



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

4.

The Union.—Wm. Ashcraft, J. C. Foster, R. H. Foster, J. L. S Foster.

The Shelby.—T. C. Boykin.

The Tuskegre.—W. H. Carroll.

CHURCHES.

Greenville.—H. W. Watson.

Tuskaloosa.—W. H. Williams, J. F. Lannean,

Selma.—E. B. Teague, R. C. Kerble.

Ruhamah.—N. M. Wood, O. G. Evans, C. J. Wood.

Ashville.—P. S. Montgomery.

Oxford.—E. T. Smyth.

Fellowship.—H. W. Crawford.

Siloam.—E. T. Winkler, D. A. Pierson, J. T. Murfee, W. W. Wilkerson, J. B. Lovelace, R. H. Rawlings.

Birmingham.—N. F. Miles.

Tallalega.—J. J. D. Renfroe, J. B. Fiquet.

St. Francis Street, (Mobile).—A. B. Woodfin.

Opelika.—W. H. Carroll.

Ann Hasseltine Society of the Judson.—E. T. Winkler.

Life Members.—S. G. Jenkins, H. W. Watson, J. H. Foster, Samuel Henderson, E. T. Winkler.

3. H. W. Watson and J. J. Cloud were appointed tellers, and the body went into the election of officers. The vote being counted, Samuel Henderson was declared president, J. J. D. Renfroe, clerk, and S. F. Fowls treasurer. After appropriate remarks from the president, he pronounced the body organized and ready for business. Whereupon the Rev. W. H. Williams, pastor of the Tuskaloosa church, extended a cordial greeting and a hearty welcome to the Convention, in behalf of the church and community of Tuskaloosa.

4. After verbal statements from several brethren on the state of religion, the body adjourned to 3 o'clock, P. M.; prayer by the Rev. S. G. Jenkins.

FRIDAY, 3 O'CLOCK P. M.

5. On reassembling, the Convention was led in prayer by the Rev. J. B. Appleton.

6. Appointed committees as follows:

On Preaching.—The pastor and deacons of the Tuskaloosa Church, with H. W. Watson, J. F. Waldrop, and J. B. Fiquet.

On Finance.—J. B. Lovelace, W. H. Wood, and J. M. Crook.

On Foreign Missions.—A. J. Waldrop, W. H. Wood, and R. M. Beck.

On Domestic Missions.—E. T. Winkler, V. H. Dean, and J. J. D. Renfroe.

On Education.—W. C. Cleveland, J. J. Cloud, and P. M. Musgrave.

On Sabbath Schools.—J. H. Hendon, Ed. Wood, and W. N. Wilkerson.

To Nominate remaining Officers of the Convention.—J. H. Foster, D. H. Pierson, and O. G. Evans.

To Nominate Delegates to the Southern Baptist Convention.—H. W. Watson, A. J. Waldrop, Wm. Ashcroft, R. C. Keeble, W. H. Carroll, and D. H. Pierson.

To Nominate the Sabbath-School Board of the Convention.—W. H. Wood, J. H. Hendon, and J. B. Lovelace.

7. The report of the Board of Trustees of the Judson Female Institute, was read by Dr. Winkler, and referred to Committee on Education.

8. The treasurer's report was read and referred to Committee on Finance.

9. The report of the Board of Trustees of Howard College was read by Dr. Winkler, and referred to Committee on Education.

10. Visiting ministers were invited to seats with us.

11. The report of the Sunday-School Board was read by the Secretary of the Board, Rev. T. C. Boykin, and referred to the Committee on Sunday Schools.

12. Appointed an educational mass-meeting for to-morrow (Saturday) night at 7 o'clock.

13. Adjourned to 7 o'clock, P. M., to hear the introductory sermon; thence to 9 o'clock Saturday morning. Prayer by the Rev. W. A. Bishop.

14. *Friday Night, 7 o'clock.*—The introductory sermon was preached by the Rev. W. C. Cleveland. Luke, 16:2.

SATURDAY, 9 O'CLOCK, A. M.

The Convention on re-assembling was led in prayer by the Rev. L. B. Harbin.

1. Appointed correspondence:

To the Georgia Convention.—W. H. Carroll, A. G. Jenkins.

To the Mississippi Convention.—E. B. Teague, E. T. Winkler, M. T. Sumner, W. H. Crumpton.

To the South Carolina Convention.—E. T. Winkler, W. H. Carroll.

2. The hour of 11 o'clock to-day was appointed to consider the propriety and possibility of establishing a Baptist newspaper in Alabama.

3. Resolution in relation to financial plan was adopted as follows:
Resolved, That we appoint brethren J. B. Lovelace, E. T. Winkler, S. H. Fowles, and M. T. Sumner, to furnish a plan for financial reports to the Secretary to be printed.

4. On motion of Pastor Williams, the body decided to adjourn at 4 o'clock this evening, to visit the buildings and grounds of the Alabama Central Female College. A rising vote was unanimous.

5. Invitations were received from the President and Faculty of the University of Alabama, and from Dr. Brise, of the Insane Asylum, to visit their institutions. The body acknowledged the invitations by a vote of thanks.

6. Sunday-School Mass-meetings were appointed for Sabbath; for the children at 9 o'clock, A. M., and in the interests of the Sunday-School Board at 3 P. M.

7. Bro. R. C. Keeble offered the following:

Resolved, That the Minutes of this Convention be printed and paid for, by a fund taken *pro rata* from the funds annually sent up to the objects fostered by this body. The subject elicited considerable discussion, manifesting decided difference of opinion; on examination the resolution was found to be constitutional, and was adopted.

