

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

ETOWAH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

LIBERTY COOSA CHURCH,

HORE'S BLUFF, ETOWAH COUNTY, ALA.,

*September 25th, 26th and 27th, 1885.*

OFFICERS:

H. R. CULBERTSON,	- - -	MODERATOR.
J. R. NOWLIN,	- - -	CLERK AND TREAS.

---

The next session of this Association will be held with Union No. 1  
at Duck Spring, Etowah county, Friday before the fourth  
Sunday in September, 1886.

---

GADSDEN, ALA.:  
PRINTED AT THE TIMES BOOK AND JOB OFFICE.  
1886.



# MINUTES

OF THE

SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

# ETOWAH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

LIBERTY COOSA CHURCH,

ETOWAH COUNTY, ALA..

*September 25th, 26th and 27th, 1885.*

---

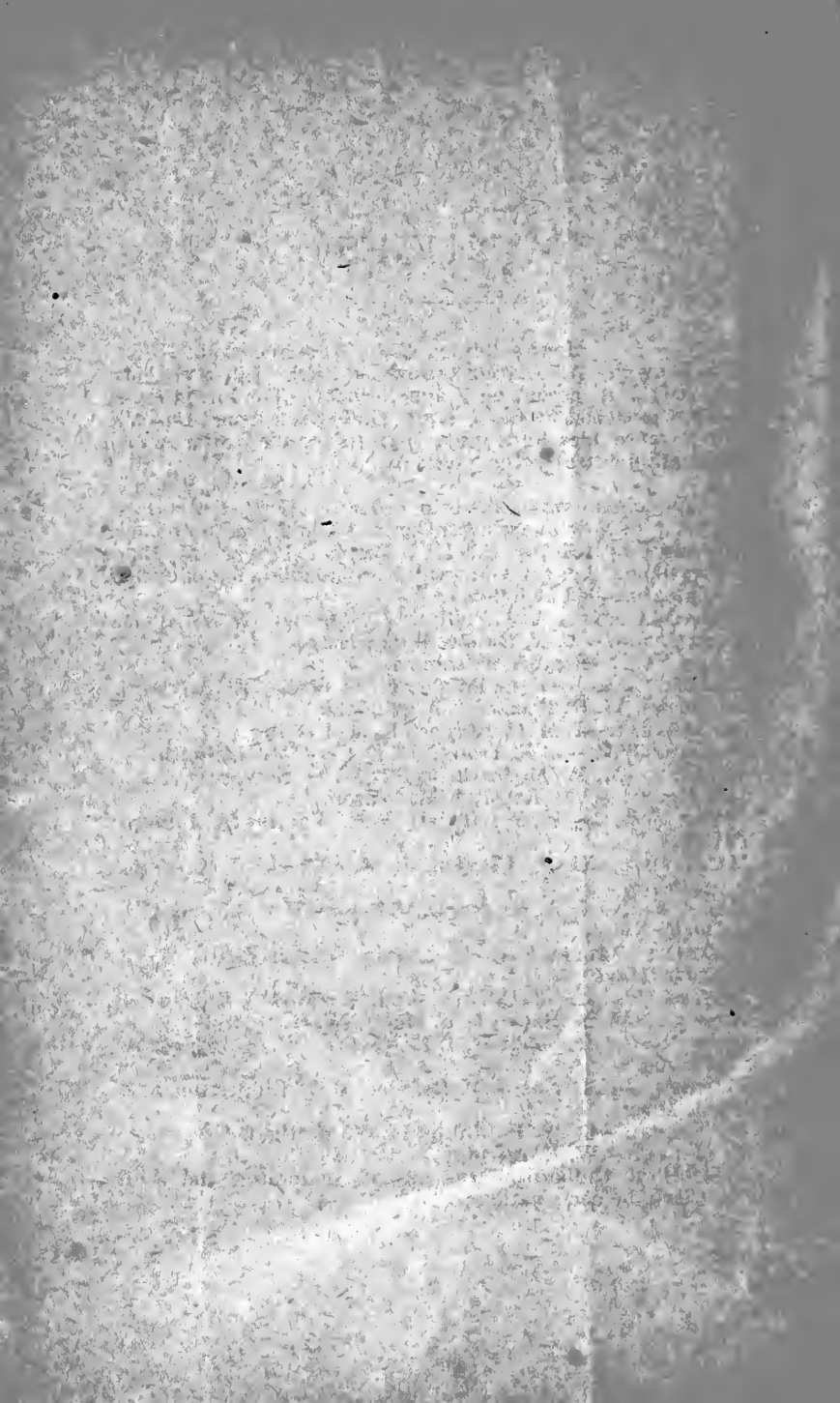
OFFICERS :

H. R. CULBERTSON,	-	-	-	MODERATOR.
J. R. NOWLIN,	-	-	-	CLERK AND TREAS.

---

GADSDEN, ALA. :

PRINTED AT THE TIMES BOOK AND JOB OFFICE.  
1886.



# MINUTES.

HOKE'S BLUFF, ALA., September 25th, 1885.

The Etowah Association convened with Liberty Coosa Church, at 11 A. M., according to appointment. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder H. R. Culbertson from Acts XX. 35: "It is more blessed to give than to receive," after which the Association adjourned to 2 o'clock.

FRIDAY, 2 P. M.

The Association was called to order by H. R. Culbertson, Moderator, J. R. Nowlin acting as Clerk. The Moderator opened the exercises by reading the CVI Psalm. Prayer by Elder W. C. Cleveland. Letters were read from the following churches, and delegates enrolled as follows:

WALNUT GROVE—A. J. Philips, W. B. Brown, W. Y. Adams.

