

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES  
OF THE  
Sixtieth Annual Session  
OF THE  
LIBERTY  
Baptist Association

HELD WITH  
Temperance Oak Church

Limestone Co., Alabama

September 16, 17, 18, and 19

1897

OFFICERS

*Moderator*, J. P. HAMPTON, Meridianville, Ala.

*Clerk*, PERRY HENDERSON, Athens, Ala.

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R. E. PETTUS, *Clerk and Treasurer*

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**American Baptist Publication Society**

# MINUTES.

The delegates composing the sixteenth session of the Liberty Association of Missionary Baptist met with Temperance Oak Church, Limestone County, Ala., on Thursday, September 16th, 1897, at 11 o'clock a. m.

Elder J. L. Sproles, of First Church of Huntsville, read the second chapter of John and offered prayer.

Brother Sproles preached an able sermon from the subject of "The Turning of Water to Wine."

At the close of sermon prayer was offered by Elder A. E. Burns.

Adjourned one hour for refreshments.

## AFTERNOON SESSION.

The association assembled at the appointed time.

The former Moderator, Dr. J. P. Hampton, called the association to order and declared it ready for business.

Perry Henderson, the former Clerk, took his place at the Clerk's table.

The Moderator appointed Elders A. E. Burns and J. L. Sproles as Reading Clerks.

The letters from the churches were then called for, and the name of the delegates enrolled as follows:

Beulah—Letter; no delegate.

Charity East—Letter; no delegate.

Dallas Avenue—R. E. Pettus.

First Church, Huntsville—Elder A. E. Burns, Elder J. L. Sproles  
Dr. J. P. Hampton and Lawrence Holeman.

Locust Grove—S. L. Stone, S. T. Green and Elder A. J. Parker.

Mount Zion—Robert Johnson, W. H. Pettus, T. J. Wall, Wm. Gravett and Wm. Blair.

Mount Pisgah—J. V. Linnard, J. N. Rogers and W. J. Eaugher.

New Market—Letter: no delegate.

New Zion—Elder N. D. Crutcher and J. T. Cliff.

Oakley—Letter; no delegate.

Piney Grove—G. W. Johnson and J. W. Lewter.

Rice—Elder H. E. Rice.

Round Island—Perry Henderson.

Temperance Oak—R. L. Trimble, W. H. Looney and Z. T. Goode.

Union Grove—J. W. Riddle and T. A. Gattis.

After the enrollment of delegates the Moderator announced that the association would proceed to the election of officers.

Brother R. E. Pettus obtained the floor, and stated that at this church fourteen years ago Dr. J. P. Hampton was elected to preside over this body as Moderator, and that he had served as such continuously ever since, and that he had made a record that we were proud of, that he moved that the rules be suspended and the Clerk be authorized to cast the vote of this association for Dr. J. P. Hampton as Moderator.

Motion prevailed, and the Clerk announced that Dr. J. P. Hampton was unanimously elected as Moderator.

The same motion prevailed as to Clerk, and Elder J. L. Sproles was authorized to cast the vote of the body for Perry Henderson as Clerk.

By motion of Brother R. E. Pettus, Perry Henderson was likewise elected Treasurer.

After a few remarks, thanking the association for the honors conferred, by these officers, they took their respective places.

On a call for petitionary letters there was no response.

Correspondents: Elder J. M. Roberts and Brother David Morris, from Muscle Shoals Association, and Elder J. B. Martindale, from Florence Association, were invited to seats with us.

Visiting brethren were invited to seats.

The Moderator appointed the following committees:

Devotional Exercises—The deacons of Temperance Oak Church, with Brother J. V. Linard.

Synopsis of Church Letters—Elder N. D. Crutcher, Lawrence Holeman and S. L. Stone.

Finance—Elder H. E. Rice, J. V. Linard and T. J. Wall.

Foreign Mission—Elder J. L. Sproles.

Associational Mission—Elder N. D. Crutcher, S. T. Green and Lawrence Holeman.

Education—A. E. Burns.

Intemperance—Elder A. J. Parker, to assist Brother D. C. Ramsey.

Prayer Meeting—W. H. Pettus and G. W. Johnson.

A motion prevailed that the report of Treasurer come in the order of business after the report of the Executive Board.

By motion of Elder A. E. Burns the report on missions be read at 10 o'clock to-morrow, and that discussion be had at that hour.

Report on young people's work read by Brother R. E. Pettus.

## REPORT ON YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK.

We are convinced that it is an oversight in our Baptist denominational life to so sadly neglect the training of our youth. Thousands of our young people are standing idle just between the advanced Sunday School classes and active church responsibilities, with a feeling of having outgrown the former and a correct sense of unfitness for the latter. The very impulses of youth will not permit them to stand long in this negative and passive condition. The ministers of our association are, therefore, urged to more frequently preach the doctrines of our denomination. Many leading members of our churches, for social and other causes, protest against such sermons to promiscuous audiences. Now, the purpose of the Baptist Young People's Union is to put a school of doctrine in every Baptist church and family, and thus strengthen the cords of our Baptist Zion at the weakest point. If our doctrines are worth anything they are worth everything, and they have a double value to the Baptist youth at this time. We are glad to report that on July 29 the young people met in Montgomery and organized a State B. Y. P. U. Convention. During the meeting a paper was read by R. C. Judkins, of Waugh, Ala., on "The Work at Hand." Thousands of our choicest, but untaught, Baptist youth do "go along" every year out of our churches in which they were reared, but in which, alas, they were not doctrinally trained. To stop this fearful "out go" of our "natural born Baptists" is the first duty of the hour, and the second is next unto it, viz: then "to build them up in our most holy faith" as strong, broad, active church workers. The B. Y. P. U. will make better Baptist churches by filling them with a more spiritually minded, intelligent, and, therefore, aggressive membership, and will soon double the number of intelligent readers for our Baptist papers. It will awaken and stir the ambition of many young men and women to seek advanced education, in our schools and colleges, beyond the "home and church college," furnished by our Christian culture courses. The Union will build up a reliable, intelligent and enthusiastic constituency to stand behind our foreign, home and State boards and all other individual missionary enterprises.

