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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

FIFTY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

ALABAMA

Baptist State Convention,

HELD WITH THE

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH,

MONTGOMERY, ALA.,

July 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th,

1876.

MONTGOMERY, ALA. :

SOUTHERN PLANTATION PRINTING AND BINDING.

1876.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. READING, SINGING AND PRAYER.
2. ENROLL DELEGATES AND LIFE MEMBERS.
3. ELECT OFFICERS.
4. RECEIVE CORRESPONDENTS AND VISITORS.
5. APPOINT COMMITTEES.
 1. ON PREACHING.
 2. " FINANCE.
 3. " NOMINATING OFFICERS OF CONVENTION.
 4. " " DELEGATES TO SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION.
 5. " " STATE MISSION BOARD.
6. REPORTS.
 1. OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF HOWARD COLLEGE.
 2. " " " " " FEMALE COLLEGES.
 3. " STATE MISSION BOARD.
 4. " BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
 5. " BOARD OF EDUCATION.
7. APPOINT CORRESPONDENTS TO OTHER BODIES.
8. " TIME AND PLACE FOR NEXT CONVENTION.
9. " STANDING COMMITTEES.
10. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.
 1. ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.
 2. " HOME MISSIONS.
 3. " EDUCATION.
 4. " SABBATH SCHOOLS.
 5. " NOMINATING OFFICERS OF CONVENTION.
 6. " " DELEGATES TO SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION.
 7. " " STATE MISSION BOARD.
11. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.
12. REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.
13. REPORT OF TREASURER.

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS.

Fifty-third Annual Session.

MONTGOMERY, ALA., Thursday, July 13, 1876.

The Alabama Baptist State Convention met, by appointment, with the First Baptist Church of Montgomery, at 10½ o'clock, a. m., the Hon. Jonathan Haralson, of Selma, in the chair, and Benjamin B. Davis as Secretary. The opening exercises were conducted by Rev. B. W. Whilden, late Missionary to China, by reading the eightieth Psalm and singing the hymn commencing, "O, God of Bethel, by whose hand."

In response to the invitation of the President, the following enrolled their names as delegates:

ASSOCIATIONS.

Alabama—W. C. Cleveland, Whitfield Quarles, G. W. McQueen, T. J. Miles, E. F. Baber, M. Bishop.

Enfaula—E. Y. VanHoose, W. N. Reeves, W. H. Norton, W. S. Paullin, W. S. Rodgers, Seth Mabry.

Coosa River—S. Henderson, J. J. D. Renfro, E. T. Smyth, A. B. Goodhue, C. R. Cross.

Cahaba—E. T. Winkler, W. C. Ward, D. G. Lyon.

Unlty—W. Lee, W. B. Strook, J. H. Burns.

Canaan—A. J. Waldrop, J. H. Weatherly, N. F. Miles, A. J. Nunnelly, L. M. Herring, T. Y. B. Moore.

Pine Barren—C. W. Hare, J. F. Bruner, A. T. Shums, G. W. Albritton, J. W. Purifoy.

Tuskaloosa—J. B. Eddins.

Tuskegee—B. Davie, W. H. Carroll, M. C. Hammons, Z. D. Robey, Z. T. Weaver, I. T. Tichenor, W. E. Lloyd.

Carey—W. T. Davis, M. W. Whatley.

Bethel—J. G. McCuskey, H. A. Woolf.

Bethlehem—W. G. Curry, L. W. Duke, B. F. Riley.

Cedar Bluffs—J. J. Cloud.

Salem—J. P. Nall, J. D. McLendon, G. Hendrick, E. Y. VanHoose, H. D. Boyd, G. G. McLendon, J. L. Sampey, B. A. Jackson.

Providence—J. C. B. Lowry, T. B. Thames, J. S. Paullin, C. E. Thames, J. H. Curry.

Centennial—J. H. Hendon, Jonathan Thornton, W. W. Evans.

Warrior River—P. M. Musgrove.

Central—H. Clay Taul.

NOT REPRESENTED.

Tennessee River, Liberty, Muscle Shoals, Colbert, Sulphur Springs, New River, North River, Lost Creek, Bear Creek, Yellow Creek, Mud Creek, Shelby, Cahaba Valley, Tullulahatchie, Cherokee, Harmony, Liberty, Arbacochee, Newton, Unity, Judson, Zlon, Union.

CHURCHES.

X Eufaula—W. N. Reeves, J. A. B. Bosson.

Providence—W. B. Crumpton, P. L. Moseley, L. Johnson.

Selma—J. W. Hudson, J. H. Burns, T. S. Bowen, Jonathan Haralson, Sumpter Lea.

Talladega—J. J. D. Renfro.

Oxford—E. T. Smyth, A. B. Goodhue.

Montgomery—First, B. F. Noble, B. B. Davis, T. L. Jones, H. A. Howard, R. H. Molton.

Montgomery, Adams Street—J. Falkner, J. M. Falkner.

Rubama—A. J. Waldrop.

Siloam—E. T. Winkler, J. T. Murfee, John G. Apsey, W. F. Davis, T. J. Dill.

Friendship—B. J. Skinner.

Fellowship—C. J. Knight.

Mobile—St. Francis Street, J. C. B. Lowry, T. B. Thames, C. E. Thames.

Mobile Broad Street—J. S. Paullin, J. H. Curry.

Birmingham—First, J. B. Fonville, J. P. Hutchinson, Thomas McConnaghy, J. H. Moore.

Clayton—W. S. Paullin, Seth Mabry.

Town Creek—S. W. Quarles, D. B. Edwards.

Steep Creek—W. P. Bullock, E. A. Mosely, S. A. Satterwhite, W. R. Relfe, U. G. W. Powell, John Thomas.

Hopewell, Lowndes county—John Tyson.

Gadsden—J. J. Cloud.

Bethlehem Church—W. H. Norton.

Greenville—B. H. Crumpton, J. M. Thigpen, T. C. Watts.

Bethsaida, Wilcox county—G. W. Albritton, C. C. Jones, J. W. Purifoy.

Ebenezer, Butler county—Nathan Wright.

Pleasant Hill, Dallas county—B. W. Whilden.

Montevallo and Plantersville—J. S. Dill.

Ash Creek, Bethany, Mount Gilead, Hayneville—E. F. Baber.

Union Springs—J. H. Hendon, C. J. L. Cunningham, Jonathan Thornton, W. M. Thornton, Geo. Williams.

Big Springs, Harpersville, Shelby County—J. N. Prestridge.

Rock West—Daniel Cook, Frank Cook.

Pine Apple—J. R. Hawthorne.
 Mount Zion—A. J. Nunnelley, L. M. Herring, T. Y. B. Moore.
 Ramah—Z. T. Weaver.
 Bethel, Lowndes county—M. Bishop, R. M. Burt.
 Bethel, Marengo county—L. L. Fox.
 Huntsville—B. W. Bussey.
 Tuskalooza—J. M. Dill, J. F. Lanneau, W. H. Williams.
 Georgiana—J. E. Bell.

LIFE MEMBERS.

Jonathan Haralson, W. W. Waller, E. B. Teague, I. T. Tichenor.

CORRESPONDING BODIES, ETC.

General Association of South East Alabama and West Florida—P. M. Callaway, E. Y. VanHoose, J. P. Nall, G. Hendrix, J. L. Sampey, W. D. Boyd, J. G. McLendon, G. G. McLendon, B. A. Jackson.
 Pleasant Hill Ladies Benevolent Society—B. W. Whilden.
 Baptist Ladies Aid Society, Greenville—T. C. Watts.
 Pine Apple Missionary Society—B. J. Skinner.
 Ann Hazeltine Society of Marion—J. G. Apsey.
 Woman's Missionary Society of Talladega—J. J. D. Renfroe.
 Steep Creek Missionary Society—J. G. W. Powell.
 Georgetown College, Kentucky—B. Manly, President.
 Georgia Baptist State Convention—W. N. Chandoin, J. B. Chevis, Rev. M. B. Hardin.
 Judson Institute—L. R. Gwaltney, President.
 Big Hatchie Association, Tennessee—M. P. Moore.
 Howard College—J. T. Murfee, President.
 Southern Baptist Theological Seminary—J. P. Boyce, President, and J. H. Curry.

A motion was agreed to, to go into the election of officers of the Convention, when, by unanimous consent, the vote was taken by acclamation, resulting in the election of Hon. Jonathan Haralson of Selma, President, and B. B. Davis, Recording Secretary, when, on motion, J. W. Hudson was elected Assistant Secretary.

