

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Birmingham Baptist Association

HELD WITH

WARRIOR BAPTIST CHURCH,


WARRIOR, JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA,

September 27, 28 and 29, 1892.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

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OFFICERS.

A. J. WALDROP, MODERATOR,	- - - - -	EAST LAKE, ALA.
R. W. BECK, CLERK,	- - - - -	EAST LAKE, ALA.
J. F. HUEY, ASSISTANT CLERK,	- - - - -	BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
F. M. WOOD, TREASURER,	- - - - -	WOODLAWN, ALA.
M. M. WOOD, CORRESPONDING SECRETARY,	- -	PRATT MINES, ALA.

The next session of the Association will be held with the Woodlawn Baptist Church, at Woodlawn, Alabama, commencing on Tuesday before the first Sunday in October, 1893, at 10 o'clock a. m.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Reading of Church Letters.
2. Enrollment of Delegates.
3. Election of Officers.
4. Receive Churches Applying for Admission.
5. Appoint Special Committees.
6. Receive Correspondence.
7. Return Correspondence.
8. Miscellaneous Business.
9. Report on Foreign Missions.
10. Report on Home Missions.
11. Report on State Missions.
12. Report on Religious Literature and Colportage Work.
13. Report on Education.
14. Miscellaneous Business.
15. Report on Sabbath Schools.
16. Report on Temperance.
17. Report on Church Improvements.
18. Report on Nominations.
19. Report of Treasurer.
20. Report of Finance Committee.
21. Appoint Standing Committees.
22. Report of Committee on Spiritual Condition of Churches.
23. Report of Executive Committee.
24. Miscellaneous Business.
25. Adjournment.

MINUTES.

The fifty-ninth annual session of the Birmingham Baptist Association assembled in the meeting house of the Warrior Baptist Church at 10 o'clock A. M., Tuesday, September 27, 1892.

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. A. J. Waldrop, who read the 19th Psalm, and the body was led in prayer by Rev. W. L. Pickard.

Brethren P. T. Hale and A. W. McGaha read the letters from the churches, and the following delegates were enrolled as members of the body :

CHURCHES WITH DELEGATES.

Adger—

Avondale—R. D. Faggard, S. R. Caffé, S. E. Tomlinson.

Bessemer—M. M. Wood, W. H. Connell, M. M. Gwin, J. B. Gleen, E. M. Owens, A. W. Wood, B. F. Baxley, A. A. Harris and T. P. Waller.

Bethany—

Birmingham, First Church—W. L. Pickard, Jos. Holman, J. F. Huey, A. B. Johnston, J. F. Graham.

Birmingham, Second Church—W. A. Whittle, L. F. Cobb.

Birmingham, Third Church—Joseph Hogan, H. N. Sayers, J. W. Day, S. B. Stiff, D. J. Childers.

Birmingham, Southside Church—P. T. Hale, William Malone, R. B. Holtam, J. D. Gresham, S. P. Fowlkes, J. P. Downey and E. H. Cabiness.

Blossburg—C. W. O'Guin and R. S. Thompson.

Brookside—

Canaan—A. L. Cross, J. I. Crotwell, T. L. Shaw and G. W. Cooley.

Coalburg—

Central—J. C. Gilmer, R. M. Inzer and Porter Pressley.

Concord—B. I. Franklin and T. Lelcher.

Dolomite—R. Y. Robinson, J. J. Walker, J. L. Meigs and J. A. Sostin.

Elyton—J. R. Floyd and M. R. Rockett.

Enon—John C. Gilesby, L. M. Little and R. E. Cowden.

Ensley—T. D. Parsons, James Simpson and William Street.

Green Springs—G. A. Robertson, G. W. Smith and Thomas Baker.

Hopewell—

Johns—

Irondale—E. J. McDaniel, F. M. Barton and W. M. Byer.

Mount Olive—B. Darden and E. S. Newman.

Mary Lee—F. B. McNeal, L. D. Vaughn and R. A. Green.

New Prospect—W. C. Vann, E. P. Wood, W. O. M. Franklin and D. B. Soms.

Oak Grove—M. N. Daniels, T. E. Stubbs, J. A. McCombs and T. A. Anderson.

Pratt Mines—G. T. Lee, William Kamplain and J. E. Weaver.

Pleasant Ridge—

Ruhama—A. W. McGaha, A. J. Waldrop, R. W. Beck, B. F. Riley, M. P. Reynolds, M. G. Rushton, W. Y. Browning, J. M. Huey, A. D. Smith and H. H. Brown.

Salem—J. H. Murphy, Math Hughes, J. E. Massey and Rev. M. T. Brantham.

Springville—

Trussville—M. K. Vann, E. M. Rich, D. H. Vann and D. N. Talley.

Union—R. S. Jones and J. S. Britton.

Warrior—W. A. Hobson, Dr. J. A. Collins, D. F. South and J. M. Bevans.

Williamsburg—

Woodlawn—C. K. Henderson, F. M. Wood, Z. S. Wyatt, D. H. Montgomery, J. B. Gibson.

The election of officers resulted as follows :

Moderator—A. J. Waldrop.

Clerk—R. W. Beck.

Assistant Clerk—J. F. Huey.

Treasurer—F. M. Wood.

Corresponding Secretary—M. M. Wood.

The applications for membership in this body were received from the Irondale and Mary Lee Baptist Churches, and, on motion, were referred to a committee consisting of A. W. McGaha, A. B. Johnston and R. M. Inzer.

On motion of W. L. Pickard, a committee consisting of A. W. McGaha, P. T. Hale and W. A. Hobson was appointed to present a report to the body on Ministerial Education.