We believe God has called the Baptists of the South to do this

work now, and that he has guided us to the best and cheapest method of doing it. We would urge all our preachers and pastors, with all our people, to lay this whole work and their duty to it before God in earnest prayer. Brethren and fellow-workers, as God gives you light, study its methods, and begin to put them into operation nearest home

W. E. PETTUS.

After discussion by Elder N. D. Crutcher, objecting to certain clause, Brother R. E. Pettus moved to strike out the objectionable part, to-wit: "The pulpit is unable to offer effective relief by giving doses of Baptist doctrine, because it is now exceedingly unpopular to preach doctrinal sermons," and insert "that the ministers of our association are therefore urged to more frequently preach the doctrines of our denomination." As amended Elders J. L. Sproles and A. E. Burns made good talks on the subject, at close of which report was adopted.

Committee on devotional exercises reported that we would have no preaching to-night. Elder H. E. Rice would preach from the stand at 11 o'clock to-morrow, and Elder A. J. Parker at 7:30 p. m.

By motion of Brother R. E. Pettus adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Prayer by Elder H. E. Rice.

#### SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

FRIDAY, Sept. 17, 9 a. m.

Association met pursuant to adjournment.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Elder N. D. Crutcher.

Minutes of previous meeting were read and approved.

Report read by Elder A. E. Burns on "Religious Literature."

#### REPORT ON RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

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*To the Liberty Association:*

DEAR BROTHERS: Your Committee on Religious Literature beg leave to commend to all our people a careful reading of good Baptist papers. We specially commend the Alabama Baptist, the State Mission Journal, Our Home Field and the Foreign Mission Journal. If all our people would subscribe for and read those papers they would soon become well posted on the work of the denomination in the State and throughout the world.

Respectfully submitted,

A. E. PETERS.

Chairman.

On motion to adopt a strong appeal was made by Elder A. E. Burns in behalf of the Alabama Baptist State Mission Journal, Home

Field and Foreign Journal.

Brother R. E. Pettus, Elders H. E. Rice and J. M. Roberts made good speeches on the subject.

Brother A. E. Burns was granted ten minutes to take subscriptions for the above papers, and received a good list of subscribers.

Report adopted.

Elder J. L. Sproles read "Report on Foreign Missions."

## REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

It is with the gratitude of an overflowing heart that your committee calls attention to the prosperity of our foreign mission work. For the first time in the history of our board we went up to our convention free of debt. We alike rejoice with our Northern brethren in the payment of their heavy indebtedness. We can but praise the Lord that he is moving the hearts and opening the pocket books of the brethren in these hard times, to give of their means to spread the Gospel throughout the world. Southern Baptists have especial reason to be thankful for the fact that our debt was lifted not with the large gifts of our wealthy brethren, as in the North, but with the small gifts from poor brethren and sisters throughout the bounds of our convention.

Most cheering reports come to us from the different fields. The Lord is lengthening out our lines and opening up new fields. In the face of all this, what becomes of the old worn-out saying that "Missions are a failure; nothing has been accomplished." It is clearly disproved by the logic of facts.

Yet, if we could only report failure and discouragements, the Master's command, "Go, teach all nations," is just as imperative now, when we have all things to encourage us. We are glad to realize that a larger number of our churches and individual members are giving to foreign missions than heretofore, and abounding more and more in the grace of liberality.

We would urge upon the pastors of our churches to emphasize the systematic plan of giving in their churches "for Christ's sake." Let no money be appropriated to missions but what is given for missions; especially would we urge that we send to foreign missions only such money as is given clearly for that purpose. Let there be no cessation of effort on the part of pastors until every member of his church is a regular contributor to the work of missions, especially foreign missions.

Baptists need to have it impressed that it is as much their duty to give to the missionary work, carry out the commission, as to be baptized; the duty is just as binding, and can be ignored with as little im-

punity.

We would urge also that each member of a family belonging to the church make and give their own missionary money. By this the work is disseminated, and every member is brought to feel personal responsibility.

J. L. SPROLES.

Report read by Brother R. E. Pettus on "Home Missions."

## REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

In these times of progress and development orders and organization are brought into existence to further certain measures or interests. If they are so successful in point of temporal affairs need we wonder if churches should organize for campaign work along certain lines? Baptists have not been slow to recognize the potency of organization. Away back at the beginning of the Southern Baptist Convention, in the foundation of the Home Mission Board, our forefathers builded wiser than they knew, for the good accruing from the efforts of this board is too far-reaching to attempt to estimate. In 1845, at its organization, the Home Mission Board was located at Marion, in this State, as it was deemed the most eligible place, because it contained the strongest Baptist church west of the Chattahoochee. The sainted Dr. Basil Manly, Sr., then President of the State University, was selected as the first President of this board. The first Corresponding Secretary was Rev. J. L. Reynolds, D. D., a professor then in the University of South Carolina. He declined the appointment and was succeeded by Rev. D. P. Bestor, of this State. The first year this board sent out only six missionaries; the last year it has sent out 372. The first year only a few hundred dollars were expended; last year over \$180,000, besides the assets of the board, estimated at \$108,230. The policy of the board has always been patterned after the apostles custom of seeking the cities as the greatest field of its operations. Nine-tenths of the cities in the Southern States have been the beneficiaries of the Home Mission Board.

Follow the Mississippi River from New Orleans to the Northern part of Missouri, and you will find that every city upon its banks has been assisted by this board. It must not be understood, however, that no work has been done in the rural districts. The worth of its efforts in many places in the country is witnessed and appreciated.