8. A communication was received from the Colored Baptist State Convention, now in session in this city, asking our Convention to send a delegation to visit them, and give them instruction on some important questions pending before their body. Drs. E. T. Winkler, E. B. Teague, and W. C. Cleveland were appointed, who did visit them and comply with their request.

8. The hour of 11 having arrived, the Convention resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider the question of inaugurating a newspaper organ for the Baptists of Alabama. Col. J. T. Murfee, President of Howard College, was called to the Chair.

9. A communication from the Alabama delegation to the Southern Baptist Convention, last May in Mobile, was read by Dr. Winkler; (the said delegates having convened repeatedly while in Mobile to consider this newspaper question.) This communication brought the subject fairly before the Committee, and it was freely discussed. The hour of adjournment arriving, the Committee adjourned to 3 o'clock, P. M. Prayer by the Rev. W. H. Carroll.

SATURDAY, 3 P. M.

The Committee re-assembled. Prayer by the Rev. V. H. Dean.

10. Dr. Lawton, of the *Christian Index*, being present, was invited to address the Committee on the subject now before us. He complied with reluctance, and advised against starting a paper.

After further discussion, the following resolution offered by Dr. Henderson, was adopted: *Resolved*, That a committee, consisting of J. H. Foster, H. W. Watson and W. N. Wilkerson, be appointed to report some plan by which a religious newspaper for the Baptists of Alabama can be established at the earliest practicable period.

The Committee of the Whole then adjourned to meet again at the call of the Chairman.

11. The Convention resumed business, when Dr. J. S. Lawton was invited to a seat as editor of *The Christian Index*, and Corresponding Messenger from the Georgia Baptist Convention.

12. The following resolution was offered by Dr. Winkler and adopted: WHEREAS, The next session of the Southern Baptist Convention was appointed to be held in the city of Jefferson, Texas, on the presumption that rail road communication would be effected by the time of its meeting; and whereas it is not probable that said rail road connection will be completed by the time indicated; and whereas the Convention in that case will be so thinly attended as to amount to almost a failure, which would be as great a disappointment to our Texas brethren as to others; therefore,

Resolved, That this Convention request Dr. Boyce, the President of the Southern Baptist Convention, to consult with the Boards and other officers of the Convention, and appoint some other place of meeting.

13. On motion, it was declared to be disorder for any member to leave without permission, before the final adjournment of this body.

14. The report of the Committee on Domestic Missions was read by Dr. Winkler, and was referred to 10 o'clock on Monday, when the claims of the Domestic and Indian Missions and Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention will be considered.

15. Adjourned to visit the Alabama Central Female College, when the delegates and congregation repaired immediately to the splendid buildings of that institution.

SATURDAY NIGHT, 7½ O'CLOCK.

The report of the Committee on Education was read by Dr. Cleveland, after which the claims of Howard College, The Judson, and The Central, were presented to the Convention and a large congregation by brethren Murfee, Winkler, Teague and Renfro. The report on Education, with the reports from the trustees of the colleges, were adopted as follows:

EDUCATIONAL REPORT.

That the Baptists of Alabama are profoundly interested and earnestly engaged in the work of education is manifest from the various institutions of learning established by them and now under their control.

Your Committee mention by name and recommend to the support of the denomination the Howard College and Judson Female Institute, at Marion, and the Alabama Central Female College, at Tuska-loosa. All of these are institutions of highest grade, with full and efficient faculties.

We learn from the report of trustees of the Judson that the institution, in common with other institutions of like character, is feeling the pressure of the times, and needs the patronage and sympathy of the denomination. With a full faculty, competent in every way and all its appointments well made, it deserves the patronage of all.

The report of the trustees of Howard College presents a promising prospect for the College. It is gratifying to hear of the success achieved by the Board of Trustees and Faculty. The College is prospering, despite the calamities that are pressing upon us as a people. Too much cannot be said in commendation of the able and earnest faculty, and its efficient President. The trustees have done all that could have been accomplished under the existing circumstances.

We learn from the report that there is an indebtedness of \$3,000 crippling the interests of the institution, and further, that the entire theological department is supported by the trustees and faculty, at an annual expense of \$1,500.

The denomination should not allow these brethren to bear these burdens any longer.

It is necessary that the College be promptly relieved of its indebtedness; therefore, be it *resolved*, That the Board of Trustees be requested to issue circulars setting forth the condition and necessities of the College and urging churches and individuals to make contributions to this purpose on or before the first day of April next. It will be necessary to raise \$2,000. This may be done by securing contributions of \$50 each from sixty parties. Will the pastors of churches devote two or three weeks to the accomplishment of this work? Exchanging pulpits with each other when that is thought best, each pastor constituting himself a special agent for the occasion.

Resolved, That the pastors of churches be requested to present earnestly the interests of the theological department of the College, and take an annual collection therefor.

The Baptist institutions of this State are equal to any, and merit and should have the patronage of the entire denomination.

W. W. WILKERSON, W. C. CLEVELAND, Committee.
J. J. CLOCH, S. G. JENKINS.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF HOWARD COLLEGE.

