MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

UNITY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

Verbena Baptist Church, Chilton Co., Ala.,

Friday and Saturday, Oct. 5th and 6th, 1888.

OFFICERS.

The next session will be held with Ebenezer Church, Stanton, Chilton County, Ala., on Wednesday, October 2nd, 1889.

> MONTGOMERY, ALA.: THE BAPTIST JOE FRINTING COMPANY. 1888.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

- 1. Devotional Exercises, 10 to 11 A. M.
- 2. II A. M. Introductory Sermon.
- 3. The Moderator Call Association to Order.
- 4. Letters Read.
- 5. Organization.
- 6. Rules of Decorum Read.
- 7. Ministers who are not Messengers Invited to Seats.
- 8. Admission of new Churches.
- 9. Correspondents Received and Returned.
- 10. Appoint Committees to Report this Session.
 - a. Preaching.
 - b. Letters and Documents.
 - c. Periodicals.
 - d. Aged and Infirm Ministers and Families of Deceased Ministers.
 - e. Deceased Ministers.
 - f. Finance.
 - g. Special Committees to Report next Session.
 - h. State Missions.
 - i. Home Missions.
 - j. Foreign Missions.
 - k, Education.
 - 1. Ministerial Education.
 - m. Temperance.
 - n. Bible Schools.
- 11. Miscellaneous Business.
- 12. Adjourn.
- 13. Reassemble.
- 14. Previous Minutes Read.
- 15. Report of Committees.
- 16 Committee on Preaching Appoint the Preachers of next Introductory Sermon.
- 17. Miscellaneous Business.
- 18. Treasurer's Report.
- 19. Roll Call.
- 20. Adjourn.

MINUTES.

1. The Unity Baptist Association met in its Thirty-fourth annual session with the Baptist church at Verbena, Ala., Friday, October 5, 1888, at 10 A. M.

2. There being some misunderstanding in regard to the hour of assembling, devotional exercises were engaged in till II A. M., conducted by J. G. Harris.

3. At II A. M. the introductory sermon was preached by W. J. Ruddick, from Numbers 13:30-31.

4. Adjourned till 1:30 P. M.

EVENING SESSION.

5. I:30 P. M. The Moderator, A. J. Brooks, called the body to order. Read the 90th Psalm, and the Association was led in prayer by J. Falkner.

6. The Moderator stated that the former clerk, T. M. Henley, had departed this life since our last session. W. J. Ruddick was elected temporary clerk; E. D. Acker, assistant.

7. Delegates were enrolled as follows:

Autaugaville-O. W. Sherrer.

Bethesda—J. A. Jackson, M. D. Wyatt. Bethsalem—J. R. Vinson, J. Moore. Big Spring—A. J. Wright, J. M. Willis, Wm. Carter, A. J. Carter, J. H. Hedgespath.

Bozeman-J. Falkner, J. H. Marbury. Cane Creek-G. W. Vines. Chestnut Creek -Hardy Jones, M. D. Pinson, Wm. Connell.

Clanton—J. H. Aldridge. Collins Chapel—G. W. Martin.

Corinth-Jesse Jones.

Ebenezer-W. J. Ruddick, I. G. White, A. A. Dyer. Evergreen-A. D. Caver, R. J. Bishop, W. T. Durden. Fellowship-J. R. Hooks, J. H. Chandler. Friendship-J. L. Long, I. Bice. Harmony-J. Griffis, H. E. Wallace, D. F. Golson. Liberty-J. N. Cook, T. J. Blake, S. B. Wilder. Mt. Carmel-W. W. Sansom, J. T. Adams, E. L. Pinson. Mulberty-Lames Pachery.

Mulberry-James Rasberry. New Prospect-G. W. Coburn, B. M. Rawlinson. Plantersville-G. W. Mills, W. N. Huckabee, P. M. Moore. Pleasant Grove-J. M. Selman, M. W. Shoultz. Filgrim's Rest-J. T. Anderson.

Poplar Springs-John Satterwhite.

Providence-E. H. Parrish, T. J. Bates, E. Rawlinson, M. J. Parrish.

Randolph—H. W. Watson. Sardis—A. G. Patrick.

Shids — A. O. Fattick. Shady Grove—A. Andrews. Shiloh – J. W. Scott, T. J. Billingsley, R. L. Williams. Valley Creek—J. W. Mitchell, J. G. Gay. Verbena—W. G. Curry, K. Wells, A. J. Brooks, L. Moore, H. W. Caffey, A. L. Haralson, W. B. Strock.

The letters were read by J. L. Thompson and A. A. 8. Dyer.

9. The letter from the Missionary Society of Liberty church was read and the messengers invited to seats.

10. On motion of W. N. Huckabee, the rules were suspended and A. J. Brooks and K. Wells were re-elected Moderator and Treasurer unanimously.

