

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

. OF THE .

Second . Annual . Session

. OF THE .



COLBERT ASSOCIATION

OF MISSIONARY BAPTISTS,



HELD WITH LIBERTY CHURCH,

Town Creek, Ala., October 13, 14, 15 and 16, 1898.

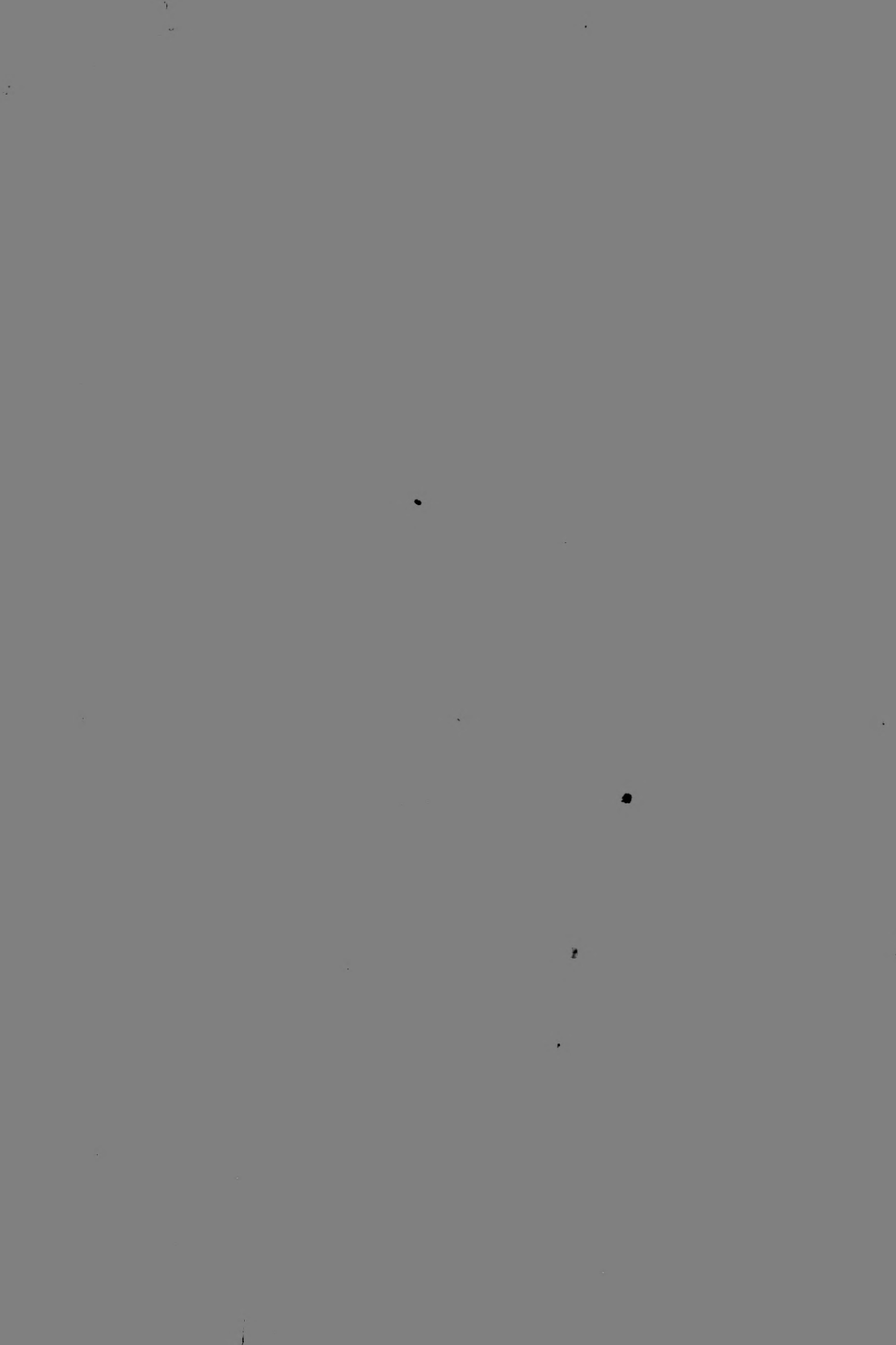
A. J. IVIE, Moderator, O. E. COMSTOCK, Sr., Clerk, A. L. MOODY, Treas.,
Sheffield, Ala. Sheffield, Ala. Tuscumbia, Ala.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

R. S. FLEMING, Chairman;
A. L. MOODY, A. S. LITTLE, STEPHEN AYCOCK, W. RAMSEY.

REAPER PRINT, SHEFFIELD.