The results of the scholastic year of 1872-3 have been highly gratifying to your Board, and should fill the heart of every Alabama Baptist with grateful acknowledgements to our Heavenly Father for the kind and protecting care with which he has guarded our institution of learning through the crisis which has been upon it. Through His blessing we are able, notwithstanding the loss of our endowment, to report the College in a more thorough state of organization than ever before. The buildings are in a perfect state of repair. The property has been largely added to. The Faculty paid up to date; and all of this has been accomplished from the income of the institution. The great financial crash that is now upon us, coming on just before the opening of the present session, together with the shortest crops ever

known before in Central Alabama, awakened much solicitude as to the ability to return, of many of our old students, and also as to the accession of a large number of others who had signified their determination to enter Howard College the present session. But we are gratified to state that we already have 82 matriculants, with the promise of quite a number of others as soon as the cotton crop begins to move, and moneyed arrangements can be made. We feel justified in expressing the belief that the income of the current year will be almost, if not quite, sufficient to enable us to meet our obligations to the Faculty. The

THEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

has the warmest sympathies of your Board, and while the denomination has no money to represent it, the Faculty and Board are bearing the burden, and every advantage of the institution is tendered to Theological students free of charge for tuition. This has amounted to about one-tenth of the income of the College. We are unwilling to believe that the sixty or seventy thousand Baptists of Alabama would not handsomely support this department if the matter was properly brought before them. There are now in this department nine young men of the highest order of intellect and christian character. We believe that, to the commanding influence of this department, we are largely indebted for the high moral character which has distinguished the corps of students of Howard College, and for the gracious but quiet revival of religion which pervaded the entire College last spring bringing many into the fold of Christ. The

FACULTY

Is composed of five professors, presided over by Col. Jas. T. Murfee at President. They are all men of ability, distinguished in their departments, and working laboriously and harmoniously to the one great purpose of making Howard College the first institution of the land. The high standing of scholarship of your institution has not only been maintained but advanced beyond that of many eminent colleges and universities, as will be seen by a comparison of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Arts, as laid down in our catalogue, and those of the Washington Lee University and others.— While the Discipline is mild and not irksome, it is sufficient to keep every student at his post, and stimulate the latent ambition of the most careless. The fine executive ability and indomitable energy of Col. Murfee has contributed largely to the success of the institution.

YOUR BUILDINGS

Consist of two large dormitories, containing fifty-two apartments, with halls, recitation rooms, and a room for the Preparatory Department, together with a central building with a commodious chapel, two large society halls, the President's room, the Library and the Laboratory.

THE APPARATUS OF THE COLLEGE

Cost several thousand dollars, and is ample. But few institutions are better supplied in this respect. Our last Financial Report showed the old indebtedness of the College to be \$6,481.72, stating, however, that this did not include a balance of \$1,285.78 due Dr. Curry by the Convention, which has since been arranged by your Board. This would have swelled the amount to \$7,767.50. At the same time we reported that in order to compete favorably with largely endowed institutions, we had found it necessary to erect and furnish in good style a dining hall, and provide the dormitories with bedding and furniture, all of which was done at a cost of \$3,455.01, which added to the old indebtedness made the aggregate of \$11,222.51, together with the salaries of the faculty of the current year to be provided for. In response to our call for \$3,500 to enable us to meet the above obligations, (except that due Dr. Curry by the Convention,) the convention at Eufaula set apart the second Sabbath in December at which time a special effort should be made in all the churches throughout the State to procure this amount. From this effort we received from

Ala. Baptist State Conv'n	\$27.00.	Hopewell Church	- - -	\$25.00.
W. B. Crumpton	- - - 10.00.	C. Thompson	- - -	10.00.
T. J. Perkins	- - - 50.00.	C. Rhodes	- - -	20.00.
Broad St. Church, Mobile	20.50.	Eufaula Association	- -	10.00.
Pineflat Church	- - - 5.50.	Tuskaloosa Church	- -	5.50.
Harmony Church, (per J. L. Harrison)	- - - 11.00.	Sifoam Church, Marion		500.00.
		Making in all	- - -	694.50.

Notwithstanding the failure to get the amount called for, we are able to report our indebtedness reduced from \$11,222.51 to \$3,000.00. This has been accomplished by our realizing (as we stated in our last report we expected to) on old claims the sum of \$4,059.67; receipts from new subscriptions \$694.50, together with the income of the College, and the borrowing of \$3,000.00 on the College property, which enabled us to effect a compromise, saving nearly \$3,000.00 to the denomination.

We now appeal to the Convention to devise some means by which this amount (\$3,000.00) may be furnished your Board to liquidate this debt by the first day of January next. To this call we hope the Convention will respond, acting promptly, that your Board and institution may be saved of much embarrassment that might be caused in the payment of even so small an amount, in the present condition of the country.

On account of the stringency in money matters, your Board feared to assume the responsibility of employing an agent, as recommended by you. Consequently since that time we have had no one in the field to represent the interests of the College, with the exception of Bro. D. R. Lide, who was employed for about two months; and the President who gave the College his gratuitous services during the

summer vacation. From the cordial manner with which these brethren were everywhere received, the interest taken in the College by the ministry, and readiness of the denomination to patronize it, we feel much encouraged. The hearts of the people are with us in this great work, and it is only necessary that its merits and claims should come properly before them, to secure it their united support throughout the State, both in sending their sons here for instruction and rendering the institution whatever pecuniary assistance might be needed.

The term of office of the following members of the Board expires at this time: W. B. Modawell, J. B. Lovelace, J. W. Crenshaw, W. T. Hendon, M. T. Sumner, S. Henderson, L. W. Lawler, W. N. Reeves.
WM. W. WILKERSON, President.

REPORT OF TRUSTEES OF THE JUDSON FEMALE INSTITUTE.

To the Alabama Baptist State Convention: The trustees of the Judson Female Institute submit the following report—

Our last annual session closed the — day of June last, with the usual exercises, all of which passed off satisfactorily to the friends and patrons of the Institution.

The number of pupils in attendance during the session was about one hundred and thirty, a large portion being boarders in the Institute.

It affords pleasure to state that not a serious case of sickness occurred in the Institute during the entire session. The boarding department was in charge of the Principal and lady during the session, who seem to have given universal satisfaction to the young ladies boarding in the Institute, for the excellent manner in which they were cared and provided for.