Rev. W. C. Cleveland was received as the representative of the Ministerial Board ;

Rev. J. M. Waller from State Mission Board ;

Rev. B. F. Riley from Howard College ;

Rev. G. A. Chunn from Cullman Association ;

Rev. W. C. Cleveland from Shelby Association ;

Rev. H. J. Holbrook from Muscle Shoals Association.

It was ordered that any member of this body who may attend the meeting of any other Association shall be Correspondent from this body to such Association.

The Moderator appointed the following Special Committees :

Finance—A. B. Johnston, J. A. McCombs and W. Y. Browning.

Documents—J. M. Waller, R. M. Inzer and W. A. Hobson.

Nominations—W. A. Whittle, T. P. Waller and J. F. Rogers.

Devotions—Pastor and Deacons of Warrior Church, with Jos. Holman and J. R. Lloyd.

The Committee to whom was referred the applications of the Irondale and Mary Lee Churches, reported as follows :

We, the committee appointed to make a report on the application of the Irondale and Mary Lee Baptist Churches for membership into the Birmingham Baptist Association, beg leave to recommend their reception into this body.

A. W. MCGAHA,
A. B. JOHNSTON,
R. M. INZER.

P. T. Hale, W. A. Whittle and F. M. Wood were appointed a Memorial Committee on the death of Rev. G. D. Staton.

Hours for meeting were fixed as follows: Meet at 9 o'clock A. M. and adjourn at 12 o'clock; meet at 2 o'clock P. M. and adjourn at will; meet at 7:30 o'clock P. M. and adjourn at will.

The report on Foreign Missions was read by W. L. Pickard; on Home Missions by B. F. Riley, and on State Missions by A. W. McGaha, and on motion the reports were temporarily laid on the table.

On motion a committee, consisting of J. R. Lloyd, T. B. McNeal and S. B. Stiff, was appointed on Religious Literature and Colportage Work.

Adjourned to 2 o'clock P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. H. J. Holbrook.

Letters from several churches, whose delegates had arrived during the noon recess, were read.

Blossburg Church applied for membership on letters of dismission from Sulphur Springs Association, and on motion was received.

The subject of Missions was now considered and discussed by W. L. Pickard, P. T. Hale, J. M. Waller and W. C. Cleveland.

Adjourned.

NIGHT SESSION.

The Association Sermon was preached by Rev. P. T. Hale, from Gal. 6th chapter and 7th verse, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

WEDNESDAY MORNING SESSION.

After singing, and prayer by Brother Holman, the body proceeded with the further consideration of the question of Missions. Speeches were made by A. W. McGaha, J. M. Waller and S. P. Fowlkes, when the reports were again postponed to the afternoon session.

The special order being the report on Ministerial Education, the report was read by A. W. McGaha and discussed by W. C. Cleveland.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

Resolved, 1st. That this Association is in hearty sympathy with the work of the Board of Ministerial Education.

2nd. We urge the churches to contribute liberally to the treasury of this Board.

3rd. It is urgently requested that all contributions be sent to George W. Ellis, Montgomery, Ala., by the 15th of November, or at latest by the 1st of February, 1893.

A. W. MCGAHA,
Chairman.

Pledges to the support of this work amounting to \$812.50 were made by the various churches.

Blossburg	\$ 5 00
East Lake.....	113 00
Birmingham, First.....	150 00
Birmingham, South Side.....	138 00
Avondale.....	25 00
Woodlawn.....	69 00
Warrior.....	50 00
Trussville.....	25 00
Bessemer.....	25 00
Birmingham, Second.....	25 00
Green Springs.....	10 00
Birmingham, Third.....	20 00
Dolomite.....	15 00
New Prospect.....	12 50
Elyton.....	10 00
Union.....	5 00
Irondale.....	10 00
Mary Lee.....	4 50
Total.....	<u>\$812 50</u>

Rev. A. W. McGaha then preached the Missionary Sermon from Mark 16th chapter and 15th verse, after which a cash collection was taken, amounting to \$23.62.

Adjourned.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The body was lead in prayer by Rev. G. A. Chunn. The question of Missions was again taken from the table, and, on motion, the several reports were adopted.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

To the Birmingham Baptist Association—Greeting :

DEAR BRETHREN—Your Committee on Foreign Missions beg leave to report as follows :

Praise God for His wonderful works among the Pagan and Papal nations of the earth.

The work of the Southern Baptist Convention is steadily increasing in foreign lands. We operate missions now in China, Africa, Italy, Brazil, Japan and Mexico.

We began work in China in 1860. We now have there 43 preaching stations. We now have there 32 regular Missionaries, besides many native helpers. We have 917 as the present membership. We give this as a specimen of the long, hard work. Not great results, you say. No and yes. Less than a half century and no preaching stations then and 43 now; not a Christian then and 917 now, besides the many who through the years have gone home to God. And what a lever for the future!

And this Chinese work is possibly the darkest picture that can be drawn of our foreign work. Africa, in its rapidly developing state, is attracting the eyes of the world. And the climate and soil there are not more riveting to the tradesman and money-getter than are the hearts of the people to the Gospel. Italy is slowly, but surely, turning from Papal idolatry to Jesus Christ, whom God has ordained to be man's only hope of salvation. Brazil is becoming more hopeful. The very political revolutions occurring there are hastening the day of religious liberty. Japan is progressive in all things temporal, and now is the time to push the mission work in that wonderful country. And of our work so recently begun there, we are hopeful. And Mexico is coming from priest to Christ. Our work there reads more like fable than fact, so wonderful is it. So again we say, Praise God for his mighty works among the heathen.