Dep. M. Silvan



MINUTES.

TOWN CREEK, ALA., October 13, 1898.

The officers and delegates of the Second Annual Session of the COLBERT ASSOCIATION of Missionary Baptists, met with Liberty Baptist Church, at Town Creek, Ala., on Thursday before the fifth Sabbath in October, 1898.

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Bro. A. J. Ivie, and at the appointed hour, 11 o'clock, a. m., the introductory sermon was delivered by Rev. W. M. Whitlock, from Luke xxiv, 47, which was listened to with a great deal of interest.

After the services the meeting adjourned until 2 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At two o'clock the delegates assembled in the church while the congregation sung. A few minutes were devoted to devotional exercises after which the Moderator appointed Brethren Stamps and Shoemaker reading clerks. Letters from churches were called for, read, and delegates names registered as follows:

Cherokee—Thos. Yarby, W. M. Whitlock, Henry Carter.

Valley Grove—J. T. Counts, L. D. Stevenson, J. R. Nesmith; alternates, H. F. Cullender, J. J. Berry.

Sheffield—Rev. Mack Stamps, A. J. Ivie, J. C. Bonds, A. P. Smith, Jones Little.

Siloam—Edward Grisham, R. N. Ramsey, Robt. Warhurst.

Letters were received from Okolona and Pleasant Hill churches and received by the Association. The delegates were
Okolona—G. L. Keenum, T. F. Kent. Pleasant Hill
—Rev. Brice Ledbetter, Oliver Jackson.

The congregation sang a familiar hymn and the delegates were given the hand of fellowship.

The Association then elected the following officers: A. J. Ivie, Moderator; J. Shelby Grissom, Clerk; A. L. Moody, Treasurer.

Delegates from the following Associations were invited to seats in this Association. Muscle Shoals—
CORRESPONDING DELEGATES. J. O. A. Pace, T. V. Shoemaker. Danville School
—Rev. A. W. Briscoe.

The Moderator appointed Brethren Moody, Keenum and Ledbetter a committee on time and place of meeting for 1899.

The pastor and deacons of Liberty Church were appointed the Committee during the session. The following other committees were also appointed: State of Religion—W. M. Whitlock, L. D. Stephenson. Deceased Ministers—J. R. Nesmith, Robert Warhurst. Documents—Mack Stamps, A. L. Moody. Finance—R. M. Ramsey, S. J. Odell, A. L. Moody.

The Devotional Committee reported that Bro. Stamps preach to-night at 7 o'clock. Adopted.

FRIDAY MORNING.

Devotional exercises were held at 9:30 a. m., led by I. T. Kent.

After the devotional exercises the Moderator announced the Association ready for business. Bro. J. S. Grissom stated to the body that they had elected him clerk the day before, and as Bro. Comstock was now present and was fully capable of attending to the duties, that he wanted the Association to rescind their action of Thursday and elect Bro. Comstock unanimously. The request of Bro. Grissom was granted and Bro. Comstock elected clerk.

were called for and the following churches reported: Furnace Hill—Delegates, J. W. Reynolds, O. E. Comstock. DELAYED LETTERS Riverton—Delegates, Dr. W. M. Ellis and Sister W. M. Ellis.

The State Board was represented by Rev. J. W. Sandlin who was granted all the privileges of a delegate.

Muscle Shoals—O. E. Comstock, Mack Stamps, A. MESSANGERS TO J. Ivie. Bear Creek—A. L. Moody, Mack Stamps, CORRESPONDING O. E. Comstock. Florence—Brice Ledbetter, W. ASSOCIATIONS. M. Whitlock, A. L. Moody, Dr. W. M. Ellis. State Convention—O. E. Comstock, A. J. Ivie. Southern Baptist Convention—A. L. Moody, delegate; O. E. Comstock, alternate.