On motion, a committee of three, consisting of C. W. Hare, A. J. Waldrop and T. S. Bowen, was appointed to nominate the remaining officers of the Convention.

On motion, agreed that the first half hour of each day's proceedings be set apart for devotional exercises.

It was resolved that a committee consisting of the delegates from the Montgomery church be appointed to fix the hours for the commencement and adjournment of the Convention, which committee reported as follows: Meet at 9 a. m. adjourn at 1 p. m.; meet at 4 p. m., adjourn at 6 p. m.; meet at 8:15 p. m.

On motion, a committee on the religious exercises of the Conven-

tion was appointed, consisting of the delegates from the Montgomery church, E. F. Baber, and J. Falkner as chairman.

On motion, Convention adjourned to 4 o'clock p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Convention re-assembled at 4 p. m., the President in the chair.

The session was opened with singing the 423d hymn and prayer by T. B. Thames.

The President appointed the following committees :

On Finance.—C. L. J. Cunningham, J. B. Fonville, J. W. Purifoy, John Tyson.

To Nominate State Mission Board.—W. C. Ward, J. H. Hendon, J. J. Cloud, L. W. Duke.

To Nominate Delegates to the Southern Baptist Convention.—W. H. McIntosh, W. G. Curry, Thad C. Watts, W. T. Davis.

The committee to nominate the remaining officers of the Convention reported as follows :

First Vice President.—M. T. Sumner.

Second Vice President.—J. J. D. Renfroe.

Directors.—E. T. Winkler, W. W. Wilkerson, Porter King, W. H. Fiquet, John Moore, I. B. Vaiden, J. B. Lovelace, J. T. Murfee, John H. Lee, C. C. Huckabee, J. F. Bailey, F. H. Hawkes.

Report adopted.

The Report of the *Board of Trustees of Howard College* was read and referred to a committee of five—H. A. Woolf, C. E. Thames, A. B. Goodhue, L. L. Fox, B. H. Crumpton :

The report of the *Board of Education* with accompanying Treasurer's report, was read and adopted after the striking out of the recommendation made in the report that the Board be dissolved and its work committed to the Board of Trustees of Howard College.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

The work of ministerial education at Howard College, confided in part to the care of this Board is the most popular, and in many respects, the most vital benevolent enterprise fostered by our Convention. And yet it has not been presented to our constituency as directly and extensively as it must be. During the present movement for the endowment of the College, no special appeal has been made, lest this should give rise to confusion or impair the success of that far reaching and paramount benevolence. During the past few years your Board has rendered help to five or six brethren, and especially to Bro. Jos. A. Howard, who under its auspices, has been carried through his entire course to graduation at the recent commencement.

the art department 33; in the collegiate department 62; in music and vocalization 48; and in the preparatory and primary departments 71. Ten young ladies received diplomas on commencement day, having honorably completed the course prescribed.

Quite a number also received certificates of distinction in art, music and modern languages.

The friends and patrons of the Judson have cause for congratulation in the continued prosperity of the institution and health of the pupils during the session. No case of serious illness occurred during that time.

Dr. Sumner retired from the Institute as its President at the close of the session, and the Board unanimously elected the Rev. L. R. Gwaltney, A. M. of Rome, Ga., to fill the vacancy.

Bro. Gwaltney has accepted the position and entered upon the discharge of the duties devolving upon him, preparatory to the commencement of the next session.

He has secured a corps of able and efficient teachers for all the various departments of instruction in the Institution. Most of the faculty are those who have been heretofore employed in the Institute and are known to the Board to be worthy, competent and efficient instructors, and those employed by him, who have not heretofore taught in the Judson, bring the highest testimonials as to their faithfulness, fitness and competency as teachers.

The Board feel that our denomination has been peculiarly fortunate in having secured the services of so distinguished an educator, an eminent minister of the gospel, as Bro. Gwaltney, for the Presidency of its educational Institution.

The arrangement made with Bro. Gwaltney as President secures his services as such through a series of years. The friends and patrons of "The Judson" can therefore send their daughters and wards with the confident assurance that they will remain under the instruction and supervision of the same President, from the time they enter till their education is complete.

The Board take pleasure in assuring the Convention and the friends of the Judson that it has never had an abler Faculty or a more efficient corps of Teachers than those employed by Bro. Gwaltney for the ensuing session.

At no former period in the history of the Judson has the facilities for imparting a thorough education been superior to what they are now.

The election of Bro. Gwaltney to this responsible and influential position has already met with the hearty approval of the denomination, not only in this but in other States. Testimonials of several prominent brethren on the subject have been appended by the Board to the circular of the Judson Institute.

In closing this report we desire to express the hope that the Divine favor may attend the labors of our retiring President in whatever sphere of usefulness he may hereafter engage. And that the Judson

under its new administration may attain a greater usefulness and prosperity than at any time heretofore.

JOHN MOORE, President *pro tem.*

WM. H. FIQUET, Secretary.

The report of the *Managers of the Alabama Baptist* was read and referred to a special committee of seven, consisting of W. C. Cleveland, E. F. Baber, W. B. Crumpton, T. M. Bailey, E. T. Smyth, J. O'B Lowry, A. J. Waldrop.

REPORT OF MANAGERS OF THE ALABAMA BAPTIST.

More than two years ago, under the supervision of the Board of Directors of this Convention, the ALABAMA BAPTIST was inaugurated, relying altogether for maintenance on its subscription price, and the gratuitous services of its corps of editors and managers, who willingly agreed to make the sacrifice in the interest of the denomination and cause of our Redeemer in Alabama.

Its success in the promulgation of truth, the bringing together of our brethren into closer fraternal love and sympathy, and in the building up of every interest of the Convention, is manifest. Its financial success has also been satisfactory. We are out of debt, with an increasing circulation, and money on hand sufficient to complete our obligations to subscribers.

Since the meeting of the last convention, the Committee on management felt authorized in employing Rev. D. G. Lyon as assistant editor, on a salary contingent upon the success of the paper. In addition to his labors in the editorial department, which have materially contributed to the relief of our editor in chief; he has had control of the detail management of the office. His connection with the paper from its beginning as mailing clerk, while yet a student of Howard College, eminently qualify him for the position he now sustains.

With any degree of sagacity in its management, and a maintenance of the teachings of our Blessed Savior—promotive of brotherly love and affection—which has ever characterized its columns, we believe the success of the ALABAMA BAPTIST is established beyond a peradventure. Whatever may be its future disposition by this Convention, we ask, above all things, that its financial management on a strict cash basis be maintained; and its policy, to eschew from its columns everything promotive of estrangement and discord among the brethren be continued.

WM. W. WILKERSON,

J. B. LOVELACE,

Committee and Business Managers.

On motion, it was resolved that the committee to nominate the State Board, be instructed to nominate the Board of Education.

The subject of the appointment of the time and place for the meeting of the next Convention was referred to a committee consisting of J. S. Paullin, B. H. Crumpton, G. W. McQueen.

The *Committee on Foreign Missions* were granted further time to report.

On motion, the Chair filled the vacancies in the following standing committees:

On Foreign Missions.—J. F. Bruner, C. E. Thames, J. N. Prestridge.

On Education.—S. Lea, J. H. Curry, J. M. Falkner, Thos. McCounaghy.

On Sabbath Schools.—J. O. Hixon, T. L. Jones.

The *Committee on Home Missions* read their report, which, on motion, was recommitted, and W. H. Carrol was added to the committee.

Here a pleasant incident of the proceedings was the presentation of a gavel, made of olive and acacia woods brought from the Mount of Olives by J. L. M. Curry, at his recent visit, when, after appropriate remarks by W. H. McIntosh, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That we highly appreciate the gift to this body of a gavel from Rev. J. L. M. Curry, D. D., made of olive and acacia wood from the Mount of olives, and that our President be requested to communicate our thanks to Dr. Curry, with our earnest prayers for his continued happiness and usefulness.

On motion, the Convention adjourned, with prayer by Jonathan Thornton, until 8½ to-night.

NIGHT SESSION.

The Convention reassembled at 8½ o'clock and listened to the introductory sermon preached by E. T. Winkler, from Psalm 66: 8-12.

Topics: Historic Record of the Baptists.
Our present duty as Baptists.

MORNING SESSION.

FRIDAY, July 24.

The Convention reassembled at 9 o'clock, and after half an hour spent in devotional exercises, conducted by Rev. B. F. Riley, the President took the chair and the regular business was resumed by reading and correction of the minutes of yesterday, which were then adopted.