CAVE SPRING.—E. N. Hainie, Wm. Glassco.

UNION No. 2.—Samuel Washburn.

LIBERTY COOSA.—G. S. Boozer, K. S. Steele, F. A. Smith, Joseph Barnes, W. H. Boozer, T. J. Landers.

MT. ARARAT.—J. M. C. Burnett, E. M. Keeling.

PILGRIMS' REST.—J. R. Trotter, O. E. Usry, M. H. Smith.

BETHANY.—M. W. Moore, B. F. Sitz, E. D. Howard.

OAK GROVE.—J. B. Roper, J. M. Vinson.

WHITE SPRING—W. J. Lafollett, J. A. Watkins, R. Johnson, W. T. Gay.

MT. CARMEL.—C. A. Clayton, J. M. Patrick, J. L. Jones, W. J. Bentley.

UNION No. 1.—J. A. Reeves, D. M. Reeves, E. T. Stevens, C. H. Comer, O. Q. Norton.

PLEASANT VALLEY.—A. H. Colvin, Gilbert Pence, W. A. Latham, Jas. Mays.

WHITE'S CHAPEL.—J. C. Leek, J. M. Wofford, S. E. Dowdell.

ANTIOCH.—W. M. Shaw, E. B. Moore, W. G. Moore.

GADSDEN.—A. B. Goodhue, J. R. Nowlin, W. C. Cleveland, A. E. Goodhue.

FAIRVIEW.—L. Divine, J. M. Bearden, H. R. Culbertson, F. M. Henley, J. M. Sitz.

MT. GILEAD.—C. W. P. Philips, G. W. Mulligan.

TEN ISLAND—W. R. Akridge.

Elder H. R. Culbertson was elected Moderator, and J. R. Nowlin, Clerk, by acclamation.

The Committee on Programme, appointed at last session, were requested to report an order of business as soon as practicable.

A. B. Tidmore was received as a correspondent from the Cherokee Association.

A. B. Cross, from the Coosa River, and Elder H. E. Harris, from the Cahaba Valley Associations, were welcomed as visiting brethren.

An application was received from Friendship church, Attalla, for membership in the Association. Delegates: H. B. Ralls, Adolphus Griffin. The church was received, and the right hand of fellowship was extended by the Moderator.

A motion was made by W. C. Cleveland to appoint a committee on Ministerial Education. Committee: H. B. Ralls, J. R. Trotter, T. A. Smith.

Elder W. C. Cleveland was received and recognized by the Moderator as Chairman of the State Board of Ministerial Education.

On motion, the places of absent members of several committees were filled as follows: W. H. Boozer, on Education, in place of W. N. Chandler; J. M. Vinson, on Bible and Colportage Work, in place of W. N. Chandler.

A motion was adopted abolishing By-Law No. 5.

Committee on Devotional Exercises: Jos. Barnes, J. W. Ford, M. J. Hall, from the church; J. M. Vinson and C. H. Comer, from the body.

Committee on Finance: J. M. Wofford, T. A. Landers, B. F. Sitz.

H. E. Harris was appointed to preach in the church at night, J. R. Trotter at Ford's School House, same time, and H. B. Ralls at the arbor, Saturday 11 A. M.

Adjourned to 9 A. M. Saturday. Prayer by J. A. Reeves.

---

SATURDAY, 9 A. M.

In the opening exercises the Moderator read the LXI Psalm. Prayer by J. R. Trotter. The minutes were read, corrected and adopted.

Elder W. Y. Adams was received as a correspondent from the Warrior River Association.

The report of the Committee on Programme was read and adopted.

On Motion, the standing committee on Publications was abolished.

Report on Ministerial Education was read.

## REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

We, your Committee on Ministerial Education, beg leave to report that we heartily endorse the work as now carried on by the brethren in this State. For further information we refer you to Dr. W. C. Cleveland, Chairman of the Board of Ministerial Education, who is present, and will present the claims of said work and give any desired information.

Respectfully,

H. B. RALLS, Chairman.

Dr. Cleveland, representing the State Board, delivered an address, and appealed to the churches for money to aid in the education of young men for the ministry. Pledges were made as follows:

Antioch.....	\$ 5 00	O. E. Usry .....	\$ 1 00
Walnut Grove.....	5 00	W. J. Bentley, paid.....	1 00
Fairview.....	5 00	J. M. Patrick, paid.....	1 00
Gadsden.....	50 00	S. E. Dowdell.....	1 00
Liberty Coosa.....	10 00	H. E. Harris.....	1 00
Union No.....	5 00	H. R. Culbertson.....	2 50
White Spring.....	5 00	M. A. Cornelius.....	2 00
Attalla.....	2 00	W. Y. Adams.....	1 00
Bethany.....	3 00	G. S. Boozer.....	1 00
Mt. Gilead.....	5 00	T. A. Smith, paid.....	1 00
Cave Spring.....	2 00	K. S. Steele, paid.....	1 00
H. B. Ralls, paid.....	1 00	E. M. Keeling, paid.....	1 00
A. H. Colvin.....	1 00		
J. R. Trotter.....	2 50		
M. H. Smith, paid.....	1 00		
		Total.....	\$117 00

Dr. Cleveland requested that the money be paid over to the Board not later than January 1st, 1886. The report of the committee was unanimously adopted, and much interest exhibited on this subject.

A letter was read from J. G. Harris in behalf of the "Alabama Baptist," supported by remarks from W. C. Cleveland, H. E. Harris and J. R. Nowlin. A resolution was passed endorsing the "Alabama Baptist" as the organ of the denomination in the State and urging members to sustain the paper.