The Moderator then appointed the following committees:

Foreign Missions—W. M. Whitlock, J. S. Waldrip.

Home Missions—J. O. A. Pace, T. V. Shoemaker.

State Missions—J. R. Nesmith, A. P. Odell.

Association Missions—J. W. Sandlin, S. P. Greenhill.

Education—A. W. Briscoe, J. L. Keenum.

Orphans—Mack Stamps.

Temperance—O. E. Comstock, T. F. Kent.

Colportage—Dr. W. M. Ellis, J. S. Odell.

Sunday Schools—Brice Ledbetter, L. D. Stevenson.

REPORT Deceased Ministers: We, your committee on Deceased Ministers, beg leave to make the following report: We are glad that none of our ministers have died during the associational year just past, for which we return thanks to Our Heavenly Father for His loving kindness to our ministry.

Fraternally,

NESMITH, J. R.

WARHURST, ROBT.

REPORT. Executive Board. Brethren, as your Executive Board, we submit the following report of our work: We held one meeting during the year and arranged with pastors of this Association to work in many of the destitute places, as far as it was possible for them to do, we agreeing to pay their actual expenses. The result of which you will see by their respective reports.

Fraternally, WHITLOCK, W. M., Chairman.

Remarks by Brethren Moody and Ivie. Adopted.

REPORT OF W. M. Whitlock: I worked in places of destitution for fifteen days, baptized eleven converts, organized one PASTORS church, Pleasant Hill, with twenty-two good members.

My actual expenses were \$15.00.

Mack Stamps made an oral report, and said that he had organized a good church at the Cross Roads which had forty-one members.

Brice Ledbetter: I worked as your missionary in connection with Bro. Whitlock five days. My expenses were \$5.00.

Thos. Yarby: During the year I worked in place of destitution six days and my expenses were \$6.00.

J. A. Reeves. I have given six days to missionary work in the Association and my expenses were \$6.00.

Bro. Whitlock, chairman, said the work done by the Board was

the best to get the united support of all the ministers and much good had been done.

In connection with the above was the report of the Committee on Associational Missions, which was as follows:

We, your committee on Associational Missions, beg leave to make the following report: We are glad to note that your Executive Board has adopted, in our opinion, the very best plan of Associational Mission work. This is evident by the very flattering reports of the pastors who did mission work in this Association. Let each church be an active missionary body by contributing their pastor some time each year to this work. By thus clasping hands the churches and pastors can soon cover your destitution.

Respectfully submitted,

SANDLIN, J. W., Chairman.

Remarks were made by the following brethren, Sandlin, Pace, Norwood, Ivie, Moody, Briscoe, Whitlock and Comstock. At the close of Bro. Comstock's remarks some one started "Jesus Lover of My Soul" and a general handshaking took place. It was indeed a glorious hour and God be praised. Bro. Stamps closed with a few remarks, after which the report was adopted.

The Devotional Committee requested that Bro. A. W. Briscoe preach at 11 a. m. His text was Ephesians, vi, 19. It was a grand appeal to a more union of pew and pulpit; that a more prayerful consideration be given the ministry.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association was called together at 2 o'clock. After singing "How Firm a Foundation," and a prayer by Bro. Shoemaker, Moderator Ivie announced the Association ready for business.

The Committee on Devotion reported that Rev. Pace preach to-night, Bro. Shoemaker to conduct Saturday morning services, and Bro. Sandlin to preach at 11 a. m.

Your committee on State Missions beg leave to make the REPORT following report: State Mission work is the foundation of Home and Foreign Missions, and we are glad to report that our work is progressing nicely in the state. Although we entered the year's work apparently hopelessly in debt, under the blessings of

God and the co-operation of the brethren we hope to go to the Convention free from debt, Let us rally to the support of our State work.