Committee on Foreign Missions through its chairman, W. C. Ward, submitted the following report:

Report on Foreign Missions to the Alabama Baptist State Convention: In the United States, the Baptists, in numbers rank among the first of the great Christian family; in the South, they are by far the most numerous; while in Missionary work they are esteemed to be one of the most feeble. Practically there are but few Missionary Bap-

tists. The churches, thus called, make up an almost countless multitude, but estimated by their personal sacrifices and their contributions, they are but a handful,—devoted it is true, but after all only a handful. To ascertain what they are doing for Foreign Missions, compare the amount paid by Southern Baptists during the past year to the Foreign Mission Board at Richmond, with the amount contributed by the Presbyterian Church South—in numbers about one-fourth of the Baptists—to Foreign Missions. It will be seen that in works and contributions this small body of Christians excel the Baptists.

A great deal has been accomplished for the evangelization of the world by Missionary effort; nothing without it. In a Christian country instances occur where Baptist Churches have been established without special effort—as by the conversion in a body of Pedo-Baptist Churches, but no such case occurs in a heathen land. More than eighteen centuries since, the gospel of peace began to be preached at Jerusalem, and Middle, Northern and Eastern Asia, and all Africa save a small territory in the Southern part of that Continent remains as at the beginning. The accepted theology of the Jews led them to regard themselves as the peculiar people of God and that all the Gentiles were excluded from His favor—they were eminently an anti-missionary people. Commerce and enforced colonization led to the establishment of synagogues in the cities of the Levant and where these were not they assembled like Lyda and her family in convenient places—as along the sea shore, where the law was read and the people engaged in worshiped. The sacred oracles were guarded with jealous care. But for the new leaven of the Gospel, with the ministry of Paul and his *fellows* in the first great Missionary effort, there is little reason to suppose that any material change would have occurred in the religious condition of the world through all the revolving centuries from the days of the proclamation of the Law amid thunders of Mount Sinai, to the present.

It follows, that all that has been accomplished towards the subjection of the pagan world, to the reign of Christ is the result of Missionary effort. It has been said that a truly converted man is in heart missionary. The impulse of the soul, full of the new found hope in a Redeemer, is to persuade all to come to Christ and is the impulse that nerves the man on fire with the passion to save souls, to ask of God the heathen for an inheritance.

One by one the Missionary out posts have been planted until they form an almost completed chain around the Globe. As yet it is but little more than a chain of out posts. After all that has been done the populations that bow down to stocks and stones far outnumber those whose God is the Lord. The work viewed in the light of the means employed for its accomplishment suggests the enquiry. "Who is sufficient for these things? The answer is responsive. "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh in vain." If Christians earnestly desired, and fervently prayed, for the salvation of the heathen would they not challenge the blessing of God on these effort?

Dr. Tupper, by the historical sketches of the Missionaries and their

labors, published by him in the denominational papers, has furnished the public with much, needed information. The want most felt in this regard is as to what has been done, what is being done and by whom. The religious press has done much and can do much more to meet this want. Narratives of the labors of Missionaries, and the publication of their letters detailing their methods, and operations, have accomplished much by bringing her into a kind of personal connection with these heralds of the Cross. It may be assumed that the prevailing apathy among Christians on the subject of Missions arises from ignorance of the great work to be performed, the labor necessary to its accomplishment and of its vast importance to the whole human family in the future.

From the report of the Treasurer of the Board of Foreign Missions to the last Southern Baptist Convention, it appears that Alabama Baptists contributed during the last fiscal year the sum of thirteen hundred and seventeen dollars—scarcely enough to support one of the Missionaries in the field. Why this small sum? It must be that only a few of the churches contributed to this end, that by far the largest number gave nothing; and perhaps that there are whole Associations in which the subject of Missions has not been remembered.

How is this leanness of soul to be cured? There is no word of reproach to be uttered. The whole Gospel must be preached. Upon this subject Baptists must be educated. Zeal must follow knowledge. Pastors may fear that by asking gifts to this end, the weak and unstable will be driven from the regular ministrations of the word. If this is to be the result, then to the highways and hedges. It would seem that the remedy lies in the providence of the government in the supply of nickels, the least attractive coin, perhaps, ever made a medium of exchange. Such light exactions are not felt, but often repeated, the burden without notice may be increased and prolonged until the habit of systematic benevolence is found. What a sum for the enterprises of the church might be annually raised, if all the Baptists of Alabama could be induced to contribute each five cents per week!

Much in the way of supporting and operating Missions has been effected by the enterprising benevolence of Baptist women. With proper encouragement and recognition of their services, societies of Christian women might be organized in all the churches to carry forward, under the supervision of the churches, in a large measure all the works of benevolence to which the church is committed.

In order to the education of Baptists in works of benevolence and to support the enterprises of the denomination, it is recommended that those in authority in the churches, at their regular meetings adopt the plan of asking for, and taking up small contributions. It is believed that some will become exemplars in this respect.

It is further recommended, that as much space, in the Alabama Baptist paper, be devoted, as the editors can well spare, to furnishing information upon the subject of Missions.

W. C. WARD, Chairman.

And after remarks from Bros, Henderson, Crumpton and Robey, its further consideration was postponed until to night at 8½ o'clock, when Bros, Robey, Tichenor and Whilden were requested to address the meeting.

On motion, it was resolved that the report of the Committee on Education be made the special order of business for to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

Bro. Renfroe then read the report on the *State Mission Board* as follows :

REPORT OF THE STATE MISSION BOARD.

TALLADEGA, ALA., July 19, 1876.

To the *Alabama Baptist State Convention*, to meet in the city of Montgomery on the 13th instant.

DEAR BRETHREN.—After receiving the intelligence of our appointment by the Convention, in the city of Huntsville, twelve months ago, with the further action of that body, that the Board be designated. The State Mission Board of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, and that it was the earnest desire of that body that the Board may enlarge the number of its Missionaries the Board had a meeting early in August 1875, and appointed the Rev. T. M. Bailey, Evangelist and Financial Secretary for the State at large. It will be remembered that Brother Bailey had previously been our Evangelist under appointment from our State Sabbath School Board.

At a subsequent meeting of your Board the following appointments were made.

The Rev. W. H. Carroll was appointed Evangelist and Financial Agent for East Alabama, and the Rev. Joseph Shackelford was appointed Evangelist and Financial Agent for North Alabama. These Brethren all accepted the appointments tendered them, and entered on their great work with zeal and earnestness; and your Board felt no ordinary degree of encouragement at the prospect opened before us with three such men in the field, three among the very best ministers in Alabama.

And after addresses from Bro'r Teague, Winkler and Henderson, W. B. Crumpton asked leave to submit the report on *Sabbath Schools* bearing directly on the report under consideration, which was granted and the report read as follows :

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools are gratified to know that our State Mission Board has made the organization and encouragement of Sabbath Schools an important part of the duties of its evangelists.

Through the efficient work of these evangelists, the idea that the Sabbath School is intended, merely for children, is being exploded and they are being organized upon the only proper basis; The church in the school and the church responsible for its teaching and liter-

ature. We urge in conclusion, the importance of enlarging the work of the State Mission Board.

W. B. CRUMPTON, Chairman.

Bro. Carroll has supplied several destitute churches, besides his Evangelistic tours in various parts of his field. He has reported to us as follows:

Sermons and discourses.....	162
Money received.....	\$300,25

We make no notes of miles traveled, visits made or prayers offered up.

Dr. Shackelford has reported his work from the time he received the appointment up to the 1st of April, 1876. He says: I have not been constantly engaged in the Evangelistic work since my appointment owing to two causes. 1st. My business matters required my attention a good deal of my time at home. 2nd. The weather was quite disagreeable during the winter months and I could accomplish but little, as it was difficult to get congregations.

He has preached sermons.....
Sunday School address.....
Attended prayer meetings.....
Had conversions.....
Family visits.....
Traveled miles.....
Collected for the Board.....
Expenses.....

Had secured some subscribers for the *Alabama Baptist*.

Dr. Shackelford reports North Alabama as an inviting field for Evangelistic work; the great trouble is a support for the evangelist, especially this year. Bro. Shackelford, from absolute necessity, retired from the work of Evangelist for the Board soon after making the above report.

The Rev. T. W. Bailey reports as follows, for the entire Conventional year.

