

MINUTES

—OF THE—

Thirteenth Annual Session

—OF THE—

TROY ASSOCIATION,

—HELD WITH—

Troy First Baptist Church, Troy, Pike County, Alabama,

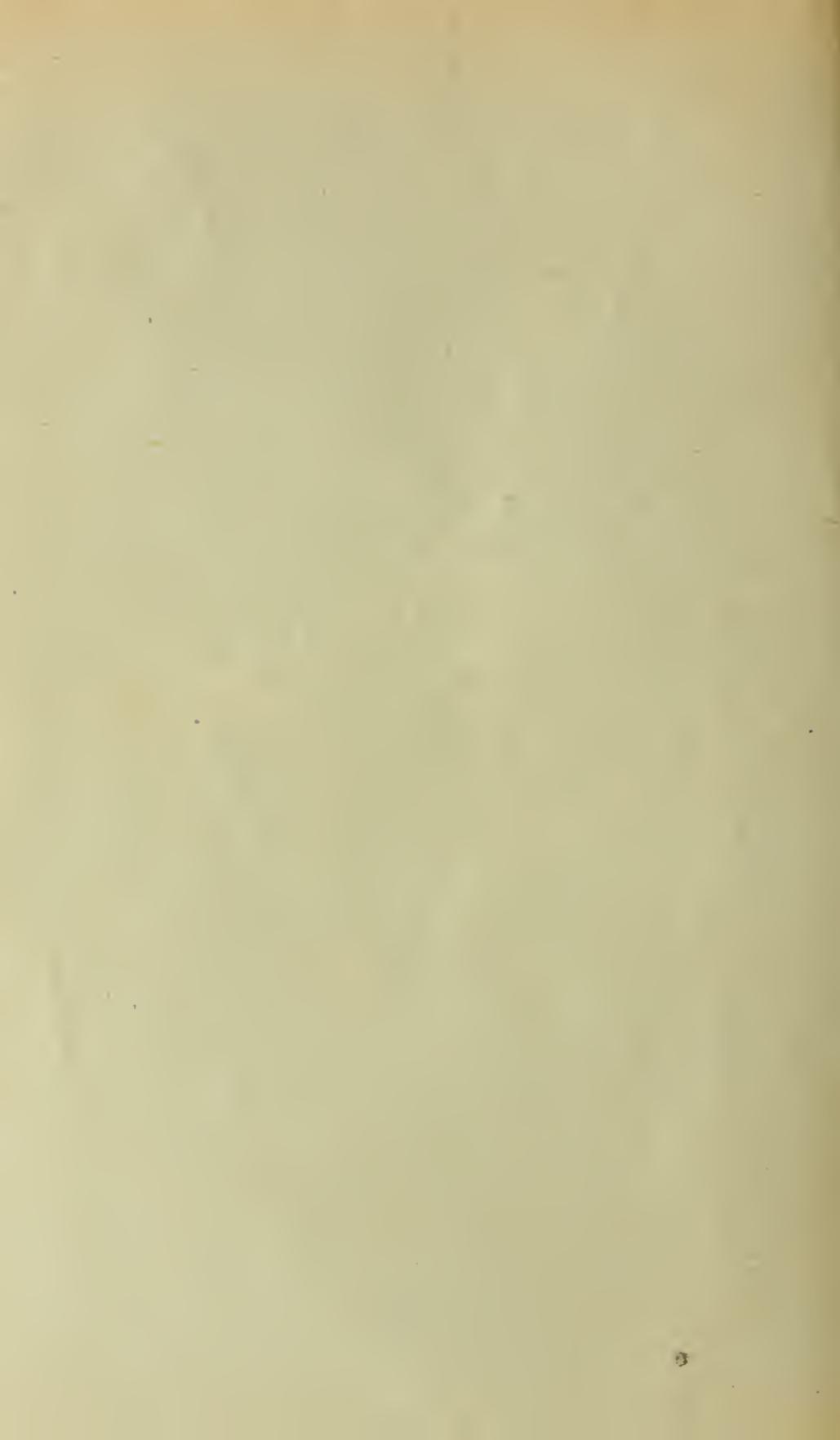
Commencing Friday, August 7, 1896.

OFFICERS:

W. H. BARNETT,	- - - - -	Moderator.
S. J. TOWNSEND,	- - - - -	Clerk.
M. A. WOOD,	- - - - -	Treasurer.

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TROY, ALA.:
JOHN POST, PRINTER,
1896.



MINUTES.

The Thirteenth Annual Session of Troy Association was held with the Troy First Baptist church at Troy, Ala., commencing on Friday, August 7, 1896.

The Introductory Sermon was preached at 11 o'clock a. m. by Rev. E. W. Marshall, of Union Springs, Ala. Text, Job 29 : 2. Theme, "Spiritual fluctuation."

The Association reassembled at 2 o'clock, and after reading 89th Psalm by the Moderator, Bro. W. H. Barnett, singing and prayer by Rev. J. S. Yarbrough, the Moderator announced the Association ready for business.

The Clerk read the letters from the churches composing the Association, to-wit : Troy, Shiloh, Salem, Orion and Ansley, which were received.

Motion by Bro. J. D. Murphree that the persons named in the letters from the different churches be received and enrolled as delegates, to-wit :

Troy—Elders A. N. Worthy, S. O. Y. Ray, J. L. Youngblood, L. H. Bowles, A. B. Campbell and Bros. J. P. Hubbard, Ralph Barr, W. S. Coleman, W. L. Hendrick, Joel D. Murphree, Abner Campbell, J. P. Wood, M. N. Carlisle, E. H. Locke, S. J. Townsend, E. M. Shackelford and Josiah Jernigan.

Orion—Elder J. S. Yarbrough, Bros. N. A. Adams and W. G. Chancey.

Shiloh—M. A. Wood, J. H. Wood, W. G. Carlisle, J. R. Turner.

Ansley—W. H. Barnett, E. C. Barnett, W. J. Dennis, and alternates J. A. Dennis and D. W. McLeod.