Reports on "State Missions," "Home Missions," "Foreign Missions," "Work Among the Colored People," "Colportage and Bible Work" were all made and considered under the same head.

H. B. Ralls gave a detailed account of his work as missionary during the year. A verbal report was also made by the Executive Committee.

Upon invitation of the Moderator the members of the Association joined heartily in singing "The Ship of Zion."

The roll of the churches was called, and each in turn promised to try during the next year to raise the amount apportioned to them by the State Board; *i. e.* thirteen cents per member, to cover all demands except for ministerial education.

The reports as adopted are as follows:

#### REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

Through the blessing and favor of our kind Heavenly Father, your committee reports that the work of Missions in the State of Alabama during the past year has been greatly prospered in our hands. Satisfactory progress has been made in nearly every enterprise fostered by the Baptist denomination in this State, and results of the most gratifying character have crowned the efforts of our Missionaries in every department of our christian work. Ten years ago the Alabama Baptist Convention elected a Board, composed of some of our wisest and most discreet men, and appointed a corresponding secretary, and to them they committed the management of our Missionary operations. From that date to the present, the progress of our denomination has been onward and upward. Order has been brought out of chaos and system out of confusion, and to-day the power of the Baptist denomination in this State for aggressive christian work is ten fold greater than it was ten years ago. Among other things, our efficient Corresponding Secretary reported that there were over 81 Missionaries in the employment of our Board last year. Under their labors 919 persons were baptized; 13 churches were established; 71 Sunday Schools were organized; 11 Ladies' Missionary Societies were established; 6 meeting houses completed and 12 others begun; 5,653 books and pamphlets were sold; 163 Bibles and 513 Testaments were donated to the destitute; many subscribers were secured for our denominational papers, and funds were collected for our Home and Foreign Boards and for all the other benevolent enterprises fostered by our denomination. All of which was accomplished at a cost that is trifling when compared with the great results that have been achieved. These facts and figures speak for themselves, and call loudly upon the churches and Associations of the State to unite their forces, to redouble their zeal, increase their contributions and pray with more earnestness for the extension of the Master's Kingdom in the dark and destitute places of our State.

During the past year Etowah Association, through its Executive Committee, has co-operated with the State Board in this work. Bro. H. B. Ralls has operated as Missionary within our bounds. The details of his work will be furnished in his own report. Under his labors a church has been established at Attalla. Two missionary stations have received his attention with as much regularity as the circumstances would permit. These interests, if fostered by the Association, we believe will result in the accomplishment of great good. The State Board has not called on us for any money to be used outside of our own bounds, but we have been permitted to select and pay our own Missionary. The Corresponding Secretary of the State Board now asks the Association to contribute \$130.25 as our pro rata share of \$12,000 asked for to carry on the work in the State—this is thirteen cents per member—any of our churches can raise this amount, and we recommend that the Association adopt the suggestion, that the apportionment be made by the Association for the churches, and that the churches appoint committees at once to distribute it among the members and collect the funds. We further suggest, that the pastors of the churches be requested to preach once every three months on the subject of Missions, and collections be taken on these occasions for this purpose.

J. R. NOWLIN, }  
 W. H. BOOZER, } Committee.  
 H. E. HARRIS, }



## HOME MISSIONS.

Your Committee report work done during the Southern Baptist Conventional year 1884-85: Number of Missionaries, 185; churches and stations, 425; weeks of labor, 4,961; sermons and addresses, 17,039; prayer meetings attended, 2,840; baptisms, 2,931; received by letter, 1,733; total additions, 4,664; Sunday Schools reported, 173; teachers and pupils, 6,194; miles traveled, 164,937; religious visits, 22,818; churches aided to build houses, 14; churches constituted, 53.

In Arkansas, Louisiana, Florida, Texas, Western North Carolina, and among the Indians the Home Board is doing extensive work. The building up of towns and cities on the new lines of railroads now being so rapidly constructed in these States, open large and inviting fields for this Board to occupy; and the duty of adequately meeting the wants of these fields, with men and means, and thus laying the foundation of permanent denominational prosperity, must be apparent to every thinking mind. In New Orleans the work is making steady and hopeful progress. Industrial schools have been established and Mission stations opened up, which bid fair by and by to grow into churches. Let pastors see to it that liberal contributions are made next fall and winter to Home Missions. The Board expects from Alabama \$4,000; from Etowah Association \$43.66.

J. M. VINSON, Chairman.

## FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Your Committee report: In Mexico, the Board has 15 Missionaries and native assistants. Baptized and received by letter during the year, 90; scholars, 93; church members, 190.

In Brazil, we have 8 Missionaries and native assistants. Baptized during the year, 37; scholars, 40; church members, 113.

In Africa, we have 15 Missionaries and native assistants. Baptized during the year, 7; pupils, 195; church members, 125; contributions, \$190.00.

In China, we have 56 Missionaries and native assistants. Baptized, 34; church members, 645; pupils, 145; contributions, \$567.85.

In Italy, we have 12 Missionaries and native assistants. Baptized, 35; church members, 250; contributions, \$42.00.

A good work is being accomplished under our Foreign Mission Board. New forces are being sent out to several fields, and this calls for increased contributions from the people. "Let the Baptists of the South be plied by the whole counsel of God by a consecrated ministry, and as sure as they possess the grace of God, and God is true to His promises, they will come up to the full measure of their duty in giving the gospel to mankind." The Board expects to go forward depending on the liberality of the churches and claiming the divine promise, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." We are asked to give this year to Foreign Missions \$5,000; our share of this is \$54.34.

