

Bigbee BA

1886

MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Bigbee Baptist Association,

Howard College Library

— HELD WITH —

SUMTERVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH, SUMTER CO., ALA.,

SEPTEMBER 9th, 10th and 11th, 1886.

OFFICERS:

ELIAS L. F. FOLDSHER Moderator, Butler, Ala.
ELIAS L. D. COOK Clerk, Butler, Ala.
DEAN L. CROOKS Treasurer, Levensport, Ala.

FRANCIS S. GARDNER, the Association will be held with the Cotton Valley Baptist Church, Cottondale, Ala., and Teachers' Convention at
1887

STANDING COMMITTEES TO REPORT NEXT YEAR.

- On Sabbath Schools—W. H. Brown, J. A. Davidson, and L. Poole.
On Ministerial Education—J. D. Cook, B. F. Brown and J. B. Turner.
On General Education—I. C. Brown, O. C. Thomas and Ed. McCall.
On State Missions—J. E. Herring, R. A. Clay and G. W. Greene.
On Home Missions—B. F. Riley, B. B. Seade and W. F. Pond.
On Foreign Missions—J. K. Ryan, J. B. Phillips and W. W. Willis.
On Temperance—D. W. Brock, J. R. Larkin and W. P. Chambers.
On Bible and Colportage Work—C. C. Vanglan, A. B. Spidel, S. J. Phillips.
Central Committee on Woman's Work—Mrs. I. C. Brown, Mrs. T. A. Mcoring and Miss Bettie Brown.
Executive Committee—B. F. Riley, A. D. Fortner, I. C. Brown, G. C. Cowley and J. D. Cook.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Reading of Letters and Forwarding of Delegates.
2. Election of Officers.
3. Appointment of Committees on Preaching.
4. Admission of New Churches.
5. Correspondence from other Bodies.
6. Invitation of Ministers to Seats.
7. Report of Standing Committees.
8. Appointment of Standing Committees—to Report at Next Session.
9. Report of Committees of Present Session.
10. Motions and Resolutions.
11. Miscellaneous Business.
12. Appointment of Time and Place for Next Session.

PROCEEDINGS.

The Thirty-Fourth Annual Session of the Bigbee Baptist Association was held with Sumterville Baptist Church, Sumterville, Sumter County, Ala., commencing on Thursday, the 9th day of September, 1886, at 11 o'clock A. M.

The former Moderator called the body to order, and read the 103 Psalm. G. S. Anderson led in prayer. Song, "There is a fountain filled with blood."

The Introductory Sermon, by common consent, was postponed until night.

The Moderator spoke cheering words in response to the history and work of the Association.

In response to the call for representation, the letters were presented, and read by B. F. Riley and G. S. Anderson.

The delegates were enrolled as follows:

Bouldin—S. P. Moy

Christian Valley—B. B. Seale and J. R. Larkin.

Clinton—N. M. Carpenter.

Concord—H. C. Sanders, C. W. Powell, H. P. Wilson, and J. B. Phillips.

Cuba—J. D. Cook, C. C. Vaughan, R. A. Clay, L. C. Moore, Wm. Bell, T. E. Wood and W. G. McDaniel.

Demopolis—Letter and funds.

Eutaw—J. E. Herring.

Fellowship—B. T. Hart, R. L. Simmons, and B. F. Compton

Friendship—Letter and funds.

Gainesville—O. C. Thomas and Thomas Gordon.

Hickory Hill—J. E. Dunkard and W. N. Woodward.

Hopewell, Choctaw Co.—Not represented.

Hopewell, Sumter Co.—A. B. Spidel.

Livingston—B. F. Riley, H. R. Antrey, A. D. Fortner, L. C. Brown and R. L. Giles.

Mt. Hermon—J. R. Sanders and R. J. McGowan.

Mt. Moriah—Not represented.

Mt. Sterling—Not represented.

New Prospect—A. R. Scarborough and M. D. Gould.

Rehoboth—L. L. Belsher and J. W. Cook.

Shorts—T. F. Seale.

Silvan—E. Woods, W. H. Hitt, G. W. Green, Thomas Stallings and G. H. Smith

Stonewall—Not represented.

Sumterville—W. H. Brown, R. N. McKinley and C. H. Bullock.

York—B. F. Brown and W. L. Paek.

Zion—J. K. Ryan and W. S. Culpepper.

An election of officers by ballot was then held by the Association, which resulted in the election of L. L. Belsher, Moderator; J. D. Cook, Clerk; I. C. Brown, Treasurer.

Adjourned to 2 P. M. Benediction by J. K. Ryan.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Moderator read the 46th Psalm. Prayer by A. R. Scarborough. Song, "All hail the power of J sus name."

The pastor and deacon of the church and R. A. Clay were appointed as Committee on Preaching.

Received Correspondents:

Board of Ministerial Education—G. S. Anderson.

The Moderator appointed the following Special Committees:

On Finance—S. R. Larkin, I. C. Brown, and W. L. Paek.

On Correspondence—B. B. Seale, J. B. Phillips, and C. H. Bullock.

On Nominations—R. A. Clay, J. W. Blakeney, and B. F. Brown.

To Nominate Executive Committee—C. C. Vaughan, S. M. Carpenter, and W. H. Brown.

To Apportion the Amounts to each church asked for by the State Mission Board—J. K. Ryan, H. P. Wilson and S. P. May.