Sermons.....	188
Sunday school addresses.....	132
Subscribers to <i>Alabama Baptist</i>	170
Cards printed and circulated.....	500
Sunday Schools organized.....	76
Miles traveled.....	4567
Letters written.....	170
Centennial addresses.....	5
Churches aided in procuring pastors.....	5
Protracted meetings attended.....	6
Associations attended.....	3
Received by letter into pastorless churches.....	3
Deacons assisted in ordaining.....	3
Restored " ".....	1
Baptized " ".....	14

Baptized in connection with his labors.....	14
Subscribers to Howard Collegian.....	2
Cash collected.....	\$1011.41
All expenses.....	119.00
Pledges.....	180.00
Collected for Foreign Missions.....	52.35
" Home " Board.....	66.65
" Centennial endowment.....	43.60
" Theologian seminary.....	17.00

These various items, and all of them together give no adequate idea of the great work, with its results accomplished under the appointments of your Board. In every way that we have heard from the labors of our Evangelists, the accounts have been encouraging. The President of our Board as Centennial Agent, has occupied a position which has given him peculiar opportunities to learn the operations and result of this effort. And we have rejoiced at the growing usefulness of this evangelism in our State, and the increasing sympathy with which the Baptists of Alabama watch our efforts.

The Evangelists report most inviting prospects in everything except the single important item of adequate support. The Board appeals to the Convention and to the Baptists of Alabama for increased liberality. It will be lamentable to allow this work to decline or fail.

We must be allowed to make special mention of the happy accounts we have received of that part of Bro. Bailey's work which looks especially to the organization of the whole church into a Sabbath or Bible school. This work has given large satisfaction, and we must fasten in.

J. B. Fiquet, Secretary.

J. J. D. RENFROE, President.

When the discussion was resumed on both reports, and participated in by Bros. Bailey, Rogers, Cleveland, Smyth, Eddins, Fox, Besson, Carroll, B. H. Crumpton, Davie, Ward, Hawthorne. By leave,

Resolved, That Dr. J. P. Boyce be invited to address the Convention in the interests of the Southern Baptist Theological Convention this afternoon at 5 o'clock. When the hour of adjournment having arrived, adjourned with prayer by Bro. Riley.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Convention was called to order by the President, and after singing a hymn, and prayer by Bro. Bell, discussion was resumed on the report of the Committee on the State Mission Board, participated in by Bros. Bell, Baber and Lea, when the report was adopted.

On motion, a collection was ordered, which resulted in the receipt of 49.60 in cash and \$55 in pledges.

On motion, a committee to report a plan of systematic beneficence for supplying the necessary means for the support of the State Mis-

sion Board was appointed, consisting of J. B. Eddens, W. C. Ward, I. T. Tichenor, Z. D. Robey and J. T. Murfee.

The committee to nominate the *Board of Education* reported the following:

J. B. Hawthorne, President, J. O'B. Lowry, W. H. Williams, Z. D. Robey, J. M. Falkner, R. H. Molton, B. F. Noble, B. B. Davis.

The Committee to nominate the *State Mission Board* reported as follows:

Your committee to nominate the *State Mission Board* beg to recommend as the Board, the following brethren: J. J. D. Renfroe, President; S. Henderson, W. C. Cleveland, J. H. Joiner, W. R. Stone, J. B. Fiquet, J. H. Glazener, I. B. Merriam.

Your committee submit in recommending as members of the Board, brethren in different parts of the State, the object is to enlist more advocates in this work. Which report was adopted.

On motion the report of the Committee on the report of the *Managers of the Alabama Baptist* was made the special order at 11 o'clock to-morrow.

The report of the *Committee to Nominate Delegates to the Southern Baptist Convention for 1877* was read and adopted as follows:

Jonathan Haralson, S. Henderson, J. J. Cloud, B. H. Crumpton, W. B. Modawell, W. N. Reeves, Porter King, J. S. Paullin, E. T. Winkler, J. J. D. Renfroe, R. R. Foster, B. J. Skinner, J. T. Murfee, Z. D. Robey, C. C. Huckabee, Joseph Shackleford, W. B. Crumpton, I. T. Tichenor, A. J. Waldrop, B. W. Bussey, J. B. Lovelace, W. H. Williams, B. B. Davis, C. W. Hare, B. F. Riley, J. P. Shaffer, B. W. Whilden, J. H. Hendon, J. C. Foster, M. T. Sumner, W. H. Carroll, R. H. Molton, M. G. Hudson, J. O. B. Lowery, M. Bishop, E. F. Baber, T. M. Bailey, J. M. Falkner, W. G. Curry, P. M. Musgrove, L. W. Lawler, R. W. Beck, D. Lee, J. E. Bell, B. Bruce, W. C. Cleveland, E. B. Teague, E. T. Smyth, G. A. Pierce, J. B. Eddins, B. M. Jackson, L. W. Duke, J. B. Hawthorne, T. C. M. Golland, W. U. Almon, C. E. Thames, J. L. Sampey, W. C. Ward, S. A. Barnett, J. G. Nash, H. H. Horton, H. A. Haralson, H. C. Taul, J. H. Weatherly, D. B. Edwards, I. F. Beeson, R. M. Burt, W. T. Hatchett, J. T. Verby, I. B. Merriam, J. Gunn, C. W. Callahan, A. C. Childers, J. W. Hudson, J. F. Bailey, J. F. Bruner, L. R. Gwaltney.

And on motion the names of the Committee: W. H. McIntosh, W. G. Curry, T. C. Watts, W. T. Davis, were added.

The hour of five o'clock having arrived, on motion,

RESOLVED, That this Convention has heard with pleasure of the prospect of the early completion of the Kentucky portion of the endowment of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

RESOLVED, That we earnestly urge upon the Baptists of Alabama to contribute liberally towards the \$200,000 to be raised for the endowment outside of Kentucky.

RESOLVED, That we will try to raise \$30,000 as Alabama portion of this endowment.

The Committee on the time and place made the following report, which, after discussion, was adopted, viz:

We, your committee on the time and place of holding the next Convention, respectfully recommend Gadsden as the place, and Thursday before the third Sabbath in July, 1877 at 10 o'clock a. m. as the time.

On motion Resolved that the Report of the *Committee on the Home Mission Board* be made the special subject for consideration at 12 m. to-morrow.

The report of the *Central Centennial Committee* was read and referred to the committee to whom was referred the Report of the Board of Trustees of Howard Collage.

The Central Centennial Committee report to the Convention that the work looking to the endowment of Howard College has been diligently prosecuted by Rev. Dr. J. J. D. Renfro our Centennial Agent, who has labored most faithfully and efficiently in this great enterprise and whose services we have been so happy to secure for the remainder of the present year.

It is yet too early to report results, as the work has been to a great extent preparatory, and most of the pledges that have been made by ministers, churches, and associations will not or can not be redeemed until the fall season has renewed the supply of money in the country.

Up to the present time but a small amount of *money* has been collected.

Your Committee are impressed with the importance of enlarging the Centennial agency in the various associations of the State.

They recommend that the Convention appoint additional workers to Co-operate with the several Committeemen of each Association, and that this enlarged Committee correspond with the general Agent, and undertake the duty of commanding this great interest as far as practicable to every church within our borders.

They also would recommend that the donation record be especially urged upon the liberal zeal of Alabama Baptist as promising a more prompt and adequate endowment to our church institution than any other means that can be employed.

Whatever may be the pecuniary result of the efforts now put forth in this direction, your Committee feel satisfied that they have already awakened a deep and wide spread interest in the cause of education and in the principles whose triumphs have been achieved by our fathers and whose maintenance in the new generation is committed to our filial piety.

The Report of the Treasurer was read and referred to the Finance Committee.

S. H. FOWLKES, TREASURER—

In Account with *Alabama Baptist State Convention* :

1875.	FOREIGN MISSION.	DR.	CR.
July 12—	To Balance due this fund.....	\$ 2 15	
	" Cash and Voucher from Finance Committee.....	69 31	
	" " China Mission.....	5 50	
	CR.		
July 12—	By M. D. Sumner, Receipt.....		\$ 22 37
	" Check five to H. A. Tupper, Cor. Sec'y.....		54 34
	" Exchange on Check.....		25
		\$76 96	\$ 76 96
	DOMESTIC MISSION.		
July 12—	To Cash and V. from Finance Com't, D. M.....	\$59 24	
	" " " " " " " I. M.....	1 00	
	CR.		
July 12—	By M. D. Sumner, receipt. \$ 22 37 and \$ 1.00.....		\$ 23 37
	" " " " " " " ".....		12 00
	" J. B. Lovelace, Treas. receipt.....		24 87
		\$90 24	60 24
	HOWARD COLLEGE.		
July 12—	To Cash from Finance Committee.....	\$18 00—\$18 00	
	CR.		
July 12—	By J. B. Lovelace, Treas. receipt.....		\$ 18 00
	STATE MISSION BOARD.		
July 12—	To Cash from Finance Committee.....	\$70 00—\$70 00	
	CR.		
July 12—	By J. J. D. Renfro, receipt.....		\$18 00
	BOARD OF EDUCATION.		
July 12—	To Cash from Finance Committee.....	\$10 20—\$10 20	
	CR.		
July 12—	By J. W. Stillwell, (See his card).....		\$10 20
	GENERAL PURPOSE ACCOUNT.		
July 12—	To Cash from Finance Committee.....	\$21 40	
	Balance.....	7 60—\$31 00	
	CR.		
October 9—	By J. H. Hudson, receipt.....		\$31 00
		\$266 10	\$286 40

MARION, ALA., JULY 11, 1876.