The field of this Home Board has been, from the first, the territory of our Southern Baptist Convention, extending from Maryland to Texas, and from Missouri to Florida, and embracing work among the Indians of the West, the negroes of the South, the foreigners who have



crowded into our States and the destitute among our own native population and the island of Cuba. When we think of destitution our minds naturally turn to isolated rural districts, but the truth is, the worst kind of destitution is found in our largest cities. The heathens brought up within sound of church bells, do not so much as say a prayer, know nothing, care for nothing, feel nothing, living, many of them, worse than brutes, without care or conscience or aspiration of anything heavenly. Then, need we wonder if this board should turn to these to break unto them the bread of life? Then, too, in some sections of the South there are whole counties without a Baptist church. This board is reaching and endeavoring to reach this destitution as rapidly as means are furnished to operate with. Withdraw the efforts put forward by the Home Mission Board and the outlook would be too gloomy to contemplate. What the denomination needs is more sympathy and co-operation with its boards and more and larger contributions to increase their efficiency. To familiarize ourselves with the work of this board and the denomination generally we would most heartily recommend the careful perusal of the Home Field, published in Atlanta, at the minimum price of 10 cents per annum.

I close by submitting a few words recently received from our distinguished Secretary. "Our work needs," says he, "to be increased among the negroes all over the South; the foreign population in Missouri, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Texas and other States; in the Indian Territory, in the mountain region, in Florida, in Cuba, on the frontier; indeed, everywhere.

"To do this we must have increased resources. The Southern churches ought to give us one hundred thousand dollars to meet these obligations. To give less is to leave part of this work undone. We shall use every proper means to secure it. With it and the blessings of the Lord we hope to do a larger work this year than ever before."

Faternally submitted,

R. E. PETTUS.

Report read by Elder A. E. Burns on "State Missions."

## REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

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While there are no branches of church work of more importance than Home and Foreign Missions, and it is not hard for us to see that the evangelization of Africa, China, Japan and other foreign countries is obligatory upon us, and that with but little instruction we can be made to see that other States have fields ripe for the missionary, yet we oftentimes seem to forget that there is a much-needed Christian work in our own State.

One feature of State mission work is to help infant churches in important points where otherwise Baptist churches could not be established. This work has been done very effectively, and it is true that many of the churches who contribute most liberally to State missions to-day are those that have been nourished by God through the other churches until they could stand alone.

Work on this line is now being done in Greensboro, Selma, South Montgomery and other weak points, and so soon as these become self-sustaining the board will turn the helping hand to other points.

This feature of the work may not be as important as some others, yet we must not grow negligent on this line, but must see to it that Baptist churches are established throughout the State.

Our energies are now being engaged in the evangelistic work. We have in the several sections six evangelists who are consecrated men, and have been chosen for this work because of their peculiar fitness for it. While the work is new, yet the results have been such as to prove that it has been wise and timely.

The number in the field should be increased as soon as possible, thus enabling them to come more in personal contact with those who need grounding in missionary work and educated in the general work of the Lord, as well as instructing others in the way of life eternal.

We would not fail to make mention of another feature of the work which we believe is to a great extent being neglected, "The care of the aged ministers and their widows and orphans." How can we treat this matter lightly, when some of us, no doubt, have had the clouds of doubt and superstition driven away and have had brought to us a ray of hope through the gospel that fell from the lips of Him whose eyes are now dim and his frame tottering. Then can we sit quietly by and not give him help when his faculties have been expended in laboring for the Master's cause?

Will we ever fail to let the widows and orphans of these soldiers of the cross know we sympathize with them? Is it true we will so far forget our duty that they may have cause to believe they have been forgotten by us, when a little effort on our part would cheer their hearts along what may seem to them to be the dark-pathway of life.

Let us wake up to our obligation in this matter and send up a gift to those whose lives have been given to the Lord's work. Is it not right that we should minister to them in temporal things while we enjoy the products of their labors?

Respectfully submitted,

S. R. BUTLER.

Report read by Elder N. D. Crutcher on "Associational Missions."

## REPORT ON ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS.

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We, your committee, beg leave to report the following:

Whereas, There is a large territory embraced in the North Liberty Association, which is composed of twenty churches scattered promiscuously from one end to the other. Some of these are very strong numerically and financially, but some of them are weak. We believe that three of that number are without a pastor. We believe, with few exceptions, that there is a falling off in missions, when we ought to increase our contribution. The weak needs help. We believe that there ought to be a missionary in the field, if possible, the ensuing year.

Respectfully submitted,

N. D. CRUTCHER,

S. T. GREEN,

LAWRENCE HOLEMAN.

On motion to adopt the reports, Elder J. L. Sproles spoke quite at length on the subject of "Foreign Missions," at the close of which, the hour for preaching having arrived, an intermission of ten minutes was had, and, according to appointment, Elder A. E. Rice took the stand and read as lesson twenty-three verses of the 7th chapter of Mathew.

Prayer by Elder H. E. Rice. Text: 22d and 23d verse of 7th chapter of Mathew.

At close of sermon Elder N. D. Crutcher led in prayer.

Adjourned for one hour.

Benediction by Elder J. L. Sproles.

## AFTERNOON SESSION.

Association met pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer by Brother W. H. Pettus.

The discussion on missions was resumed, Brother R. E. Pettus having the floor, who spoke principally on the subject of "Home Missions." Elder J. L. Sproles also gave a good talk on the subject.

State Missions was well represented by Elder A. E. Burns in a speech of thirty minutes, followed by Elder N. D. Crutcher in behalf of Associational Missions.