We would call attention to the fact that this is the centennial of modern missions. God honored the Baptists by giving the world a Baptist to begin this work. Through all this century the work has been going forward—sometimes through clouds dark, and through prisons, through fires, and through blood—but it has been going forward, and now we stand on larger ground, and under brighter skies. As a thank offering to God, the Southern Baptists propose this year not only to sustain the Missionaries they have already on the ground, but to put 100 new ones in the fields. This will require \$100,000 more than we gave last year to the Missionaries. It is as easy to do a great thing as a small thing. We can raise this money. But it can be done only by system all along the line. Let the men, the women and the children of our churches be organized for regular systematic giving, and let us give regularly and often, though it be little, and God will multiply his blessings upon us at home and abroad.

W. L. PICKARD,
T. P. WALLER,
G. B. BATES.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

The work of the Home Mission Board is located in the States of the South, the Indian Territory and Cuba. As opportunity may offer, or resources may warrant, it has been authorized to extend the limits of its work toward the setting sun and into the Western territories. During the past year its work has been prosecuted with its usual vigor. The reports show that the greatest achievements have been wrought in Cuba. Amidst the persecution which has prevailed upon the island since the introduction of a pure religion, the indomitable Diaz has continued with a Pauline spirit to prosecute his work. The general work of the Board has been the evangelization of such quarters of our country as could not be reached and cultivated by the several State Boards.

Of late, the Home Board is turning its attention to the evangelization of the cities of the South where heretofore Baptist doctrines have not been propagated. In this late movement the Board should command the unqualified support of the Baptists of the South. The drift of population is toward the great centers. These give back influences for good or for evil to the rural districts and in proportion as these influences exist. In short, the time is not far distant when the cities will dictate the sentiment of the country. There needs, therefore, to be cast into the great central lumps the leaven of the Gospel, that in its outreaching it may Christianize the entire land. The Board deserves our prayers and our contributions in its varied enterprises. This is especially recommended with respect to the centennial movement as it stands related to our Home Mission Board.

B. F. RILEY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

The fact that Alabama is being very rapidly developed, and that the population of our towns and cities is being increased at such a rate by people from all sections of our country as well as from many foreign lands, makes the State Mission work second to none undertaken by our churches. Our people have not been idle. The Baptists of the State saw the need of meeting this new order of things seventeen years ago, and organized the State Board of Missions. Their success during this period has been very gratifying. With the exception of the first two or three years of its history the Board has received upon an average of something like \$8,000 a year to carry forward its work. During the last conventional year the receipts were more than \$20,000 for all purposes.

The amount of work done can best be seen from the report of the Secretary to the last meeting of the State Convention, from which we get these interesting figures:

Number of men employed.....	54
Days of service	4,056
Miles traveled.....	27,958
Sermons preached	2,138

Churches constituted	8
Additions to Churches by Letter, Baptism, etc.....	1,001
Sunday Schools organized.....	31
Number of visits made.....	9,121
Meeting houses commenced.....	22
Meeting houses finished.....	8
Money collected for meeting houses	\$6,343.20
Money collected for other purposes	\$1,701.32

While these figures are encouraging, we fear that unless our Churches come to the help of the Board, our report for the present year will not be so gratifying. We have 47 men in the field this year against 54 last year and many of these have had no pay for six months and longer. We believe that the brotherhood in this State will come up nobly to the help of the Board if they are properly informed of the condition of the State and its needs, even though hard times are upon us.

Your Committee recommend—

1. That the churches adopt the plan of regular quarterly collections for State Missions.

2. That each church appoint a committee whose special duty it shall be to provide themselves with suitable books (to be had from Brother Crumpton free) as will enable them to keep an accurate account of each member's contributions; and that the said committee shall furnish mission envelopes, and that said committee shall secure, if possible, a contribution from each member of the church.

The report on Religious Literature and Colportage Work was read by J. R. Lloyd, and, after discussion, was amended and adopted.

REPORT ON RELIGIOUS LITERATURE AND COLPORTAGE.

Your Committee feel that the dissemination of sound religious literature is a most important feature in our work as a denomination. We can scarcely overestimate the power of the press in shaping the moral and religious character of the people. Shall it be a power for good, or a power for evil? We will answer the question by asking another, Will we, as faithful servants of Christ, lay hold of this mighty lever and use it for uplifting and blessing the people, or leave it for the emissaries of Satan to be used for their degradation and ruin? If we would counteract the ever widening stream of pernicious literature that is flowing through the land, let us place in the hands of all the people a literature that breathes the spirit of truth and of Christ. First of all let us labor earnestly and untiringly to place the Bible in the hands of every man, woman and child. Next to the Bible, no agency is so effective as a live, sound Baptist newspaper. Our people must be kept in sympathy with our great denominational enterprises. Let us rally to the support of our own *Alabama Baptist*. No man or set of men can make it a success without the co-operation of the Baptist brotherhood.

We also earnestly recommend the *Birmingham Baptist* and the organs of our Mission Boards.

Your committee would earnestly urge upon the Association the claims of our own Colportage Board to your sympathy, liberality and prayers.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the A. B. P. Society for the great work it has done and is doing in giving to the country and the world a sound religious literature.

Your Committee cannot close this report without recommending in the highest terms the work of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Its success has more than met the expectations of its most enthusiastic friends. Its publications are of a high order, and deserve the confidence and support of the churches. But Baptists rightly claim and will exercise the right to choose for themselves; and to those who prefer to go elsewhere, we heartily recommend the Sunday school literature of the A. B. P. Society as sound and worthy of confidence and support.

Respectfully submitted.