11. On motion of W. N. Huckabee, W. J. Ruddick was unanimously elected Clerk.

12. The Moderator appointed E. D. Acker Assistant Clerk.

13. W. N. Huckabee read the rules of order.

14. Ministers not messengers invited to seats.

15. Application for membership was made by Alpine church, newly constituted. On motion it was received, after some remarks by W. N. Huckabee. The hand of fellowship was extended to C. W. Klenner and James Hill, the messengers from Alpine.

16. Correspondence called for. Responded to by J. L. Thompson, L. G. Skipper and J. G. Harris, from the Montgomery Association. J. G. Harris was recognized as representing the Alabama Baptist and Board of Ministerial Education.

17. Returned correspondence:

Shelby-W. J. Ruddick, W. N. Huckabee, J. M. Selman. Mulberry-H. W. Watson.
Central-I. Bice, H. Jones, J. Falkner.
State Convention-A. Andrews, J. W. Mitchell, W. J. Ruddick, W.
N. Huckabee, W. G. Curry, O. W Sherter, P. M. Moore, A. J. Brooks
H. W. Caffey, I. G. White, D. F. Golson, J. R. Hooks, I. Griffis, A. D
Caver, J. H. Aldridge, J. H. Marbury, J. N. Billingsley.

A committee of five was appointed, on motion of J. Falkner, to select a delegate and alternate to the Southern Baptist Convention. H. Jones, J. N. Billingsley, M. W. Shoultz, J. R. Hooks, C. W. Klenner, committee.

19. The Moderator appointed the committees to report this session

Preaching-The pastor and deacons of Verbena church.

Letters and Documents-A. A. Dyer, P. M. Moore, W. W. Carter, Jr.

Deceased Ministers—G. W. Mills, J. Griffis, John Moore. Periodicals—H. W. Watson, J. W. Mitchell, G. A. Dubose. Aged and Infirm Ministers—J. M. Selman, M. D. Pinson, R. L.

Williams.

Finavce-J. H. Marbury, W. A. Smith, J. H. Aldridge. Special-I. G. White, J. O. Butler, S. B. Wilder.

20. On motion of W. N. Huckabee, the Mission topic was divided into three divisions-State, Home and Foreign. Education into two-Education in General and Ministerial Education. Committees to report next session.

21. Elder J. Falkner asked that he be excused from preaching the missionary sermon. On motion the request was granted, after remarks by W. N. Huckabee, J. Falkner and W. G. Curry,

22. W. N. Huckabee offered the following:

Resolved, That a committee of three ministers belonging to this Association be appointed by the Moderator, whose duty it shall be, in vacation, to consider the application of any beneficiary who may wish to attend any of our schools, having been impressed with a call to the ministry, and recommend them to the Board of Ministerial Education at Montgomery. Discussed by J. G. Harris, W. N. Huckabee, L. G. Skipper, W. J. Ruddick, A. J. Bro ks and W. B Strock, and adopted.

23. L. G. Skipper was appointed to preach at. 7:30 P. M.

24. Adjourned till 9 A. M. to-morrow. Prayer by A. G. Patrick.

SECOND DAY.

25. 9 A. M. The Association met and was led in prayer by H. W. Watson.

26. Minutes of vesterday read and corrected.

27. The committee of five to select a delegate and alternate to the Southern Baptist Convention, reported W. J. Ruddick and W. N. Huckabee respectively. Reported adopted.

28. The Moderator, as chairman of the Executive Commit_ tee, made a report in regard to Autaugaville, reading W. J. Ruddick's report to the committee. On motion of J. Falkner, the report was ordered spread on the minutes.

29. Report on missions read by J. Falkner. There being some objections, it was recommitted.

30. Report on Sunday-schools read by W. N. Huckabee After remarks by W. N. Huckabee, W. J. Ruddick, H. W. Watson, I. G. Harris, J. L. Thompson, L. G. Skipper, J. Satterwhite, G. W. Vines, J. R. Vinson, J. N. Billingsley, James Hill, J. N. Cook, W. D. Goss, A. J. Brooks, J. Falkner, W. G. Curry, the report was adopted.

31. The Moderator appointed the committees to report next session:

Ministerial Board-W. N. Huckabee, W. G. Curry, J. Falkner.

State Missions-J. W. Mitchell, J. M. Ponder, J. H. Chandler, of Fellowship.

Home Missions—J. L. Long, G. W. Coburn, D. F. Golson.
Home Missions—J. W. Caffey, J. A. Jackson, P. M. Moore.
Education—A. A. Dyer, E H. Parrish, J. T. Adams.
Ministerial Education—W. J. Ruddick, J. M. Selman, J. R. Hooks.
Temperance--Hardy Jones, J. Falkner, W. D. Goss.
Family Tra'ning—G. W. Mills, J. G. Gay, A. G. Patrick.
Sunday Schools—S. B. Wilder, J. H. Chandler of Clanton, G. W. Vines.