At the close of the excellent speeches a collection by cash and pledges was called for, and resulted as follows:

General collections, .....	\$6 41
Pledges .....	
Dallas Avenue, .....	25 00
First Church, Huntsville, for all purposes .....	250 00
Locust Grove, .....	10 00
Mount Pisgah, for all purposes .....	10 00
Mount Zion, .....	20 00
New Market, .....	5 00
New Zion, for all purposes .....	15 00
Piney Grove, .....	5 00
Rice, .....	20 00
Round Island, .....	5 00
Temperance Oak State Mission, \$5; Orphans' Home, \$5 .....	10 00
Union Grove Foreign Mission .....	5 00
Total by churches, .....	377 50

#### INDIVIDUAL PLEDGES.

J. V. Linard, .....	5 00
Sister L. N. Rose, .....	25
Sister C. H. Pettus, paid, .....	1 00
Sister F. M. Price, .....	2 00
Sister G. A. Taylor, .....	1 00
Sister M. E. Bedingfield, .....	1 00
Sister Sarah Looney, .....	1 00
Sister Susan Goode, paid, .....	25
Elder A. J. Parker, .....	1 00
Total cash, .....	7 66
Pledged by individuals, .....	11 25
Total cash and pledges, .....	396 41

Report adopted.

Committee on Devotional Exercises reported as follows:

Elder A. E. Burns will preach at Price's School House to-night at 7:30.

Elder J. L. Sproles will preach here to-morrow at 11 a. m.

Elder J. M. Roberts will preach from the stand at 7:30 p. m.

Elder A. E. Burns will preach from the stand at 11 a. m. Sunday

#### REPORT ON PRAYER MEETING.

Your Committee on Prayer Meeting report the following:

We find from the reading of the letters from the churches of the

association that but few of them keep up weekly prayer meeting. We know by experience that they are essential to Christian development. We find that the churches that keep up prayer meetings are in a prosperous condition. Therefore, we would admonish every church in the bounds of the association to organize a weekly prayer meeting, for it is the place to find food for the hungry soul and strength for the membership of the church. Prayer is the key which unlocks the storehouse of God and bids the blessings down.

Respectfully submitted,

G. W. JOHNSON,  
W. H. PETTUS.

Report adopted without discussion.

By motion of R. E. Pettus, adjourned until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Prayer by Elder J. L. Sproles.

### THIRD DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

SATURDAY, Sept. 18, 1897, 9 a. m.

The association met pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer by Elder J. M. Roberts.

Minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

Brothers J. V. Linard, T. J. Wall and J. T. Cliff were appointed by the Moderator to nominate an Executive Board.

Report on "Indigent Ministers."

We, your committee, feel proud to state that we have been unable to learn of any brother minister within the bounds of our association that needs special help.

PERRY HENDERSON,  
T. J. WALL,  
Committee.

On motion to adopt the report, Elders J. L. Sproles, J. M. Roberts and H. E. Rice made speeches urging the importance of looking after indigent ministers and raising a fund for the same.

Report adopted.

### REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

During the past associational year your Executive Committee have done very little; in fact, have had very little to do with. We deplore the fact that so many of our churches are now delinquent with their pledges made at the last association for the different interests. This being true, we are to-day embarrassed, for by the instruction given at the last meeting we recommended young Brother W. H. Pettus to Howard College as our beneficiary, and promised that the association would

bear his expenses, but for lack of funds he was compelled to discontinue his studies before the end of the session. As there is a balance still due the college, it is but due the young brother and the college that it be liquidated at once.

Mount Pisgah Church and Walnut Hill Church have applied to the Executive Committee for aid, the former for \$20 and the latter for \$25. So far we have been unable to help them.

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

R. E. PETTUS, TREASURER.

	Dr.	Cr.
1896.		
Sept. 12--To balance on hand.....	\$3 04	
Sept. 24--To cash for Foreign Missions .....	25	
Sept. 24--To cash for State Missions .....	3 00	
Sept. 24--To cash for Ministerial.....	3 95	
Nov. 23-- " " .....	3 50	
Dec. 14-- " " .....	5 78	
1887.		
March 13--To cash for Ministerial.....	3 60	
Sept. 7-- " Associational Missions.....	10 00	
Sept. 9-- " State Missions.....	10 25	
Sept. 14-- " Ministerial Education.....	7 87	
April 1-- " " " .....	2 65	
By cash Ministerial Education.....		\$25 90
	\$54 04	\$25 90
	25 90	
To balance on hand, all purposes.....	\$25 14	

Fraternally submitted,

R. E. PETTUS,

Secretary and Treasurer Executive Committee.

Referred to Finance Committee for auditing.

Elder A. E. Burns read the "Report on Education."

### REPORT ON EDUCATION.

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We rejoice in the fact that, while the world is advancing along all lines with lightning speed, the cause of Christian education keeps fully abreast of the times. It would be a wanton waste of time to detain this body with arguments and airy platitudes on the necessity and importance of the subject of education. We feel, however, that we may with propriety lay some stress on the necessity and importance of

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 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION.

It is an important fact, already demonstrated, that the parent or guardian who does not exhaust all reasonable and legitimate means to educate their children and wards are guilty of gross, inexcusable and criminal negligence. But he who commits the education of his children entirely to the State is almost, if not altogether, as recreant to duty and obligation. We owe it to God, to our country and to the rising generation to see that those who teach the young are capacitated to guide the moral and spiritual, as well as the intellectual and physical development of those who come under their tuition. But this can be controlled only in Christian or denominational institutions.

The Baptists of North Alabama have a just right to be proud of their own institutions of learning, the North Alabama Baptist Collegiate Institute and Normal School at Danville, Ala. Prof. J. B. Kilpatrick, the new President, is a devout, cultured, Christian gentleman, an humble minister of the gospel and a born educator. His accomplished wife, who is a graduate of our own Judson, is also a very excellent teacher. The social, moral and religious atmosphere of the Danville community is all that could be desired. The school has just opened with a large attendance, and the outlook is exceedingly auspicious, and we confidently expect this to be the best year in the history of the school.

A better day seems to have dawned on Howard College. The bonded debt that has been such a menace to the very life of the college has been partly paid off and the balance satisfactorily arranged for, and the outlook is exceedingly bright. The faculty consists of a full corps of as able professors as can be boasted of by any similar institution in the South, and unless all signs fail we will have the largest attendance this year in the history of the college.