To the President and Members of the Ala. Bap. State Convention :

Above you have my Annual report; as Treasurer of your body. Showing the amounts which have come into my hands during the past year for the several objects indicated. These sums have been paid over, and this report is sustained by proper Vouchers. There re-

mains a balance due the Treasury of \$7 60 over paid on General Purpose Account.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

S. H. FOWLKES,
Treas. Ala. Bap. S. Con.

RESOLVED, That the report of the Committee on report of the Board of Trustees of Howard College be made special order for 8:15 p. m. to-morrow.

The report of the *Board of Trustees of the Alabama Central Female College* was read and adopted.

Report of the Board of Trustees of Alabama Central Female College.

The Trustees of the Alabama Central Female College are pleased to announce that the past session has been the most prosperous for several years.

The number both of boarding and day pupils has largely increased. The diligence and progress of the young ladies in their studies have been marked and gratifying.

Important and permanent improvements have been made to the building and its general apartments are such as to insure comfort. The College is free from debt and its prospects cheering.

The President, Prof. Jno. F. Lannan will be aided substantially by the same faculty which has heretofore been with him together with important additions.

WM. H. WILLIAMS,
Pres. Bd Trustees.

When the Convention adjourned, with prayer by Brother Henderson, until 8:15 to-night.

NIGHT SESSION.

The Convention reassembled at 8½ o'clock, and addresses were made made on the subject of *Foreign Missions* by I. T. Tichenor, B. W. Whilden and Z. D. Robey, after which a collection was made, amounting to \$21 85 in cash, and \$5 in pledges, when, on motion, the report on *Foreign Missions* was adopted.

The committee on *Religious Exercises* reported as follows:

The following are recommended as the appointments for the Sabbath:

First Baptist Church—L. R. Gwaltney, 10½ a. m.; B. Manly, 8½ p. m.

Presbyterian Church—J. O'B. Lowry, 10½ a. m.; W. C. Cleveland, 6 p. m.

Methodist Episcopal Church—W. H. Williams, 10½ a. m.; M. B. Hardin, 8½ p. m.

Methodist Protestant Church—B. W. Bussey, 10½ p. m.; B. H. Crumpton, 8½ p. m.

Adams Street Baptist Church—W. H. McIntosh, 10½ a. m.; E. T. Smyth, 6 p. m.

Herron Street Methodist Church---Z. D. Robey, 10½ a. m. ; W. B. Crumpton, 8½ p. m.

The Convention adjourned with prayer, offered by S. Henderson until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

THIRD DAY.

SATURDAY, July 15.

Convention assembled at 9 o'clock, and devotional exercises were, conducted by J. H. Hendon, for half an hour.

Business was then resumed, and the minutes of Friday were read and approved.

On motion *an auditing committee* was appointed, consisting of B. H. Crumpton, W. H. Norton and J. G. Apsey.

On motion the Secretary was allowed to take suitable advertisements to fill three pages of the minutes of the Convention, to assist in defraying the expenses of the same.

Resolved, That the associations and churches be, and are hereby requested to send by their delegates at each session, money to defray the expenses of printing the minutes of the Convention.

On motion, it was resolved that the members of this Convention tender their sincere thanks to the members of the Montgomery church, and their friends in this community for their most liberal hospitality and kind attentions paid the delegates to this body; to the several churches that have tendered the use of their pulpits; also to the superintendents of such railroads as have given reduced rates over the same.

The hour of ten o'clock having arrived, the report of the *Committee on Education*—the special order for this hour—was read by the Chairman, W. N. Reeves, and after earnest speeches from B. Manly and S. Henderson, when the time set apart having expired, on motion, it was extended, when the discussion was continued by Brothers Tichenor, Winkler, Gwaltney, Sampey, Hixson, Lanneau and Williams, and on motion, the report was recommitted.

The Committee of seven, to whom was referred the report of the managers of the *Alabama Baptist* presented the following report:

The Committee, to whom was referred the report of the Board of Directors in regard to the management of the *Alabama Baptist* beg leave to report the financial condition of the paper as perfectly satisfactory. Its circulation is increasing; its influence for good is being felt in every part of the State; through the skillful, efficient management of the Directors, the denomination in Alabama now has an organ established eminently worthy of its cordial support. We submit the following resolutions:

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the Convention be and are hereby instructed to provide for the continued publication of the *Alabama Baptist* in such way as they may deem best: Provided, That they shall not involve the Convention in any pecuniary liability.

RESOLVED, That this Convention owes a lasting debt of gratitude to its Board for the very judicious and efficient management of the paper; they are entitled to the full confidence and support of all the Baptists in the State.

W. C. CLEVELAND, Chairman.

And after remarks from Brothers Teague, Waldrop, Baber, Cleveland, Henderson, Manly and Winkler, further discussion was suspended, because the stated time set for the consideration of the *Report of the Committee on the Home Mission Board* had arrived, when that report was read; and after remarks from W. H. McIntosh, a collection was taken up, amounting to \$7 45 and sundry pledges.

During the time occupied in taking up the collection the following communication was received, read and ordered spread on the minutes:

MONTGOMERY, July 14, 1876.

To the *Alabama Baptist State Convention*:

DEAR BRETHREN.—We, the Executive Board of the Colored Baptist Convention of Alabama, thinking that you would like to be informed with reference to our objects, resolved to transmit to you, through our Elder, C. O. Booth, the following statement:

Having very keenly felt the need of an educated ministry, we have decided to attempt the purchase of a lot of ground and the erection of a theological school building at Marion, Ala.

As we have but little information and little money with which to accomplish this much desired end, we intend that our beginnings shall not exceed \$5,000. Of course, through the blessing of God and the humble persistence of ourselves, we hope ultimately to realize a larger amount.

We beg your sympathy and your prayers. May the good Lord abundantly bless your meeting.

Your humble brethren in hope of the promised rest.

J. A. FOSTER, Chairman.

C. O. BOOTH, Cor. Sec'y

The following resolutions were then read and adopted:

RESOLVED, That this Convention has heard with great gratification of the earnest desire of our colored brethren for an educated ministry, and of their laudable efforts to establish a Theological School in this State.

RESOLVED, That we deem this a suitable occasion to express to our colored brethren our strong and abiding interest in their welfare, both temporal and spiritual, and our willingness to aid them, not only in this, but in every undertaking which may conduce to their good and the glory of our common Lord.

RESOLVED, That the Secretary be requested to transmit a copy of these resolutions to the President of the Executive Board of the Colored Baptist Convention.

The hour of adjournment having arrived, the Convention adjourned with prayer by M. Bishop, until 4 o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION,

SATURDAY, 4 o'clock.

The Convention opened with prayer by J. O. Hixson.

A Committee to nominate the one who is to preach the Convention sermon at the next session, consisting of Bros. C. W. Hare, A. J. Waldrop and T. S. Bowen, was appointed.

Leave was granted the Committee to whom was referred the report of the *Board of Trustees of Howard College*, and the *Central Centennial Committee*, to read their reports, which was done, and they were made the special order for 8 o'clock to-night.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF HOWARD COLLEGE.

We have great reason for thankfulness to God, that we have been enabled in our annual reports for several years past, notwithstanding the adversity that has pervaded every department of industry throughout the country, to look hopefully toward the future of Howard College. These reports will show that there has been a steady improvement of the internal administration of the College, promotive of a higher degree of morals and scholarship; that the building and apparatus have been put in good order and kept in a perfect state of preservation; and that the property has been largely added to in the complete outfit of the Boarding Department, and the purchase of the President's mansion. While, at the same time, our indebtedness has been steadily reduced, and the cost of education gradually diminished, until now it is as cheap, if not cheaper, than in the most favorably endowed institutions. The session of 1875-6, just closed, shows an increase in the number of matriculates, numbering now, 112. Of these, ten were theological students. We have, during this time, maintained and preserved an unbroken Faculty of the highest order of merit and culture in their various departments of instruction. Their fidelity to duty and Christian character are too well known to require mention here. The Discipline of the College is of such a character that, if properly and generally understood by the public, we believe it would fill to overflowing its halls with students. It is mild, yet firm; promotive of good morals and health, as experience has proven; and with its system of rewards and punishments, a high degree of scholarship has been secured. In brief, it is such, that if maintained, will, we believe, ultimately fill our State with educated Christian gentlemen, the worthy sons of those noble men who with their prayers and means, inaugurated and bequeathed to us this great work.