Respectfully submitted,

J. R. NESMITH, Chairman.

REPORT We, your committee on Home Missions, beg leave to make the following report: Notwithstanding the many impediments to the missionary progress, we believe God has gloriously blessed his laborers in the Home Mission work, and bright is the outlook for the future. During the past conventional year many houses of worship have been erected, many churches have been repaired, and numberless Christian have had their spiritual strength renewed, to say nothing of the great host of benighted souls who have been led from the bonds of sin in the light and liberty of the children of God. Brethren, in this, as in every laudable undertaking, there are discouragements coming from the satanic powers, but let us Baptists rally around the flag, supporting it with our sympathiss and prayers and means. Let us as missionaries give our hearty co-operation to its support for the harvest truly is great but the laborers are few (Luke x, 20), and upon each individual rests a responsibility that will not be removed, until there is a consciousness of duty well performed in the Home Mission Field.

Respectfully submitted,

T. V. SHOEMAKER,

J. O. A. PACE.

A motion was then made and carried that the subject of Missions be taken up at 9:30 o'clock Saturday morning.

A delayed letter from Bethel Church was received and read, and the following delegates enrolled: Brethren C. C. Kirby and Isaac Bradford, who were accorded all the rights of delegates to the Association.

Orphanage. We have located at Evergreen, Ala., a home for the care of orphan children, which is dependent upon the voluntary contributions of the Baptists of Alabama. To defray its running expenses, it is becoming that we feel it our duty to assist this department of our work and realize our responsibility to God in the care of widows and orphans, and to contribute liberally towards its support.

Fraternally,

MACK STAMPS, Chairman.

Remarks by Brethren Stamps, Sandlin, Comstock and Ivie. Report adopted.

REPORT Temperance. This question is one of vast importance and should receive the personal attention of every Christian man, woman and child. It is a well-known fact that the question of intemperance, in drinks especially, is ruining and damning many homes and sending many souls to hell, and that there is a need of the united efforts of all Christians to wipe it out of existence. God has set his seal of displeasure upon the evil in that He has said no drunkard can enter heaven and woe to him that putteth the cup to his brother's lips. Every true Christian will strive to drive it from his or her community, and use all honest honorable effort to keep it from their home. No Christian will lend assistance for the purpose of assisting a hell-hole (saloon) to be started in any town, city or village. Its influence is damning and is calling for sons and daughters to fill drunkard's graves. What son or daughter are you going to give to that monster "Intemperance." If not to give, what are you doing to save your son and daughter from its power.

O. E. COMSTOCK,
T. F. KENT.

Remarks by Brethren Comstock, Sandlin, Briscoe, Ivie, Pace, Moody and Whitlock. The arguments of these brethren were strong and were made with hearts full of love. The need of the hour is for thousands of such fearless men as those who spoke.

A motion to adjourn until 9 a. m. was carried.

Benediction by Bro. Pace.

Rev. J. O. A. Pace preached at night. Text, Gallatians vi, 7.

SATURDAY MORNING.

Pursuant to adjournment met at 9 a. m., Bro. Shoemaker leading in prayer service. Song, "Close to Thee."

Moderator Ivie announced the Association ready for business.

DELA
LETTERS The following delayed letters were received and read and the delegates enrolled: Mount Stanley Church and Liberty Church. Liberty Church—Delegates, J. H. Wilson, A. P. Odell, J. T. Posey. Mt. Stanley—Delegates, H. B. Croslin, J. W. McDaniel, Wm. Hail.

Missions was the question for 9:30 a. m. and the Committee on Foreign Missions reported as follows:

Your committee on Foreign Missions beg leave to make the following report: Our Blessed Saviour said, "The world is the field." and we are glad that we are doing something toward sowing the precious seeds of Gospel truth throughout this field. However, it is sad when we are confronted with the fact that all do not assist in this work. It is a fearful fact Alabama, with her 77 associations, 949 preachers, 1,713 churches, 119,454 members, contributed last year only \$5,950.74, or less than five cents per member. Brethren, this should not so be. Mission contribution is an individual matter, and each one should contribute to this work. May the Lord open our hearts to come en masse to take the world for Christ. Respectfully submitted,

W. M. WHITLOCK, Chairman.

Remarks on all questions of Missions were made by Brethren Sandlin, Moody, Nesmith, Stamps, Briscoe, Ivie, Pace and Comstock. The remarks were splendid and called forth a great amount of interest in missions and will do great good in Liberty Church and among all the delegates and visitors.