J. M. C. BURNETT, Chairman.

The following was offered as a report on

## WORK AMONG THE COLORED PEOPLE.

At our Associations and Conventions the vastness and importance of this work is dwelt upon, but we get no further. We have a scriptural admonition "to do good unto ALL men." These people are here among us and present a wide field for usefulness. That they should be aided to

the extent of our ability and opportunity no christian will deny. That they are helping themselves to the extent of their ability is evident. Their wonderful success in building up their school in Selma, the improvement of their ministry, and the number of church houses built, proves this. We can best reach the masses by efforts made for the improvement of their leaders. Why can't we send forth and sustain a suitable minister to hold institutes for the instruction of their ministry, deacons and Sunday School teachers? We can do it, if we will. The Home Mission Board proposes to pay one-half of the support of a man to do this work. Will not our brethren promptly raise the other half? We have two excellent men working as colporteurs among them. Send along your contributions, brethren, that a man may be appointed at an early day to hold institutes among them.

#### REPORT OF H. B. RALLS, MISSIONARY.

Report of Mission work done in Etowah Association for the months of June, July, August and September, 1885: Sermons preached, 52; miles traveled, 450; families visited, 95; churches organized, 1. Days worked: June, 30; July, 31; August, 31; September, 26. Total 118. 118 day's work at \$1.50 per day, equal to \$177.00 due on work to 26th of September, 1885.

H. B. RALLS.

#### REPORT ON COLPORTAGE AND BIBLE WORK.

The last report to the State Convention, of the State Mission Board, shows that 26 of its Missionaries did more or less colportage work, and that 8 others worked exclusively as Colporteurs. They sold 5,653 books and pamphlets, valued at \$2,679.47, and donated to destitute families 160 Bibles and 513 Testaments, valued at \$68.85.

At its last session, this Association resolved to raise \$100, to be set apart for colportage work, and to be called "The J. J. D. Renfro Permanent Colportage Fund." There was raised during the last session in cash and subscriptions \$46.50. Your Committee recommend that an effort be made to complete this Fund during the present session.

A. B. GOODHUE, }  
J. BARNES, } Committee.  
J. M. VINSON, }

After discussion, an effort was made to complete "The J. J. D. Renfro Permanent Colportage Fund." Subscriptions and cash was obtained as follows:

W. H. Boozer, paid.....	\$1 00	A. H. Colvin .....	\$1 00
N. J. Stevens .....	2 00	F. Ford, paid.....	1 00
J. W. Ford, paid .....	1 00	W. G. Moore, paid .....	1 00
K. S. Steele .....	1 00	M. W. Moore.....	1 00
E. M. Keeling .....	1 00	E. T. Stevens, paid.....	50
A. Barnes, paid.....	1 00	W. J. Bentley, paid.....	50
J. A. Watkins, paid .....	1 00	Mrs. M. Caddell, paid.....	25
M. J. Hall, paid.....	1 00		
Mrs. E. Boozer, paid.....	25		
Mrs. Smith, paid.....	25		
		Total, .....	\$14 75

The Report on Indigent Ministers was read and adopted as follows:

## REPORT ON INDIGENT MINISTERS.

We, your Committee on Indigent Ministers, find our worthy brother L. W. Ginn is old and needs assistance from this Association, which we hope you will look after.

Respectfully submitted,

A. H. COLVIN, Chairman.

Committee on Nominations appointed as follows: E. M. Keeling, Jos. Barnes, A. J. Phillips.

Committee on Time and Place: D. M. Reeves, W. B. Brown, J. A. Watkins.

A motion was adopted to appoint in future a Standing Committee on Missions, to embrace Home Missions, Foreign Missions, State Missions, Colportage and Bible Work. Aid to Indigent Ministers and Evangelization of the Colored Race.

Adjourned for dinner.

SATURDAY, 2 P. M.

The Association was opened with prayer by W. C. Cleveland. J. W. Shepherd was received as a correspondent from Cedar Bluff Association.

W. Y. Adams was appointed to preach in the church at night.

The report on Education was adopted as follows:

## REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Whatever definitions schoolmen may give to the word Education, your Committee mean by it, the knowledge, and the mental and moral discipline acquired by the young in school. In a sense, education, a kind of education that has its value, that is, in fact, indispensable, is acquired by all whether in school or not. We learn by observation, by experience, by reading, by conversation and the knowledge thus acquired is strengthening to the mental faculties and has a tendency to qualify us for the fulfilment of our obligations in the various relations of life as we could not be qualified otherwise. In fact, nearly all the practical knowledge we gain and the intellectual power we acquire are secured outside the schoolroom, after leaving it. The education of which we speak is the preparation made in school for the future acquisition of practical knowledge, and the future development of the intellectual and moral powers. The making of high acquisitions of this sort, without the foundation laid in childhood and youth in school, is the exception and not the rule, and hence the stress laid upon education in this sense. The estimate put upon its value to the citizen, is shown by the expenditure made by the State, to put it within the reach of those who shall become its citizens. The philanthropic man of wealth indicates his estimate of its value by the liberal use of his means to establish and equip institutions of learning. Christian men show they are not unmindful of its worth, by making it one of the ends they seek to promote in their labors of love. Parents, by the heavy, but cheerful sacrifices they make for their children in this matter. "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it" is a