The present session opened with a diminished number of pupils, owing to the pecuniary embarrassment of the country, and the prevalence of epidemics in different localities, which prevented many from getting here.

There are now about twenty-five young ladies boarding in the Institute, with a graduating class as large or larger than usual.

We have assurances that many others will come as soon as the epidemics abate, and the stringency in money matters is relieved.

The Institution, both in its Scholastic and Boarding Departments, is thoroughly fitted up and supplied with all the appliances of a first-class Female School.

The faculty is full and complete, all of whom are well qualified for their respective places, and are worthy the support and confidence of the Baptist denomination.

PORTER KING, President.

GEO. MUNRO, Secretary.

Marion, Alabama, November 6th, 1873.

SABBATH, NOV. 9TH.

Preaching in the Methodist, Presbyterian, and Baptist Churches of the city) and in the Baptist Church in Northport, by members of the Convention, both morning and at night; also in the afternoon at the Insane Asylum. Sabbath School meetings at the Baptist Church in the morning at 9 o'clock, and in the afternoon at 3 o'clock, to which the other schools of the city were invited and attended. The congregations were large and the services of the day exceedingly interesting.

MONDAY, NOV. 10TH, 9 O'CLOCK, A. M.

The Convention reassembled; prayer by Rev. A. R. Scarborough.

1. *Resolved*, To hold the next annual session of this body as an adjourned session some time in next summer in the city of Marion; and appointed the delegates of the Siloam Church a committee to designate the time.

2. The report of the Committee on Sabbath Schools was read by Bro. Hendon, and was discussed and one hundred dollars in cash were raised for the Sabbath-School Board at Talladega. The report with that of the Board were adopted, as follows :

SABBATH SCHOOL REPORT.

Your Committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to report that they have examined the Report of the Secretary of the Sabbath School Board, referred to them.

We feel gratified at the success of their efforts; and when we contemplate the great good likely to accrue to our Zion as the result of their labors, our gratification is changed to gratitude.

In spite of difficulties, obstacles and opposition, seemingly insurmountable, they have worked on, thought on, prayed on, fought on, and gone on to success far exceeding the expectations of its most sanguine friends and warmest supporters. This success however is not a final victory. Much more remains yet to be done. It has only opened up the way to more extensive operations, and a more fully developed work in the future. The soil has been prepared, the seed have been sown, and it only remains now for us to cultivate assiduously and prayerfully in order to reap a rich and precious harvest.

The foundation has been laid, down deep, we believe, in the hearts of the people, and it only remains for us to build upon it, that a temple, wonderful and matchless in its symmetry, grand and glorious in its proportions, may be speedily erected, to which God Himself will add the crowning capstone.

Therefore, we do most earnestly recommend that the Sabbath School Board of this Convention be continued, and that the Convention pledge its warmest sympathies and active co-operation in the great work entrusted to their care. To abandon the work at this time would be to retreat from a well fought field when a few more

charges would bring us the victory, or to refuse to stretch out the hand to take the proffered prize.

We would also call attention to the plan of operations as suggested by the Evangelist of the Board, which is in substance the plan recommended by the Southern Baptist Convention, and especially urge that each Association appoint a Sabbath School Executive Committee, which shall have the general supervision of the Sabbath School work within its bounds, subject to the approval of the Sabbath School Evangelist; and also collect statistics of the Sabbath Schools and forward to the Secretary of the Board. The importance of this work verily demands that we all, pastors, deacons, and members, arouse from our sleep, shake off the lethargy that has so long bound us with shackles of iron, and work with heart and head and hand while precious golden opportunities are given us.

It requires, and should have, our fervent, faithful prayers, our honest labors, a part, at least, of our liberal contributions, and our sacrifices. Would also add the following suggestions:

1st. That pastors and superintendents co-operate more earnestly and actively in this work. No superintendent can succeed in his work unless he has the sympathy and assistance of his teachers and officers, and no more can our Board come up to the full measure of its success, no matter how diligently and perseveringly it may work, without the hearty co-operation of both pastors and superintendents.

2d. That churches make this Board an object of their contributions.

We would not have them contribute less to any other enterprise of the Convention, but would most urgently request that when making these other contributions this Board may not be forgotten.

We would also warmly recommend *Kind Words*, published by the Domestic and Indian Mission and Sunday-school Board, as a paper well adapted to the wants of the Baptist Sabbath-school, and earnestly request that they subscribe for the same.

J. HENRY HENDON, Chairman.

REPORT OF STATE SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD.

I.—Our Difficulties.

In order to accomplish the work which the Convention imposed upon us, we have had to meet and overcome difficulties of which most of our brethren have but little conception.

1. We have had no common medium of communication by which we could reach the churches and schools and lay before them our purposes and plans, and find out their wants and necessities.

2. Many of our brethren live in regions where there are few if any mail facilities.

3. The absence of any organized system in most of our churches and associations.

4. Apathy on the part of many, and opposition on the part of some, in regard to our work.

5. The want of funds with which to carry on the work—our treasury being without a dollar.

These and other difficulties which might be mentioned have prevented as thorough and successful a prosecution of the work as we desired. We have, however, labored on in spite of these difficulties, and we believe the results will be gratifying to the Convention.

II.—What we Have Done.

1. Besides using such public means of communication as were at hand, we have written hundreds of letters and distributed hundreds of circulars and addresses, informing brethren of our plans, seeking their aid and co-operation, and asking information as to their wants and wishes. We have scattered broadcast over the State many tracts and papers, with a view of imparting instruction and exciting interest in Sunday School matters. We have also furnished to a number of schools Testaments, Hymn-books, and Lesson-papers. Our Evangelist has visited many associations, and a large number of churches and schools, for the purpose of organizing schools and infusing new life into those already organized. His labors have been confined almost exclusively to destitute regions and to localities hitherto neglected.