Judson Institute, our own beloved Judson, grand in her achievements and glorious in her history, was never in a more prosperous condition than at the present time. She is entirely free from debt, has as fine a faculty as can be brought together, and we can confidently claim that as a school for girls and young ladies it has few equals and no superiors in the land.

Respectfully submitted.

A. E. BURNS.

## REPORT OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES

—o—

Of the Danville School to the Liberty Association.

The Board of Trustees of the Danville School beg leave to offer this, their fifth annual report. The school had an enrollment for last

session of 122. This was an increase over the previous session of 33 per cent. We had three graduates in the English course. The number of boarding pupils have increased 50 per cent.

Rev. J. B. Kilpatrick has been elected by the Trustees as President for the present session, and his amiable wife, M. E. Kilpatrick, principal of primary department. Teachers of other departments are as follows: T. H. Johnson, professor of Latin and Greek; Miss Susie Shackelford, teacher of music; Miss Bettie Burleson, art and guitar; Rev. T. M. Thomas, book keeping and banking.

Rates of tuition and board are as low as any similar institution. For particulars send for catalogue of 1897-98.

The opening of this, the fifth session, was very encouraging. We have enrolled sixty-five pupils, the largest that we have ever had the first week. We think the present session will exceed last by at least 25 per cent. Our growth is slow, but sure. Our school is gaining reputation as a Christian school and for thoroughness in its instruction. We are striving to build up a Christian school where the Bible is taught and Christian principles implanted. Our terms are such that the poor can have the advantage of a good collegiate education. During the past session we had five ministerial students in attendance. One of the prime objects of our school is to educate our rising ministry, or to prepare them for higher classes in Howard College. The Board of Trustees passed a resolution looking to an endowment of \$25,000 for the President's chair. We think the Baptist of Liberty Association should send us some students. We have good teachers and a course of study equal to that of any school of the same grade in the land.

The terms of the following trustees expires at this session of your body, viz.: R. P. Whitman and Perry Henderson. Their places will have to be filled either by their reappointment or the appointment of others.

Respectfully submitted,

T. L. BAKER,

JOS. SHACKELFORD,

Secretary.

President of Board.

Danville, Ala., Sept. 10, 1897.

Upon motion report on Danville school was adopted, with the instruction to the Clerk to eliminate such matter in the report as would not destroy the sense of the same.

Elder A. E. Burns spoke at length on the advantages of Danville School, Howard College, the Judson, and especially on education of young ministers.

Dr. J. P. Hampton made a good talk upon the subject, giving his observation as to the rewards of education.

Elder J. M. Roberts made an excellent speech on the subject, set-



ting forth the special advantages of the Danville School.

At the close of speeches a collection by cash and pledges was taken for ministerial education, as follows:

Dallas Avenue.....	\$15 00	First Church, Huntsville..	\$60 00
Locust Grove.....	5 00	Mount Pisgah.....	2 50
Mount Zion.....	30 00	New Zion.....	5 00
Piney Grove.....	2 50	Rice.....	5 00
Round Island.....	2 50	Union Grove.....	2 50

### INDIVIDUAL PLEDGES.

—o—

Joe Poteet, paid.....	\$1 00	Sister E. Easter.....	\$1 00
R. C. Tribble.....	50	Sister F. M. Price, paid.....	25
D. C. Ramsey.....	50	H. J. Boyd.....	25
Sister J. B. Dement, paid...	50	J. A. Boyd.....	50
Sister M. E. Stover, paid ...	50		

### RESOLUTION.

Resolved, That the Executive Committee call on the churches for the redemption of their pledges to ministerial education for 1896.

J. L. SPROLES.

Adopted.

Adjourned for ten minutes.

Congregation called together by singing.

The hour for preaching having arrived, according to appointment.

Elder J. L. Sproles occupied the stand.

Prayer by Elder J. L. Sproles.

The text was the 10th, in connection with the 14th verse of 41st Chapter of Isaiah.

At close of sermon prayer was offered by Dr. J. P. Hamilton.

By motion of Elder N. D. Crutcher the rules were suspended, for the purpose of appointing a place of meeting next year.

Brother G. W. Johnson placed in nomination Piney Grove,

Brother J. V. Linard placed in nomination Mount Pisgah.

Elder H. E. Rice placed in nomination Rice.

The first ballot resulted as follows: Piney Grove, 7; Mount Pisgah, 9; Rice, 9.

According to custom the church receiving the lowest number was dropped out.

A second ballot gave Mount Pisgah, 14; Rice, 10.

Mount Pisgah receiving the largest number, by a motion the vote of the association was made unanimous for Mount Pisgah.

Elder H. E. Rice was chosen to preach the introductory sermon,

with Elder J. L. Sproles as alternate.

Adjourned for one hour.

Prayer by Elder A. E. Burns.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

Association met pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer by Elder A. E. Burns.

#### REPORT ON INTEMPERANCE.

— o —

Your committee on intemperance report as follows:

We recognize the sad truth that there is no other business that men engage in that does as much harm as that of whisky. Indeed, while war has destroyed its thousands, whisky has its victims tens of thousands. Liquor has destroyed more lives than both war and pestilence. It destroys the peace of families. It frequently is the cause of disturbance of public worship. Abandon the whisky traffic and our courts would have comparatively little to do. We, as a Christian people, ought to work, pray and vote to drive the poisonous stuff from our land.

Hoping that the time is not far distant when all Christians will vote as they pray,

Respectfully submitted,

D. C. RAMSEY,

A. J. PARKER,

Committee.

On motion to adopt Elders A. J. Parker, J. M. Roberts, H. E. Rice and Brother R. E. Pettus made appropriate speeches.