Salem—H. A. McLane, G. Hendrick, T. B. Copeland, J. E. Leverett, J. H. Adams, Jas. Waters, W. R. Pierson, G. W. Smith, M. C. Emfinger, J. H. Lawson, G. C. Baker and A. W. Brazill.

Motion by Bro. J. D. Murphree that the usual rule of electing officers be suspended and that the present officers be elected, by acclamation, for the ensuing associational year, which was unanimously carried.

The Moderator extended a cordial welcome to all visiting brethren. The invitation was extended to churches holding petitionary letters, whereon a letter from Siloam church at China Grove, coming from the Centennial Association, was

received. Also Hepzibah church, from the Salem Association, was received. Also Bethlehem church, (near Hilliard's Cross Roads) from the Salem Association, received. After which the right hand of fellowship was cordially extended by the body and their delegates enrolled by the Clerk.

The motion to enroll all the names presented in the letters precludes the necessity of appointing a Committee on Credentials.

The Moderator appointed the following committees :

On Documents—L. H. Bowles, H. A. McLane and F. H. Allred.

On Finance—W. L. Hendrick, J. H. Wood and W. G. Chancey.

On Religious Services—J. T. Yarbrough, E. H. Locke, E. Campbell, W. S. Coleman and Josiah Jernigan.

On Nominations—E. M. Shackelford, W. J. Dennis and E. A. Pinckard.

Called for correspondence and received the following :

Eld. E. W. Marshall from Centennial, Bro. J. R. McLendon from Montgomery, Prof. J. W. Parmer from Tuscaloosa, Prof. S. J. Ansley from Howard, Mrs. Ansley from Orphans' Home, Evergreen, Eld. D. B. Mills from Salem, Bro. F. E. Tompkins from Centennial, Rev. J. H. Logan from Woodstock, Ga., Dr. S. W. Averett from Judson Female College, Marion.

By motion the Rules of Order were dispensed with.

Committee on Religious Service reported as follows :

Bro. J. H. Logan, of Macon, Ga., to preach at 8 o'clock p. m. Luke 2. Theme, "No place for Jesus."

By motion the following names were substituted on the different committees :

N. A. Adams and J. P. Wood instead of H. C. Pierson and M. W. Pennington on the Committee of Home and State Missions.

Eld. A. B. Campbell instead of R. H. Harris on Foreign Missions.

J. H. Wood instead of H. C. Sanders on Sunday Schools.

W. S. Coleman instead of J. H. Lawson on Orphanage.

Eld. J. S. Yarbrough and W. R. Patterson instead of J. O. Pierson and R. B. Parks on Indigent and Deceased Ministers.

By motion E. M. Shackelford was made assistant Secretary.

By motion that 10 o'clock, Saturday, be set to hear the report on State and Home Missions. The committee on report of Foreign Missions asked for further time—granted.

The chairman of Committee on Sunday Schools being absent the report passed for the present. Chairman of Committee on Temperance asked that the report be set for Saturday evening at 3 o'clock.

By motion the Committees on Foreign Missions and Edu-

cation be allowed 15 minutes to retire and make out report.

By motion the communication of Bro. Stuart, of Orphanage Home at Evergreen, and report of Committee on Orphanage be set as special order for Saturday, 4 o'clock p. m.

Report of Committee on Foreign Missions was read by Bro. M. N. Carlisle :

Statistics are too voluminous to be given in a report like this, and we must confine the same to the main features of the subject.

Up to a few decades ago there were many heathen nations who barred their gates to the christian missionary. They were prohibited by laws and decrees from entering to preach the Gospel. Our prayers then were to God to open the doors and let us in. Those prayers have been answered ; and now, practically, all the nations of the earth are accessible to the Gospel, and the christian missionaries are welcome within their bounds and protected in their work. These consecrated men and women have entered the field, and now we have thousands flocking to the cross of Christ, when but a little while ago there were a very few converts.

The heathen is sending up the cry from all quarters : "Come over and help us." They are begging for the bread of life. Our missionaries rejoice in the prospect of the golden harvest in the near future. Their faith in the power of God to convert the heathen through the means now being employed, is so strong that we are ready to exclaim : Such faith has never been seen before, "not even in all Israel."

Many heathen converts have been called of God to preach His Gospel, and in several places they and our missionaries are supported by contributions in their own fields.

The fields are already white to the harvest, but the laborers are very few ; so few that the heart sickens at the thought of the great destitution in heathen lands.

Brethren, there are millions of heathens whose souls are starving, and yet begging for the Gospel and Christianity. We have numbers of men and women who have been called of God to go to these heathen lands to labor for Christ. Our boards are crowded with their applications to be assigned to fields of labor, and yet only a few are sent. With the hitherto closed doors of heathen nations lately opened by the Almighty Hand ; with the cry of the heathen for the Gospel coming from the remotest nations ; with our already overworked missionaries calling on us for help ; with numbers and numbers of soul-loving men and women who are ready to sacrifice all that is near and dear to go to those far off heathen lands to work for the Master ; with our boards in good working order and masters of the situation—the question is, why does not the work go on to a grand consummation, as is ordained by God ? It is answered in the fact that we, as Christ's children, fail to come up to the full measure of our duty in contributing of our substance to this great cause. The funds are not at hand. Our boards may choose plans and ways ; our ministers and editors may plead and beg, but until our whole membership rises up to a full realization of the fact that these far away heathens are our neighbors, the work will continue to languish. There are greater profits in this business than in any other in which we can invest. They are secured by the promise of God. He has told us, "It is more blessed to give than receive." Let every church, and let every individual in every church feel that they have a right to engage in this business, and to a participation in the profits so abundantly and securely promised. Let his love for his fellowmen extend and widen until it embraces the whole earth. When this is so, our contributions will be equal to the needs before us, and not until then.

On motion of Eld. S. O. Y. Ray the action on said report be set for Saturday at 10 o'clock a. m., and discussed in con-

nection with the report on State and Home Missions.