Present with us this morning was Rev. N. Holmstead of the M. E. Church, South, of Town Creek, who extended an invitation for the Association to send them a minister to preach to them. The invitation was accepted by the Association and Bro. Holmstead was invited to a seat with us.

The hour of 11 arriving Rev. J. W. Sandlin delivered an interesting sermon from II. Corinthians v, 14-15. At the close of his sermon he called for contributions, the result of which is as follows:

CHURCHES.

Tuscumbia, . . .	\$10.00	Bethel. (Paid \$1.50) . . .	\$10.00
" Sunday-School, . . .	10.00	Cherokee,	5.00
Furnace Hill,	10.00	Liberty,	—
Mt. Stanley,	5.00	Mt. Pleasant,	—
Riverton,	5.00	Sheffield,	25.00
Siloam,	—	Valley Grove,	5.00
Okalona,	5.00	Pleasant Hill,	5.00

INDIVIDUALS.

Mack Stamps,	\$5.00	W. M. Whitlock,	\$5.00
O. E. Comstock,	5.00	A. J. Ivie,	5.00
J. W. Sandlin,	5.00	A. L. Moody,	5.00

Dr. and Mrs. Ellis,	5.00	J. S. Grissom,	1.00
Sheffield Sunday-School,	5.00	C. M. Kirby,	1.00
" Ladies' Aid,	5.00	R. M. Ramsey,	1.00
" B. Y. P. U.,	5.00	J. R. Warhurst,	1.00
Isaac Bradford,	1.00	G. L. Keenum,	1.00
Brice Ledbetter,	2 00	T. F. Kent, . . . . .	.50
Mrs. P. J. Nesmith, (paid)	1.00	S. J. Odell,	1.00
I. M. Bond, . . . . .	.50	Cash, . . . . .	.05
Mrs. M. A. Gower, . . . . .	.50	Mrs. P. J. Cheatham,	.50
• Mrs. Lula Ramsey,	1.00	Mrs. J. A. Ramsey,	1.00
Mrs. J. A. Coxs,	1.00	Mrs. D. McGregor,	.50
Mrs. I. E. McGregor, . . . . .	.50		

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The afternoon session opened with prayer by Rev. Isaac Bradford, with Moderator Ivie in the chair. The first question called was the report of the Committee on Education, which was as follows:

REPORT We are glad to report that with Baptists the question of education is no longer a back number. All over the land our people are coming to realize that education is the great light which in the onward progress of a higher civilization must guide the feet of the young to higher planes of Christian usefulness. As Baptists we are coming to realize that the demand now upon us for a greater degree of denominational pride, a more extensive denominational influence, and a more enthusiastical denominational interest, can best be satisfied by increasing our educational facilities. To meet this demand the Baptists of Alabama have established their own institutions of learning, and are now able through the Judson Female Institute at Marion, Ala., and Howard College at East Lake, Ala., to compete with any denomination in offering educational advantages. In addition to these institutions we also recommend the North Alabama Baptist Collegiate Institute situated at Danville, Ala., for the education of boys and girls who desire to enter Howard or Judson. To young ministers desiring higher theological training we most heartily recommend the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky. Respectfully submitted,

ALBERT H. BRISCOE,
G. L. KEENUM.

Remarks by Brethern Briscoe, Ivie and Sandlin, after which the report was adopted.

We, your Committee on Documents, beg leave to make
 REPORT the following report: We find that there have been nine churches reported to this body and two petitionary letters. Sixth of these churches report Sabbath-Schools, four report prayer meetings. Siloam and Riverton churches ask for the association for 1899.

Fraternally,

MACK STAMPS, Chairman.

Colportage. Your committee find no report on this important work in our Association. We recommend that our Executive Committee look into this work and arrange for its prosecution.

Respectfully,

W. M. ELLIS,

S. J. ODELL.

REPORT We, your committee on the subject of Sabbath-Schools, beg leave to report that we notice but few churches report Sabbath-Schools. However, we hope that all our churches have Sabbath-schools. But to all who have not Sabbath-Schools we urge upon the brethren to organize an evergreen Sabbath School in every church as they are a nursery for the minds of the children. It is spiritual food for the youths to be brought up in Bible literature.