2. We have endeavored to set on foot systematic plans by which the work could be done more thoroughly and efficiently.

In several Associations Sunday School Conventions have been organized. In many others these bodies themselves have taken charge of the work, and operate through committees, to whom they have committed the supervision of the schools in their bounds. This plan we recommend as being more in accordance with Baptist principles and more likely to accomplish the desired object. In regard to the churches themselves, the Evangelist has endeavored to convince them that the Sunday School work was their work and that they should direct and control it as they do any other enterprise. In many instances this idea has been accepted as the true one, and will be acted upon.

3. Our Secretary and Evangelist has visited nearly one hundred churches and schools, and has endeavored by argument and motive to show forth the nature and importance of Bible instruction, and to excite a more lively interest in the cause of Sabbath schools. He has also held conventions, institutes and mass meetings, for the purpose of arousing enthusiasm and imparting information. Almost everywhere he has been, a new impetus has been given to the work, prejudices have been removed and opposition disarmed.

4. While many of our churches and schools have, so far, contributed little or nothing, many others that have not heretofore directed their benefactions in this channel, have responded to our calls and

enabled us to do what has been done. We have also induced a few of our schools to contribute regularly and systematically. We have distributed among our schools thousands of little tickets, having for their object the development of a plan of regular monthly contributions in small amounts. Some schools have adopted this plan, and it has furnished us the only regular supply we have had. One lady, Mrs. Bolton, of Huntsville, has sent us one dollar every month since last April. Whenever Pastors and Superintendents have cooperated with us, this plan has been a success. Most of the money furnished has been collected by the Evangelist on the field. While this, in some cases, has been detrimental to our work, it was a necessity.

It is hoped and believed, that when the churches and schools become well informed as to what is being done, and when a systematic plan has been adopted by them, enough will be contributed to carry on the work, without solicitations on the part of the Evangelist.

5. Another object in view, and which has been, we believe, at least partially accomplished, was to bring the churches in closer sympathy with the Convention and its objects. Brethren have realized and appreciated the fact that the Convention is trying to do something for the outlying regions of the State. The Evangelist has been a sort of connecting link between the churches and the Convention; and many who have been disposed to look with suspicion upon it, are now prepared to sympathize and co-operate with it.

6. The whole Sabbath-school work has put on a new aspect. The associations are acting more vigorously, and with a more definite and practical aim than ever before. The churches are beginning to realize the relation which they sustain to the Sabbath-school, and the membership are becoming more and more active and earnest.

In at least two associations, Sabbath-school missionaries have been appointed within the last few months. In the association where we first commenced work, there were perhaps not a half dozen schools. In many others there has been a large increase over former years.—Notwithstanding this increased activity and interest, much remains to be done. In many parts of the State there is much destitution, and a lamentable degree of apathy, and we will need the united efforts of the friends of the cause to carry on the work successfully another year.

III.—Our Future Plans

Depend upon the action of this Convention. If the brethren come to our rescue, and give us assurances of their sympathy and support during the ensuing year, we propose to prosecute the work more vigorously than ever. The general plan of the Board will be—

1. A general Secretary and Evangelist, who shall have the supervision of the work in the whole State—performing such duties as have been performed by him during the present year, and such others as the Board may impose upon him.

2. As many District Missionaries as the means we may be able to command will justify—these to work in connection with one or more Associations.

3. To secure, if possible, the appointment of a Sunday School Executive Committee, in each Association, who shall have the supervision of the work in their own bounds. This Committee will be expected to gather statistics, inform us of their wants, and in all practical ways promote the interests of the Sunday Schools in their respective localities.

4. To inaugurate a system of regular monthly or quarterly contributions, in small amounts, from every church and Sunday School. Thus bringing about a uniform plan of operations, working: 1. Through the Churches and Schools. 2. Through the District Missionaries and Committees. 3. Through the Associations. 4. Through the Convention and its officers. Impressing upon the churches the importance of taking the oversight and control of their own schools, thereby securing their co-operation and promoting denominational energy and activity. Our motto will be: "A Baptist Sunday-School in every church—a Sunday-School in every neighborhood." Relying upon the co-operation of our brethren, and the help of Almighty God, we may confidently believe that another year's labor will enable us to realize, in some measure at least, these high hopes.

4. Summary of work performed by the Secretary and Evangelist during the year:

Associations visited - - -	18	Assoc'ional meetings at'nd	4
Mass meetings, conventions, and institutes attended -	21	Sermons delivered - - -	103
Aided in protracted meetings	6	Addresses " - - -	161
Miles traveled - - - - -	5517	Persons baptized - - -	22
Money collected - - - \$	1,078.05	Testaments distributed	114
Expenses, Traveling - - - \$	172.40	Hymn books " - - -	188
" Printing - - - \$	41.59	S. S. Tracts " - - -	250
" Stamps, Envel- opes and stationery - - - \$	35.80	Papers " - - -	300
Expenses, Tracts - - - \$	10.00	Circulars " - - -	1500
" Papers - - - \$	20.00	Statistics for Reports dis- tributed - - - - -	\$6.00
" Hymn Books - - - \$	9.40	Expenses, Testaments -	\$14.40

The Secretary and Evangelist desires to return his cordial thanks to the many brethren and friends, in various parts of the State who have rendered him assistance in his work, contributed to his necessities, and cheered him by words of comfort and encouragement.

If he continues to labor in this field, he earnestly asks a continuation of their kind offices. He especially begs pastors and superintendents that they will constantly and perseveringly bring his work before their congregations and schools. In this time of financial depression *the work must cease*, unless there is a united effort on their

1098
207
111

part. He also requests brethren to correspond with him in regard to any appointments they may desire him to make.