Report adopted

Elder A. E. Burns read

#### REPORT ON ORPHANS' HOME.

— o —

To the Liberty Baptist Association, in session at Temperance Oak, Ala., Sept. 16, 1897.

DEAR BRETHREN: There is, perhaps, no question coming before our body which should more interest the Baptists of this association and the State of Alabama than the subject upon which I have been called upon to make a report, to-wit: Our orphanage, the name of which is "Louise Short Baptist Widows' and Orphans' Home of Alabama."

The first steps taken toward its establishment was when Miss M. L. B. Woodson made known to the State Baptist Convention, in November, 1890, that she would give all of her real estate for the maintenance of this worthy institution. The Home was temporarily located

at Evergreen, January 16, 1893, the present Financial Secretary being asked to take the management of it without remuneration, he being then pastor at Evergreen. March 10, 1893, in a small rented house, the Home was opened to receive the first inmates. By November of that year he had received twenty-one children, and the Trustees decided to locate the Home permanently. After daily advertising for bids for a location, Evergreen was chosen, and property purchased consisting of eighty acres of land lying on Main street, thirty of which is in cultivation, thirty in pasture and twenty in woodland. The buildings were a ten-room brick house and three tenant houses. The purchase price of the property was five thousand dollars (\$5,000), which, with interest on the deferred payments, amounted to five thousand four hundred dollars (\$5,400), which has been paid.

The boys are taught to do farm work and the girls to do various kinds of house work. All that are old enough attend the Southwest Alabama Agricultural School, where no tuition is charged. The matriculation and incidental fees amount to about five to ten dollars per year for each pupil. The current expenses amount to about six dollars per month for each child. Since the Home was started there have been gathered into it 33 boys and 37 girls, and out of it have gone, by apprenticeship, 2 boys; returned to their people, 4 boys and 3 girls; by adoption, 10 boys and 13 girls, leaving in the Home 17 boys and 21 girls; total amount in the home, 38.

Important improvements are being made in the arrangement of the Home, by which we are to have eleven new rooms added, and all the old ones renovated. Money is greatly needed to complete this work and pay for food for the children. Will not the churches, Sunday schools, missionary societies and friends, remember us and send regular contributions?

The children who make up this crowd have come from the following counties, to-wit: Barbour, 3; Bibb, 2; Butler, 3; Chambers, 1; Conecuh, 2; Covington, 8; Escambia, 7; Jefferson, 8; Lee, 3; Limestone, 1; Marengo, 4; Monroe, 4; Montgomery, 2; Pike, 2; Russell, 1; Talladega, 8; Tallapoosa, 2; Tuscaloosa, 3, and Walker, 6.

Our family of forty are crowded into six unfinished rooms, while all the rest of the house is unroofed for improvements, for which we have been suffering for a long time. If our friends will help us now we will be well housed. Can we, as Baptists of the State of Alabama, refuse to come to the aid of this noble and much-needed work, when there is so much need of this institution in our State? Let not this association close without some steps being taken to aid these noble people in their grand undertaking. We see from the reports heretofore

that very few churches have mentioned our orphanage in their reports to this body. We are sure this is not a gross neglect on the part of the people, but simply an oversight, which, when their attention has been called to it, they will be willing to come to the front and respond like Christian men and women. Who knows but that some day in the near future some orphan child who is thrown upon the world alone, in our own midst, may be cared for in this Christian Home by these God-fearing people who are at the head of our Baptist Orphanage.

Respectfully submitted,

MOSES B. NEECE.

Elder A. E. Burns made quite a feeling talk in behalf of the orphanage at Evergreen, at close of which the following resolution was adopted, together with the report:

Resolved. We respectfully and affectionately urge all our churches to remember the Alabama Baptist Orphanage, and take collections and forward contributions to Rev. J. W. Stewart, Evergreen, Ala.

A. E. BURNS,

PERRY HENDERSON.

### REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

—o—

By Elder H. E. Rice.

We, your Committee on Finance, beg leave to say that our duties have been discharged, and would refer you to financial table for particulars.

H. E. RICE,

J. V. LINARD,

T. J. WALL,

Committee.

Adopted and committee discharged.

Report of Committee to Nominate Executive Board:

We, your committee, recommend for an Executive Board for the ensuing year:

Dr. J. P. Hampton,

N. D. Crutcher,

J. M. Gooche,

R. E. Pettus,

H. E. Rice,

M. B. Neece.

Respectfully submitted,

T. J. WALL,

J. V. LINARD,

J. T. CLIFF,

Committee.

Adopted.

On Danville School:

We, your committee, would recommend as Trustees of Danville

School for the next four years, Perry Henderson and S. T. Green.

Respectfully submitted,

T. J. WALL,

J. V. LINARD,

J. T. CLIFF,

Committee.

Adopted.

Report on

## SYNOPSIS OF CHURCH LETTERS.

— o —

We, your Committee on Synopsis of Church Letters, beg leave to report the following: We note with pleasure many new houses erected in the past year, and an increase in Sunday school attendance. We also note in missions a slight decrease. We have noticed two invitations for the next association, to-wit: Piney Grove and Rice churches.

LAWRENCE HOLEMAN,

N. D. CRUTCHER,

S. L. STONE,

Committee.

Adopted.

The Moderator announced the following as messengers to other bodies:

Southern Baptist Convention—Elder A. E. Burns and R. E. Pettus alternate.

Wm. Cary Association—Elder N. D. Crutcher.

Muscle Shoales Association—A. J. Brooks.

Tennessee River Association—Elder A. J. Parker.

State Convention—Elders A. E. Burns, J. L. Sproles, H. E. Rice, J. W. Hilliard, N. D. Crutcher, Brother R. E. Pettus, Dr. J. P. Hampton, W. H. Looney, M. B. Neece, A. J. Brooks and J. V. Linard.