We have thus reviewed briefly what, under the Divine blessing, has been accomplished by Howard College during the past few years, with but little pecuniary aid from the denomination; that our brethren may fully understand and appreciate the great work that is in their charge, and may be induced to take advantage of the present prosperous and favorable season, and put this important and vital interest of the Convention beyond the reach of the chilling blasts of adversity. Have we not, in the history of Howard College enough to stimulate the heart of our people, at least to emulate the example of our brethren in sister States? Have not her *alumni* alone, who are scattered from New York to Galveston, in the pulpit, forum and schoolroom, and in every other department of honor and trust, made a record which justifies the interest extended by our fathers, in Howard College, and encourages our prayers and aims to establish an enduring monument to them, and to the cause of patriotism and religion by the endowment of this institution?

We trust and believe that this important work has the hearts and sympathies of the Denomination, which will be demonstrated when the matter is properly brought before them, and when the Convention inaugurates a plan that will bring out the active co-operation of the ministry.

Up to the writing of this report, we are not advised as to what has been, or may be, accomplished by means of the present plan of endowment through the Alabama Centennial Committee. We presume you will have a report from your efficient and energetic agent, Dr. Renfree. We are all satisfied that no other one man in the State would or could accomplish more in the same length of time than he. But concert of action must be had. The work is too vast for the efforts of any one man. WM. W. WILKERSON, President.

To the Alabama Baptist State Convention:

Your Special Committee, to whom was referred the report of the Board of Trustees of Howard College, have had the same under consideration, and instruct me to make the following report:

The committee deem it unnecessary to report a detailed statement of the financial condition of the College, and are content to state one or two results, leaving a detailed report of that condition in the hands of another committee particularly charged with this matter.

Howard College is in a better condition to-day by about \$18,000 than it was five years ago, and this result has been accomplished without any endowment. It seems to your committee that this fact alone, taking into consideration the financial embarrassment of the people of Alabama, is truly wonderful, and could have been accomplished only by united, energetic and concentrated effort, on the part of the able Faculty, Board of Trustees, and friends of the institution.

Your committee beg to suggest, that Howard College does not belong to any particular locality, nor to any one community, but is a State denominational institution; and as such, deserves, and should receive, the united influence and patronage of the Baptists of our State.

Howard College, during the last session, had in attendance one hundred and twelve students—ten of whom were theological—a number equal to any institution in the State; and the committee desire to suggest to this Convention, that, if, with this number in attendance, the management of the financial affairs of the College will show the above result, what, we ask, under similar management, would be the condition with the number of students doubled—even without an endowment fund? The grand results that have been accomplished by Howard College, intellectually and financially, show, in the opinion of your committee, that the Faculty and financial agents of the College, are men of zeal, energy and ability, and well deserve the plaudit, "Well done, good and faithful servants."

Your committee admit that without an endowment fund, the College cannot reach to that high position of usefulness, that many, if not all the Baptists in Alabama, would gladly see her occupy; yet if every Baptist in Alabama would use his influence towards filling its halls with students, the result would be astonishing, and every citizen of the State, actuated by a desire to see the young educated and trained, morally and intellectually, would look upon the institution with pride and pleasure. If this Convention were to do nothing else, except to use its influence successfully in the endowment of Howard College in a sum ample to meet any ordinary contingency, they would, in the opinion of your committee, be entitled to, and would receive, the smiles of Providence and the applause of succeeding generations.

The committee have instructed me to report the accompanying resolutions, and to move their adoption, and that they be discharged.

H. A. WOOLF, Chairman.

Resolved, That the able and distinguished Faculty of Howard College, and the Trustees and officers thereof, are entitled to the gratitude and thanks of this Convention for the very acceptable manner in which they have managed the institution.

Resolved, That the members of this Convention, each for himself, pledge their influence in aid of Howard College, by increasing its influence for good—to aid in raising the endowment fund, and increasing the number of its students.

To the Alabama Baptist State Convention:

The Special Committee to whom was referred the report of the Central Centennial Committee have had the same under consideration and respectfully report that they heartily endorse the suggestions made by that Committee in their report; and that the Centennial Agency in the various associations should be enlarged, and the Committee here copy with their endorsement the report of said Committee.

H. A. WOOLF, Chairman.

RESOLVED, That every Baptist minister in this State be requested to urge upon his congregation the importance of raising an endowment fund for Howard College.

RESOLVED, That the President of this Convention appoint additional workers to Co-operate with the several Committee men of each association and that the enlarged Committee correspond with the general agent.

On Foreign Missions.—B. W. Whilden, J. H. Weatherly, J. S. Dill, E. T. Smyth, B. J. Skinner, J. P. Nall.

On Home Missions.—J. O'Blowry, E. F. Baber, J. N. Prestridge, G. G. McLendon, J. L. Sampey, C. C. Jones.

On Education.—Sumter Lea, J. M. Thigpen, A. B. Goodhue, T. J. Dill, G. W. McQueen, B. W. Bussey.

On Sabbath Schools.—J. S. Paullin, W. S. Rogers, J. G. Apsey, E. Y. VanHoose, W. P. Bullock, D. B. Edwards.

The discussion of the *Report on Home Missions* was resumed, and participated in by Bros. Lowry, Baber and Ticheur. The report was adopted.

REPORT ON HOME MISSION BOARD.

Would you have the Southern Baptist Convention continued, with its glorious record of Christianworks, in pouring the light of life and salvation abroad in the land? Then you must support the Home Mission Board. Will our duty to our own home people, in the States and Territories allow us to do less? Many are the places in our country, and numerous are the people who are not reached with the Gospel, by any other agency than this. The field is the world, and it is quite large enough for all to work, in expending all their best directed means and energies. Dare we not conclude, that God's people, with the means at their command, are capable of working out the purposes of the Master in this field? Will we not ever recognize our solemn Christian obligation to the Indians of America, and with eager hands, through the agency of this Board, give to them the Gospel of peace? Most earnestly are they appealing to us, for the word of God. Then, here are the freedmen. Is it not suggested to every pious soul, that something should be done to elevate, moralize and Christianize this part of our population? And how can it better be done but by the instrumentality of the Home Board? In the name of our blessed Redeemer, we appeal to both pastors and people, to avail themselves of every opportunity, to send the word of life to all.

Kind Words a very superior Sabbath School Paper, published by this Board we would recommend in no measured term.

It is with profound satisfaction that we can direct your attention to what has been accomplished by the Secretary, Dr. W. H. McIntosh, within the few months since his appointment. The large debt that had been thrown upon this Board, has been greatly reduced, giving assurance that the entire debt will be lifted at no distant day. With such a worker; in such a cause, who can doubt the largest success?

J. J. CLOUD,

B. J. SKINNER,

W. H. CARROLL.

On motion, the thanks of the convention were tendered the *Montgomery Advertiser* for its great kindness in publishing the daily proceedings of the Convention.

The report of the committee to devise ways and means was read,

which was adopted and ordered to be published in the *Alabama Baptist*.

To the Alabama Baptist State Convention:

The Special Committee appointed on the ways and means, to raise funds to meet the necessities of the church, and to devise a plan by which every class, profession, trade or business man of their substance contribute to the support of the Gospel, after consideration beg, to submit the following:

In cities, towns, villages and in the rural districts where the churches meet regularly in the Sabbath School, every Lord's day, the Sabbath Schools, should be interested in the support of the State Mission Board, and each class should be provided with a "mite box," in which every Sabbath School Pupil, may deposit a small contribution.

When churches meet regularly on every Lord's day, either for preaching or other devotional exercises, it is recommended that collection for the various works of the denomination be made under the directions of the pastors and deacons. Small contributions regularly collected will accomplish more in the end, than large donations spasmodically made,

Aware of the difficulties in the way of raising money by collections from the country churches owing to the fact that the incomes of the membership consist of products rather than money, it is recommended that pastors and deacons of such churches obtain from their congregations when the members do not prefer to give money, contributions of produce, eggs, poultry and meat; and from the *female members* such articles of domestic manufacture as they will contribute, from mechanics, such articles of domestic manufacture as they will contribute, and from merchants, such articles as they will give and so of every trade or business such articles as may be obtained, giving to each and every one an opportunity of aiding in the maintenance of the Gospel.