The Committee on Education submitted their report by Chairman E. M. Shackelford :

BROTHER MODERATOR:—Your Committee on Education, appointed at the last meeting of the Association, beg to submit the following report :

As thoughtful individuals, we recognize the advantages of education ; as patriotic citizens, we realize its necessity to the perpetuity of our free institutions ; as dutiful Christians, we appreciate the obligations the Father Almighty has laid upon us to develop the faculties and use the talents with which he has endowed us ; and as faithful, progressive Baptists, we are pledged by word and deed to its promotion. And, although we have labored as a denomination in Alabama for 48 years, the 43 per cent. of illiteracy of our population proves that much yet remains to be done—so much that it will require long years of the combined work of the state, private and denominational agencies to effectually annihilate the demon, Ignorance, and her twin-sisters, Prejudice and Superstition ; and instead of there being enmity and antagonism among these powers for good, there ought to be the warmest sympathy and the closest possible co-operation ; the success of one means the success of all, for each has its specific work to do, and the more who enter the common schools the more there will be to take this specific work. We, as Baptists, desire to say here, by way of parenthesis, that we have the highest appreciation of the work that is being done by both public and private institutions of learning and wish them God-speed in the prosecution of their proper work ; but we have a work that is peculiarly our own, and we pray for that liberal and charitable consideration in doing this work which we have given to others.

As a denomination, we rejoice greatly in the growing interest in ministerial education and the increased prosperity of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and pray earnestly that the good work may continue to prosper in the future. We feel a peculiar pride and a deep interest in the welfare of Howard College and the Judson Institute which we planted and have nurtured. Their long and honorable careers are a justification of the efforts we have put forth in this direction and a just cause for congratulation. Of course, like every other enterprise, they feel the effects of financial depression and business derangement and must, therefore, pass through crises. We regret to note that Howard College is now passing through a crisis, the result of which may mean much for its history in the future ; but it is a pleasure to note the quick response which the appeals for help have met, both from our Troy church and others throughout the state, and we have confidence enough in the Baptists of the state to believe that they will not permit this grand institution to be permanently crippled. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, we must assume that the Judson is fairly prosperous ; in fact, the general indications from the catalogue are that it has had a successful year, just closed. For the benefit of the Association we append the following facts and figures, gleaned from the catalogues of the two institutions, for the year 1895-6 :

	1. Howard College.	2. Judson Institute.
a. Total enrollment	166	107
b. Expenses—Tuition	\$ 60.00 per annum.	\$ 50.00 per annum
Board	120.00	140.00
For Ministers' children—Tuition	30.00	Free.
“ “ Board	120.00	100.00
For Ministerial Students, total \$125.00, furnished by State Board of Missions, under certain conditions.		

E. M. SHACKELFORD, Ch'n.

E. A. MCPHERSON.

W. L. HENDRICK.

The report was ably discussed by E. M. Shackelford, chairman, Prof. T. W. Palmer, of the State University, S. J. Ansley, of the Howard, representing the interest of education, Elder J. S. Yarbrough and others. Pending the adoption of said report, Bro. J. P. Wood offered an amendment, while pending, the body adjourned to meet at 8 o'clock Saturday morning.

SATURDAY MORNING, 8 O'CLOCK.

The Moderator, Bro. W. H. Barnett, called the body to order by reading 1st Psalm, singing and prayer by Elder S. O. Y. Ray. The Moderator stated the body ready for business and the report on Education still in order.

Eld. A. B. Campbell offered an amendment, which was accepted by the chairman of said committee, which was unanimously adopted.

Report on Indigent and Deceased Ministers was passed for the present.

The report on Colportage was read by Eld. J. L. Youngblood :

Your committee beg to report that there is no such work being done in our Association. While this is a fact, we are of opinion that, next to the preaching of the Gospel, the selling and distribution of the Bible and other literature the most important. We would recommend that a committee, of one from each church, be appointed to formulate a plan by which the work may be begun at once.

Respectfully submitted,

J. L. YOUNGBLOOD.
W. L. HENDRICK.
N. A. ADAMS.

Pending the motion to adopt, elaborate and instructive talks were made by Elders A. B. Campbell, S. O. Y. Ray, L. H. Bowles and others, which was adopted. Eld. S. O. Y. Ray of Troy, Yarbrough of Orion, Pinckard of Siloam, McPherson of Hephzibah, H. Patterson of Bethlehem, W. J. Dennis of Olustee, McLane of Salem, were appointed as the committee recommended in the report.

On motion Bros. Hardy, of Greensborough, Ala., J. G. Harris, Montgomery, Ala., and Dr. W. C. Bledsoe, Secretary of State Missionary Board, were recognized as representatives.

Committee on Sunday Schools reported as follows :

Your committee regret that so short a time has been given in which to prepare a report on this very important work of the church. This feature of Christian work, grown into such proportions, has become so great a factor in evangelizing the masses that whatever opposition formerly existed has given away. It has been said that the "Sunday School is the church at work," and we believe that this is so. We find that they church which fosters and encourages the Sunday Schools and whose members are actively enlisted in the work is the church which is up on all other lines of Christian duty. We would urge the older members to

attend the Sunday School, to aid and encourage by their presence, for it is a lamentable fact that the older church members do not do this. They have given the Sunday School over to the younger. We hear this complaint from every church. We have no data at hand from which to furnish facts and figures on this important and interesting subject. We urge each church in this body to give this subject their earnest and prayerful attention.

J. H. WOOD, Ch'n.

The report was discussed by Bros. J. G. Harris, A. E. Pinckard, A. B. Campbell, S. O. Y. Ray and L. H. Bowles. Time having arrived for special order, by motion 15 minutes was extended and discussion continued. A report from all Sunday Schools in the Association was had, and, by motion, carried over until Sunday morning at 10 o'clock.

Special order report State and Home and Foreign was taken up and read as follows :

Your committee beg leave to submit the following report : The work of Home and State Missions is one that affects us directly and should engage the attention of every Baptist in the south.

While we may differ on the question of Foreign Missions, we must all agree upon the importance of Home and State Missions—whatever affects the Baptists as a denomination in any part of this God-favored land of these United States, is of interest to the entire Baptist family. If we believe we are right and following the instructions of our blessed Savior and the inspired Apostles who wrote concerning Him and His religion, then every Baptist in the broad land should feel that he is a part and parcel of the great work of evangelizing the people of this country, and no effort should be spared to have the Gospel preached to every inhabitant thereof.