32. The Committee on Missions made their report as corrected.

33. Pending the discussion of the report on missions, a motion to appoint a committee of apportionment prevailed. Committee: H. W. Watson, A. G. Wallace, J. M. Willis.

34. Discussion of the report on missions was participated in by J. Falkner, A. Andrews, W. J. Ruddick, H. W. Watson, W. N. Huckabee, W. G. Curry and J. G. Harris A collection was taken up for missions amounting to \$22.60, and the report was adopted.

35. The report on Aged and Infirm Ministers was read by G. W. Mills and adopted, after remarks by A. Andrews.

36. Adjourned one hour for dinner ; prayer by H. Jones.

EVENING SESSION.

37. The Association met at 1:30 P. M.; prayer by J. M. Selman.

38. The report on Letters and Documents read by A. A. Dyer, and amendment to substitute Mt. Carmel for Ebenezer, was lost. After remarks by A. A. Dyer, W. J. Ruddick and A. Andrews, the report was adopted.

39. H. W. Watson read the report on Periodicals. After remarks by J. G. Harris and W. N. Huckabee, the report was adopted.

40. Report on Family Training read by H. W. Watson. The report was discussed by A. J. Brooks, W. J. Ruddick, J. G. Harris, A. Andrews, W. N. Huckabee, and adopted.

41. J. M. Selman read the report on Deceased Ministers, which was adopted.

42. W. G. Curry reported as follows : W. N. Huckabee to preach in the Baptist church at II A. M.; J. G. Harris to lecture on David and Absalom, at 4 P. M; G. W. Mills to preach Introductory Sermon at next session; H. W. Watson, alternate; J. M. McCord to preach the Missionary Sermon at next session.

43. The report on Education was read by W. J. Ruddick and adopted, after some remarks by W. J. Ruddick, A. Andrews, J. G. Harris, W. N. Huckabee and L. G. Skipper.

44. The Finance committee made their report. Adopted.

45. The rules were suspended and it was ordered that 900 copies of the minutes be printed and that \$65 be appropriated for that purpose and to pay the Clerk.

46. K. Wells, Treasurer, made his report, and the report adopted.

47. A motion prevailed that all funds for missions be forwarded to the State Mission Board and divided as it shall deem best.

48. Adjourned till 7 P. M. Prayer by J. W. Mitchell.

49. The Association was called to order after prayer by J. L. Long.

50. The report on Temperance was read by J. O. Butler.

51. A motion by A. Andrews limiting speeches to five minutes was adopted.

52. The discussion on Temperance was engaged in by J. O. Butler, W. B. Strock, A. Andrews, W. A. Smith, J. Faikner, W. J. Ruddick, H. W. Watson, and W. N. Huckabee, and the report was adopted.

53. The report of the special committee was submitted by L. G. White, after some remarks by W. N. Huckabee, H. W. Watson, A. J. Brooks, H. Jones and W. G. Curry; time was extended to J. G. Harris to explain the Laymen's Movement; discussion resumed by Wm. Connell, and A. Andrews, and the report was adopted.

54. H. W. Watson submitted the report of the committee on apportionment. A motion to reject the same was adopted, after some remarks by J. Falkner, H. W. Watson and L. G. Skipper.

55. A motion to adopt apportionment of last year was adopted, after discussion by J. Falkner, A. J. Brooks, W. J. Ruddick, H. W. Watson, W. N. Huckabee and H. Jones.

56. J. W. Mitchell offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association be extended to the membership of Verbena Baptist church and the friends in the community for kind hospital ties and courtesies given to this body.

57. The following was offered by A. J. Brooks, J. Falkner in the chair.

Resolved, That when this Association adjourns it shall be to meet on Wednesday before the first Sabbath in October, 1889, at 10 A. M. The hour from to to II be used in devotional exercises, at which hour the Introductory Sermon will be preached.

A collection was taken up for Sister Nancy Norris, a blind sister, which amounted to \$11.31. I. Bice was entrusted with the funds and directed to take receipt.

59. On motion the Executive Committee was continued, substituting the name of W. G. Curry in place of L. G. Skipper.

60. It was ordered that a collection be taken up for missions after the TF o'clock sermon.

61. Roll was called and absentees erased.

62. The "sweet by-and-by" was sung; the parting hand given ; prayer offered by Elder A. Andrews, and the Association adjourned to meet with Ebenezer church, Stanton, Chilton county, Alabama, on Wednes lav, the second day of October, 1889.

A. J. BROOKS, Moderator.

W. J. RUDDICK, Clerk.

The appointee, W. N. Huckabee, preached at the Baptist church on Sabbath, October 7th, from the text, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ."-Romans 1:16.

There being a very large congregation, W. J. Ruddick was asked to hold service in the Methodist church. Text: Acts 26th chapter and 29th verse. Amount collected for missions, \$17.11.

J. G. Harris delivered his lecture at 4 P. M., as appointed.

May God bless the service of the day.

W. I. RUDDICK, Clerk.

REPORT ON FAMILY TRAINING.