J. J. D. RENFROE, President of the Board,
Talladega, Ala.

T. C. BOYKIN, Sec. and Evangelist, Columbiana, Ala.

3. The special hour for the consideration of the claims of the Domestic and Indian Mission Board having arrived, Dr. Winkler, the President of that Board, made an able speech; but the occasion was virtually lost by the discussion subsequently drifting far away on other matters. The report was adopted as follows:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DOMESTIC MISSION.

The Board to whose fidelity the Baptists of the South have confided the Domestic Missionary work has been suffered to struggle with peculiar difficulties during the past year. It has been put in charge of the separate departments once managed by three boards. It is required to sustain missions among the Indians as well as in destitute places of our own land; to promote the interest of Sunday schools; to publish *Kind Words*, and to encourage and aid colored men who are preparing for the ministry.

The means for the efficient performance of so great a work have not been given to the Board. At the last Southern Baptist Convention, it was recommended to the denomination in the various States to employ local agencies, with whom the Domestic Board would not interfere, and to furnish that Board, for the prosecution of its special work, with 25 per cent. of the Home Mission collections. The expenses of the Board, as well of the denomination would be materially reduced by the general adoption of this plan. We trust, therefore, that those States which have not yet acted upon this matter will do so promptly.

Although appeals have been sent out in large numbers, and members of the Board have pledged their own individual credit for the pecuniary relief of the missionaries, many of these devoted men have suffered from our inability to supply their needs. Unless larger contributions are furnished, we shall be compelled to dismiss not a few of our missionaries, whose services and sacrifices in behalf of the cause of Christ ought never to be forgotten, and whose fields of evangelic labor will be desolate so soon as these faithful laborers shall be withdrawn. We earnestly pray that we may be spared from so great a calamity. May the spirit that once animated the churches of Macedonia be imparted in a larger measure to all the members of our Southern Church, so that even in the depth of our poverty the riches of our liberality may abound.

We would not depreciate any other evangelic enterprise, but surely that in this the most important, which supplies feeble churches in the growing communities of our own land, and helps them until they

become self-supporting; which aims at the evangelization of our own people and the religious instruction of our children; which would provide a colored pastorate for the freedmen now so frequently controlled by the acts of the designing and the follies of the ignorant and superstitious; and which gives the gospel to the dispossessed and perishing aborigines, whose memories are perpetuated in the mounds where their dead repose around us, and whose musical names are kept by the mountains and rivers and cities of this rich and vast domain, from which they themselves are exiled forever. Every motive, the most sacred, the most tender, urges us to give to and pray for the cause of Domestic Missions.

We may be permitted, before closing our report, to express the deep sentiment of sorrow which is awakened by the news of the death of our brother John Borders, who has been one of the most liberal contributors to this cause. Brother Borders sustained a missionary by his own annual contribution, and has sent to this Convention from his death bed two hundred and eighty dollars to be applied to Domestic and Indian Missions. It has also been intimated that one-tenth of his property has been bequeathed to the cause, which he so greatly loved in life, and which he was not willing to relinquish after he had passed to his reward. We trust that there are others upon whom the mantle of this ascending saint will fall, and that this State, to which the interests of Domestic Missions have been especially confided by the Southern Baptist Convention, will address itself with new ardor to this blessed work.

E. T. WINKLER, Chairman.

4. Adjourned to 3 o'clock P. M. Prayer by the Rev. J. C. Foster.

MONDAY AFTERNOON.

The Convention was called to order by the President; prayer by the Rev. W. A. Ashcraft.

5. The following resolution was presented by Rev. A. J. Waldrop and adopted: *Resolved*, That this Convention request the Board of Trustees of the Alabama Central Female College to submit an annual report of the condition of that Institution to this body.

Resolved, That we, as the Board of Trustees of the Alabama Central Female College, having in charge the interest of a noble Baptist Female College, agree as requested by the Alabama Baptist State Convention, to report our condition annually to the Convention and submit to it our actions for their approval, and for the information of the people.

WM. H. WILLIAMS, Pres. Board of Trustees.

6. The historical committee of last year reported progress and were continued.

7. On motion of Dr. Winkler, *Resolved*, That the documents and materials collected by the Historical Committee be deposited in the archives of the Howard College.

8. Rev. D. C. Butler, of the *Christian Index*, having arrived, was

invited to a seat as one of the editors of that paper, and as Messenger from the Georgia Baptist Convention.

9. The report of the committee on Foreign Missions was read by Rev. A. J. Waldrop, and adopted as follows :

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The absence of any of the committee on Foreign Missions appointed by the last convention, renders the appointment of your present committee a case of emergency for which we are unprepared, having no access to sufficient and reliable data ; therefore, your committee can merely make a few general statements, and must necessarily forbear presenting such application as facts and details would justify us in embodying in such a report.

1. We recognize that the great commission, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature," is still imperative on us peculiarly as a Christian people, and we trust that we appreciate the obligations resting on us to employ all the instrumentalities ordained of God for the furtherance of the great work of evangelizing and christianizing the heathen world.

2. The providences of God among the nations within the past decade, has opened a wide door of entrance to heathen territory, *and to the heathen heart*, bidding us to "Enter in and possess the land," and we shall be shamefully derelict in christian activity, enterprise and duty, if we fail to avail ourselves of the providences of God in this respect.

3. We would suggest to you the propriety of recommending to the churches within the area covered by the operations of this body, the suitability in our present exigencies of the mite-box system, as a means, in addition to the ordinary agencies employed for the collection of mission funds on the principle that "many a mickle makes a muckle," and "despise not the day of small things." We would also suggest to the consideration of our people, under our peculiar financial circumstances, the absolute necessity of retrenchment in matters of mere luxury, and the consecration of our substance, even in our poverty, to the demand God has laid upon us.