J. R. LLOYD,
Chairman.

AMENDMENT.

WHEREAS, There are a great many of our useful preachers who have never enjoyed good advantages to secure an education, and whose means will not permit them to buy such books as are needful to their development and the proper prosecution of their work; *Therefore be it resolved--*

1. That a committee of wise and active women be appointed to raise money for the purpose of supplying those brethren free.
2. That our churches and preachers heartily co-operate with this committee.
3. That this Committee must report annually to this Association.

The report on Education was read by B. F. Riley, and, after discussion by B. F. Riley, P. T. Hale, W. A. Hobson and J. R. Lloyd, was adopted.

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

The three interests with which the members of the Birmingham Association stand most vitally connected with respect to education, are the Judson Institute, Howard College, and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

With the history of these institutions our people are familiar. They know the mission of each, respectively, and are acquainted with the achievements of each through the years of the past.

This report is concerned for the most part, if not entirely, with the work of the past year. During the past session the Judson enrolled 159 students, nineteen of which number were full graduates. The session was signalized by a marked success throughout, and terminated most gratifyingly to those who were in control. Dr. Averett, the honored President,

has, by constant contact, brought himself into such relations to the people as to beget the highest esteem for him as a Christian gentleman, and the utmost confidence in his ability as an educator. The school steadfastly holds its place as one of the foremost colleges for the education of girls and young women in the South.

The Howard, located within this Association, celebrated last June its fiftieth anniversary. Five of these fifty years have been spent in its present location. The wisdom of the Baptists of Alabama has been abundantly vindicated by the success of the College at East Lake. The growth has been a steady one, and destined to continue, unless difficulties now unseen shall arise to dispute its progress. The enrollment last session was 196, with nineteen full graduates. Of the total number enrolled, there were thirty ministerial students in attendance. The present opening of the College is auspicious, peculiarly so, in consideration of the financial stringency which has grown into a proverb.

It is not amiss, in this connection, to say that the support by patronage on the part of the region immediately adjacent to the College is not that which it should be. There are enough students within and about Birmingham to sustain an institution like Howard College. The expectations of the denomination with respect to the patronage from North Alabama have not been realized since the removal of the institution to this portion of the State. This is not an indictment of the loyalty of our people, but the necessary statement of a fact in a report like this. If students come from remote parts of the State, and from other States even, they should certainly be derived from the territory adjacent to the College.

It is an appropriate suggestion that a year's study on the part of such of our ministry as have not been favored with scholastic advantages in the past, would be exceedingly advantageous.

The Theological Seminary at Louisville was never in so prosperous a condition as it is now. Its work is being felt more and more every year in the learned and consecrated ministry which is being furnished to the Baptist pulpits of the South.

It is a matter of denominational congratulation that the Baptists are leading all others in the value, character and extent of their literary institutions. Much will be gained when each individual Baptist shall come to feel that he is interested in all these institutions and that it becomes him, as far as his influence extends, to contribute to the well being of each.

In view of the prevailing necessity of what are known as secondary or academic denominational schools in Alabama, a matter which is now claiming the attention of our people, we offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Birmingham Association shares in the interest felt with regard to denominational academies in different parts of Alabama.

B. F. RILEY,

Chairman.

The report of Committee on Obituaries was read by P. T. Hale, and adopted.

REPORT ON OBITUARIES.

We, your Committee on Obituaries, find that three of our number have been called home to dwell with our Heavenly Father, namely, Brethren Eugene Downing and Horace Hickman, of the Southside, Birmingham; Jacob Kale, of Pratt Mines; Harvey Watson of the Second Church of Birmingham; Rev. L. L. Belcher of East Lake, and Rev. George D. Staton, of Woodlawn.

In the death of the Rev. George D. Staton our denomination, and especially this Association, has sustained a serious loss. Brother Staton was a man of the highest integrity, and a preacher of great consecration and wide usefulness. And your Committee would recommend that a page of our minutes be set apart in his memory as a slight token of the affectionate esteem for our brother, and sorrow at his sudden death in the midst of his great usefulness, of sympathy for his bereaved wife and children.

P. T. HALE,
W. A. WHITTLE,
F. M. WOOD,
Committee.

The report of Finance Committee was read by A. B. Johnston, and adopted.

FINANCE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

\$174.95—

WARRIOR, Sept. 28, 1892.

Received of A. B. Johnston, Chairman Finance Committee, Birmingham Baptist Association, \$174.95, to be applied as follows.

F. M. WOOD, *Treasurer.*

Home Missions	\$43 95
Foreign Missions.....	40 35
State Missions.....	27 75
Bible and colportage.....	1 00
Ministerial education	1 00
Indigent ministers.....	3 15
Minutes	57 75
Total.....	<u>\$174 95</u>

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

CHURCHES.	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions.	State Missions.	Bible and Colportage.	Ministerial Education. Howard College.	Indigent Ministers.	Minutes.	Total.
Ruhama.....							\$ 5 00	\$ 5 00
Bessemer.....							2 50	2 50
Oak Grove.....	\$ 2 00	\$ 5 10					1 50	8 60
Irondale.....		2 00	\$ 2 00				1 00	5 00
Central.....	20						2 00	2 20
Birmingham, Third...	2 00	2 00	7 50	\$1 00	\$1 00		1 50	15 00
Avondale.....							3 00	3 00
Mary Lee.....							1 00	1 00
Concord.....							1 50	1 50
Woodlawn.....							3 00	3 00
Salem.....							1 00	1 00
Warrior.....	5 00	5 00	5 50				2 00	17 50
Union.....	2 00	2 00	2 50			\$1 00	1 00	8 50
Enon.....	2 35						2 00	4 00
Trussville.....	16 50	16 50					1 50	34 50
Birmingham, Second..	2 50	2 50	2 60					7 00
Blossburg.....								
Canaan.....	5 00	5 00	5 00			50	1 50	17 00
Pratt Mines.....							3 00	3 00
Dolomite.....	3 50						1 50	5 00
Birmingham, First.....							10 00	10 00
Birmingham, S. Side..							5 00	5 00
Mount Olive.....		25					60	85
Ensley.....	2 90						1 50	4 40
Green Spring.....			2 35			1 65	2 25	6 25
New Prospect.....							2 00	2 00
Elyton.....							1 00	1 00
Totals.....	\$43 95	\$40 35	\$27 75	\$1 00	\$1 00	\$3 15	\$57 75	\$174 95

