr.</i>		
Feb. 6.	By Warren Hudson's (Sec. and Treas.) receipt	\$ 17 00
		<hr/>
		\$17 00-\$ 17 00

BENEFICIARIES OF HOWARD COLLEGE.

Nov. 12.	To cash from Finance Committee Alabama Baptist State Convention,.....	\$20 00
<i>Cr.</i>		
Nov. 12.	By D. R. Lide's (Treas.) receipt.....	6 00
May 2.	By A. B. Goodhue's " "	4 00
	By Balance.....	10 00
		<hr/>
		\$20 00-\$ 20 00

BIBLE CAUSE.

Nov. 12.	To cash from Finance Committee Alabama Baptist State Convention.....	\$26 00
<i>Cr.</i>		
Jan. 28.	By M. T. Sumner's receipt.....	26 00
		<hr/>
		\$26 00-\$26 00

GENERAL PURPOSE ACCOUNT.

Nov. 12.	To cash from Finance Committee Alabama Baptist State Convention,.....	\$12 00
	To cash from Domestic Mission fund for minutes.....	135 00
	To cash from Foreign Mission fund for min.	65 00
<i>Cr.</i>		
Oct. 11.	By cash paid Messenger office.....	15 00
	By cash paid A. B. Goodhue.....	160 00
	By balance.....	37 00
		<hr/>
		\$212 00-\$212 00

To the President and Members of the Alabama Eap. State Convention :

BRETHREN—I herewith, as Treasurer of your body, submit this my annual report, showing a balance in my hands of forty-seven dollars, ten dollars of which is to the credit of the Beneficiary fund, and thirty-seven dollars to the credit of the General Purpose account.

Respectfully submitted.

S. H. FOWLKES,

Treas. of the Ala. Bap. State Convention.

Marion, Ala., Nov. 9, 1866.

We have examined the above report and find it correct.

W. N. WYATT,

C. W. HAHE,

Auditing Committee.

ON FINANCE.

BODIES CONTRIBUTING.	Foreign Missions.	Domestic Missions.	Indian Missions.	Sabbath School Board.	Foreign Bible Cause.	Home Bible Cause.	Beneficiaries in H. College.	Testaments for S. Schools.	General Purposes.	Total.
Stoam Baptist Church.....	87 50	110 50	....	21 00	1 00	6 00	41 00	....	....	217 00
" " Sabbath School.....	....	....	....	11 00	....	....	....	....	....	11 00
Providence Church.....	....	27 00	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	27 00
Uniontown ".....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	20 00	....	20 00
Pine Barren Association.....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	7 00	....	7 00
Bigbee ".....	....	40 00	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	40 00
Ann Hasseltine Society.....	126 70	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	126 70
Bethel Association.....	....	8 00	....	....	....	....	....	25 00	....	28 00
Unity Church.....	....	10 00	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	10 00
Tuskaloosa Church.....	18 85	21 00	50	81 00	....	....	....	....	....	65 55
Mobile Mission Church.....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	12 00	....	12 00
Center Ridge Mission Church.....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5 00	....	5 00
Union Association.....	65 50	122 70	....	....	18 25	....	....	....	....	206 45
Seima Church.....	26 00	118 40	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	148 40
Seima Sabbath School.....	....	....	....	25 00	....	....	....	....	....	25 00
Wetumpka Church.....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	10 00	....	10 00
Eufaula Association.....	138 43	598 50	....	....	....	....	21 00	....	....	747 93
• Collections in Convention.....	235 55	455 00	....	121 80	....	....	....	....	....	611 55
Total.....	697 08	1501 10	50	209 80	1 00	24 25	41 00	21 00	79 00	2,541 18

J. E. PRESTRIDGE,
Chairman Finance Committee.

The above report is correct. .

W. N. WYATT,
Chairman Auditing Committee.

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