A. J. WALDRUP.

10. The committee to nominate delegates to the Southern Baptist Convention submitted their report, which was adopted as follows :

DELEGATES TO THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION.

J. D. Roby, W. N. Reeves, C. W. Sturgis, S. M. Baily, C. W. Buck, A. B. Woodfin, T. C. Boykin, I. T. Tichenor, J. J. Watts, L. B. Harbin, D. Mannasco, S. L. Fox, W. C. Bledsoe, J. Falkner, J. B. Crumpton, S. A. Goodwin, W. C. Evant, V. H. Dean, J. C. Bell, J. B. Appleton, W. A. Bishop, W. J. Parker, W. E. Lloyd, B. F. Riley, J. H. Hendon, J. P. Shaffer, P. S. Montgomery, J. E. Cox, T. M. Barber, J. T. Yerby, L. Law, M. Bishop, J. A. Collins, R. W. Beck, Robert Houka, T. P. Gwin, W. T. Hatchett, J. P. Miller, H.

W. Coffee, L. W. Lawler, J. Gamble, H. W. Clark, T. H. Wutts, T. J. Melton, J. Haralson, J. B. Lovelace, Porter King, W. H. Wood, J. T. Murfee, R. B. Kile, A. N. Adams, John May, Thos. Kinard, A. A. Sterrett, T. F. Waldrop, L. M. Stone, D. A. Pierson, H. W. Watson, S. Henderson, A. J. Waldrop, G. S. Paulin, M. J. Sumner, J. J. D. Reufroe, Wm. Ashcraft, W. H. Carroll, D. W. Gwin, J. H. Foster, E. T. Smyth, E. T. Winkler, J. G. Jenkins, W. C. Cleveland, P. M. Musgrove, J. J. Cloud, W. P. Calloway, E. B. Teague, Andrew Jay, E. Y. Vanhooose, J. J. Miles, David Lee, J. H. Curry, J. B. Fiquet, W. C. Mymatt.

11. The following resolutions offered by Dr. Teague were adopted :

1. *Resolved*, That a condensed abstract of the Minutes of 1872 be printed with the Minutes of the present convention.

2. *Resolved*, That the Convention assume the payment of advances made by the Secretary or publisher to bring out the Minutes of 1871.

12. The committee to nominate the Sunday school Board made their report through Brother W. H. Wood, which was adopted.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD--TALLADEGA.

J. J. D. Reufroe, T. C. Boykin, E. T. Smyth, S. Henderson, W. R. Stone, J. H. Joiner, J. B. Fiquet, I. B. Merriam, Thos. W. Curry.

13. The committee on Finance made their report through Brother J. B. Lovelace, which was adopted. Also the report of the Treasurer, as follows :

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE:

CHURCHES ASSOCIATIONS AND SOCIETIES	Convent. In Asian and S. Boards.	Foreign Missions	China Missions	Conventual Purposes.	State S. S. Board.	H. F. Buck- ner's House	TOTALS.
Elgee Association	0 75	25 2			4 00		\$8 95
Greenville Church				5 00			5 00
Ann Hasseltine Society			3 52				3 52
Rutuah Church				5 00	117 00		122 00
Cahaba Church Sabbath School					15 00		15 00
Selma Church	34 70						34 70
Selma Sabbath School					37 8		37 80
Cahaba Association						5 00	5 00
St. Francis Street Church, Mobile				15 00			15 00
Cherokee Association				5 00			5 00
Tuskaloosa Association					8 45		8 45
Silvan Baptist Church	1 0 25	13 00		15 75			138 00
Enfaub Church				5 25			5 25
Broad Street Church, Mobile				5 00			5 00
Coosa River Association				10 00			10 00
J. M. Norvell				1 00			1 00
Public Collections at Convention	31 75				131 40		167 15
	\$238 45	\$18 20	\$3 52	\$67 00	\$315 65	\$5 00	\$667 82

We would, in addition to the above, report that we have examined the account of S. H. Fowlkes, Treasurer, and find the same correct and supported by proper vouchers.

J. B. LOVELACE, Chairman.

THE TREASURER'S REPORT.

To the President and Brethren of the Alabama Baptist State Convention:--I herewith submit my Annual Report as Treasurer of your body, showing the amount received and paid out to the different benevolent objects since your meeting at Eufaula in the month of November last.

It will be seen from this report that I have overpaid on Domestic Mission account the sum of twenty dollars, and have on hand to the credit of General Purpose Account seventy-three dollars and seventy-eight cents, which I hold subject to the order of the Convention.

Respectfully submitted.

S. H. FOWLKES, Treas. Ala. Bap. State Convention.

Marion, Alabama, November 4th, 1873.