The report on Sabbath Schools was read by A. B. Johnston, and discussed by A. B. Johnston, W. A. Whittle, J. M. Waller and W. A. Hobson, and was then adopted.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Your Committee on Sunday Schools beg leave to report that out of thirty-six churches in the Association, twenty-one have reported regular Sunday Schools. The number of members reported are 174 officers and teachers, 1,968 pupils enrolled, and 86 scholars baptized. These figures indicate a falling off of two officers and teachers, and an addition of 579

scholars during the year, and an increase of three baptisms. There are fifteen churches which do not report a Sunday School.

Your Committee, at the last session, recommended the appointment of a committee of five, whose duty it should be to arrange for at least four meetings, to be held during the year in such communities as most need to be awakened to the responsibilities of the Sunday School work. This committee was not appointed, or at least there is no record of its appointment. Its work, however, has been at least partially done by Sunday School addresses and discussion of Sunday School work at the meetings held under the auspices of your Executive Committee, and at the meetings held by the Ministers' and Laymen's Institute.

It is but too apparent that the work of the Sunday School is not an unmixed blessing. Parents seem more and more to relegate the religious instruction of their children to the Sunday School teacher, and it is to be feared that reading and expounding the Scriptures, and prayer, have, to a great extent, been obsolete in our homes. Perhaps the idea that a teacher who has studied the lesson is better prepared to impress it on the minds of their children than themselves has had much to do with the neglect of religious instruction on the part of parents. Be this as it may, the importance of Sunday School work can hardly be overestimated and the responsibility laid on superintendents, officers and teachers is very great. The very neglect of home instruction renders more imperative the necessity for effective and faithful work in the school, and yet in many cases this work is neither effective nor faithful. Classes without regular teachers, or with teachers illy prepared, are common, while the number of scholars, young and old, in our schools, bear no just proportion to the number we can and should reach. The reasons for this state of affairs are not far to seek:

1. The relationship of the church to the school is illy understood, and there are conflicting views about this relationship.

2. The relationship of the pastor to the superintendent and school is illy defined, pastors having varying views as to their duty and privilege in this connection.

3. The difficulty in obtaining good superintendents.

4. The same difficulty in obtaining good teachers.

5. The idea, generally prevalent, that boys and girls of a certain age are too old, and that it is beneath their dignity to go to Sunday School.

6. That many adults seem to think they have graduated and need no further knowledge of, or instruction in God's word.

7. A general and lamentable lack of vital piety and consecration on the part of all and several the parties concerned.

It would seem that the importance of this subject warrants deeper and more prayerful thought, and discussion looking to better organization and more thorough work than is generally given to it in the deliberations of this body.

Your Committee would heartily commend the publications of the Southern Baptist Convention to our various Sunday Schools, and would

recommend the use of Baptist Catechisms in the schools, in addition to the lessons in the Teachers' Quarterly, etc.

Respectfully submitted.

A. B. JOHNSTON, *Chairman.*

Adjourned.

NIGHT SESSION.

The body listened, with great interest, to the sermon by Rev. W. L. Pickard, from John, 3d chapter and 16th verse.

On motion the report on Temperance was made special for 9 o'clock A. M. to-morrow.

The report on Documents was read by J. M. Waller and adopted.

DOCUMENTS.

We, your Committee on Documents, make the following report :

Upon examination of the Church letters, we find that there has been marked advancement along the lines of our denominational work. Membership has greatly increased and contributions were much better than last year. Nearly all of the churches revived last year, and where this has not been the case, good reasons are given. We therefore conclude that there is hopeful progress along the lines.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. WALLER,
R. M. INZER,
Committee.

The report of the Committee on Nominations was read by W. A. Whittle and adopted.

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS.

1. Place of meeting, Woodlawn.
2. To meet on Tuesday before the first Sunday in October, 1893, at 10 o'clock A. M.
3. Introductory Sermon to be preached by M. A. Hobson ; alternate, Dr. W. L. Pickard.
4. Missionary Sermon, Dr. B. F. Riley ; alternate, B. F. Giles.
5. Executive Committee to be appointed by the Moderator.
6. Delegates to the State Convention : M. M. Wood, A. B. Cheek, B. F. Giles, A. W. McGaha, A. J. Waldrop, D. D. Jones, P. T. Hale, A. B. Johnson, W. L. Pickard and W. C. Ward.
7. Delegate to Southern Baptist Convention : W. C. Ward : alternate, D. H. Montgomery.