Your committee on Family Training report :

It is the duty of parents and others having charge of families, to consult the sacred Scriptures to learn the art of training those under their charge. Parents must learn that God is holy, that man is sinful, that Jesus Christ is man's Savior, that the Bible is man's sufficient guide in faith and practice, to be able to train up their children; and such as are under their charge must understand the Scriptures, and must love God.

The Bible not only gives parents the correct rule of training chil-dren, but also instructs children to honor and obey their parents. "Honor thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." Ex. 20:12. Paul, in his epist e to the Ephesians, states it thus, "Children obey

your parents in the Lord, for this is right." "Honor thy father and thy

mother, which is the first commandment with promise, that it may be well with thee and thou mayest live long on the earth. And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

Solomon the wise man states it thus: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;" "My son, hear the instruction of thv father and forsake not the law of thy mother;" "My son, forget not my law, but let thine heart keep my commandments."

Those of us who have families cannot go astray in family training if we take God's Word for our guide.

Respectfully submitted,

H. W. WATSON, Ch'n.

REPORT ON DECEASED MINISTERS.

Your committee to whom was referred the subject of Deceased Ministers report, that in the dispensation of an Allwise Providence, it has pleased our Divine Master to spare our brethren in the ministry. None have died during the year. Yet while the ministry has been spared to us, God has seen fit to remove from among us our beloved brother, T. M. Henley, the Clerk of our Association.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. SELMAN, Ch'n.

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Your committee beg leave to report that from information gleaned from different sources, this important subject is not yet receiving the attention its importance demands in the bounds of our Association. However, we are gratified to report that many permanent schools have been established in our bounds, and our people are urged to patronize them, as uneducated children are greatly unfitted for the business of the world, or the work of the Master.

It is with pleasure we report the success of the first session of Howard College at East Lake, and now that Dr. B. Riley, of our own State, has been elected President, it is to be hoped that it will continue to prosper. Many Baptist young men who contemplate attending the College or University should first consider the claims and also the advantages of the Howard and decide for our own college. Steps are to be taken to reise \$6,,000 to build a dornitory for the Howard, and we are requested to contribute towards its erection. Belonging as it does to the Baptists of Alabama, we should do this and thereby help to build an institution we will be proud of.

The Judson Female Institute, at Marion, continues to prosper and flourish, and under its present management promises well for the future.

While it is the duty of all Baptist parents to educate their children, those in the humbler walks of life are compelled to patronize their home schools; yet some who are able to patronize the Howard and Judson, may think of sending their sons and daughters elsewhere; to such we say "do not do so," but patronize our own.

Ministerial Education continues to gain friends, and very properly so. Its necessity is now very apparent to every thoughtful Baptist. Our churches are demanding men of learning and intelligence, as well as piety, and as our children are being educated and parents are reading more than formerly, the minister must be well trained to meet the growing demand on his mind.

Three of our young ministers have been at school the past year: J. M. Selman at Randolph, J. M. Kailin at the Seminary and S. J. Strock at the Howard; the first two were assisted by the Board of Ministerial Education. This cause needs our offerings, as the number of young ministers are increasing. Let us give as the importance of this part of our work demands. Respectfully submitted,

W. J. RUDDICK, Ch'n.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Your committee on Temperance submit the following :

We congratulate the Association on the progress made in the temperance cause. The dram shops are a thing of the past in the territory covered by this Association, and we have it in our power to keep them so, if our efforts be properly directed.

Some of our counties have prohibition, and there are but few that have not prohibitory laws covering a large part of their territory. One or two counties that were prohibited have changed in favor of liquor, but we believe this will not last long, as the temperance sentiment is growing from day to day. The evil resulting from the sale of intoxicants is so great, that the people seeing its bad effects will hasten to vote it out at the first opportunity.

The temperance cause is gaining ground in all our States, though it was defeated in two State elections, but the sentiment is stronger there to-day in favor of temperance than it was then, not near the amount of whisky being sold as formerly.

Laws are being passed from year to year to prevent yellow fever and other contagious diseases, and large sums of money are spent annually to protect the health and lives of our population; while by our license laws we are permitting a much greater evil to ravage our land, doing more harm, killing more people, creating more misery, making more people widows or orphans than all pestilential diseases together, that have ever visited our land.

It is the duty of every Christian and every citizen to stand squarely on the side of temperance, good morals and the best interest of the community.

From the most reliable statistics obtainable the cost of alcoholic beverages to the people of the United States is about nine hundred millions of dollars, which is considerably more than the cost of all the bread and meat consumed by the people of this country. This large amount had much better be spent for bread than spent for drink. Its effect is evil and that continually.

Respectfully submitted,

I. O. BUTLER, Ch'n.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

We beg leave to report the following :

1. That the Associational Sabbath School Convention meet with Big Spring church, Saturday before the third Sabbath in July, 1889.

Committee on Programme-Pastor and deacons of Big Spring church.