Some brethren on the Standing Committees not being present, names were added:

Ministerial Education—Names added—B. F. Riley, G. W. Green, and A. D. Fortner.

Foreign Missions—B. B. Seale present; names added—J. E. Herring and James Stallings.

Sabbath Schools—B. F. Brown present; names added—L. C. Moore and A. B. Spidel.

Temperance—Names added—A. D. Fortner, W. L. Paek and W. S. Culpepper.

General Education was made the special order for 10 A. M., Friday.

On motion, a Committee on Programme was appointed as follows:—B. F. Riley, J. E. Herring and T. F. Seale.

The Constitution, Articles of Faith, and Rules of Decorum were read by order of the Moderator.

The Committee on Programme made a partial report, which was completed afterwards, as follows:

THURSDAY—3 P. M., Report of Executive Committee; 4 P. M., Report on Sunday Schools; 5 P. M., Adjournment; 7:30 P. M., Preaching.

FRIDAY—9 A. M., Convene and spend half an hour in devotional exercises; 9:30 A. M., Miscellaneous Business; 10 A. M., Report on General Education; 11 A. M., Report on Ministerial Education.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON—2 P. M., Reassemble and devote 15 minutes to prayer

and praise; 2:15 p. m., Miscellaneous Business; 2:30 p. m., Report on Temperance; 3 p. m., Report on State Missions; 7:30 p. m., Preaching by W. B. Crumpton.

SATURDAY—9 a. m., Devotional Exercises for 30 minutes; 9:50 a. m., Miscellaneous Business; 10 a. m., Report on Woman's Work; 10:20 a. m., Report on Home Missions; 11:20 a. m., Report on Bible and Colportage Work.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON—2 p. m., Devotional Exercises for 15 minutes; 2:15 p. m., Report on Foreign Missions; 3 p. m., Miscellaneous Business, correction of Minutes, etc.

SUNDAY—11 a. m., Baptist Church—Missionary Sermon by J. D. Cook; Methodist Church—J. E. Herring.

The Executive Committee reported, and discussion ensued by B. F. Riley. The report was then adopted. (Appendix A.)

The report on Sabbath Schools was submitted and discussed by H. C. Sanders, C. C. Vaughan, J. E. Herring, G. S. Anderson and B. F. Riley, then adopted. (Appendix B.)

Adjourned to 7:30 p. m.

THURSDAY NIGHT.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by A. R. Scarborough, Text: Acts 17:30-31, "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent; because he hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained, whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead."

FRIDAY MORNING.

The devotional exercises were conducted by W. S. Culpepper. The Minutes were read, corrected, and then approved.

Received Correspondents:

Corresponding Secretary of the State Mission Board—W. B. Crumpton; Representative of Howard College, B. F. Giles, Bethel Association—J. P. Coats.

On motion, the names of all alternates, except those who came in the place of absent delegates, were dropped from the roll.

The report on General Education was submitted, and speeches were made by B. F. Giles, B. F. Riley, A. R. Scarborough, and W. B. Crumpton. Pledges for the endowment of Howard College were made to the amount of \$700.00 and cash \$3.55. The report was then adopted. (Appendix C.)

The report on Ministerial Education was read and discussion ensued by G. S. Anderson and H. C. Sanders. Pledges were made to Ministerial Education; \$150.00 of which is to be applied to the support of W. S. Culpepper at Howard College, and the balance to be paid to the Ministerial Board of Education.

The pledges were as follows:

Livingston	\$ 10 00	L.A.S.o.f York	\$ 5 00	R. A. Clay,	\$ 5 00
Sumterville,	10 00	Hopewell,SumCo	5 00	L.L.Belsher,paid	5 00
Cuba,	10 00	Clinton,	5 00	Hickory Hill,	5 00
Concord,	10 00	Eutaw,	5 00	J. D. Cook,	5 00
Rehoboth,	10 00	Forkland,	5 00	Shorts,	5 00
Zion,	10 00	Livingston S. S.	5 00	Mt. Moriah,	5 00
Zion S. S.	5 00	Sumterville S. S.	5 00	G. W. Green,	5 00
York,	10 00	Concord S. S.	2 50	B.F.Compton,pd.	2 00
New Prospect,	5 00	H. C. Sanders,	2 50	Gainesville,	5 00
Fellowship,	10 00	A sister,by B.F.R.	3 00	W. M. Simmons,	5 00
J. R. Larkin,	25 00	A. B. Spidel,	5 00	Benlah,	5 00
Christian Valley,	5 00	Lanopolis,	10 00		
Total,	- - - - -				\$ 230 00

The report was then adopted. (Appendix D.)

Adjourned to 2 P. M. Prayer by W. B. Crumpton.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

Reassembled at the appointed hour, and spent 15 minutes in devotional exercises, conducted by J. K. Ryan.

On motion, C. M. Hutton, the resident Presbyterian Minister, was invited to a seat in the Association.

On motion, Christian courtesy was extended to two colored brethren from the Bethel Association, (colored), viz: Ivison Dawson and Green Lowe.

The report on Temperance was submitted and discussed by B. F. Riley, then adopted. (Appendix E.)

The report on State Missions was read and discussed by W. B. Crumpton, J. D. Cook, G. S. Anderson, A. D. Fortner, J. E. Herring, C. C. Vaughan, and H. R. Autrey. The report was then adopted. (Appendix E.)

C. C. Vaughan, missionary of the Association, submitted a summary of his work, which was ordered printed in connection with the report on State Mission. (Appendix F. I.)