S. H. FOWLKES, TREASURER ALABAMA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION, IN ACCOUNT WITH SAME.

1872.	FOREIGN MISSIONS.	DR.
Nov. 10.	To cash from Finance Committee, - - -	\$59 35
" " "	" " " " " for Bro. Cote,	40 20
		<u>\$99 55</u>

1872.	DOMESTIC MISSION.	DR.
Nov. 10.	To cash and vouchers from Finance Committee, -	\$95 55
Balance,	- - - - -	20 00
		<u>\$115 55</u>

1871.	HOWARD COLLEGE.	DR.
Nov. 10.	To balance due this fund, - - - - -	\$ 1 00
1872. Nov. 10.	To cash from Finance committee, - - -	6 30
	" voucher from Finance com, Theo. Dep. II. C.	25 00
		<u>\$32 30</u>

1872.	GENERAL PURPOSE.	DR.
Nov. 10.	To balance due this fund, - - - - -	\$28 78
" "	" cash from Finance committee, - - -	15 00
" " "	" " " " " Minutes 1872,	5 00
1873. Oct. 12.	Cash from Bethlehem Ass'n for Minutes,	25 00
		<u>\$73 78</u>

1872.	SABBATH SCHOOL BOARD.	DR.
Nov. 11.	To amount from Finance Committee, - - -	\$21 00
1873.		CR.
Nov. 11.	By amount of T. C Boykin's receipt, - - -	\$21 00
1873. Nov. 4.	To balance due this fund, - - -	\$73 78

1873.					CR
May 23.	By H. A. Tupper's receipt,	-	-	-	\$99 00
	" Exchange on check,	-	-	-	55

					\$99 55
1872.	April 9. By M. T. Sumner's receipt,	-	-	-	\$14 00
	" Dec. 9. " J. B. Lovelace's "	-	-	-	101 55

					\$115 55
Nov. 10.	By balance due Treasurer,	-	-	-	\$20 00
1872.	Nov. 9. By J. B. Lovelace's receipt,	-	-	-	\$25 00
	" Dec. 9. " " " " " "	-	-	-	6 30
1873,	Oct. 24. " " " " " "	-	-	-	1 00

					\$32 30
Nov. 10.	By balance,	-	-	-	\$73 78

S. H. FOWLKES, Treas.

Marion, Ala., Nov. 4, 1873.

14. The committee to nominate remaining officers, reported as follows:

Your committee on nominations recommend to fill the vacancies in the Board of Trustees of Howard College—Brethren W. B. Modawell, J. B. Lovelace, J. W. Crenshaw, W. T. Hendon, M. T. Sumner, S. Henderson, L. W. Lawler, W. N. Reeves.

Board of Directors—Brethren J. T. Murfee, J. B. Lovelace, J. B. Varden, M. T. Sumner, J. H. Lee, J. F. Bailey, John More, D. R. Lide, W. N. Wilkerson, Porter King.

To Preach the Introductory Sermon at the Next Session—Rev. J. J. Cloud, of Gadsden; Rev. J. D. Roby, of Salem, alternate.

Vice-Presidents of the Convention—1st., Rev. E. T. Winkler, D. D.; 2d., Rev. E. B. Teague, D. D.

JOSHUA H. FOSTER, Chairman,

15. The Convention again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, President Murfee in the chair. The sub-committee appointed to submit a plan for starting a Baptist newspaper in Alabama submitted their report to the body through Prof. J. H. Foster.

Adjourned to 7 o'clock, P. M.

MONDAY, 7 o'clock, P. M.

The committee of the whole reassembled, Judge H. W. Watson in the chair.

The merits of the sub-committee's report, and the paper question in general, were discussed. The editors of the *Christian Index* were

invited to submit any proposition which they might have on this subject. Brethren Lawton and Butler accepted this invitation—submitted what was thought to be a most liberal proposition in relation to the *Index*, but the feeling and sense of the body was manifestly in favor of a new paper, because existing ones having failed to meet our wants, it was believed that nothing short of a State paper can meet those wants. The following resolutions, offered as a substitute for the report of the committee, were adopted:

Resolved, That we, the members of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, assembled in committee of the whole, recognizing the imperative necessity of a Baptist State paper, do hereby empower the Board of Directors to correspond with editors and publishers upon this subject, soliciting offers of service, and that we pledge ourselves that we will use our influence and means to encourage and sustain the enterprise, should it be inaugurated by a suitable person, who undertakes the work under the auspices of the Board, provided that no pecuniary liability be incurred thereby by this Convention as an incorporate body.

The Committee of the Whole then appointed Dr. Winkler to report its action to the Convention, and adjourned.

16. The Convention resumed labors, when Dr. Winkler submitted the report of the Committee of the Whole, which was unanimously adopted, as above.

17. On recommendation of the delegates of the Siloam (Marion) church, Friday before the third Lord's day in June was appointed as the time for holding the next session of this body.

18. On motion, Dr. Winkler was made a life member of this Convention, in consideration of funds paid by the Siloam church.

19. The Convention ordered the printing of five hundred copies of the Minutes, and that the Clerk be allowed thirty dollars for his services.

20. On motion, the action appointing the *time* for the next session was reconsidered, and after considerable discussion, the Convention appointed the old time (Friday before the second Sabbath in November.)

21. The President announced the following committees to report to the next Convention:

On Foreign Missions—E. T. Winkler, J. J. Cloud, J. B. Eddins.

On Domestic Missions—A. B. Woodfin, J. H. Curry, M. T. Sumner.

On Sabbath Schools—W. C. Cleveland, W. B. Crumpton, W. E. Lloyd.

On Education—J. H. Foster, W. N. Wilkerson, E. B. Teague.

22. The following resolution of thanks was adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be heartily tendered to the citizens of Tuscaloosa for their abounding kindness and hospi-

tality to us during our stay with them; and also to the pastors of the different churches, who have tendered us the use of their houses of worship; also to the superintendents of the railroads leading to the city, for courtesies extended to the delegates attending the Convention.

23. Adjourned to meet with the Siloam Baptist Church, in Marion, Ala., on Friday before the second Sabbath in November, 1874.

SAMUEL HENDERSON, President.

J. J. D. BENFROE, Clerk.





SAMFORD UNIVERSITY LIBRARY



1 1 00323955

Special Collections

GENERAL

BX 1870-79
6470.1
.A4

Alabama Baptist State
Convention
Annual of the Alabama
Baptist State Convention

ROOM USE ONLY