Resolution—By Elder J. L. Sproles:

Resolved, That this association continue Brother W. H. Pettus as their beneficiary for the ensuing year, and urge him to re-enter Howard College, and that the churches send up pledges as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

J. L. SPROLES.

By R. E. Pettus:

Whereas, the town of Athens, the county seat of Limestone County, is taking on new life in the way of increased population and material development, and has established within the past few years two splendid colleges; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we, the members of the Liberty Baptist Associa-

tion, hereby earnestly petition the State Board of Missions to aid, at their earliest convenience, in sending a consecrated, earnest Baptist minister there to regain the foothold our people once had, as we feel it is a place of too much prominence and importance to be longer ignored by our denomination: and,

Whereas, the Baptist denomination still own a good lot and a commodious brick house, well situated, somewhat out of repair.

R. E. PETTUS.

adopted.

By R. E. Pettus:

Resolved, That in Articles 7 and 12 of the constitution of this association, where the words appoint and appoint-d occurs in reference to choosing Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, they be changed to elect and elected.

R. E. PETTUS.

Adopted.

By A. J. Parker:

Resolved, That where there is money enough in the hands of the Executive Board that we place an evangelist in the field for all his time within the bounds of this association.

A. J. PARKER

Adopted.

By J. V. Linard:

Resolved, That the churches be notified that hereafter no church will receive any minutes unless they send money to pay for printing.

By R. E. Pettus:

Resolved, That the Clerk be instructed to have 500 copies of the minutes printed and forward bill to Executive Board, who will see that they are paid for.

Adopted.

By Elder H. E. Rice:

Resolved, That this body express our hearty thanks to the church and community for their bounteous hospitality and kindness shown the delegates composing this body during our sitting with them.

H. E. RICE.

## REPORT ON WOMAN'S WORK.

— o —

We, your committee, submit the following:

As far as we have been able to learn the ladies have not done what they should in this work. Perhaps this is due to the negligence of pastors to co-operate with them. We find but two societies within our association, the First Church at Huntsville and Dallas Avenue. Their societies are doing a grand work. We bespeak the co-operation of the

ministers; without their aid and sympathy they can do but little.

Respectfully submitted,

H. E. RICE.

Adopted.

By motion adjourned until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Prayer by Elder H. E. Rice.

### SUNDAY MORNING.

Sept. 19. 1897.

Association met pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer by Elder J. B. Martindale.

Minutes of yesterday's proceedings read and adopted.

The Moderator announced standing committees to report at next association, as follows:

Foreign Missions—Dr. J. P. Hampton, J. D. Foster and S. T. Green.

Home Missions—J. W. Hilliard, W. H. Looney and J. T. Clift.

State Missions—A. J. Brooks, Rev. A. J. Parker and J. W. Webster.

Associational Missions—H. E. Rice, J. C. Stoner and W. J. Baugher.

Education—J. L. Sproles, Geo. Taylor and G. W. Johnson.

Intemperance—J. V. Linnard, R. W. Moore and J. W. Tanner.

Religious Literature—W. H. Pettus, G. T. Wilson and T. E. Thorn.

Orphans' Home—A. E. Burns, R. C. Tribble and S. L. Stone.

Woman's Work—M. B. Neece, W. L. Hilliard and W. A. Power.

Young People's Work—Mrs. E. D. Burwell, Miss Mary Glenn and Miss Kate Wall.

Prayer Meeting—W. E. Pettus, L. B. Glaze and John Carroll.

Sunday School—R. E. Pettus, Frank Bunnell and Perry Henderson

### REPORT OF CLERK AND TREASURER.

—o—

PERRY HENDERSON, IN ACCOUNT WITH LIBERTY ASSOCIATION, 1896-97.

—o—

1897.

—DR—

Sept. 18—To Vouchers for various causes.....	\$295 67
" " " Cash for State Missions.....	18 00
" " " " for Home Missions.....	9 09
" " " " for Foreign Missions.....	18 23
" " " " for Ministerial Education.....	32 72
" " " " for Bible and Colportage.....	1 00

" " " " for Orphans' Home.....	5 70
" " " " for Indigent Ministers.....	1 00
" " " " for Printing Minutes.....	17 71
" " " " for Clerk's Fee.....	5 00
Total.....	\$404 12

—CR—

By Vouchers to Treasurer Executive Board.....	\$295 67
" Cash to Ministerial Education.....	32 71
" " to Foreign Missions.....	18 23
" " to Home Missions.....	9 09
" " to State Missions.....	18 00
" " to Orphans, Home.....	5 70
" " to Indigent Ministers.....	1 00
" " to Bible and Colportage.....	1 00
" " to Printing Fund.....	17 71
" " to Clerk's Fee.....	5 00
Total.....	\$404 12

Respectfully submitted,

PERRY HENDERSON,

Treasurer.

Adopted.

## REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

— o —

Read by R. E. Pettus.

So much has been written and spoken on this important subject that the committee are puzzled to know what to embody in a report that would awaken the sleeping and arouse the indolent and induce them to participate in this grand and glorious work. We believe there is no work save preaching the blessed gospel that has been productive of more good than the work in the Sunday School. From it our churches have received a large per cent of her present membership; from it our most consecrated and efficient workers have come. The scriptures make it our solemn duty to do this work. Solomon says train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it. Our blessed Saviour said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Paul says, also, bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Now, with these scriptural proofs concerning our



duty, why not begin to perform it? Christ says, "Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you," and again, "If ye love me ye will keep my commandments."

Our minutes show that last year there were only 676 children in our Sunday schools, while the same show 1,602 church members. These things ought not so to be. We should awake from this state of lethargy and better ourselves, lest while we sleep our enemies come and sow tares among our wheat.

We most heartily commend for aids in studying the word of God in our Sunday schools the Southern Baptist Convention series, published at Nashville, Tenn. Our much-loved Dr. J. M. Frost has been recalled as Secretary of this board. All interests of the denomination are helped by this board.