In the absence of any ecclesiastical form of supervision, we are left to the necessity of working upon lines of co-operation, and in order to accomplish any thing in this way there must be concert of action, and for the furtherance of these ends we have organized our Home and State Boards. These Boards having no legislative or judicial powers are the mere agents of the churches to distribute their funds and aid them in carrying on the work of the Master.

Whether or not the Home Board could be dispensed with and the work it is now doing could be more economically performed by our Foreign and State Boards is still an open question, which we do not care to discuss now.

We learn from a recent statement, over the signature of Dr. I. T. Tichenor, Secretary of the Home Board, that they had in the field last year 411 missionaries, who preached 53,000 sermons, and baptized 5,617 converts, organized 372 Sunday Schools composed of 12,635 teachers and pupils.

We regret to note the suspension of the grand and glorious work done by the Board in Cuba, in consequence of the banishment of the Rev. Dr. Diaz, whose history is familiar to every Baptist in this country, and we most earnestly trust that, in the providence of God, the cruel war that is now raging in that unfortunate island will soon be over, and that the Baptist cause will be reinstated with renewed energy and success.

We are gratified to report that our State Mission work is progressing finely, and much good is being accomplished.

We most heartily commend the ministers' meetings and institutes that are being held at the instance of our State Secretary, and his assistance. The prominence given to missions at these meetings tends to enlighten the people upon the subject, and this naturally brings increased interest.

The greatest question that confronts the Baptists of Alabama to-day.

is how to bring into active co-operation the many Baptist churches in our state that are not doing any thing, either by personal effort or contribution, toward the mission cause. We would suggest that the preachers are largely to blame in this matter, as our observation is that the people are always ready to follow where their pastor leads. Another cause of the lack of interest felt by the masses is due to the limited amount of information on this subject—our facilities for distributing Baptist literature amount practically to nothing. Thousands and thousands of Baptists in our state go from year to year without reading a tract or religious newspaper, or hearing so much as a sermon on the great question of missions.

Our State Board is doing what it can to remedy these defects, but its ability is limited by the means placed in its hands.

L. H. BOWLES, Ch'n.

At this time Eld. W. A. Cumbie was recognized and invited to a seat with us.

Discussion of the subject of Missions was resumed and Dr. W. C. Bledsoe, of the State Mission Board, addressed the Association at length in an earnest appeal for this work, and read the following letter :

The State Board of Missions to the Troy Association in Session at Troy Baptist Church, Ala.:

Dear Brethren:—We herewith extend to you our christian greeting, and pray that the Holy Spirit may guide and bless you in your deliberations. As your servants for Christ's sake we beg to call your attention to the state of our work as indicated in the last issue of the State Mission Journal. The State Convention at its last session in Selma greatly enlarged our sphere of operation by adding to that hitherto committed to us the pushing of evangelistic effort and institute work. We have been greatly disappointed that this instruction to increase our work has not been attended by the necessary increase of contributions to enable us to carry out these instructions to the extent indicated by that body. While our brethren have done better than heretofore in this regard, still our present income is utterly inadequate to meet the demands of the program of the Convention. We therefore appeal to you as a part of the constituency of the Convention to give us your sympathetic co-operation in this onward movement for our Lord's glory in our beloved State. To efficiently carry out the work of the Board we will need not less than \$15,000 during the coming year. To raise this amount we are of opinion that we need to receive not less than \$500 from the churches forming your constituency. Being compelled to make our contracts with our missionaries in advance, and to limit our appropriations to our probable income to avoid incurring a debt we would be unable to meet, it is necessary that we should know now what that income will probably be. So we would ask you to approve of the above request of \$500 from the liberality of the churches of your body, or such amount as you, the representatives of the churches, may deem meet, and that you apportion the same to your several churches as they may be able to pay. Trusting that you will see fit to give us your co-operation in this effort to advance our Lord's cause and enhance his glory by a hearty co-operation, we would ask that you authorize the proper parties to make answer to us of your decision that we may govern ourselves accordingly.

It also becomes our duty to call your attention to the action of the State Convention at its last session with reference to colporter missionary work, and urge upon you the consideration of the employment of a suitable person to labor in that capacity within your own bounds. May we

add that it is hoped that this work will be done by an additional contribution to that solicited for State Missions.

Trusting that your meeting will be richly blessed of heaven, we are your servants for Christ's sake.

STATE BOARD OF MISSIONS,
W. C. Bledsoe, Secretary,
Montgomery, Ala.

Discussion continued by Bros. Marshall of Union Springs, Hardy of Greensborough, Yarbrough of Orion.

On motion the following committee of one from each church was appointed to consider the letter from the State Board: J. D. Murphree, Troy, W. G. Carlisle, Shiloh, W. H. Barnett, Ansley, H. A. McLane, Salem, A. E. Pinckard, Siloam, T. S. Sanders, Hephzibah, J. E. Ray, Bethlehem, W. G. Chancey, Orion.

Pending disposition of reports the Association adjourned until 2 o'clock p. m.

The Association reassembled at 2:30 o'clock. The reports of committees were taken up and adopted.

Report of Committee on Indigent and Deceased Ministers was read and unanimously adopted as follows:

Your Committee on Deceased Ministers report that in the Providence of our Father in Heaven, no one of his servants in the ministry belonging to this Association has been called away by death.

We, however, mourn the loss by death of our lamented and useful pioneer preacher, Elder G. G. McLendon, who died in the 89th year of his age, and gathered as a sheaf fully ripe for the garner into the rest of those who are faithful unto the end of life.

Respectfully,

J. L. YOUNGBLOOD, Ch'n.

By motion all members of this Association, when present at any Association, are authorized to act as corresponding delegates.

By motion, and carried, that an Executive Committee of five members, of which Bro. A. B. Campbell of Troy church shall be chairman, be appointed to have charge of all executive work until the next meeting of this Association. Committee is as follows: A. B. Campbell, F. H. Allred, J. S. Yarbrough, H. A. McLane and J. D. Murphree.

On motion the Association accept the invitation of Shiloh church to hold its next Annual Session with them, beginning on Friday before the 2nd Sunday in August, 1897.