2. District Meetings as follows :

1st District with Fellowship church on Friday before the fifth Sabbath in December, 1888; committee—Pastor and deacons of Fellowship,

2d District with Liberty church, Friday before the fifth Sabbath in March, 1889; committee—Pastor and deacons of Liberty.

3rd District with Providence church, Friday before the fifth Sabbath in June, 1889; committee—Pastor and deacons of Providence.

4th District with Valley Creek church, Friday before the fifth Sabbath in September, 1889; committee—Pastor and deacons of Valley Creek.

We also recommend that each church in this Association send

delegates to the Sabbath School Convention and district meetings, and that they be instructed to remain until the close of each session, or meeting.

There has been organized during the past year, a Layman's Association the object of which is to assist in church work and urge upon and teach the brethren to make greater efforts for the cause of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. And we recommend that the Association and churches appoint delegates to its meeting, soon to be held, and give it all the aid and encouragement they can.

Respectfully submitted,

I. G. WHITE, Ch'n,

Recommendations or suggestions to raise amounts asked for by the State Mission Board and Board of Ministerial Education, as follows :

		Ministerial	
	Missions.	Education.	
Autaugaville	\$ 4.00	\$ 100	
Bethesda	16 00	4 00	
Bethsalem	4 00	I 00	
Big Spring	16 00	4 00	
Bozeman		35 00	
Care Creek	8 oo	2 00	
Chestnut Creek	20 00	5 00	
Clanton	32 00	8 00	
Corinth		3 00	
Ebenezer	. 24 00	6 00	
Evergreen	. 12 00	3 00	
Fellowship	20 00	5 00	
Friendship		2 00	
Harmony		4 00	
Liberty		3 00	
Mt. Carmel		3 00	
Mt. Olive		• 1 00	
Mt. Zion		6 00	
Mulberry		6 00	
New Prospect:		3 00	
Plantersville		5 00	
Pleasant Grove	. 8 00	2 00	
Pilgrims' Rest	. 8 00	2 00	
Providence	. 24 00	6 00	
Randolph	. 24 00	6 00	
Sardis		2 00	
Shady Grove	. 20 00	5 CO	
Shiloh		5 00	
Valley Creek	. 12 00	3 00	
Verbena		25 00	
Alpine	. 4 00	I 00	

DISTRICTS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

FIRST.	SECOND.	THIRD.	FOURTH.
Autaugaville	Bethsalem	Cane Creek	Chestnut Hill
Bethel	Big Springs	Chestnut Creek	Ebenezer
Bethesda	Bozeman	Clanton	Mt. Carmel
Evergreen	Friendship	Corinth	Mulberry
Fellowship	Liberty	Mt. Zion	Pleasant Grove
Harmony	New Prospect.		Pilgrims' Rest
Mt. Olive	Shiloh	Providence	Randolph
Plantersville	Verbena		Sardis
Shady Grove			Valley Creek
Alpine			

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF MINISTERS OF THE ASSO-CIATION.

A. Andrews,				Ala
G. W. Mills,	Plantersville,	" "	"	"
W. N. Huckabee,	"	6 1	" "	" "
J. W. Mitchell,	" "	* 6	" "	"
W. J. Ruddick,	Stanton, C	hilton	county.	Ala
W. H. Watson,	Randolph,			Ala
T. J. Elam,	"	**	"	
J. M. Selman,	" "	4.6	"	"
J. A. Mullens,	Clanton, C	hilton	county	
G. P. Olive,	Verbena,		**	• • •
Isaac Bice,	"	"	65	"
J. L. Long,	" "	" "	" "	**
Hardy Jones.		"	"	6.6
W G Curry,		"	"	
J. R. Caldwell,	Deatsville,	Fimore	county	66
J. R. Johnson,	Dealsville,	Linnoi C	. county	,
I M Kailin	Clayton	"	"	"
J. M. Kailin,		hilton	"	"
C. W. Hare,	Verbena, C	Innton		
LICENTIA	TES.			
W. W. Jones,	Verbena, (Chilton	county.	Ala
J. M. Dennis,	Verbena,	"	"	" "
John Taylor,	Verbena,	* 6	"	4.8
J. M. Thacker,	Jumbo,	"	"	" "
A. G. Patrick,	Kincheon,	" "	"	"
E. L. Manning,	"	"	£ 6	66
W. M. Wood,	Lily,	**	" "	"
T. J. Billingsley,	Kincheon,	"	"	
S. J. Strock,	East Lake,	"	"	66
o. j. ouvert	Last Barc,			

FINANCE REPORT.