On motion, adjourned. Prayer by B. F. Giles.

FRIDAY NIGHT.

W. B. Crumpton preached from Mark 13:31 "And to every man his work."

SATURDAY MORNING.

After devotional exercises, conducted by A. R. Scarborough, the roll was called, and the Minutes of Friday's session were read and approved.

The Committee to Apportion to the Churches the amount which the State Mission Board requests from the Association reported. The report was adopted. (Appendix G.)

The report of the Central Committee on Woman's Work was read by B. F. Riley and discussed by him and J. K. Ryan, then adopted. (Appendix H.)

The report on Home Missions was presented, and speeches were made by W. S. Culpepper, H. C. Sanders and B. F. Riley, then adopted. (Appendix I.)

The following was offered and adopted:

RESOLVED, That we endorse most heartily the movement to endow Howard College at Marion, Ala., and recommend that our pastors present the subject as soon as possible to their churches, and report the result to Brother G. A. Nunnally, Eufaula, Ala.

Adjourned to 2 P. M. Prayer by W. S. Culpepper.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

The Association reassembled at the appointed time, and the devotional exercises were conducted by C. C. Vaughan.

The report on Bible and Colportage Work was read and discussed by J. D. Cook, A. R. Scarborough, and C. C. Vaughan, and after amendment was adopted. (Appendix J.)

The report on Foreign Missions was read, and discussion ensued by J. E. Herring, B. F. Riley, and A. D. Fortner. The report was then adopted. (Appendix K.)

The Moderator appointed Standing Committees to report next year as follows:

On Sabbath Schools—W. H. Brown, J. A. Davidson and L. Poole.

On Ministerial Education—J. D. Cook, B. F. Brown and J. B. Turner.

On General Education—L. C. Brown, O. C. Thomas and Ed. McCall.

On State Missions—J. E. Herring, R. A. Clay and G. W. Green.

On Home Missions—B. E. Riley, B. B. Seate and W. F. Pond.

On Foreign Missions—J. K. Ryan, J. B. Phillips and W. W. Willis.

On Temperance—D. W. Brock, J. R. Larkin and W. P. Chambers.

On Bible and Colportage Work—C. C. Vaughan, A. B. Spidel and J. S. Phillips.

The Committee to Nominate Executive Committee reported as follows:—B. F. Riley, J. D. Cook, A. D. Fortner, I. C. Brown and G. C. Gowdey.

The report on Correspondence was made and adopted. (Appendix L.)

The Committee on Finance reported. The report was adopted. (Appendix M.)

The Treasurer submitted his report, which was adopted. (Appendix N.)

The Treasurer was directed to pay to C. C. Vaughan and J. E. Herring the amounts due them as Missionaries of this Association, and take their receipts for the same; also, to forward the other funds to their proper destination.

The report on Nominations was submitted and adopted as follows:

NOMINATIONS.

Your Committee on Nominations make the following report:

That the next session of this Association be held with Christian Valley Church, and to convene at 11 o'clock A. M., on Thursday, before the second Sunday in September, 1887. W. S. Culpepper to preach the Introductory Sermon; L. L. Belsler, Alternate. B. F. Riley to preach the Missionary Sermon at 11 o'clock on Sunday; J. K. Ryan, Alternate.

Woman's Central Committee—Mrs. I. C. Brown, Mrs. T. A. Mooring and Miss Betti Brown.

R. A. Clay, Chairman.

The following resolution was offered and adopted:

RESOLVED, That the thanks of this Association be and are hereby tendered to this Church and community for their kind hospitality during our stay with them; also, to our Methodist brethren for extending to us the use of their house of worship.

On motion the Clerk was allowed \$15.00 for his services.

The Treasurer was directed to pay the funds for Indigent Ministers to W. F. Pond.

RESOLVED, That the collection on Sunday be divided equally among our three Boards, viz: State, Home and Foreign.

On motion, the Association adjourned, with prayer by B. F. Riley. Song, "Sweet-bye-and-bye," and the delegates extended to each other the parting hand.

The next session of this Association will be held with Christian Valley Church, near Cortopa, Ala., commencing at 11 A. M., on Thursday before the second Sunday in September, 1887.

J. D. Cook, Clerk.

L. L. BELSHER, Mod.

Cuba Station, Ala.

Butler, Ala.

SATURDAY NIGHT.

W. S. Culpepper preached from Heb. 13:14; "For here we have no continuing city, but we seek one to come."

SUNDAY.

Preaching at Baptist Church by J. D. Cook from Rom. 13:11. "It is high time to awake out of sleep" At the Methodist Church by J. E. Herring from Ezek. 33:7-9. "So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me. When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at their hands. Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul." The sum of collections at the two Churches was \$12.15.

[Appendix A.]

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Committee held its first meeting on October the 8th, 1885. They recommended at that time Rev. C. C. Vaughan to the State Mission Board as Missionary and Colporteur of the Bigbee Association. The Committee also appointed Miss Bettie Brown on Committee on Woman's Work in lieu of Miss Tennie Brown.

The Board of Ministerial Education was permitted to incorporate the amount contributed by this Association into its annual report.

The second meeting was held December 11th, 1885. Upon the statement being made that Brother Vaughan was unwilling to accept the colportage work upon the terms offered by the State Board, the Committee recommended that \$150.00 of Associational funds be appropriated to his work. Subsequently to this, we recommended the appointment of Rev. J. E. Herring to labor as missionary among the churches in Greene County, viz: Eutaw, Friendship and Clinton. The amount of \$150.00 was recommended to be appointed to that work also.