scriptural injunction of very broad and comprehensive signification, combined with an exceedingly encouraging promise. The injunction is, first, "train." There must be training, disciplining, teaching, forming, moulding, shaping. This training is as essential to perfect manhood and womanhood, as the training of the young animal is, to make him an efficient beast of burden or a safe and pleasant roadster. Without it there are sure to be found defects and faults in manhood and womanhood, as in the untrained or imperfectly trained horse or ox. The injunction is, secondly, "Train up a child." This training, disciplining, shaping, must be done, while the subject of it is in childhood. The character of the man has its foundation laid in childhood and youth. As a rule, worthlessness, perverseness, viciousness, wickedness in manhood, is traceable to the absence of training or to defective training, in childhood and youth, while the foundation of goodness, greatness, virtue, purity, and loveliness, in manhood, is laid, by wise, careful, diligent training, during the same period of life. The injunction, in its entirety is, "Train up a child in the way he should go." In the way of truth—"Thou shalt not lie." In the way of honesty—"Thou shalt not steal." In respect for human life—"Thou shalt not kill." In love to parents—"Honor thy father and thy mother." In chastity—"Thou shalt not commit adultery." In sobriety—"Nor drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of God." In love to God, in remembrance of the Sabbath, &c. The cheering promise is, "He shall not depart from it." In manhood he shall walk in this way without embarrassing, mortifying, humiliating departures therefrom if he be so trained in childhood.

The citizen is not qualified to fulfill as he ought, the responsibilities resting upon him without such training. The churchman cannot fully discharge the obligations he has assumed without it. The member of society must come short of perfectly fulfilling his place as such without it. It is a necessity in all the relations of life. But while we urge the importance of mental discipline, intellectual culture and worldly knowledge, we would not have them unaccompanied with a sanctified heart. Knowledge and mental power must be under the control of a regenerate spirit or they may prove a curse instead of a blessing. If they never be made subject to a spirit renewed by the grace of God, we do not hesitate to pronounce them a curse. Yet this mental training must not be deferred until the heart shall have been renewed by God's grace, but the one must be gained, and the other sought until secured.

As there is no Standing Committee on the subject of Ministerial Education, we think proper to include in our report this branch of the subject of education. We are happy to observe a marked increase in the number of young ministers seeking better preparation for their work as well as a growing appreciation of intellectual culture and attainment in the ministry, on the part of the churches. The polished, sharp-pointed shafts of error and infidelity, hurled from every quarter, against the truth as we hold it, cannot be warded off by those who stand upon the walls of our Zion, unless they possess the skill and attainment to erect strong bulwarks in its defense. Can it be that mental vigor and intellectual acumen are of inestimable value to men in pushing forward their secular interests, and yet be of small worth in the matter of promoting their spiritual concerns? Are talents of the highest order essential in the establishment and maintenance of earthly kingdoms and governments, but unnecessary in the building up of God's kingdom on earth? God may choose and is able to use weak things to confound mighty ones, but He does not authorize His servants to attempt so to do.

Dr. W. C. Cleveland, of Gadsden, is the President of the Board of

Ministerial Education of our State Convention, and would be happy to communicate in person or by letter with all desiring information on this subject. The Board had under its care 27 young ministers last year, and it is probable the number will be greatly increased next year.

The schools in the State belonging to the Baptist denomination and under its fostering care, are the Howard College and the Judson Female Institute at Marion, and the Alabama Central Female College at Tuscaloosa.

Respectfully submitted,

A. B. GOODHUE, Chairman.

Remarks were made by several brethren and the claims of our State Institutions presented, viz: Howard College, Judson Female Institute and Alabama Central Female College.

Report was read on Temperance by J. R. Trotter. After discussion participated in by W. C. Cleveland, J. R. Trotter and A. B. Goodhue, the report was amended and the second resolution in reference to communion wine was stricken out. The report as adopted is as follows:

#### REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Gospel temperance, at least so far as ardent spirits is concerned, is not to use to any extent as a beverage, but entire abstinence. The word temperance occurs in three passages in the New Testament, to-wit: In Acts xxiv. 25., "And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, &c." In Gal. v. 23., it is called one of the fruits of the Spirit. In 2 Pet i. 6., "Add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge temperance, &c." The definition of temperance in these passages is thorough self-control, abstinence from all things evil or hurtful, forbearance of sinful actions. The word temperate is found in three passages in the New Testament, to-wit: In 1 Cor. ix. 25. "Every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things." Allusion is here made to the gymnastic games. The teachers of the gymnastic art forbade their disciples the use of wine; did not allow the moderate use of it at all. The apostles' argument is, that if these athletes were thus abstinent to obtain a perishable, fading crown of leaves and flowers, how much more ought christians to be abstinent, to obtain an imperishable crown. If the teachings of the New Testament required abstinence from the weak fermented wines of the times of Christ and the apostles, how much more does the spirit of those teachings require the total abstinence from the strong drinks of the present day, which are so poisonous and ruinous to the human family. We, as the people of God, are taught in the New Testament to abstain from all appearances of evil, to keep away from temptation. To take alcohol into the system in any quantity is poisonous to it. Then taking it into the system is not abstaining from all appearances of evil. Drinking the poisonous, ruinous and destructive liquors, is no sign of the abhorrence of the evil. Again we are taught to watch and pray lest we enter into temptation. It is dangerous to use alcoholic drinks of any kind, for it will increase on any man, lead him step by step until he is finally ruined in body, mind and soul, and leads to all other vices. Let every good man and woman do all in their power to put the evil away from our boys. It is the duty of all christians to help in this grand cause, pray for it, talk for it, write for it, work for it in every way they can to advance the noble cause of temperance. It is the duty of fathers and mothers to teach their children the danger of

taking even one drop of the cursed thing.

Your Committee offers for your adoption the following resolution:  
**RESOLVED**, That this Association affectionately but earnestly urges upon the membership of the churches of which it is composed total abstinence from all intoxicating liquors as beverages.