We, the committee on Finance, beg leave to submit the following report :

General Missions from churches	5 56 6T
General Missions collected to-day	
General Missions collected Sabbath	17 11
Foreign Missions.	
State Missions	122 22
Home Missions	59 90
Ministerial Education	127 70
Associational purposes	18 65 ·
Minutes.	54 59
Sister Nancy Norris.	11 31-\$ 867 38
Vouchers sent	
Vauchers not sent	
Cash	
Cash	28 42-\$ 867 38
TREASURER'S REPORT.	1 4 10
K. WELLS, in account with Unity Baptist Association:	
To amount sent up by churches, all sources	<u>-</u> \$ 867 38
By vouchers sent up	297 30
By vouchers not sent up	346 25
By vouchers Sister Nancy Norris	11 31
By clerk for minutes and services	65 00
By cash on hand for Missions to be forwarded	
to W. B. Crumpton	J47 52-\$ 867 38

HOWARD COLLEGE LIBRARY

REFORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Executive committee held one session and recommended that aid be given at Autaugaville. The follow ng is the report of W. J. Ruddick, missionary pastor: Since the last session of the Association I have performed the following work: Miles traveled, 525; sermons preached, 22; received by 1-tter, 2; baptized, 1; awaiting baptism, 2; present membership, to, in full fellowship. Contributions for missions from this church, \$3.32; salary from church, \$25.00; from the State Board \$50,00.

There have been some other labors performed, of, which no account has been kept, and the miles travel, d and sermons preached may not be exact, but are about correct. I made my report to the State Mission Board quarterly. The church is hopeful of her future, and is in earnest in her work. We expect to work and pray, and pray and work, relying on the promises of our Savior, who said, Lo, I am with you alway, even to the end of the world.

Respectfully submitted,

A. J. BROOKS, Ch'n.

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

Your committee on Missions submit the following report: We, as a denomination, profess to be Missionary Baptists, yet out of the nearly one hundred thousand white Baptists in this State, there is not one fourth of the number that contribute anything to this cause; and of those who do contribute at all, these contributions are a mere pittance out of their abundance.

This ought not so to be. Were each one of us to contribute "according as God has prospered us," which is the Scripture rule, there would be no lack of funds to push forward the work which God has committed to our hands. We do not think that our people, as a general rule, are opposed to giving for this cause, but it is for want of information on the subject, and yet the necessary information is accessible to each one of us.

The Scriptures abound with this information, but we fail to study their teachings on this all important question, and we are satisfied that many of our ministers of the gospel are not without fault, in failing to impress this subject on the minds of their hearers. Under the old dispensation the people were required to bring up the tithes, which was one tenth of their gross income, not only of their farms, vineyards, olive yards, but also of their flocks and herds. In addition to this there were their thank offerings, free -will offerings and the firstlings of all their flocks of the clean beasts, and such as were unclean those firstlings were required to be redeemed by the substitution of a clean beast in its stead. It is remarkable that so long as the law was strictly observed there has never meen a more prosperous people on the face of the earth' but when they failed to observe it, great calamities overtook them, such as famine, pestilence and war, until eventually they were overcome by their enemies and carried into captivity out of their good land.

We know of no good reason why the Lord should not punish us for disobedience to his commandments as he did them.

In Heb. 13:16, Pail says, "But to do good and *communicate* forget not, for with such sacrifice God is well pleased." If this passage "to *communicate*" means to *contribute*, these contributions he calls sacrifice. Under the old dispensation the sacrifices mainly consisted of animals, birds, &c., in which the blood of the living creature had to be "shed, which was typical of that "blood which cleanseth from all sin," but now there "remaineth no more shedding the blood of things sacrificed." Yet we are permitted and required to make sacrifices for the glory and honor of God. This is not only a duty, but a privilege, thereby laying up "treasure in heaven," which all ought to do.

No doubt many of us have often thought that it would have been a great pleasure for us, had we lived in that day to go up to Jerusalem with our sacrifices and offerings, that being the only place where the sacrifice could be lawfully made, but we have greater privileges than had the Jews; our sacrifices can be made anywhere and at any time.

God intends to conquer the world and to subdue all his enemies, and put them under his feet, through his people, his Word and Spirit. We have his Word and Spirit, if we are indeed children of God, and he has greatly blessed us, and intends to make us a blessing to others.

We are now engaged in this great work which God has committed to us, and in his Word he commands us to be "diligent in business, fearing the Lord."

Paul also speaks of the contributions made by the church as a "grace," and desires that one of the churches to which he was writing should "abound in this grace also," that is, the grace of giving.

Our needs at present are very great, but we will not undertake to enumerate them in this report, as every one can read of them in our religious papers, which ought to be taken and read by every family. We recommend to our pastors and churches, that in each church a committee be appointed to look after the business of raising contributions for missions, and that collections be taken up at regular intervals, at least as often as once a quarter. We also recommend that the envelope system be adopted in each church.

In the 10th chapter of 2 Corinthians, 13th to 16th verses, Paul teaches us that in the churches of that day there was a rule as to the giving, by which their ministers were enabled (enlarged) by them to carry the gospel to the regions beyond.

It seems from the trachings and practice of the Apostles, that they made provision for both Home and Foreign Missions. In Gal: 2:9, Paul says: "And when James, Cephas and John (who seemed to be pillars) perceived the grace given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of f-llowship, that we should go unto the heathen and they to the circumcision."