The report of the Treasurer was read by F. M. Wood and adopted.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Received from Finance Committee at last Association, Oct. 2d, 1891:

For Home Missions.....	\$16 10
For Foreign Missions.....	17 25
For State Missions.....	20 75
For Ministerial Education.....	8 25
For Bible and Colportage.....	5 50
For Indigent Ministers.....	1 00
For Ministers.....	69 15

From Special Subscription:

For Ministerial Education.....	50 00
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From South Side Church:

For Ministerial Education.....	31 26
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From Woodlawn Church:

For Ministerial Education.....	10 00
For Home Missions.....	8 00
For Foreign Missions.....	8 00
For State Missions.....	9 00

From Trussville Church:

For Missions.....	22 60
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From Dolomite Church:

For State Mission.....	5 00
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From Ladies Aid Society, Woodlawn Church:

For State Missions.....	5 00
For Ministerial Education.....	15 00—
	<u>\$303 48</u>

CREDITS.

By cash paid Rev. W. B. Crumpton.....	\$111 82
By cash paid Rev. J. C. Gilmore.....	50 00
By cash paid R. W. Beck, on Minutes.....	69 15
By cash paid G. W. Ellis.....	64 50
By cash paid J. B. Collier.....	5 50
By cash paid Commissions, Stationery and Stamps.....	1 51—
	<u>\$302 48</u>

Respectfully submitted,

F. M. WOOD,
Treasurer of Birmingham Association.

September 26th, 1892.

The Moderator appointed the following

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Foreign Missions—W. A. Hobson, D. H. Montgomery and M. P. Reynolds.

Home Missions—J. F. Huey, S. G. Robertson and W. Y. Browning.

State Missions—J. M. Waller, S. P. Fowlkes and John E. Massey.

Executive Committee—A. B. Johnston, John M. Huey, F. M. Wood, T. P. Waller, Gilbert Carter, W. A. Whittle, W. L. Pickard, P. T. Hale, A. W. McGaha.

Religious Literature and Colportage Work—S. P. Fowlkes, R. B. Holtam and J. I. Crotwell.

Temperance—D. H. Montgomery, C. W. O'Quin and B. P. Franklin.

Education—M. M. Wood, W. M. Malone and S. B. Stiff.

Sunday Schools—W. A. Whittle, M. K. Vann and John C. Gillespie.

Ministerial Education—P. T. Hale, A. B. Johnston and T. P. Waller.

On motion the Committee on Documents was abolished.

The Report of the Executive Committee was read by A. B. Johnston and adopted.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Your Executive Committee beg to submit the accompanying apportionment to the various churches, of the amounts they shall be asked to contribute during the coming Associational year, for Home, Foreign and State Missions, Bible and Colportage, Ministerial Education and Indigent Ministers.

The Committee, in carrying out the duty imposed on it, has held meetings in the interest of Missions, etc., with the following churches: Avondale, Bessemer, First, South Side, Second, Third, Birmingham, Elyton, Green Springs, New Prospect, Pratt Mines, Ruhama, Trussville and Woodlawn. The attendance at these meetings has been satisfactory; the attention given to the various speakers has been good, and it is to be hoped the meetings have resulted in increased interest in the cause we have at heart.

The Committee has done nothing in the matter of Church Extension, no opening for effective work having been brought to its attention. Indeed

it would seem that there are rather too many, than too few, weak churches, particularly in the immediate neighborhood of Birmingham.

The Committee has requested the clerk of each church connected with this body to inform it on the 1st of December, March, June and September, how much money, and for what purposes, his church has paid to the State Mission Board, for the various objects specified in the resolution of the Association, but has not received a single reply. It will evidently take time to drill these officers of the churches into compliance with the wishes of the Association.

The Committee has expended in advertising, postage and fares, \$14, leaving on hand \$11 of the fund raised at the last meeting of the Association.

Respectfully submitted,

A. B. JOHNSTON, *Chairman.*

On motion it was ordered that a collection be taken to-morrow, after the sermon, for the benefit of the Executive Committee.

The report of the work of the Ministers' and Laymen's Meetings was read by A. B. Johnston and adopted.

REPORT OF THE MINISTERS' AND LAYMEN'S MEETINGS :

In accordance with your recommendation, a meeting was held at the First Church, Birmingham, November 29th, 1891, at which the Ministers' and Laymen's (the title being changed from Deacons' and Laymen's) Institute was organized by the election of A. B. Johnston, Moderator; Dr. W. J. Baird, Secretary, and G. W. Macon, Treasurer.

The Institute has held Fifth Sunday Meetings at the First Birmingham, Pratt Mines, Second Birmingham, Trussville and New Prospect Churches. The attendance at these meetings has been generally good. The essays, addresses and sermons have been interesting and instructive. The last meeting at New Prospect, in many respects the best of the series, was followed by a protracted meeting, in which the church was revived and a number added to it by baptism. The pleasure of this meeting was marred by the sudden death of our beloved brother, G. D. Staton, whose loss to his family, churches and this Association, will be felt; also by the Institute, at whose meetings he was a regular attendant.

The value of this Institute can be greatly enhanced by a more general co-operation on the part of our ministers and lay brethren.

The next meeting at Trussville, on Thursday before the fifth Sunday in October, will be specially interesting, because of the subjects of the various essays and addresses, and we bespeak a large attendance.

Respectfully submitted.

A. B. JOHNSTON, *Moderator.*

Adjourned.

THURSDAY MORNING SESSION.

The body was called to order by the Moderator and led in prayer by Rev. S. B. Stiff.

After some discussion, on motion B. F. Riley was requested to write the report on Temperance and furnish it to the Clerk for publication in the Minutes.

A. B. Johnston read report of Apportionment Committee.

REPORT ON APPORTIONMENT.