Committee to whom was referred the letter of Dr. Bledsoe, relative to subscriptions for State Missions, was made by the chairman, J. D. Murphree, as follows:

The Committee to which was referred the letter from the State Board of Missions to indicate the amount the churches of the this Association will be able to give for State Missions, report about \$200, distributed as follows:

Troy church, \$130.00, J. D. Murphree. Salem church, \$25.00, H. A. McLane. Shiloh church, \$15.00, W. G. Carlisle. Orion church, \$5.00, W. G. Chancey. Olustee church, \$5.00, W. H. Barnett. Hephzibah

church, \$10.00, Shelby Sanders. Bethlehem church, \$5.00, J. E. Ray. Siloam church, \$5.00, A. E. Pinckard.

JOEL D. MURPHREE, Ch'n.

After discussion by A. B. Campbell and Yarbrough, was unanimously adopted.

By special order for 3 o'clock, Bro. J. D. Murphree, chairman of Committee on Temperance, read his report, to-wit:

Your Committee have nothing new to report on the whiskey business. The status of the traffic is about the same it was a year ago. No liquor is sold in the county except at Troy, where two saloons are run every day in the week, except Sunday. We are glad to report a reformation on the part of several of the hardest drinkers in the city, who are now sober men and upright citizens, regularly attending church service. We regret to find names of a goodly number of church members on whiskey petitions, all denominations are represented. Your Committee recommend a more earnest effort on the part of our denomination to encourage sobriety and to discourage intemperance, in all its forms. Your Committee further recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved, That it is the sense of Troy Association, that it is neither right nor politic for the state to afford legal protection to any traffic or vocation which tends to waste the resources, to corrupt the social habits and to destroy the health and lives of the people; that the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicating beverages is proven to be detrimental to the true interests of the individual, home and state, and destructive to the order and welfare of society, and, therefore, ought to be classed among the evils to be prohibited by appropriate legislation.

Resolved 2nd, That this Association recommend, that the churches composing the same, adopt as a rule or law of their respective churches, that the signing of whiskey petitions comes under the head of unchristian conduct, and the violators of said rule will be held to strict account, and the church justified in withdrawing christian fellowship.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOEL D. MURPHREE, Ch'n.

H. A. McLANE.

J. L. YOUNGBLOOD.

After elaborate discussion by Bros. Murphree, Cumbie, Ray, Wood and Harris, it was unanimously adopted.

Committee on Religious services reported as follows:

First Baptist church—8 p. m., S. J. Ansley; 11 a. m., Sunday, W. C. Bledsoe, and at 8 p. m., S. J. Ansley.

Methodist Episcopal church—11 a. m., A. R. Hardy; 8 p. m., W. C. Bledsoe.

Committee on Orphanage reported as follows:

Your Committee beg to report as follows: The Baptist Orphan Home began its career in the early part of 1893, with three children. It was permanently located at Evergreen, Ala., in November, 1893, the property costing \$5,000. The debt has all been paid, and this valuable property is now free from encumbrance. It consists of eighty acres of land lying on Main street, of which thirty acres are in farm, thirty in woods and twenty in pasture. All has been enclosed with substantial woven wire fence, and a commodious barn has been arranged. In this Home have been received 29 boys and 31 girls; total, 60. Out of it have gone, by adoption, 8 boys and 11 girls; by apprenticeship, 2 boys. The children attend Sunday School and church, and are under firm, steady, loving control in the Orphanage. Eight of the children have been baptized.

This Orphan Home belongs to the Baptists of Alabama, and we are

glad our people are taking such interest in it. Four children have been sent there from within the bounds of the Troy Association. We should keep up this Home, 1st, Because of christian charity and love to God. 2nd, Philanthropy, or love of mankind in general. 3rd, Because of the love we have for those who are of the same household of faith—doing good to their children after the parents are dead.

We are glad the Home is paid for; but other additions are greatly needed, such as cook room, laundry room, dining room, etc. Brother Stewart asks this Association for \$150. We, therefore, recommend that Troy church assume \$75, Salem \$25, Shiloh \$15, Orion \$5, Olustee \$5, Siloam \$10, Hephzibah \$10, Bethlehem \$5, and that these amounts be sent to Rev. J. W. Stewart, Evergreen, Ala., before January, 1897. for the additions and improvements now needed.

“He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth to the Lord.” “Blessed is he that considereth the poor.”

A. E. PINCKARD, Ch'n.
W. S. COLEMAN.
A. CAMPBELL.

Mrs. Ansley, Matron of the Home, was present with one of the children, who was presented to the Association by Bro. S. O. Y. Ray, and after discussion by Bros. Murphree, Ray and Pinckark, the report was unanimously adopted.

By motion Bro. A. R. Hardy, pastor of the Greensborough church, presented the claims of his church, and, after discussing the situation at his place, the Association decided to make the Greensborough church one of the objects for regular collections.

The report of the Committee on Finance was read and adopted as follows :

Your Committee on Finance make the following report :

Troy Church for Minutes.....	\$	10.00
Contributed.....	2,202.75	
Sunday School.....	187.80	
Ladies Aid Society.....	382.82	

\$2,783.37

Paid Pastor's salary, 6 months.....	\$1,000.00
“ by church, Missions.....	230.86
“ “ Howard College.....	180.81
“ “ Orphans' Home.....	69.00
“ “ Expenses.....	722.08
“ “ Minutes.....	10.00
“ by Sunday School, Missions.....	42.40
“ “ “ Orphans' Home.....	25.00
“ “ “ Expenses.....	120.40
“ by Ladies' Aid Society, Missions.....	10.00
“ “ “ “ Howard College.....	25.00
“ “ “ “ Orphans' Home.....	10.00
“ “ “ “ Expenses.....	337.82

\$2,783.37

Orion Church for Minutes.....	\$	1.50
“ “ “ Missions.....	10.00	

\$ 11.50

Hephzibah Church for Minutes.....	\$	1.50
“ “ “ Pastor’s salary, Dr. Harris.....		16.65
“ “ “ “ “ L. H. Bowles.....		65.00
“ “ “ Missions.....		5.85
“ “ “ Improvements.....		117.55

\$206.55

Paid Dr. Harris.....	\$	16.65
“ L. H. Bowles.....		65.00
“ Cash (\$1.85) and Vouchers (\$4.00), Missions...		5.85
“ Church improvements.....		117.55
“ “ Minutes.....		1.50

Turned over to Treasurer.....\$ 206.55

Olustee Church paid for Missions.....	\$	7.70
Turned over to Treasurer.....		