Fraternally,

BRICE LEDBETTER, Chairman.

REPORT State of Religion. We, your committee on the State of Religion submit the following report: We are very glad to be able to report that there is to be a great advance over last year; we notice, however, that some of the churches have not reported Sunday-Schools and prayer meetings. Brethern let us take new courage and go forward in every department of the Lord's work, and confidently look forward to still greater results.

Respectfully,

W. M. WHITLOCK,

S. J. STEPHENSON.

TREASURER'S REPORT The treasurer, Bro. C. A. Womble, made the following report:

C. A. WOMBLE,

Oct. 15, 1898.	In Account with COLBERT ASSOCIATION.		
“	To Amount Collected,	- - - -	\$26.15
CR.	By amount paid for minutes,	\$12.60	
	“ “ Rev. Sandlin,	5.55	18.15
	Balance on hand,	-	8.00
Jan'y 1, 1899	To Sunday meeting at Sheffield,	- -	3.39
	Total,	- - - -	11.39
	Amount paid J. W. Sandlin,	-	3.39
	Balance on hand,	- - - -	\$8.00

MEETING We, your Committee on Time and Place of Meeting of 1899 this body for next year, 1899, beg report leave to report the following: The place of meeting to be Siloam Church; the time, Thursday before the third Sabbath in September, 1899. Rev. Brice Ledbetter to preach the introductory sermon; Rev. Mack Stamps, alterate. Fraternally,

A. L. MOODY, Chairman.

RESOLUTION Resolved, that we recognize the Baptist Field Worker as the official organ, and urge the brethren to write items of interest to this paper, so as to keep the work of the Association before the people. Respectfully,

Adopted. * MACK STAMPS.

THANKS. Resolved, that we extend to the members of Liberty Church, and the citizens of Town Creek and vicinity our heartfelt thanks for their kind hospitality during our session. May God bless them. A. L. MOODY.

Unanimously adopted.

MINUTES Resolved, That this Association pay our clerk \$10 for his services, and that we have 300 copies of the minutes printed to be paid for out of any funds in the treasury unappropriated. A. L. MOODY.

Adopted.

The Moderator then appointed the following standing committees: Foreign Missions—J. M. Roberts, C. T. Morris, Walter Stanley. Home Missions—J. N. Reeves, W. B. Mayes, T. F. Kent.

State Missions—Ray S. Fleming, J. R. Keenum, J. R. Warhurst.
 Associational Missions—Mack Stamps, Isaac Bradford, L. D. Stephenson.

Baptist Orphanage—L. A. Waldrip, J. Q. Aycock, C. M. Kirby.
 Education—J. R. Nesmith, R. M. Chitwood, W. M. Ramsey.
 Colportage—O. E. Comstock, Brice Ledbetter, W. E. Aycock.
 Sunday-School—C. A. Womble, A. P. Odell, A. P. Smith.
 Temperance—Dr. Ellis, Robt. Hennegan, J. S. Grissom.

The resignation of Bro. Whitlock as chairman of the Executive Board was received, and Bro. Ray S. Fleming was appointed to that office.

The Devotional Committee reported as follows: That
 REPORT Rev. Comstock preached to-night at 7:30, and Rev. A. W. Briscoe at 11 a. m. Sunday in this church, and that Rev. J. O. A. Pace at the Methodist Church at 11 a. m., and that Sunday-School Mass Meeting be conducted by Bro. Hardin of Liberty Association and Bro. Comstock of Sheffield.

There being no further business before the body the session closed by a song and an old time handshaking, with a closing prayer by Bro. Isaac Bradford.

SUNDAY MORNING.

The Sabbath-School meeting was well attended, and Bro. Hardin gave a good talk that was of much interest to the adults. After his remarks Rev. Comstock talked to the children. His illustrations were forcible and simple, and his talk to the little folks was such that they could grasp the ideas quickly. There is no doubt but that greater interest in Sabbath-School work will be taken by all who were present.

At 11 a. m. the church was well filled and Rev. A. W. Briscoe preached a most excellent sermon. He held the attention of the people to the last word, and those present went home feeling that it was good to be there.