We have appointed and held during the year three District Meetings. We have received and turned over to Rev. W. S. Culpepper, as theological beneficiary, the following sums of money:

F. Y. Townsend,	\$ 2 00	Livingston Ch,	\$ 10 00	Mt. Moriah]Ch,	5 00
J. W. Holcroft,	1 00	Sumterville Ch,	10 00	Zion Church,	22 60
Cuba Church,	11 60	Gainesville Ch,	10 00	Zion Sunday Sch,	5 00
York Church,	18 00	J. R. Larkin,	25 00	Rehoboth Church,	6 75
Concord Church,	10 00	Hickory Hill Ch,	5 00	Shorts Church,	5 00
David Bryan,	2 00	J. W. Jones,	5 00	Thro' T. M. Baily,	6 25
Total,					\$ 160.00

Respectfully submitted,

B. E. RILEY, Chairman.

[Appendix B.]

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your Committee on Sunday Schools beg leave to offer the following report:—

We believe, after looking over the field, that this great church work is increasing in every respect. Although only nine (9) schools with an aggregate of 51 teachers and 393 pupils are reported in the letters, yet nearly all the churches in the Association have Sunday Schools. We would urge all the churches to report their schools in their letters to the Association. We need and hope to have better work in the future than we have had in the past. We recommend "Kind Words" as the best Sunday School paper.

Respectfully submitted,

B. F. Brows, Chairman.

[Appendix C.]

REPORT ON GENERAL EDUCATION.

BROTHER MODERATOR:—If any arguments were needed to prove the deep and universal interest in the subject of education, they could readily be found in the large sums of money expended and the time devoted to its furtherance. Never before in the history of our country, has there been so united and determined an effort to place educational advantages within the reach of all classes. Our teachers, recognizing this demand, have formed for themselves summer schools, where they meet for study and to discuss the best methods of imparting knowledge. We are already beginning to reap results. That we are indebted to education for very many of the comforts and pleasures of life, no one will attempt to deny. Science, which is the legitimate off-spring of education, is demonstrating facts which only a few years ago would have been classed as the imaginings of a disordered brain. And to-day few are bold enough to question what Edison, DeLesseps or Eads pronounce practicable. It is not hazardous to predict that in the near future the air will be as safely and profitably navigated as are the waters now. May we not trace the hand of God in these advances, as they serve to draw all men closer together, thereby hastening the christianizing of the world? But to turn from theorizing to facts as they now exist. The report from our Superintendent of Education for the State, shows an improved condition in the public schools of Alabama. The increased amount of money expended is met by increased good accomplished. Our colleges were never in a more prosperous condition. The success of our own Howard is wonderful; unendowed as it is, it not only holds its own, but actually grows even in the shadow of a heavily endowed University. Your Committee regret that the idea of moving it to some other place than Marion, was seriously entertained by the last Baptist State Convention. May not this fore-shadow

the removal of the Judson, an institution which occupies the first place in the hearts of the ladies of Alabama? We would, in brotherly love, say to our North Alabama friends, you have your iron and coal, suffer us to keep the Howard and Judson. While our colleges should be supported, we must not neglect country or neighborhood schools, as it is here the masses are to be educated. The grade of all country schools should be raised, so that a boy or girl could be prepared in them to enter college. We regard with pleasure, the privilege accorded girls of entering male colleges, as it will serve to stimulate both parties to greater efforts. There are 277 first-class Universities that admit them. Regarding education as the strongest safe-guard to a republican form of government, your committee invite your earnest consideration to that class among us, who, while they receive their prorated share of money, have but little attention otherwise. We refer to the colored race. Their advancement is not in keeping with the amount of money expended, and that this is largely due to our indifference cannot be denied. The fault is directly chargeable to incompetent teachers; but we are responsible, inasmuch as custom has virtually ostracized any white man who takes charge of a colored school. Our Association makes annual contributions for the "Evangelization" of the colored race, a little more attention to their education would prove of decided benefit. The fact that a large per cent of the population of our State cannot read or write, should urge us on to a fuller discharge of duty.

Respectfully submitted,

J. R. LARKIN.

[Appendix D.]

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

Your Committee on Ministerial Education beg leave to report: That it is gratifying to note the increased interest on the part of our great denomination concerning the matter of a more thorough training of our ministers. While we recognize no special standard that must be filled before one can proclaim the truth of God, yet we are anxious to have every one desiring to preach, to advance as far as possible in the work of preparation. Upon this idea is the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary founded. It affords means of instruction alike to those desiring a partial as well as the fullest course. The course of instruction given at Howard College to ministerial students is, in no wise, of a theological character—it only lays the basis of preparation for a subsequent theological course, or else it enables the student to become a more efficient minister than he would be without such mental training as is afforded in the regular college curriculum. A voluntary course of lectures upon the most practical topics are annually delivered before the ministerial students at Howard College. At the last session of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, the Board of Ministerial Education was removed from Birmingham to Montgomery. Its object is to aid all students studying for the ministry or contemplating the ministry, from Alabama, no matter at what institution they may pursue their courses.

The advancing intelligence of the masses, the growth of formidable opposition to christianity, the progress of our own denomination and abundant scriptural sanction are the incentives to aid in the work of Ministerial Education.