Siloam Church Paid to Treasurer for	{	Minutes.....	\$	.75
“ “		Missions.....		5.50
“ “ Vouchers for Missions.....				6.80
“ “ Howard College.....				10.00

23.05

Salem Church Paid for Missions.....	\$	41.35
“ “ “ “ Orphans’ Home.....		25.00
Ladies’ Aid Society paid for Orphans’ Home.....		24.35
Sunday School paid for Foreign Missions.....		2.45
Church paid for Minutes.....		3.00

Turned over to Treasurer..... 96.15

Shiloh Church for Minutes.....	\$	2.50
“ “ “ Repairs.....		160.00
“ “ “ Orphans’s Home.....		5.00
“ “ “ Howard College.....		25.00

\$192.50

Bethlehem Church for Minutes.....	\$	1.50
“ “ “ Home Missions.....		3.75
“ “ “ Foreign Missions.....		1.25
“ “ “ State Missions.....		1.00
“ “ “ Orphans’ Home.....		2.75

Turned over to Treasurer..... 10.25

W. L. HRNDRICK.
J. H. WOOD.

The Treasurer made report as follows :

M. A. Wood in account with Troy Association :

By cash for Missions, Siloam Church.....	\$	5.50
“ “ “ Salem.....		
“ “ “ Orion.....		10.00
“ “ “ Bethlehem.....		6.00
“ “ “ Hephzibah.....		1.85
“ “ “ Olustee.....		7.70

Total for Missions..... 30.05

By cash for Minutes, Orion.....	1.50
“ “ “ Bethlehem.....	1.50
“ “ “ Siloam.....	1.75
“ “ “ Shiloh.....	2.50
“ “ “ Salem.....	3.00
“ “ “ Olustee.....	1.00
“ “ “ Hephzibah.....	1.50
<hr/>	
Total for Minutes.....	11.75
By cash for Orphans' Home, Bethlehem.....	2.75
Credit collection on Sabbath.....	14.23
To amount to Bro. Ray.....	30.05
M. A. WOOD, Treasurer.	

Report of Committee on Nominations was read and adopted as follows :

BROTHER MODERATOR :—We, your Committee on Nominations, beg leave to submit the following report :

1. Introductory Sermon by Rev. S. O. Y. Ray.
2. Missionary Sermon by Dr. A. B. Campbell.
3. Delegate to Southern Baptist Convention—Rev. L. H. Bowles, alternate, Rev. J. S. Yarbrough.
4. Delegates to State Convention—Rev. A. B. Campbell, Dr. J. H. Dewberry, J. H. Wood, A. E. Pinckard, N. A. Adams, W. H. Barnett, Ira Jordan, J. E. Ray.

E. M. SHACKELFORD, Ch'd.
A. E. PINCKARD.

On motion it was ordered that the Constitution, Rules of Order and Articles of Faith of this Association be printed in the minutes of this session for the use of the Association.

On motion by Bro. McLane the thanks of this body were tendered the good ladies and citizens generally for their hospitality to the delegates and friends.

Motion by Bro. Yarbrough that the churches be requested to report salaries of pastors.

On motion the Clerk is instructed to have printed as many minutes as the funds would permit, and distribute them among the churches in proportion to the amount each church contributes for that purpose.

On motion the Committee on Colportage was dispensed with and the subject matter be referred to the Executive Committee with power to act.

Thanks extended to Clerk and Assistant. Adjourned to meet at 10 o'clock Sunday morning.

SUNDAY MORNING, 10 O'CLOCK.

Association called to order by the Moderator, and Standing Committees read out :

Home and State Missions—L. H. Bowles, chairman, H. A. McLane, J. S. Yarbrough.

Foreign Missions—S. O. Y. Ray, Ira L. Jordan, J. E. Ray.

Education—E. M. Shackelford, E. A. McPherson, J. P. Wood.

Sunday Schools—Dr. J. H. Dewberry, W. J. Dennis, N. A. Adams.

Temperance—J. D. Murphree, W. R. Patterson, J. H. Wood.

Colportage—Dr. A. B. Campbell, A. E. Pinckard, S. O. Y. Ray.

Orphanage—M. A. Wood, T. L. Head, J. S. Carroll.

Indigent and Deceased Ministers—J. L. Youngblood, Dr. G. Hendrick, T. S. Sanders.

By Eld. A. B. Campbell resolved, that we recommend the churches to assist our brethren at Ansley in building a house of worship, and that the Executive Committee be and is hereby instructed to do what they can toward obtaining contributions for that purpose.

Resolved, That this Association recommend to the churches composing the same that they organize a Sunday School Convention to be held at such times and places as may be fixed by the Executive Committee.

By motion this body adjourn to meet at Shiloh church, near Buckhorn, on Friday before the 2nd Sunday in August, 1897.

W. H. BARNETT, Moderator.

S. J. TOWNSEND, Clerk.

E. M. SHACKELFORD, Assistant.

CONSTITUTION.

Article 1. This Union of Churches shall be denominated the Troy Association, and shall be composed of members chosen by the different Churches in our Union, who, on producing letters from their respective churches certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to seats. The letters so produced shall express the condition of their churches, respectively, viz: The members received by baptism, letter, restored, dismissed, excommunicated and dead, since the last Association, and also moneys contributed to the various denominational interests, which letter shall be read and the delegates' names enrolled.

Art. 2. The Association shall annually, upon convening, proceed to choose from the members present, a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer.

Section 1. The Moderator shall preside over the deliberations of the body and appoint all committees, unless otherwise ordered.

Sec. 2. The Clerk shall keep and preserve on file for the use of each session, a correct minute of the proceedings of this Association, and shall attend to the printing and distributing of the same.