O. E. COMSTOCK, SR.,

A. J. IVIE,

Clerk.

Moderator.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

CHURCHES.	Associational Missions.		Home and State Missions.		Foreign Missions.		Ministerial Education.		Orphan's Home.		Individual Pledges.		Minutes
	Cash.	Vouc.	Cash.	Vouc.	Cash.	Vouc.	Cash.	Vouc.	Cash.	Vouc.	Cash.	Vouc.	
Bethel	\$ 8 50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cherokee .....	.....	2 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Furnace Hill .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Liberty	10 87	38	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	50
Mr. Stanley	2 80	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2 00
Minot .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	58
Okalona	2 50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pleasant Hill .....	.....	.....	2 50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	65
Riverton	5 60	.....	.....	5 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 50
Silviam	2 50	.....	.....	2 50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 60
Sheffield	5 31	.....	2 50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 00
Tussumbia	21 80	.....	5 00	.....	5 19*	5 00	.....	2 50	.....	.....	.....	.....	2 00
Valley Grove	10 00	.....	15 47	.....	16 90	1 40	.....	.....	2 50	.....	.....	.....	2 50
Mr. Pleasant .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 41	.....	.....	.....	75
Total	\$69 88	\$ 2 28	\$25 47	\$27 09	\$ 6 40	\$ 5 00	\$ 2 50	.....	\$ 3 91	.....	\$16 00	\$ 2 50	\$13 08

*Contributed by the Sunday-School. †Contributed by the Ladies' Aid Society.
 †Bethel Sunday School contributed \$1.50 for Missions next year.
 Received from Bro. Nesmith for his wife \$1.00; also for Missions, .05.

We, your Finance Committee, recommend that all collections at the Fifth Sunday Meetings be appropriated to associational purposes.

Respectfully submitted,
 A. L. MOODY, Chairman.

The report of the Finance Committee was received and the suggestion as to the Fifth Sunday collection adopted.
 CLERK.

STATISTICAL TABLE OF COLBERT ASSOCIATION.

CHURCHES.	Sunday-School	Membership...	Meetings.....	Prayer Meetings	PASTOR,	Postoffice.	CLERK,	Postoffice.	Value of Church Prop.	Church Expenses....	Pastor's Salary.....	Sunday-School Expenses....
Bethel.....	30	187	1st S	J. M. Roberts*	Town Creek	W. M. Hollimoot...	Avoca.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cherokee.....	64	4th	W. M. Whitlock	.....	Cherokee.....	S. H. Whitlock.....	Cherokee.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Furnace Hill.....	28	EW	O. E. Comstock	.....	Sheffield.....	J. W. Reynolds....	Sheffield.....	\$ 150 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
Liberty.....	61	92	2d S	EW	Town Creek	M. Odell.....	Town Creek	500 00	\$ 200 00	\$ 50 00	\$ 7 00	.....
Mt. Pleasant.....	40	59	EW	L. A. Waldrip	Town Creek	J. B. Gorton.....	Town Creek	350 00	.....	.....	.....	48
Minot.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Sheffield.....	G. L. Keenum.....	S. Florence.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Oklahoma.....	.....	41	2&4	Mack Stamps	Cherokee.....	Brice Lebetter.....	Cherokee.....	.....	.....	40 00	.....	.....
Pleasant Hill.....	.....	22	1st S	W. M. Whitlock	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Riverton.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Sheffield.....	W. B. Mayes.....	Sheffield.....	1000 00	100 00	400 00	25 00	.....
Sheffield.....	60	80	E S	Mack Stamps	Town Creek	J. M. Whitlock.....	Littleville.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Silom.....	49	62	EW	J. M. Roberts	Tuscombia	C. A. Womble.....	Tuscombia.....	3000 00	.....	450 00	5 00	.....
Tuscombia.....	75	130	E S	R. S. Fleming	Avoca.....	H. T. Cullender....	Leighton.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Valley Grove.....	.....	105	3d S	J. R. Nesmith	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

*Elected since letter was sent to the Association.

†Have no church building of their own.

‡No report from the churches.

§Bro. Fleming died a few days after the Association met.

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