Respectfully submitted,

B. F. RUBY, Chairman.

[Appendix E.]

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE

Your Committee feel disposed to thank God, and to congratulate you upon the growth of temperance sentiments in the bounds of the Bigbee Association. It is now no longer necessary to bring forth arguments and quote Scripture to show the professor of Christianity that intoxicating drinks are hurtful and soul-destroying in their tendency. Practically, we all agree that no christian can drink intoxicants and live a consistent and godly life. We all look upon Intemperance—the "Matchless Evil," as it has been aptly called—as the bane of society and as a curse to any community. And we are glad to believe that most of this body are in favor of banishing it, not only from our neighborhoods, but from our state and our nation as well. Since your last meeting Sumter County, the home of sixteen of your churches, has, by a large majority of its white voters, declared against the sale of intoxicating liquors. It is, perhaps, not generally known how deep and widespread this temperance sentiment is. In the fifteen Southern States, including Missouri, there are about twelve hundred organized counties. Of this number, fully six hundred, or at least one-half, have voted for prohibition. In hundreds of the others, the sale of intoxicants is partially prohibited. Three capital cities in the South, Atlanta, Raleigh, and Jackson, have voted out the saloons. Georgia is nearly a prohibition state. Mississippi, our near neighbor on the other side, is following hard upon Georgia's footsteps, and the people of Alabama are not laggards in the movement. Of the Northern States, five have adopted prohibition, and hundreds of counties in the others are yearly placing themselves in line with the greatest reform of modern times. In this stupendous warfare against the cohorts of Satan, the Baptist hosts of America have fought in the foremost rank. They have shirked no duty, and shunned no conflict; and though often cast down, they have renewed the fight the next day with a firmer hold upon the promises of God, and an unwavering faith in the justice of the principles contended for. Especially in the South, where the Baptist strength is relatively greater than elsewhere, has their influence been felt as they manfully fought for the cause of Christ, and for the wives and homes of our sunny land. In direct answer to the prayers of God's people, we have won some half the field. Let us "thank God, and take courage" and go on to greater victories in the strength of Him who is our strength and our salvation.

Submitted in christian love,

W. P. CRYMARE, Chairman.

[Appendix F.]

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

Your Committee on State Missions beg leave to submit the following report:—It is sad to report that our State Mission Work for the past year has sensibly decreased. The contributions to this noble work have fallen short of last year by some \$3649.91, thereby retarding the work of the State Mission Board and enfeebling the hands and heart of our Corresponding Secretary. Instead of 81 missionaries in the field for a whole or a part of the time in the Conventional year 1884-5; in the year 1885-6 only 65 were employed, and at the present time only 40 are reported at work in the State. If the past two years are an index of what the Baptists of Alabama intend to do in the future, then, in two years from this time the subject of State Missions and its work will be numbered with the things that were. In the Conventional year 1884-5, we raised for Indigent Ministers, the sum of \$879.91. In 1885-6 only \$268.43—a difference of \$601.48. While these two objects of benevolence are so badly fostered, the Home and the Foreign Boards report a large increase in Alabama for their respective Boards. It cannot be charged that “financial depression” is the cause of the meagre support of the State Board and Indigent Ministers. The liberal support of the other Boards refutes that charge. The Corresponding Secretary in his modest and Christ-like humility, attributes it partly to a change in the Secretaryship. But this would seem too broad and deep, because if this were true, he would be asked to “step down and out,” and a man of his humility would not wait for an invitation to resign. The cause for this shortage must be sought for elsewhere. The last report of the Secretary to the Convention attributes it to the change above mentioned—to financial depression, and other things. Now this “*other things*” is to blame for a large part of this neglect, and these “*others things*” might prove more interesting than edifying, if they were fully known. But, Brethren, we trust that the Bigbee Association will look beyond all plans and come up nobly to the support of this great cause. We have all confidence that she will do this, and continue to push the Lord’s work in her own State. We would recommend that each church use the envelope plan of the Secretary and take up collections quarterly. We omit details in statistics, as these can be obtained from the Minutes of the Baptist State Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

L. L. BEISNER, Chairman.

[Appendix F. I.]

REPORT OF MISSIONARY OF BIGBEE ASSOCIATION.

As Missionary of the Bigbee Association, I beg leave to submit the following:—I began work about the first of February of this year. I have supplied two stations—Epes and Pleasant Pajus, regularly once a month, and one pastorless church—Mt. Hermon. The indications of progress are good at all of these points. One Sabbath in each month has been

reserved to visit churches and by-stations. The following is a summary of work to the present time:

Day's service, - - - -	156	Number special visits, - -	4
Miles traveled, - - - -	854	No. visits to other churches,	21
Sermons delivered, - - -	59	Religious visits to families,	86
Addresses made, - - - -	22	Meeting Houses commenced,	1
Bap. in connection with Churches,	15	Meeting Houses finished, -	1
Received by letter, - - -	4	Col. for Indigent Ministers &	
Restored, - - - -	2	paid Eld. W. F. Pond, \$ 6	00
Sunday Schools organized, -	5	Collected for State Missions,	39 45
Sunday School addresses, -	17	Collected for Home Missions,	3 25
Prayer-meetings organized -	2	Number letters written, -	10
Prayer-meetings held, - -	30	Number tracts distributed,	13
Regular preaching places with-			
out churches, - - - -	2		

There is great need for missionary labor within our bounds. In view of this, we would recommend that one or more laborers be kept in this field to supply this demand.