Sec. 3. The Treasurer shall safely keep all moneys paid to him by the Association, or otherwise, and pay the same only on order of the Association, and take receipts for the same.

Art. 3. Each church shall be entitled to three delegates, and when its membership exceeds fifty, then one for each twenty-five or fractional part thereof.

Art. 4. Any church applying for membership may be admitted into

this Union on sending their delegates to any meeting with a petition and by those delegates agreeing to the abstract of principles and the Constitution adopted by this Association. Said church to be received by a unanimous vote and the right hand of fellowship extended by the Moderator.

Art. 5. At each session a committee shall be appointed to select brethren to address the next session on the following subjects: Missions, Sunday Schools, Education and Temperance.

Art. 6. This Association shall have no power to interfere or infringe upon the internal rights and privileges of the churches, and shall pass no resolutions touching the liberty of the churches, or individual members thereof. But each church shall be considered a sovereign and independent body.

Art. 7. There shall be no matter of dealing introduced by any individual member, but it shall be sent up by a church or churches, clearly set forth in writing. Then the Association may take it under consideration, and a decision by a majority shall be an advisory answer.

Art. 8. Any church may at any session make application for dismissal, and if said application is refused, then may withdraw at her own discretion.

Art. 9. It shall be the duty of this Association to encourage the work of Sunday Schools, education, temperance and all missionary enterprises fostered by our denomination.

Art. 10. Amendments to the Constitution may be made by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

RULES OF ORDER.

1. At every annual meeting of this Association, immediately after the delegates' names are enrolled, tellers shall be appointed by the Chair, and the Association shall proceed to choose from among their number a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who are to hold their office until new ones are chosen.

2. The Moderator shall take the chair every day at the hour to which the Association shall have adjourned on the preceding day; shall immediately call the members to order, and on the appearance of a quorum, shall cause the minutes of the preceding day to be read.

3. He shall preserve order and decorum; may speak on points of order in preference to other members, rising from his seat for that purpose; and shall decide questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Association, by any two members, on which appeal no member shall speak more than once, unless by leave of the Association.

4. He shall rise to put a question, but may state it sitting.

5. Questions shall be distinctly put; those voting in the affirmative shall say aye, and those of a contrary opinion, no. If the Moderator doubts, or a division be called for, the delegates shall divide; those voting in the affirmative shall first arise from their seats, and afterwards those voting in the negative.

6. In all cases of election, the Moderator may vote; in other cases he shall not vote, unless the body be equally divided; in that event he shall give the casting vote. He may speak on any question, provided he shall call some other member to the chair while he is speaking.

7. When any member is about to speak or deliver any matter to the Association, he shall rise from his seat and respectfully address the Moderator, and shall confine himself to the question under debate and avoid personalities.

8. If any member, in speaking or otherwise, transgress the rules of the Association, the Moderator shall, or any member may, call him to order; in which case the member so called to order shall immediately sit down, unless permitted to explain; and the Association shall, if appealed to, decide on the case, but without debate. If there be no appeal, the decision of the Chair shall be submitted to; if the decision be in favor of the member called to order he shall be at liberty to proceed; if otherwise, he shall not be permitted to proceed, in case any member object, without leave of the Association.

9. When two or more members happen to rise at once the Moderator shall name the one who is to speak first.

10. No member shall speak more than once on the same question, without leave of the Association, unless he be the mover, proposer or introducer of the matter pending, in which case he shall be permitted to speak in reply, but not until every member choosing to speak shall have spoken.

11. Every member who shall be in the house when a question is put shall give his vote, unless the Association, for special reason, excuse him.

12. When a motion is made and seconded, it shall be stated by the Chair; or, being in writing, it shall be handed to the Moderator and read aloud before debated.

13. Every motion shall be reduced to writing, if the Chair or any member desire it.

14. After a motion is stated by the Chair, or read aloud by the Clerk, it shall be deemed to be in possession of the body, but may be withdrawn, by leave of the Association, at any time before a decision or amendment.

15. When a question is under debate no motion shall be entertained but to adjourn, to lie on the table, for the previous question, to postpone to a day certain, commit, amend, to postpone indefinitely; which several motions shall have precedence in the order in which they are arranged, and no motion to postpone to a day certain, to commit, or postpone indefinitely, being decided, shall again be allowed during the session.

16. A motion to adjourn shall always be in order, except the Association be engaged in voting.

17. A motion to lay on the table shall be taken without debate; and shall always be in order, except a member be speaking, or the body engaged in voting.

18. On a previous question there shall be no debate. All incidental questions of order arising after the motion is made for the previous question, and pending such motion, shall be decided, whether on appeal or otherwise, without debate.

19. The previous question shall be in the form: "Shall the main question be now put?" It shall only be admitted when demanded by a majority of the members present; its effect shall be to put an end to all debate, and bring the Association to a direct vote upon amendments reported by committee, if any; upon pending amendments, and then upon the main question.

20. No motion or proposition on a subject different from that under consideration shall be admitted under color of amendment.

21. When a motion has been once made and carried, the affirmative or negative, it shall be in order for any member of the majority to move a reconsideration thereof, on the same or succeeding business day, and such motion shall take precedence of all other questions, except a motion to adjourn.

22. No member shall absent himself from the house without leave of the Moderator; or leave the meeting without leave of the Association.

23. Should any member of the Association absent himself before the close of the session, without permission of the body, he shall be marked in the minutes as absent without leave.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. *Of the Scriptures.*—We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true centre of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried.

2. *Of the True God.*—That there is one, and only one, true and living God, whose name is Jehovah; the Maker and Supremé Ruler of Heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness; worthy of all confidence and love; revealed under the personal and relative distinctions of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

3. *Of the Fall of Man.*—That man was created in a state of holiness, under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgressions fell from that happy and holy state; in consequence of which all mankind are sinners, not by constraint but by choice, being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, wholly given to the gratification of the world, of Satan and of their own sinful passions; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

4. *Of the Way of Salvation.*—That the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatorial office of the Son of God, who took on him our nature, yet without sin, honored the law by His personal obedience, and made atonement for our sins by His death; being risen from the dead He is now enthroned in Heaven and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate and an all-sufficient Savior.