These arrangements were made by the Apostles for the preaching of the gospel, both to their own people and also in heathen lands.

Respectfully submitted,

I. FALKNER, Ch'n.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT.

We, your committee to whom was referred the report on Sunday schools, beg leave to submit the following:

From the report of the committee on programme, appointed at the last session of this body to prepare for holding an associational Sunday school, we glean the following:

There was a convention of Sunday schools held with Chestnut Creek church embracing the first Sunday in August, 1888. There were eight schools represented in the meeting, with an average attendance of 322 teachers and pupils.

Out of the thirty-one churches represented in this body we find that only eighteen report Sunday schools, and only twelve report the number of pupils attending school These twelve churches report 576 pupils in attendance at Sunday school. This, we think, is a very good showing for these twelve churches. But what about the other nineteen? Six of them report Sunday schools, but do not give any statistical report, and thirteen are silent entirely. We cannot say whether these thirteen have any schools or not. The day for presenting argument in favor of Sunday schools, we think, has passed away, but we find confronting us an evil which is as inflexible and as hard to manage as is the human will. We refer to the want of a systematic statistical report from the churches. We know no better way to overcome the evil than to recommend to the Association a certain form of church letter, and earnestly desire these churches to fill them out. If these churches do not have schools, we do pray that the Lord may send light into their minds and hearts, that they may be led to inquire the way of the Lord more perfectly.

W. N. HUCKABEE, Ch'n.

REPORT ON AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS.

We, your committee appointed to look after aged and infirm ministers, their wives and children, beg leave to report that from the best information we can obtain, there are none in the bounds of the Unity Association who are entitled to the benefactions of our association except sisters Longcrier and Goss.

Respectfully submitted,

G. W. MILLS, Ch'n.

REPORT ON LETTERS AND DOCUMENTS.

Your committee beg leave to submit the following report:

Having carefully examined the letters entrusted to us, we find that there are thirty churches represented out of thirty-five.

We also find that two churches ask for help from the State board— Autaugaville and Plantersville. One church, Pleasant Grove, asks aid for one of its members, J. M. Selman, which we respectfully refer to this body.

We find that fifteen of the thirty-five churches report Sabbath schools, and only ten report prayer meetings. We would earnestly recommend that each church organize a weekly prayer meeting and Sabbath school, and trust in the promises of God to prosper the cause.

We find that J. W. Mitchell has been ordained to the Gospel ministry by Valley Creek church. We find the work at Autaugaville and Plantersville hopeful, and recommend that the work be continued. All of our churches are represented by delegates or letters except Bethel, Mt. Olive and Mt. Zion.

Ebenezer and Mt. Carmel ask for the next session of this body, and we recommend that it be held at Ebenezer.

Only one church recommends the division of the Association.

Collins Chapel and Poplar Springs ask for letters of dismission, which we recommend be granted.

We recommend that Alpine church be added to the first district.

We also find that there is one Ladies' Mission Society and one "Sunbeam" Society reported in the Association.

We are sorry to report that but few churches report revivals, and several report no increase.

A. A. DYER, Ch'n.

REPORT ON PERIODICALS.

Your committee on Periodicals report:

Pure reading informs the mind and instructs the heart of the reader. We recommend as worthy of support our own paper, the Alabama Baptist, and insist that our Baptist families give it an enlarged support.

Should any of our membership desire other reading more than the Baptist, we recommend as good periodicals the Christian Index and

Kind Words, published at Atlanta, Ga.; the Biblical Recorder, published at Raleigh, N. C.; the Religious Herald, of Richmond, Va.; the Foreign Mission Journal, published at Richmond, Va.; Our Home Field, at Atlanta, Ga., and the various publications of the American Baptist Publication Society, as worthy of our patronage and careful reading. H. W. WATSON, Ch'n.

ARTICLE OF FAITH.

I. We believe in one only living and true God—the Father, Son and Holy Ghost; these three are one—1 Corinthians 8:6; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 5:7.

 We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and the only correct rule of faith and practice-2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:15.
 We believe in the doctrine of election, and that God chose his

3. We believe in the doctrine of election, and that God chose his people in Christ before the foundation of the world, through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth—I Peter 1 2 5; Ephesians 1:4; 2: Thessalonians 2:13.

4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin -Romans 3:23; 5:12; 3:10.

5. We believe in man's inability to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature—Romans 5:6; John 6:44; Ephesians 2:1-5; Phillipians 2:13.

6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Christ--Romans 5:1; Galatians 2:16-20.

7 We believe that the saints shall bersevere in grace and never finally fall away—2 Corinthians 12:9; Colossians 3:4; Romans 8:38:39.

8. We believe that baptism and the Lord's supper are ordinances of the church of Christ, and that true believers are the only proper subjects, and that immersion only is baptism—Matthew 3:5, 6, 13, 16; Acts 2:37-38; Acts 8:38-39.

9. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgment—Acts 17:31; John 5:28-39.

10. We believe that the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting—Matthew 25:46.

11. We believe that no minister has the right to administer the ordinances except those who are called of God and have been regularly baptized, approved by the church and come under the impositions of hands by a Presbytery—1 Timothy 4:14; Acts 26:16.

12. We believe that none but regularly baptized believers have a right to partake of the Lord's Supper—Acts 2:42-44; 2 Corinthians 6:14;, 1 Corinthians 11:23, 29.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I. This Association shall be known as "THE UNITY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION," and shall be composed of delegates from such churches as constitute, or may hereafter unite with this body.

ART. 2. The design of its labors shall be to promote the cause of Christ and to encourage those objects supported by Baptists generally. ART. 3. This Association shall hold its sessions annually, at such

a time and place as it may appoint. ART. 4. The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, a Clerk and a Treasurer—to be elected at each session—who shall perform all the duties appertaining to such offices in similar bodies; and in case of the absence of any officer, one pro tem shall be appointed by the Association until an election is declared.

ART. 5. A record of the proceedings of this Association shall be

kept by the Clerk, and, as soon as practicable after the close of each session, he shall superintend the printing of the minutes thereof, and shall furnish each church with a suitable number of copies.

ART. 6. Any church subscribing to our Abstract of Faith may be admitted into this Association by consent of the members in session.

ART. 7. Any church orthodox in faith and practice, which has complied with this Constitution, may withdraw from this body by the consent of a majority of the members in session.

ART. 8. This Association, in regular session, may dissolve its connection with any church which may differ with it in doctrine or practice.

ART. 9. Any church of this Association, with thirty members or less, shall be entitled to two delegates, and one additional delegate for every additional twenty-five members or fractional part thereof.

ART. 10. It shall be the duty of each church to forward a written communication to every session, specifying the names of its delegates. and the state of the church

ART. II. If a difficulty should arise in a church, which cannot be settled thereby, the church shall call aid from two or more sister churches; if the matter cannot then be adjusted, it shall be referred to the Association for advice.

ART. 12. All queries must be acted upon by the churches in which they may originate, and when they fail to be disposed of therein, must be reported, by letter, to the Association; the decision thereof shall be considered an advisory answer.

ART. 13 This Association shall have a fund supplied by the voluntary contributions of the churches, and all moneys thus contributed shall be transmitted and paid over to the Finance Committee, and said committee to pay over to the Treasurer.

ART. 14. Any article of this Constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of two-thirds of the delegates present at any regular session. Amendment to Constitution adopted October, 1886:

This body, realizing the great value of Sabbath Schools, will hold

a Sabbath School Convention annually, within its bounds, at such time and place as may be fixed.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

2. The officers of the Association shall be chosen by the suffrages of the members present.

3. The Moderator shall be considered a judge of order, and shall have discretionary right to call to order at any time.

4. Any member not satisfied with his decision may appeal to the Association the same day, but at no other time.

5. But one member shall speak at a time, and he shall rise, and obtaining permission, proceed; such permission being signified by the Moderator naming the person, or otherwise.

6. No person shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject; and every motion made and seconded, in order shall come under the consideration of the Association, and be decided, unless withdrawn by him who made it.

7. Every case taken up by the Association shall be decided or withdrawn before another is offered.

8. When a question has been introduced, and sufficient time allowed for debate, the Moderator shall take the voice of the Association upon the subject; those in the affirmative shall make it known by saying aye, and those in the negative, nay. If a division on the question is called for, the decision shall be made by the members rising totheir feet. 9. The appellation "brother" shall be used in the Association when one brother addresses another, but this article shall not be so construed as to ignore the Moderator.

10. Any member wishing to :et. e snall obtain permission from the Moderator.

11. The names of the delegates shall be called as often as the Association shall direct.

12. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, provided he appoints another to his seat; but shall not vote unless the Association be equally divided. He may also appoint committees necessary for transacting any business that may, from time to time, come before the Association.

13. Any member violating these rules shall be reproved by the Moderator, but only on the day such violation occurs.

14. These rules shall be read at the opening of every session of the Association, and may be altered or amended whenever a majority of the membership present shall deem it necessary.

UNITY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION-STATISTICS, 1888.

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*Missionary Society of Liberty reports \$12 80 for Missions. †Organized During the year-On October 30, 1887, Alfine Church, with twelve members.

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ne Church, with twelve members.

Year.	Place of Meeting.	Preacher of Intro- ductory Sermon.	Moderator.	Clerk.	Treasurer.
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1886	Clanton.	Hardy Jones J Falkner W J Ruddick	A] Brooks A] Brooks	T M Henley T M Henley	K Wells

TIME AND PLACES OF MEETING AND OFFICERS OF THE AS-SOCIATION FROM ITS ORIGIN TO THE PRESENT.

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