Respectfully,

C. C. VARGAS.

[Appendix H.]

REPORT OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON WOMAN'S WORK

Your Committee appointed at the last session of this body beg leave to report that some efforts have been made during the past year to organize other societies in churches where they have not been organized previously. We have also endeavored to secure a more thorough organization in the societies which have been in existence for more than a year. The comparative novelty of the work in this section prevents a reader's appreciation of its claims, and hence patience is demanded to secure its ultimate success. It is impossible now to give any statistics as to what has been done by the different societies. During the year only one society has been organized in our bounds. One of our ablest and most consecrated workers has gone home to her final rest. It need not be said in this Association that sister Jennie Brown was a noble, earnest, devoted christian, and our society has lost one of its most brilliant lights. Will not this Association drop with us, and for her Church, her Sunday School, and her bereaved family a sympathizing tear? A heroine has fallen in the army of our God; let us close up the ranks by imitating her example in earnest endeavors for Christ's kingdom.

It is not our purpose to act as independent bodies in our work, but only as humble instruments in the hands of God in aiding the church in her work. We ask the hearty cooperation of all our pastors and all christians in the great work we have in our weakness undertaken.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. I. C. Brown,

Mrs. T. A. Morgan,

Miss Bessie Brown.

[Appendix G.]

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON APPORTIONMENT.

Your committee appointed to apportion the amounts each church of this Association is requested to raise during the ensuing Associational year for the different objects fostered by the Alabama Baptist State Mission Board, submit the following:—

CHURCHES.	State Missions.	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Bible Work.	Indigent Ministers.	Evangelizing Race.	Total.
Benlah	\$ 6 50	\$ 5 00	\$ 5 00	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 18 00
Christian Valley	15 50	6 00	6 00	1 00	1 00	50	26 00
Clinton	8 50	4 50	5 00	50	1 00	50	26 00
Concord	25 00	6 00	7 00	50	1 00	50	46 00
Cuba	25 00	6 00	7 00	50	1 00	50	46 00
Demopolis	5 00	4 00	1 00	50	1 00	50	15 00
Eutaw	7 50	5 50	5 00	50	1 00	50	26 00
Fellowship	8 00	6 00	5 00	50	1 00	50	21 00
Friendship	9 00	4 50	4 50	50	1 00	50	26 00
Gainesville	23 00	5 00	5 00	50	1 00	50	35 00
Hickory Hill	18 00	2 50	2 50	50	1 00	50	25 00
H'well,Choc.Co.	11 50	2 50	2 00	50	1 00	50	18 00
H'well,Sum.Co.	13 50	3 50	3 00	50	1 00	50	22 00
Livingston	35 00	7 00	6 00	50	1 00	50	56 00
Mt. Hermon	8 00	3 00	2 00	50	1 00	50	15 00
Mt. Moriah	8 00	3 00	2 00	50	1 00	50	15 00
Mt. Sterling	14 00	5 00	4 00	50	1 00	50	25 00
New Prospect	11 50	3 50	3 00	50	1 00	50	26 00
Rehoboth	17 50	5 50	5 00	50	1 00	50	36 00
Shorts	5 00	3 00	2 00	50	1 00	50	12 00
Siloam	17 50	5 50	5 00	50	1 00	50	36 00
Stonewall	8 00	3 00	2 00	50	1 00	50	15 00
Sumterville	19 50	4 50	4 00	50	1 00	50	36 00
York	14 50	4 50	4 00	50	1 00	50	25 00
Zion	19 00	5 00	4 00	50	1 00	50	36 00
Total,	\$353 50	\$113 50	\$104 00	\$13 00	\$21 50	\$12 50	\$621 00

[Appendix L.]

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

It is gratifying to be able to report that with the growth of the opportunities of the Home Mission Board, there has been a comparative growth of resources furnished by the Baptists of the South. Entrusted with so large a territory, embracing the entire South, the Indian tribes upon our western border and the Island of Cuba, its work is enormous and its means should be correspondent. Its chief aim is to supply the destitute

tion in the South, by the erection of new churches where they cannot be built by local aid; to evangelize the masses of our crowded cities, to furnish the gospel to the colored people and supply missionary aid to the Indians. At the last session of the Southern Baptist Convention, the island of Cuba was assigned to the Home Mission Board as a part of its territory. The wild enthusiasm with which the Cubans have greeted the gospel is a guarantee of future and abundant achievements upon that island of the sea. To carry on the work of this great Board in the South, among the Indians and upon the Island of Cuba, Alabama is asked to contribute \$5,000, of this amount the Bigbee Association is asked to raise \$100.00. Mighty consideration urge us to meet this request which comes from the Home Mission Board.

W. H. BROWS, Chairman.

[Appendix J.]

BIBLE AND COLPORTAGE WORK.

Your Committee on Bible and Colportage Work beg leave to submit the following report:—We regard the Bible as chief of all published works, and as such it should not only find its way into every house of this gain-saying and wicked world, but its precepts should govern all the human family. There have been attempts made to discard this noble work of God, to take from or add truths; but we are thankful that all efforts have been in vain, and that the Bible still holds its prominence. It rules our rulers; governs our governors; and keeps all civilized nations under its hallowed influence. Therefore, we, as Baptists, who hold it as our only discipline to rule us as a denomination, should not only hold to its delightful precepts, but should bring to bear every available means to place a copy of it in reach of every son and daughter of Adam's race, so that all could enjoy its sacred and benign truths. We regard the Bible as the revealed will of God, and teaches the way from this vain world to that fair and happy land that remains for the finally faithful. We are fearful, brethren, that we are not as zealous as we should be in the dissemination of our own literature. We adopt the suggestion of the State Mission Board before the last State Convention, as expressed in the 38th item on the 23rd page of the Convention Minutes of 1886.