The periodicals which are published belong to the Southern Baptist Convention, are sound in their doctrinal teaching, and are distinctively missionary in character, serving to train our schools in missionary thought and spirit. This is true of the Quarterlies, the Convention Teacher and Kind Words.

F.aternally submitted,

N. D. CRUTCHER.

Elders A. E. Burns, J. M. Roberts, H. E. Rice, Brother R. E. Pettus and Dr. J. P. Hampton made speeches on the subject, at close of which report was adopted.

After a few minutes' intermission the congregation assembled, and, according to appointment, Elder A. E. Burns occupied the stand, who read as a lesson the 11th chapter of Isaiah; text, 11th chapter Revelations, latter clause of 15th verse.

At close of sermon a collection for missions was had, and the sum of \$3.14 received, at close of which prayer was offered by Elder H. E. Rice.

After singing and giving the parting hand the Moderator declared the association adjourned, to meet with Mount Pisgah Church, Limestone County, Alabama, on Thursday before the third Sunday in September, 1898.

#### ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR POSTOFFICES.

A. E. Burns, Huntsville.	J. L. Sproles, Huntsville.
H. E. Rice, New Market.	J. W. Hilliard, Monrovia.
A. J. Parker, Deposit.	N. D. Crutcher, Madison Sta.
W. T. Jacks, Pievna.	A. G. Mosely, Louisville, Ky.
H. T. Crumpton, Huntsville.	J. A. Eaves, Holly Tree.

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD.

J. P. Hampton, Chairman; R. E. Pettus, Clerk and Treasurer; M. B. Neece, H. E. Rice, J. M. Gooch and N. D. Crutcher

## ORDER OF BUSINESS.

— o —

1. Call to order by former Moderator.
2. Annual or introductory sermon.
- 3.— Call for church letters and enroll delegates.
- 4.— Permanent organization by electing Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer.
- 5.— Call for petitionary letters.
- 6.— Correspondents and visitors.
- 7.— Appointment of committees by Moderator.
  - (a) On religious services, to report on call.
  - (b) On synopsis of church letters.
  - (c) On finance.
- 8.— Call for report of standing committees.
  - (a) Committee on Missions.
  - (b) Committee on Education.
  - (c) Committee on Temperance.
  - (d) Committee on Religious Literature.
  - (e) Committee on Indigent Ministers.
  - (f) Committee on Prayer Meeting.
  - (g) Committee on Orphans' Home.
  - (h) Committee on Woman's Work.
  - (i) Report of Executive Committee.
- 9.— Report of Clerk and Treasurer.
- 10.— Appoint a place for meeting.
- 11.— Appoint a brother to preach introductory sermon.
- 12.— Announce standing committees to report at next meeting.
- 13.— Appoint messengers to other bodies.
- 14.— Miscellaneous business.
- 15.— Report on Sunday Schools.
- 16.— Adjournment.

# STATISTICS OF LIBERTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1897.

CHURCHES.	COUNTY.	PASTOR.	CLERK.	Clerk's Post Office.	Membership last reported.			Increase'd by			Decrease by			Present membership.	Officers & Teachers.	Pupils.	SUNDAY SCHOOL. Supt's Name & P.O. Addr.	Preaching Sabbaths.	Reports prayer meetings.
					Baptism.	Letter.	Restoration.	Letter.	Exclusion.	Erasure.	Death.	Letter.	Restoration.						
Banlah,	Madison,	N. D. Crutcher.	C. A. Carroll.	Center Hill,	63									47	4	17	A. J. Ferry, New Market.	4	
B. thel,	"	Geo Webster.	J. W. Webster.	Baden,	32									47					
Charity, West,	"	J. A. Evans.	S. M. Honce.	New Market,	49	1		1						47					
" "	"	W. T. Jacks,	J. W. Tanner.	Hazel Green,	41									47					
Pallas Avenue,	"	"	W. E. Pettus.	Huntsville,	121	4		12						114		10	R. E. Pettus, Huntsville.		
First Church,	"	J. L. Sproles,	M. B. Neece.	"	216	3	16	2	4					229		17	J. A. Erwin, Huntsville.	Ev. S. E. Wn	
Locust Grove,	Limestone,	H. E. Rice,	J. J. Lawler.	Deposit,	126	6	4	1	1	2				134		6	J. R. Latham, Deposit.	Ev. S. E. Wn	
Mount Pisgah,	Madison,	J. W. Hilliard,	J. V. Linard,	Cartwright,	50	10	3							63		52	J. V. Linard, Cartwright.	2 & 4	
Mount Zion,	"	"	R. M. Balch,	Nebo,	300	27	5							339		75	W. G. Vaughn, Monrovia.		
New Market,	"	"	C. H. Rice,	New Market,	15			1						14					
New Zion,	"	N. C. Crutcher.	J. T. Clift.	Nebo,	66	2		4	1	7				55	7	25	S. W. Balch, Nebo.	2	
Oakley,	"	D. F. Jacks.	G. W. Johnson.	Plevna,	261			2						167		7	G. W. Johnson, Caro.	1	
Piney Grove,	Limestone,	N. D. Crutcher.	G. W. Pitman.	Caro.	97	5	3	4						74		50			
Pleasant Valley,	"	"	J. W. Jones.	Elkmont,	45									44	7	3			
Rice,	Madison,	H. E. Rice.	W. T. Henderson.	New Market,	68	8	1	1						53	8	50	J. R. Latham, Deposit.	1 & 3	
Round Island,	Limestone,	W. T. Cobbs.	Perry Rose.	Athens,	68	8	1	1						77					
Temperance Oak,	"	F. G. Posay.	T. J. Rose.	Tick Ridge,	70	3								67					
Union Grove,	Madison,	A. J. Parker.	Wm. Manning.	Carmichael,	65		4	3	1					64		7	J. W. Riddle, New Market.	3	
Walnut Hill,	Limestone,	"	C. E. McNeely.	Elkmont.	58									64		25			
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