J. R. TROTTER, Chairman.

A letter was read from Mrs. M. J. Turnley, President of the W. C. T. U., and a resolution adopted as follows:

**RESOLVED**, That we receive the communication from the W. C. T. U., and welcome them as co-laborers in the Temperance cause.

The Committee on Nominations reported as appointments for next session: W. Y. Adams, the Missionary Sermon; G. B. Wade, alternate. W. C. Cleveland, Introductory Sermon, and M. A. Cornelius, alternate.

Union No. 1 was selected as the place for the next Association; time, Friday before the 4th Sunday in September, 1886.

The Committee on Finance submitted their report as follows:

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

We, your Committee, respectfully report: Amount collected for Minutes, \$23.25; Home Missions, \$123.35; Foreign Missions, 50 cents: total, \$147.10.

J. M. WOFFORD, Chairman,  
 T. J. LANDERS,  
 B. F. SITZ.

A resolution was passed instructing the Moderator to appoint the Executive Committee as other standing committees.

Adjourned to Sunday, 9 A. M. Prayer by W. Y. Adams.

SUNDAY 9, A. M.

The Moderator read the CIII Psalm. Prayer by M. A. Cornelius. The roll was called and the Minutes read, corrected and approved.

J. C. Tidmore was received as a correspondent from the Cherokee Association.

Standing Committees to report at the next Association were appointed:

On Education—W. Y. Adams, C. W. P. Philips, R. B. Divine.

On Temperance—J. R. Nowlin, Jos. Barnes, D. M. Reeves.

On Sabbath Schools—J. R. Trotter, E. M. Keeling, K. S. Steele.

On Missions—W. C. Cleveland, J. A. Reeves, M. A. Cornelius.

Executive Committee—J. R. Nowlin, Chairman, W. H. Boozer, D. M. Reeves.

The report on Sabbath Schools was read as follows:

## REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Your committee regret to see that only three churches in our Association are sustaining Sabbath Schools. While this manifest lack of interest is chargeable to the membership, we would suggest that pastors may accomplish much good by giving more time and attention to this effective department of christian work. Let our motto be an interesting school in every church.

H. E. HARRIS, }  
 J. H. WISDOM, } Committee.  
 D. M. REEVE, }

This report was discussed by H. E. Harris, W. C. Cleveland, J. M. Wofford, H. B. Ralls, W. Y. Adams and A. B. Goodhue. Several brethren made statements concerning the Sabbath School interest in the churches. It was ascertained from their reports that there were seven other Sabbath Schools, besides those reported in the letters, existing within the bounds of the Association and patronized by the Baptist denomination, making ten in all.

On motion of H. B. Ralls, the Executive Committee was instructed to appropriate fifty dollars from the Mission fund of the ensuing year to the Attalla Mission. Fifty dollars more was raised for the same purpose by private subscription.

The minute fund being reported short, a collection was taken and \$2.75 was added to the fund.

At 11 o'clock the Missionary Sermon was preached by Elder H. E. Harris; text, Matt. v. 14 verse, "Ye are the light of the world." Although it was a cloudy, rainy day, the house was well filled, the congregation was attentive and the services impressive. One notable feature in this, and in fact all the sessions of the Association, was the excellent singing. Evidently great improvement is being made in some of our churches in music.

At the close of the services a collection was taken, amounting in cash to \$13.75, and \$3.45 in pledges.

## SUNDAY AFTERNOON.

The ordinance of Baptism was administered to ten young converts by Elder H. R. Culbertson in the presence of a large concourse of people, after which the Association met in the church.

The Moderator being detained, A. B. Goodhue was made Moderator *pro tem*.

A vote of thanks was tendered the church and community for their kindness and hospitality.

On motion, the reading of the minutes was dispensed with, and the Clerk was authorized to print and distribute the minutes.

H. R. Culbertson resumed the chair as Moderator.

A committee of three was appointed to report at the opening

of the next session of this Association, By-Laws and Rules of Order for the future government of this body. Committee: W. C. Cleveland, J. R. Trotter, H. E. Harris.

The Executive Committee was authorized to employ a Missionary during the next year.

Correspondents appointed to Cherokee Association: C. H. Comer, J. M. Bearden, J. L. Jones, Jos. Barnes.

Cedar Bluff: S. E. Dowdell, W. C. Cleveland, J. M. Wofford, J. H. Wisdom.

Tallasahatchie and Ten Islands: J. H. Wisdom, J. E. Smith, C. W. P. Philips, W. H. Boozer.

Cahaba Valley: K. S. Steele, L. Divine, Bro. Cambron, H. R. Culbertson.

Warrior River: H. R. Culbertson, M. W. Moore, E. T. Stevens, D. M. Reeve.

Delegates to State Convention: W. C. Cleveland, J. R. Nowlin, H. R. Culbertson, James May, T. A. Smith, K. S. Steele, W. H. Boozer, G. S. Boozer, M. A. Cornelius, J. R. Trotter.

The Treasurer's report was read and adopted:

#### REPORT OF TREASURER.

J. R. NOWLIN, Treasurer, to Etowah Baptist Association:		
To cash on Colportage Fund from J. R. Nowlin.....		\$ 10 00
" " " " " " A. B. Goodhue.....		2 00
" " " " " " J. R. Trotter.....		2 50
" " " " " " J. H. Wisdom.....		2 00
Subscribed last year.....		16 50
Same fund to-day.....		8 75
Collected for Ministerial Education.....		6 00
From J. N. Akridge, for Missions.....		5 00
" Willie Richards, ".....		50
" Doc Hester, ".....		1 00
" Public Collections.....		13 75
		<hr/>
		\$51 50
Cash on hand.....		\$51 50
September 27, 1885.		