Respectfully submitted,

J. B. TURNER, Chairman.

[Appendix K.]

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

We devoutly thank God that his hand hath led and guided us during another year of toil. We are happy to report that our Foreign Mission Board has had in the different fields 78 missionaries and several native assistants; baptized 169. Total membership 1289. Three of our missionaries, Mrs. Holeohm, Mrs. David and Mrs. Myers, have gone to reap the reward of those who turn many to righteousness. Since the meeting of

the Southern Baptist Convention, two more men of God have gone to the field—brethren McCormick and Wilson. Our work has been wonderfully blessed of God, and we have much to encourage us. Owing to the fact that new fields, and new and greater claims are constantly presenting themselves to us, we recommend that the churches double their contributions to this cause, seeing so much remains to be done. We hail with joy and gladness that fast coming day when the heathen shall be given to Christ for an inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth to the kingdom of our God.

B. B. SEALE, Chairman.

[Appendix L.]

REPORT ON CORRESPONDENCE.

Your Committee beg leave to report the following bodies of Baptists represented at this session: Bethel Association, Rev. J. P. Coats, Cor. Sec. State Mission Board; Rev. W. B. Crumpton, Representative of Howard College; Prof. B. F. Giles, Board of Ministerial Education; Rev. G. S. Anderson; Bethel Association, (colored), Ivison Dawson and Green Lowe. In behalf of the Association, we thank these brethren for their presence and assistance. We recommend that members of this body visiting other bodies of Baptists be received as messengers from this Association.

Respectfully submitted,

B. B. SEALE, Chairman.

[Appendix M.]

REPORT ON FINANCE.

BROTHER MODERATOR:—Your Committee on Finance beg leave to submit the following as their report:

Received for State Mission,	- - - - -	\$ 240 50
“ “ Home Mission,	- - - - -	96 00
“ “ Foreign Mission,	- - - - -	51 00
“ “ Ministerial Education,	- - - - -	112 30
“ “ Infirm Ministers,	- - - - -	12 30
“ “ Colportage,	- - - - -	6 50
“ “ Evangelizing Colored People,	- - - - -	3 50
“ “ Sunday Schools,	- - - - -	12 25
“ “ Minutes,	- - - - -	44 75
“ “ Women’s Societies,	- - - - -	8 00
“ “ Endowment of Howard College,	- - - - -	3 55
Total,	- - - - -	\$ 590 65

Which is respectfully submitted,

J. R. LARKIN.

Appendix N.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

I. C. Brown in account with Bigbee Association.

1885.	Dr.	
Sept. 13	To amount received of Finance Committee, - - -	\$ 585 26
	Cr.	
Sept. 13	By am't paid Rev. T. M. Bailey, Cor. Sec'y, by order of Association (cash and vouchers) - - - - -	\$ 486 16
Sept. 13	By am't paid Rev. B. F. Riley, V. P. Home Board, - - - - -	69 35
Sept. 13	By am't paid Rev. J. D. Cook, Clerk - - - - -	35 75
	Total - - - - -	<u>\$ 585 26</u>

Respectfully submitted, I. C. Brown, Treas.

CONSTITUTION.

1. This body shall be known by the name of the "Bigbee Baptist Association."

2. The officers of this Association shall consist of a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall be elected at each annual meeting, from its own body, and shall hold their office until their successors are elected.

3. The Moderator shall preside over the Association, and shall discharge the duties usually imposed upon officers presiding over deliberative bodies.

4. The Clerk shall keep a fair record of the proceedings of this Association, and shall attend to the printing and distributing of the minutes.

5. The Treasurer shall perform the duties usually assigned to such officer, and shall report annually to the Association.

6. The Association shall hold its meetings at such time and place as it shall, from time to time, appoint.

7. Every church shall be entitled to two delegates, and, also, one for every twenty-five members exceeding twenty-five.

8. This Association disclaims all right of exercising authority over the internal regulations of churches, believing that within their own sphere they are accountable to God only.

9. This Constitution may be altered or amended by the concurrence of three-fourths of the members comprising the Association.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

I. We believe in one living and true God: that in the Godhead are Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

II. We believe that the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and the New Testament is the only rule of faith and practice.

III. We believe that the Church of God is composed of such persons as believe in Jesus Christ and have been baptized; that baptism consists in the immersion of the whole body in water; and that the Lord's Supper should be administered to church members only.

IV. We believe in the Doctrines of Grace taught by the United Baptists; viz: In the depravity of man; in the converting grace of God; in the resurrection of the dead; in the general judgment, in the eternal life of the righteous in the everlasting punishment of the wicked.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1st. At each meeting of this Association, the Moderator shall take the chair, shall call the members to order, shall decide questions of order subject to an appeal, shall open and close the Association with prayer, shall appoint committees when not otherwise ordered, and shall pronounce the decisions to the Association.

2nd. The names of members shall be called each day, and invitations to seats extended to ministering brethren.

3rd. The members shall observe respect to officers and to each other, shall rise when addressing the Moderator, shall confine themselves to the questions, shall avoid personalities, shall not speak without leave more than once until every member shall have opportunity to speak, and shall sustain that bearing to each other which becomes gentlemen and christians.