Adger.....	\$ 5 00
Avondale.....	93 00
Bessemer.....	136 50
Bethany.....	21 00
First Birmingham.....	526 00
Second Birmingham.....	63 75
Third Birmingham.....	25 50
South Side.....	525 00
Canaan.....	23 50
Central.....	61 00
Concord.....	10 00
Dolomite.....	37 50
Elyton.....	52 50
Enon.....	41 00
Ensley.....	24 00
Green Springs.....	17 50
Hopewell.....	5 00
Johns.....	6 00
Mt. Olive.....	15 50
New Prospect.....	105 75
Oak Grove.....	39 50
Pratt Mines.....	199 00
Pleasant Ridge.....	40 00
Ruhama.....	346 50
Salem.....	45 00
Springville.....	80 25
Trussville.....	120 00
Mary Lee.....	11 25
Blossburg.....	16 50
Irondale.....	23 25
Union.....	15 75
Warrior.....	83 25
Woodlawn.....	196 00
Coalburg.....	30 75
Brookside.....	13 50
Williamsburg.....	8 50

The following resolutions were adopted :

WHEREAS, By the present system, or rather lack of system, it is impossible to keep any check on our financial returns ; be it

Resolved, 1st, That this Association requests the churches, as well as individuals, to forward their contributions or vouchers for Foreign, Home and State Missions, Ministerial Education, Bible and Colportage, Indigent Ministers, or for any other benevolent purpose outside of their own churches, to our Treasurer, Rev. F. M. Wood, whose postoffice is Woodlawn, Ala., instructing him what distribution to make of the money.

Resolved, 2d, That the Treasurer be instructed to make, in his annual report, a statement of the sources from which he has received money, and the disposition of it.

Resolved, 3d, That an Auditing Committee of three be appointed at the opening of each annual session, who shall audit, before its presentation to the Association, the account of the Treasurer, comparing his statement with the letters from the churches, and examining his vouchers for payment.

This being the hour for the special order, the map lecture by Rev. J. M. Waller, the body listened to this most interesting and instructive part of the work, after which, Rev. W. A. Whittle preached to the Woman's Society from Mark, 14th chapter and 8th verse, and a cash collection was then taken, amounting to \$7.90.

Rev. P. T. Hale offered the following resolutions, which were adopted :

Resolved, That the heartfelt thanks of this body be returned to this church and the citizens generally, of all denominations of the community, for their generous hospitality, so graciously extended ; to our Methodist brethren for the use of their church for the ladies' meeting, and to the Louisville & Nashville Railroad for reduced rates.

Resolution by A. W. McGaha :

Resolved, That we heed the action of the Woodlawn Church, in the endorsement of Bro. J. A. Fitzgerald as a ministerial student, and recommend him to the Ministerial Board.

The body voted thanks to the Clerks and ordered 1000 copies of the minutes printed.

Adjourned *sine die*.

A. J. WALDROP, *Moderator*.

R. W. BECK, *Clerk*.



STATISTICS OF BIRMINGHAM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

CHURCH	COUNTY	PASTOR	CLERK.	CLERK'S POST OFFICE	No Ordained Ministers.	No. Licensed Ministers.	Membership last Re- ported.	Increase by			Decrease by				Present Membership	SUNDAY SCHOOL					Preaching Sabbaths
								Baptism	Letter	Restoration	Letter	Exclusion	Erasure	Death		Superintendent	Superintendent's Post Office	Officers and Teachers	Pupils	Volumes in Library	
*Adger	Jefferson	G. T. Lee	J. H. Cooper	Avondale	1	140	2	8	1	19	8	1	124					64	Each		
*Avondale	Jefferson	G. T. Lee	J. H. Cooper	Avondale	1	140	2	8	1	19	8	1	124					64	Each		
*Bessemer	Jefferson	G. T. Lee	T. P. Waller	Bessemer	3	174		30		10	5	6	182	A. M. Hendon	Bessemer	11	72	125	Each		
Bethany	St. Clair																				
*Birmingham	Jefferson	W. L. Pickard	A. E. Atwater	Birmingham	2	560	56	72	3	41	2	113	9	526	R. F. Manley	Birmingham	16	250	Each		
*Birmingham 2d	Jefferson	W. A. Whittle	E. M. Haygood	Birmingham		73		23		8	3		85	A. B. Cheek	Birmingham	10	108	Each			
Birmingham 3d	Jefferson	S. B. Stiff	A. Hogan	Birmingham		47		7		4			50				5	40	Each		
" Southside	Jefferson	P. T. Hale	J. A. Stratton	Birmingham	3	479	25	69		38		10	525				21	268	Each		
*Blossburg	Jefferson		I. Nicholson	Blossburg									22	R. S. Thompson	Blossburg				First		
†*Canaan	Jefferson	J. D. Martin	J. I. Crotwell	Parkwood		41	2	10	1	1	3	3	47	J. I. Crotwell	Parkwood	4	40		Fourth		
†Central	Jefferson	J. C. Gilmer	R. M. Inzer	Argo	1	135	9	5	1	18	3	16	122				4	35	Second		
*Concord	Jefferson	W. J. Lee	J. A. Baker										18								
Dolomite	Jefferson	W. A. Hobson	B. Robertson	Wylam	1			2			7		75				5	40	Third		
*Elyton	Jefferson		R. H. Davis	Birmingham	1	72	1	8		7			74				7	75	Each		
Enon	Jefferson	M. T. Branham	J. C. Gillespie	Morris	1	84	13	3		5			95				7	60	First		
Ensley	Jefferson		J. Rodgers	Ensley	1	37		2		4	3		32				4	14	1st and 2d		
†*Green Springs	Jefferson	J. Hogau	G. W. Smith	Birmingham		27	9	2		2		1	35	T. Colley	Birmingham	5	35				
Hopewell																					
Irondale	Jefferson	W. Y. Browning	A. J. McDanel	Irondale			4	8					31						Each		
Mary Lee	Jefferson	E. M. McDaniel	T. B. McNeal	Lewisburg									15								
†Mt. Olive	Jefferson	J. C. Gilmer	J. M. Landrum	Clay		24	4	2	1				31						Fourth		
New Prospect	Jefferson		W. O. M. Franklin	Huffman	2	134	11	3	2	7	1		141				7	60	Third		
†Oak Grove	Jefferson	M. T. Branham	T. J. Watson	Mt. Pinson		74	16	5		10			82					30			
Pleasant Ridge	Jefferson																				
†Pratt Mines	Jefferson	M. M. Wood	J. R. Vail	Ensley		136	31	39		5	1		199	J. W. Minor	Pratt City		105				
†*Ruhama	Jefferson	A. W. McGaha	H. F. Wood	East Lake	15	327	16	47		25	5		352	R. J. Waldrop	East Lake	15	175		Each		
Salem	Jefferson		J. E. Massey	Mt. Pinson	1	102		8		9		5	88				4	43	Third		
Springville	St. Clair					107															
Trussville	Jefferson	W. A. Hobson	D. H. Vann	Trussville		165				12	1	26	1	125				8	58	First	
Union	Jefferson	J. H. Pool	R. T. Jones	Bessemer		18	3	3	1	4	1		19				4	35	2d and 4th		
Warrior	Jefferson	W. A. Hobson	H. A. Hagler	Warrior	3	97	19	6	3	12			113	C. G. Anderson	Warrior	8	132				
Williamsburg	Jefferson	L. B. Stiff	J. R. Stiff	Porter		17															
*Woodlawn	Jefferson	C. K. Henderson	H. Clapp	Woodlawn	1	178	31	52		38		1	222	J. B. Gibson	Woodlawn		175		Each		
Coalburg	Jefferson					41															
Brookside	Jefferson					18															
TOTAL					33	8 3307	259	411	13	283	43	167	49 3420				156	1968			