5. *Of Justification.*—That the great Gospel blessing, which Christ of His fullness bestows on such as believe in Him, is justification; and justification consists in the pardon of sin and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any work of righteousness which we have done, but solely through His own redemption and righteousness; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

6. *Of the Freedom of Salvation.*—That the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel, that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by cordial and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, except his own voluntary refusal to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ, which refusal will subject him to an aggravated condemnation.

7. *Of Grace in Regeneration.*—That in order to be saved, we must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; and is affected in a manner above our comprehension or calculation by the power of the Holy Spirit, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; and that its proper evidence is found in the holy fruit we bring forth to the glory of God.

8. *Of God's Purpose of Grace.*—That election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which he regenerates, sacrifices and saves sinners; that, being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of His free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it is ascertained by its effects in all who believe the Gospel; is the foundation of Christian assurance, and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves our utmost diligence.

9. *Of the Perseverance of Saints.*—That such are only real believers as endure to the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial profession; that a special Providence watches over their welfare, and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

10. *Harmony of the Law and Gospel.*—That the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government; that it is holy, just and good; that the inability which the Scripture ascribes to fallen men to fulfill its precepts, arises entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them, through a mediator, to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

11. *Of a Gospel Church.*—That a visible Church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by his word; that its only proper officers are bishops or pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and dues, are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

12. *Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.*—That Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer, in water, in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in a crucified and risen Savior, with its purifying power; and that it is a prerequisite to the relatives of a church relation and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church, by the use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preceded always by self-examination.

13. *Of the Christian Sabbath.*—That the first day of week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath, and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and recreations, by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public, and by preparation for that rest which remaineth for the people of God.

14. *Of Civil Government.*—That civil government is of Divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society, and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except in the things opposed to the will of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience and Prince of the kings of the earth.

15. *Of the Righteous and the Wicked.*—That there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of God, are truly righteous in his esteem; while all such as continue in impotence and unbelief are in his sight wicked, and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

16. *Of the World to Come.*—That the end of this world is approaching; that at the last day Christ will descend from the heaven and raise the dead from the grave for final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

TABULAR STATEMENT.

CHURCHES	PASTORS.	Sunday School Superintendents.	CLERKS.	Received by Baptism.	By Letter.	By Voucher.	Restored.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Dead.	Total Membership.	Foreign Missions.	Home Missions.	State Missions.	Howard College.	Female.	Orphans' Home.	Expenses.	Minutes.	Pastor's Salary.	Total Amount.
Troy.....	A. B. Campbell.....	E. M. Shackelford.....	W. F. Beard.....	5	13	1	1	23	6	438	6	\$23 08	\$6 00	\$180 81	\$69 00	\$722 08	\$10 00	\$1000 00	\$2212 75		
Shiloh.....	J. S. Yarbrough.....	.....	I. H. Wood.....	1	4	3	3	147	52	10 00	160 00	1 50	1 00	1 00	1 00	1 50	1 00	11 50	11 50	162 30
Orion.....	J. M. I. Offin.....	.....	W. J. Chancey.....	2	4	2	2	32	7 70	32	7 70	3 00	3 00	3 00	3 00	3 00	3 00	8 70	8 70	69 25
Olustee.....	W. H. Simmons.....	H. A. McLane.....	J. H. Dewberry.....	1	45	25	1	3	225	41 35	25 00	10 00	10 00	10 00	10 00	10 00	10 00	117 55	75	23 05	
Salem.....	A. E. Pinckard.....	.....	T. L. Head, Jr.....	1	1	1	1	40	12 30	40	12 30	1 50	1 50	1 50	1 50	1 50	1 50	81 65	200 70	200 70
Siloam.....	L. H. Bowles.....	F. H. Allred.....	E. A. McPherson.....	2	2	2	2	1	1	97	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	2 75	1 50	1 50	10 25	
Hephzibah.....	R. Deal.....	J. H. Pinckard.....	12	69	56	2	10	1076
Bethlehem.....

Contributed by Troy Baptist Sunday School, Home Missions \$42.40; Orphans' Home \$25.00; Expenses \$120.00. Total \$187.40.
 Contributed by Ladies' Aid Society of Troy, Home Missions \$10.00; Howard College \$35.00; Orphans' Home \$10.00; Expenses \$337.82. Total \$382.82.
 Brundidge Baptist Sunday School, Foreign Missions \$2.25. Total \$2.25. Brundidge Ladies' Aid Society, Orphans' Home \$24.35. Total \$24.35.

Churches will please be more particular in giving details of church statistics. They do not give males and females and designate what missions.
 —[CLERK.]

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Association called to order by Moderator.
2. Read Church Letters.
3. Introductory Sermon.
4. Appoint Committee on Credentials.
5. Elect Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer.
6. Invite visiting brethren to seats.
7. Receive applications from churches for membership.
8. Appoint committees to report during session—
 1. On Religious Exercises.
 2. On Finance.
 3. On Documents and Requests.
 4. On Nominations.
9. Call for Correspondence.
10. Read Rules of Order.
11. Report of Standing Committees in their order.
12. Report of Special Committees.
13. Return Correspondence.
14. Appoint Committees to report next meeting—
 1. On State and Home Missions.
 2. On Foreign Missions.
 3. On Sunday Schools.
 4. On Temperance.
 5. On Education.
 6. On Colportage.
 7. On Baptist Orphanage.
 8. On Deceased Ministers.
 9. On Indigent Ministers.
 10. Treasurer's Report.
15. Miscellaneous Business.
16. Verify List of Messengers.
17. Arrange for Printing Minutes.
18. Correct Minutes and Adjourn.

LIST OF MINISTERS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.

- A. B. Campbell, Troy, Ala.
A. E. Pinckard, China Grove, Ala.
J. L. Youngblood, Troy, Ala.
W. H. Simmons, Ozark, Ala.
L. H. Bowles, Troy, Ala.
J. S. Yarbrough, Orion, Ala.
R. Deal, Ozark, Ala.
J. M. Loffin, Henderson, Ala.