It is further recommended, that at least twice in each year, the deacons or such persons as the churches may charge with the work, shall send around among the people, wagons or other conveyances to gather up the contributions, in kind, that may be made and ship the same to such agents as may be selected. As far as possible, subscriptions should obtained in advance, but in all cases whether there are subscriptions or not, the wagons should be sent to every one so that none might lose the opportunity of paying their tithes into the store house of the Lord.

It is further recommended that the State Mission Board select agents at central convenient and accessible points to receive and dispose of, all contributions by sale or as otherwise directed. In all cases, contributors may select the objects of their benefactions whether for Home, Foreign or State Missions or education, and in every instance it shall be the duty of such agents, upon the sale of articles, to give the proceeds the direction indicated by the contributors.

The committee urges upon the attention of ministers the impor-

tance of devoting as much time during each year as is possible to the work of preaching to other churches than those in their charge, on the subject of Missions. Such voluntary work it is thought will be better received and productive of more good coming from brethren not directly interested in the pecuniary result of his labors.

This report would be incomplete without a recommendation to country Baptist churches of the practicability of supporting their pastors by contributions of such articles as may be produced or manufactured by the members of the congregations. A liberal support might thus be furnished to pastors, so that instead of giving most of their time to secular pursuits to obtain subsistence, they might devote themselves entirely to the ministry of the word.

J. B. EDDINS, Chairman.

On motion, convention adjourned with prayer by Bro. Apsey, until 8 1/2 o'clock to-night.

The Committee reported the nomination of Joseph Shackelford, to preach the Convention sermon, with W. B. Crumpton as alternate.

The *Committee on Education* presented their report, with amendments, which, after discussion by Bros. Hixson, Henderson, Sampey, Winkler, Williams, Lanneau, Teague and Tichenor, and after striking out the word equal in reference to *Alabama Central Female College*, was adopted.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

Your Committee deem it unnecessary to present to this body or, its constituents any argument in regard to the general subject of education. The day when such arguments were needed by the Baptists of Ala., if it ever existed has happily passed by long ago and forever. The paramount importance of education, is acknowledged and acted upon by the good Baptists of this great commonwealth. The institutions of learning all over our State, founded and fostered some in part and others wholly by the Baptists, is an evidence visible, tangible, and felt of their profound and unsurpassed interest in the cause of education. And the two institutions which are the offspring of this Convention are imperishable monuments of the devotion of Alabama Baptists to the interests of both male and female education. As these two institutions stand side by side both equally dear to this Convention so would we have our sons and daughters alike cultivated and refined. And the whole State has been placed under obligations to this body for planting, fostering and maturing two such institutions of learning within its borders for they stand to-day the acknowledged peers if not the superiors of any in all this land.

Your Committee has been relieved from any extended notice of Howard College, the report of its Board of Trustees having been referred to a special Committee.

We are glad to learn from the report of the Board of Trustees, that the old yet young and vigorous Judson, the loved and honored *abnater* of many of the noblest mothers and daughters of the South has

during the past session, preserved an ancient renown. Under the supervision of Dr. Sumner, it has lost none of its former prestige and that notwithstanding the financial pressure which is felt in all departments and in none more than that of education. One-hundred and sixty-five pupils were enrolled during the last session, and at its recent commencement ten young ladies received the honors of graduation. We regret to learn that Dr. Sumner whose labors have been crowned with such gratifying success notwithstanding all opposing obstacles has severed his connection with the institution. We hope that he will still be retained in some extended field of usefulness, where his experience and ability will be given to advance the interest of the denomination in the State and the South. We are glad however to know that a worthy successor to the retiring President has been secured in the person of L. R. Gwaltney A. M., of Rome Ga. His reputation as an educated and a cultivated christian gentleman, gives the highest promise of success, and a still brighter future seems dawning upon the noble and honored Judson. To all who would give their daughters a thorough education under refined and christian influences, we most cordially recommend the Judson Female Institute Marion Ala., under the control and direction of President Gwaltney. And with equal pleasure and cordiality; we recommend the Alabama Central Female College at Tuscaloosa, presided over by that distinguished educator Jno. F. Lunneau A. M. The success of this institution under his skillful management in the past is a sufficient guarantee for the future, and parents committing their daughters to his care and training will not be disappointed.

There are some tendencies and necessities of modern culture to which your Committee would briefly and most respectfully call attention. The tendency to which we refer is that of seeking some short and easy road to an education, whether collegiate or professional. Pupils and parents would have teachers hurry them through and make graduation easy. This is an age of Railroads and Telegraphs of modern inventions and rapid travel; but we should remember ourselves—teach the young who look to us for guidance and instruction, that there are no patent educators, no rapid transit in a march of mind, that now, as of old, there is no royal road to knowledge. It is the same old path of persevering labor, unremitting toil and persistent application. The standard of education should be, and must be, gradually elevated instead of stealthily lowered or we can never develop first class men, men who are to mould the thoughts and direct the affairs of their generation.

The necessities for thoroughness; and depth and width of culture especially among those who are to be the leaders of religious thoughts, the teachers of the people, are increasing year by year. Human thoughts and inquiry are taking a wider range and becoming more thorough and practical than ever before. The old boundaries are being passed by. The nightly current has long ago swept far beyond the pillars of Hercules. Thought too, is getting bold, daring and fearless. Theories long assumed, as true and sacred, too sacred to be questioned, are being enquired into afresh. Positions for generations

deemed impregnable, are being attacked and their defenders compelled to fall back astonished and bewildered. And this spirit of inquiry of scepticism, if you chose so to call it, is not confined to a few but it runs through the current literature of the day and reaches the reading masses. The old battles are to be fought over on new fields and with modern weapons. And what can meet the demands of the age but thorough liberal culture. These questionings of modern thought and modern science cannot be ignored. They must be respectfully heeded and candidly, rationally answered. "Be ready to give to everyone that asketh you a reason of the hope that is within you" is the inspired command. Yes the *reason* of your faith and hope, and nothing else, will satisfy. The day has passed by when men could be frightened or controlled by rattling at them the dry bones of a dead orthodoxy. When the struggling spirit doubting, fearing, hoping, asks for light, the light of truth, the light of reason, will you not give it? when the hungry soul begs bread, the bread of life, will you give it a stone, the hard flint stone of a creed? Nothing but education, the highest, most liberal, culture of mind and heart, new modes of Biblical interpretation and a thorough cordial sympathy with the spirit—yes the spirit of the letter killeth, but the spirit maketh a live—the spirit of the Divine word can meet the imperative and growing demands of progressive thought and modern science.

Again, it is only this thorough education, this generous liberal culture that will make us as Baptists, the worthy sons of our worthy sires, and enable us to fulfill our high destiny by marching as heretofore in the van of the world's progress. We may refuse to discern the signs of the times and see the waving banners of the waving columns sweep by us. This must not, cannot, shall not be. We more than any others have provoked this spirit of free thought and fearless inquiry. We broke the shackles of priest-craft burnt the barriers of a relentless ritualism, liberated the enthralled mind, set free the improved soul. We enforced and acted upon the inspired lesson. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" and we see the result in the free republic and religious liberty of America now entering with world wide renown upon her second century, in the dissolving bonds of the unnatural, corrupt and cursed alliance of church and State in all Europe, in the growing strength of the young republic of France in this disenthralment of Italy and in the recent and if possible more surprising bill of toleration in the Spanish Congress. These are some of the results of these Bible principles brought to light and enforced by Baptists. We have accomplished much under the Divine blessing and under the guidance of the benignant and ever ascending star of Bethlehem. But we have much yet to accomplish.

"Taller mountains when ascended
Other mountains bring to view."

Let us not, then, sit down content, vainly imagining that we have apprehended that for which we were apprehended of Christ. Let us rather, "forgetting the things that are behind," and reaching forth to yet greater goals and nobler achievements, press ever onward and upward. The victories already achieved are grand and glorious,

but there are yet grander and more glorious ones beckoning us onward. We have not yet found out the Almighty or his Word, unto perfection. We may hear the voice of the Master speaking to us to-day, as he did to the three as they came down from the mount of Transfiguration, "I have yet many things to tell you, but ye cannot bear them now." The Spirit of truth, promised and given to the early church to guide them into all truth is yet with us, and if not resisted, will lead us into broader fields, through greener pastures, beside stiller and deeper waters of our Father's love. As good old John Robinson said to the Pilgrim Fathers as they were setting sail from the shores of Old England, "Brethren, we doubt not God has yet other truth to break forth from his word."