#### REPORT OF LADIES' AID SOCIETY OF GADSDEN CHURCH.

Paid to T. M. Bailey, for Missions.....		\$ 38 00
" " Foreign Mission Journal.....		5 00
Cash on hand.....		4 50
		<hr/>
		\$47 50

#### DORCAS SOCIETY.

Paid for Benevolence.....		\$ 79 00
" on Pastor's Home.....		90 00
Cash on hand.....		68 17
		<hr/>

\$237 77

Adjourned with prayer by W. C. Cleveland.



## CONSTITUTION.

The name of this Association shall be "The Etowah Baptist Association."

The officers of the Association shall be a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall perform such duties and perform them in such manner as is ordinarily required of such officers. They shall be elected at or near the opening of each annual session of the body.

The membership of the Association shall be such churches as shall see fit and be permitted to represent themselves in its sessions by delegates.

Each church shall be entitled to one delegate for each 25 members or fractional part thereof, but every church shall be entitled to at least two delegates.

The object of this Association shall be the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom not only within its bounds, but throughout the world. It shall aid and encourage by its means and influence those grand institutions and agencies, which in the providence of God, have been established by the wise and good among our brethren, for the spread of the gospel throughout the world, for the distribution of the Bible among those destitute of it, for the education of young men for the work of the ministry, as well as the cause of education generally, for the promotion of the Sunday School cause, the cause of Temperance, etc.

The Association shall employ such means and adopt such measures as shall seem best calculated to cultivate Christian unity and fellowship among the brethren within its bounds, to provoke the brethren to love and good works, to stir up the pure minds of the brethren by way of remembrance, to secure individual advancement in the divine life, in every way as individuals, to illustrate to the world the reality of the religion of Jesus Christ.

---

## BY-LAWS.

1. Preparatory to the organization of the Association, an Introductory Sermon shall be preached by a member appointed at the previous session, and another shall be named at the same time to perform the duty, in case of the failure of the first.

2. This service being performed, the Moderator, or, if he is absent, the oldest minister present shall open the Association by prayer.

3. He shall call for letters from the churches, when the delegates shall present them, and take their seats in order.

4. When the Association is regularly organized, as prescribed in the Constitution, the correspondence with other Associations shall be called for, the letters read and the messengers received by the right hand of fellowship from the Moderator. These messengers shall be invited to seats in the Association and accorded the privilege of speaking on any subject before the body, but not of voting on any. Other visiting brethren may be invited to seats with the same privilege and prohibition.

5. Subjects not embraced in the last minutes may, at the discretion of the Association, be taken up at any time when there is no business directly before the body.

6. Any subject not contained in the minutes must be regularly brought forward by motion, which shall be seconded before it can be taken up. After this it shall be considered as properly at the disposal of the Association, unless it be withdrawn by the mover.

7. No one shall speak oftener than three times on the same subject, except permitted by the Association. The speaker shall always rise to his feet and address the Moderator.

8. Silence and decorum shall be observed by every member of the Association while the body is in session, and more especially in the time of debate. All personal reflections and remarks tending to wound the feelings of brethren shall be strictly avoided.

9. No member of the Association shall leave the house while the Association is in session, without leave from the Moderator.

10. In order to expedite business, committees shall be raised at the discretion of the Association, who shall be named by the Moderator.

11. The meeting of the Association shall, on each day of the session, be opened and closed with prayer.

12. The minutes of each day shall be read at its close and the opening of business, after prayer each succeeding day, when the names of the delegates shall be called; and the whole minutes of the session shall be read at its close and signed by the Moderator and Clerk.

13. Any alteration in these By-Laws may be made at any meeting of the Association by two-thirds of the members present.

---

## RULES OF ORDER.

The rules of order usually observed by deliberative bodies of this kind shall be observed by this Association.

If any point of order be raised by a member of the body, it shall be decided by the Moderator; but appeal may be taken from his decision to that of the body.

"Mell's Parliamentary Practice" shall be used as authority in regard to questions of order.

---

## ARTICLES OF FAITH.

There is one and but one God, who is a spirit, omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, eternal, unchangeable, infinite in wisdom and goodness, of inviolable truth, perfectly just, of immaculate holiness, the Creator of all things, the Preserver of all, and the Supreme Ruler over all.

The Godhead is a trinity, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, three persons in one Divine essence.

The Son became incarnate, thus uniting in Himself the Divine and human natures, that He might become the mediator between God and man, man's final Judge, and by His life, death and resurrection the Redeemer and Savior of His people.

The Holy Spirit is the sanctifier and comforter of God's people. He is, through the Divine word, the author of the new or spiritual life, produced in man in his regeneration.

The Holy Scriptures were given by Divine inspiration, are a revelation of God's will to man concerning him and constitute to him an infallible rule of faith and practice.

Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, were created holy, and for a time served their Creator acceptably, living innocently and happily in His favor, but Adam having been placed under a covenant of works, violated it, and brought the penalty of the violation upon himself and his descendants.

All men partaking of the consequences of the fall, are both totally depraved and guilty of actual transgression of God's law.

No man can free himself from his native depravity, or from condemnation. No man can save himself. There is no way of salvation but by Jesus Christ.

The Christian Sabbath is the first day of the week, and should be kept holy and consecrated to the service and worship of God, in obedience to the command, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy," and in commemoration of the resurrection, on that day, of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The ordinances of the Gospel are two: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. The great Head of the church requires the perpetual observance of these ordinances by the churches, as such, and under their authority.

Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, by one duly qualified and authorized to administer the rite. It is prerequisite to church membership.

A Gospel Church is a company of baptized believers, organized under the law of its Great Head, for the advancement of God's kingdom in the world. The officers of a church are its pastors and deacons. Each church is an independent body, subject only to the command of its Great Head. The work required of the churches is missionary in its character. "Go ye unto all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature."

The Holy Spirit continues the work of sanctification upon those whom He has regenerated, to the end of life, and thus saves all who are regenerate from apostasy.

All, who will be finally saved, were chosen of God the Father before the foundation of the world, and given to Jesus Christ in the covenant of grace; yet all who will be lost will have rejected of their own will a proffered salvation.

The bodies of all who die will be raised from the dead, and reunited to their spirits for the Judgment of the Great Day.

In the last day Jesus Christ will come to judge the world, and having assembled all men before Him, will pass sentence upon them, according to their works.

Heaven is a place to which the righteous will be received, and made perfectly happy in the presence and enjoyment of God forever.

Hell is a place into which the wicked will be cast, to suffer everlasting punishment for their sins.

#### ORDAINED MINISTERS.

M. A. CORNELIUS,  
H. R. CULBERTSON,  
J. R. TROTTER,  
W. Y. ADAMS,  
W. C. CLEVELAND,  
J. E. SMITH,

H. E. HARRIS,  
V. H. DEAN,  
K. S. STEELE,  
J. A. REEVE,  
JACOB GRAY,  
G. A. STEELE,

J. A. MAY,  
W. N. CHANDLER,  
T. S. LOGAN,  
T. A. SMITH,  
G. B. WADE.

#### LICENTIATES.

P. M. ARCHER,  
L. J. BISHOP,  
H. B. RALLS,  
L. W. GINN,

B. F. KIRKLAND,  
C. W. P. PHILIPS,  
G. S. BOOZER,  
M. BASS,

GEORGE CHAMBERS,  
W. P. GILLILAND,  
W. C. OSBORNE.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

J. R. NOWLIN, Chairman,

W. H. BOOZER,

D. M. REEVE.

# STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	POST OFFICE.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	Sabbath of Meeting	Baptized	Received by Letter	Restored	Dismiss'd by Letter	Excluded	Deceased	Male Members	Female Members	Total Membership.	For Missions	For Minutes	Average Attendance on S. School
Antioch.....	Steel's Depot.	J A May.....	R T Moore.....	2	3	4	5	1	5	34	55	89	\$ 4 00	\$ 1 50	.....	
Bethany.....	Hill.....	J A May.....	H M Brock.....	4	9	4	.....	.....	.....	42	52	94	4 25	1 00	.....	
Bristo's Creek	Aurora.....	G B Wade.....	J R Lackey.....	2	1	1	7	6	2	.....	69	.....	.....	1 00	.....	
Cave Spring...	Attalla.....	J H Horton.....	E N Haynie.....	1	1	5	20	2	2	49	94	143	14 00	1 10	43	
Fairview.....	Gadsden.....	H R Culbertson	G H Bearden	1	8	7	8	2	2	84	131	181	32 95	1 65	100	
Gadsden.....	Gadsden.....	W C Cleveland	Edgar Welsh	4	2	8	2	2	3	63	104	167	18 05	2 75	.....	
Liberty Coosa	Hoke's Bluff.	H R Culbertson	F Ford.....	4	5	10	7	1	1	40	85	40	5 75	1 00	.....	
Mt. Ararat...	Gadsden.....	J R Trotter.....	E M Keeling	3	12	3	10	1	2	25	43	88	.....	1 25	.....	
Mt. Carmel...	Gadsden.....	H E Harris.....	W H Lovins	1	5	3	2	1	1	68	85	77	.....	1 40	.....	
Mt. Gillead...	Mack.....	T A Smith.....	C W Phillips	4	9	5	2	1	1	105	105	105	1 50	1 50	.....	
Oak Grove...	Mack.....	H L Johnson.....	J H Hughes	2	6	3	1	12	14	41	64	119	.....	1 50	.....	
Pilgrims' Rest	Gadsden.....	J E Smith.....	O E Usry.....	3	11	2	8	1	1	15	35	50	.....	1 00	.....	
Pleasant Valley	Attalla.....	J A May.....	J W Swindall	2	4	2	4	4	1	15	35	50	.....	1 00	.....	
Ten Islands...	Otrety.....	Robert Trotter	Edward Aiken	2	1	4	2	15	2	1	150	150	17 40	2 15	.....	
Union No. 1....	Seaborn.....	H R Culbertson	S P Guest.....	1	1	3	1	1	1	32	47	79	2 75	1 10	.....	
Union No. 2....	Cedar Spring	H E Harris.....	W A Culbertson	4	1	3	3	1	1	82	110	82	12 70	1 80	75	
Walnut Grove	Walnut Grove	W Y Adams.....	M F Cornelius	3	10	4	5	16	5	92	110	92	4 00	1 10	.....	
White's Chapel	Gadsden.....	H R Culbertson	J M Wofford	4	15	3	1	5	2	77	100	77	1 50	2 00	.....	
White Spring...	Gadsden.....	H E Harris.....	R R Yeats.....	4	3	1	1	1	.....	8	5	8	1 00	60	.....	
Attalla.....	Attalla.....	P W Curry.....	P W Curry.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
TOTAL				104	64	19	123	31	92	351	642	1656	\$120 85	\$27 05	.....	.....

Clerks of churches are requested to report on each item given in this table, and in addition, the amount paid to Ministerial Education.