4th. When a motion is made and seconded, it shall be stated by the Moderator and then shall be in possession of the Association, but may be withdrawn by the mover before amendment or decision.

5th. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received, except to adjourn, to lay on the table, to amend or postpone; which motion shall give precedence in the order enumerated.

6th. All questions except those relating to the Constitution shall be decided by a majority. Any member voting with the majority, may move for a reconsideration on the day of decision. Members may not leave the Association without permission.

7th. When questions of order are not provided for in these rules, they shall be decided according to the rules and regulations governing legislative bodies generally.

8th. The Association shall have power to receive into its body and fellowship such churches as apply for admission; and shall also be empowered to withdraw its fellowship from any church or body of men walking disorderly; and supposed to be unworthy the fellowship of this Association.

CHURCHES, PASTORS, CLERKS, CLERKS, AND PREACHING.

CHURCHES.	COUNTY.	PASTORS.	PASTOR'S POST-OFFICE.	CLERKS.	CLERK'S POST-OFFICE.	DAYS OF PREACHING.
Bethab.		W. F. Pond	Kanterbush	J. F. Did	Kanterbush	14th Sabbath and Saturday before.
Christian Valley		A. R. Scaphoroug	Livingston	J. S. Beaver	Cedrop	1st "
Clinton		J. E. Herring	Butaw	J. R. Phillips	Clinton	3rd "
Concord		F. D. Cook	Cuba Station	J. F. Wilks	Yantley Creek	1st Sabbath and Saturday before.
Cuba		G. S. Anderson	Newberne	J. H. McKinley	Cuba Station	3rd "
Demopolis		J. E. Herring	Butaw	John Sears	Demopolis	1st and 3rd Sabbath nights.
Lula		A. B. Spidel	Belmont	W. M. Simmons	Evana	1st and 2nd Sabbaths.
Lula-ship		J. E. Herring	Butaw	J. L. Fant	Forkland	3rd Sabbath and Saturday before.
Friendship		B. F. Riley	Livingston	Ben Easley	Gainsville	14th Sabbath.
Gainesville		A. J. Freeman	Putnam	J. P. Wood	Bevel's Store	2nd Sabbath and Saturday before.
Hickory Hill		F. A. Freeman	Butler	C. J. Williams	Mount Sterling	3rd "
Hopewell		A. R. Scaphoroug	Livingston	J. V. Tull	Belmont	3rd "
Hopewell		B. F. Riley	Livingston	G. C. Gowsley	Livington	1st and 3rd Sabbaths.
Livingston		C. Vaughan	Livingston	R. J. McGowan	York Station	2d Sabbath and Saturday before.
Mount Hermon		W. F. Pond	Cuba Station	A. J. Melby	Cuba Station	1st Sabbath.
Mount Meriah		F. A. Freeman	Butler	J. E. Turner	Mount Sterling	1st Sabbath.
New Prospect		A. R. Scaphoroug	Livingston	W. P. Brewer	Livingston	14th Sabbath and Saturday before.
Rehoboth		F. A. Freeman	Butler	J. W. Cook	Pushmataha	2nd "
Shoals		A. J. Hearne	Putnam	E. B. Hearne	Gaston	2nd "
Shoals		W. F. Pond	Kanterbush	R. J. Sheple	York Station	2nd "
Stonewall						
Sumner		B. F. Riley	Livingston	W. H. Brown	Sumterville	14th Sabbath.
Sumter		J. D. Cook	Cuba Station	W. L. Pack	York Station	14th Sabbath and Saturday before.
York		J. K. Ryan	Yantley Creek	T. M. Brinson	Rosser	2nd "
Zion						

LIST OF ORDAINED MINISTERS OF THE BIGBELL GATEWAY ASSOCIATION.

Names.	Post-Office.
H. R. Autrey, - - - - -	Ejes, Sumter County, Ala.
J. D. Cook, - - - - -	Cuba Station, Sumter County, Ala.
W. S. Colquhoun, - - - - -	Besser, Sumter County, Ala.
F. A. Foodan, - - - - -	Butler, Choctaw County, Ala.
J. E. Horning, - - - - -	Empire, Greene County, Ala.
J. R. Laidlin, - - - - -	Geedopa, Sumter County, Ala.
W. F. Pouch, - - - - -	Kintobishi, Sumter County, Ala.
B. F. Riley, D. D., - - - - -	Livingston, Sumter County, Ala.
J. K. Ryan, - - - - -	Yandley Creek, Choctaw County, Ala.
A. R. Scarborough, - - - - -	Livingston, Sumter County, Ala.
C. C. Vaughan, - - - - -	Cuba Station, Sumter County, Ala.
T. B. Woodward, - - - - -	Boyd's Store, Sumter County, Ala.

LICENSED MINISTERS OF THE BIGBELL ASSOCIATION

Names.	Post-Office.
L. T. Belcher, - - - - -	Butler, Choctaw County, Ala.
B. F. Brown, - - - - -	York Station, Sumter County, Ala.
I. B. Bunyard, - - - - -	Cuba Station, Sumter County, Ala.
A. P. Evans, - - - - -	Kintobishi, Sumter County, Ala.
H. C. Sanders, - - - - -	Yandley Creek, Choctaw County, Ala.
A. B. Spidel, - - - - -	Belmont, Sumter County, Ala.