To fulfil these high hopes, to realize these grand achievements, other battles have to be fought, stern, hard, protracted battles. The conflict is not yet ended. The enemy still contests our progress. The demon of intolerance, of religious ecclesiastical intolerance, the bitterest, most cruel of all, and the most formidable foe to Christian progress, is not yet dead. True, it is chained, but it goes the full length of its tether; it cannot punish with the stake and the prison, but glories in proscription, and gloats, as of old, over the more refined, but not less excruciating tortures of its victims. Another enemy that now contests the progress of Christianity is science, falsely so-called, not true science, for science rightly understood, and the Bible properly interpreted, can never be at variance.

In view of these reflections, what is the duty of the hour? Let us rally around our institutions of learning, and give to our sons the amplest means for the highest culture. The duty of the hour for Alabama Baptists is to establish Howard College upon a permanent basis, and place at the disposal of its trustees and Faculty the means of educating every son of Alabama that asks admission into her halls. The duty of the hour for the Baptists, not only of Alabama, but of the whole South, is the generous, liberal support of our Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Let no young man entering the ministry be turned away from this school of the prophets, for want of means. Our institutions of learning, controlled and directed by Christian men of broad, liberal, generous culture, are the sources of our strength and the hope of our denomination.

W. N. REEVES, Chairman.

NIGHT SESSION.

The Convention re-assembled, and after singing a hymn, and prayer by B. J. Skinner, the *Finance Committee* read their report, which was adopted.

Agreed that all monies in the hands of the *Finance Committee* be turned over to J. T. Murfee, to be handed to the Treasurer of the Convention.

The *Auditing Committee* reported that they had examined the *Treasurer's* and *Finance Committees'* Reports, and found them correct.

The Finance Committee beg leave to make the following report :
REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.
MONTGOMERY, ALA., July 13, 1876.

	For Home Mission Board.....	For Foreign Mission Board.....	For State Mission Board.....	For Howard College.....	For unassigned purposes, miscellaneous, &c.....	For Antislavery Mission Board.....	For Board of Education.....	For Rev. Mr. Williams—to build a home for him to inhabit.....	\$	C.
From Talladega Mission Society L. A. S. of Greenville.....	5 00		5 00				2 00		200	00
From Rock West Church.....			5 00							10 00
From Union Springs Church.....				1 00						5 00
From A. J. Waldrop.....				1 00						1 00
From Public Collection.....	27 05									27 05
From Bethsada Baptist Church.				1 00						1 00
From Public Collection.....	7 15									7 15
From Dr. C. C. Jones.....	1 25									1 25
From A. J. Waldrop.....	5 00									5 00
From Public Collection, 14th.....			19 60							19 60
From Public Collection.....	3 35									3 35
Totals.....	22 05	27 05	59 60	3 00			2 00			311 70

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. W. PURIFOY, Acting Chairman

The special order of the hour was the consideration of the report of the select committee to whom was referred the report of the *Board of Trustees of Howard College*. Addresses were made by Brethren Apsey, Renfroe, Manly, and B. H. Crumpton, when the report was adopted.

On motion, all unfinished business was referred to the *Board of Directors*.

After singing two verses of the hymn "Coronation," and prayer by L. L. Fox, the Convention adjourned to meet with the Gadsden Baptist Church, on the Thursday before the third Sabbath in July, at 10½ a. m.

JON. HARALSON, President.

B. B. DAVIS, Secretary.

NOTE.—The appointments for preaching in the several churches on the Sabbath, July 16th, were filled as recommended by the committee on *Devotional Exercises*, except that in the Herron Street Church, *W. B. Crumpton* preached at 10½ a. m., and J. S. Paullin at 8½ p. m.

The Clerks of the Several Associations will much oblige me by sending copies of their Minutes for 1875 and 1876 and from time to time hereafter as published to be filed for the use of the Convention.

B. B. DAVIS, Secretary,

Box 350, Montgomery Ala.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.—This body shall be known by the name of "The Baptist State Convention of Alabama;" and shall be composed of delegates from Baptist Associations and Churches, and from Missionary or other Benevolent Societies; provided that such delegates shall be members of Baptist Churches, in good standing.

ARTICLE II.—The officers of the Convention shall be a President, First and Second Vice Presidents, a Recording Secretary and a Treasurer, together with a Board of Directors, as hereinafter named, who shall be elected at each annual meeting, and who shall hold their offices until their successors are elected.

ARTICLE III.—The President, or in case of his absence, one of the Vice Presidents, in their order, shall preside at all the deliberations of the Convention, and discharge the duties usually imposed upon an executive officer of deliberative bodies.

ARTICLE IV.—The Secretary shall make a fair record of the proceedings of the Convention, and soon after the rising of each regular meeting of the body, shall attend to the printing and distribution of the Minutes of the same of which he shall preserve a file--which file shall constitute the authentic record of Convention. He shall also conduct the correspondence of the body. For his services he may receive a reasonable compensation.

ARTICLE V.—The Treasurer shall take charge of the funds of the Convention, and hold the same subject to the order of this body, or of the Board of Directors during the recess of the Convention; and he shall make an annual report of all receipts and expenditures, which shall be audited and published with the Minutes.

ARTICLE VI.—The President, Vice Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer, with nine other brethren, shall compose the Board of Directors, five of whom shall form a quorum authorized to transact any business of the Convention during the recess thereof, and shall report their proceedings at each annual meeting of the Convention.

ARTICLE VII.—The President shall have power to call a meeting of the Board whenever the exigency of the circumstances may, in his judgment, require the same.

ARTICLE VIII.—The business of this Convention shall be, to encourage and promote, by all proper means, the following objects, viz:—Foreign, Domestic and Indian Missions; Bible Translation and Distribution; The Publication and Distribution of Religious Books, Tracts and Periodicals; Sunday Schools; The Education of the Youth of the country, and especially that of Ministers of the Gospel; and all other objects sanctioned in the Gospel; *Provided*, that such persons only as are in indigent circumstances, shall be received as beneficiaries of the institutions of learning under the patronage of the Convention; *Provided further*, that all applicants for aid shall undergo an examination as to their hope in Christ and call to the Ministry, by the Board of Directors, or a Committee, appointed by the same, before they are accepted as beneficiaries.

ARTICLE IX.—The Convention shall have the supreme control of any Literary or Theological Institution, which has been, or may hereafter be originated in this body; and it shall choose for such institution, a Board of twenty-four Trustees body; and serve for six years, of whom one-third shall go out of office biennially; and the said Trustees shall, on all occasions, be subject to the control of the Convention, and make an annual report to this body on the state of such institution.

ARTICLE X.—The Convention may receive funds from all such persons as may be disposed to aid in any of the benevolent purposes mentioned in the 8th Article, and it shall faithfully apply funds contributed, to the objects which may be designated by the donors—a portion, however, being taken *pro rata* from the same for contingent expenses, in the event of the insufficiency of the general fund for that purpose.

ARTICLE XI.—The Convention may employ agents, whose duty it shall be to make collections, obtain subscriptions from societies, select Churches and Associations to unite with the Convention, and to further all the objects of this body.

ARTICLE XII.—The Convention shall have power to send delegates to the Southern Baptist Convention, and to any other assembly with which, in its wisdom, it may wish to communicate.

ARTICLE XIII.—The Convention shall hold its meetings at such time and place as it shall, from time to time, appoint.

ARTICLE XIV.—Any Church, Association or society, as prescribed in the 1st. Article, contributing any sum, through the Convention, to one or more of the objects specified in the 8th Article, may be represented in this body, as follows:—Each Association may have ten delegates, and each Baptist Church or Benevolent Society, five.

ARTICLE XV.—Any individual member, of a Baptist Church in good standing may be voted a life member, by the contribution of \$100, at one time, to any of the objects of this Convention. The Convention may, at its pleasure, vote any brother a life member, in consideration of long and eminent services.

ARTICLE XVI.—The funds of this Convention shall consist of voluntary contributions or donations, and not otherwise.

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

ARTICLE XVIII.—This Constitution may be altered or amended by the concurrence of three-fourths of the members present at any annual meeting, but not so as to infringe the 17th Article.

ARTICLE XIX.—All amendments or alterations of this Constitution shall be proposed at one session, and acted upon at the next.

§ Instead of prescribing distinct RULES OF ORDER, *Mell's Parliamentary Practice*, so far as applicable, was adopted by the Convention for governing its deliberations.

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