* Reports Prayer Meeting.

† Reports Revival.

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF BIRMINGHAM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

CHURCHES	Home Missions	Church Building (not at home)	Foreign Missions	State Missions	Bible and Colportage	Ministerial Education	Minutes	Howard College (building)	SUNDAY SCHOOL		Total	Pastor's Salary	Repairs, Fuel, the Poor, etc.	Value of Buildings and Furniture
									Benevolence	School Expenses				
Adger.....														
Avondale.....	\$ 12 50		\$12 50	\$25 00			\$ 3 00			\$ 89 84	\$ 142 84	433 50	23 00	\$3,000 00
Bessemer.....							2 50		\$153 71		159 21	552 20	260 89	5,550 00
Bethany.....														
Birmingham, 1st Church	211 58	\$765 20	230 95	259 85	\$ 38 37	\$300 00	10 00	\$ 680 85	162 38	250 00	7,185 56	3,000 00	4,272 41	25,000 00
Birmingham, Southside.	83 91		143 88	58 81	219 62	86 26	5 00		131 75	55 24	784 49	1,650 00	14,318 41	40,000 00
Birmingham, 2d Church.	20 00		20 00	27 80						12 00			17 00	3,500 00
Birmingham, 3d Church.	2 00		2 00	7 50			1 50			2 00	15 00	200 00	66 75	
Blossburg.....														
Brookside.....														
Canaan.....	5 00		5 00	5 00			2 00			8 00	25 00	75 00		500 00
Central.....	1 20		6 25	2 00			2 00			9 00	20 45	75 00		875 00
Coalburg.....														
Concord.....							1 50				1 50			
Dolomite.....	3 50		6 00	5 00			1 50	12 00	19 25	18 80	66 05	173 70		650 00
Elyton.....	25 00	4 73		33 84					2 00	20 89	86 46	683 00		3,000 00
Enon.....	2 35						2 00			5 00	9 35	40 00	20 00	80 00
Ensley.....	1 30		1 67	5 90	80		1 50				11 17	184 90		
Green Springs.....	5 00		5 14	5 00			2 25			4 76	22 15	100 20	172 97	1,000 00
Irondale.....	4 00						1 00				5 00	15 00		
Mary Lee.....							1 00				1 00			
Mt. Olive.....							50			9 60	10 10	50 00	60 00	560 00
New Prospect.....	7 38		5 52	9 30			2 00		16 00	4 00	44 20	122 50		1,200 00
Oak Grove.....	2 00		5 10				1 50				8 60	50 00		
Pleasant Ridge.....														
Pratt Mines.....	70 00		77 22	70 00			3 00		12 43	99 81	332 46	600 00	1,293 24	
Ruhama.....	199 70		38 78	185 95		30 00	5 00	10 00		30 00	499 43	1,350 00	614 73	12,750 00
Salem.....							1 00			27 00	28 00			600 00
Springville.....														
Trussville.....	9 42		20 00	20 00			1 50	132 50		14 48	197 56	220 95	5 00	3,000 00
Union.....	2 00		2 50	2 00			2 00				8 50		30 00	700 00
Warrior.....	32 61		34 23	29 02	2 64		2 00			25 90	126 40	255 75	76 50	1,000 00
Williamsburg.....														
Woodlawn.....	75 00		37 15	34 50	5 00	25 00	3 00			56 70	336 45	1,250 00	391 40	8,000 00
Hopewell.....														
TOTAL.....	\$775 45	769 93	653 89	787 47	266 43	441 26	58 25	835 35	500 52	743 02	10,126 93	11,081 60	21,022 29	110,985 00



