

Wood

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY



MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

NEW RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

SHEPHERD CHURCH,

October 8th and 9th, 1898.



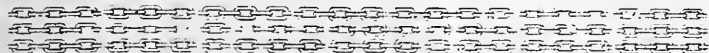
G. W. GRAVLEE, Moderator,	- - - - -	Newtonville, Ala.
S. W. CLEMENTS, Clerk,	- - - - -	New Lexington, Ala.
A. N. REEVES, Corresponding Secretary,	- - - - -	Ballard, Ala.

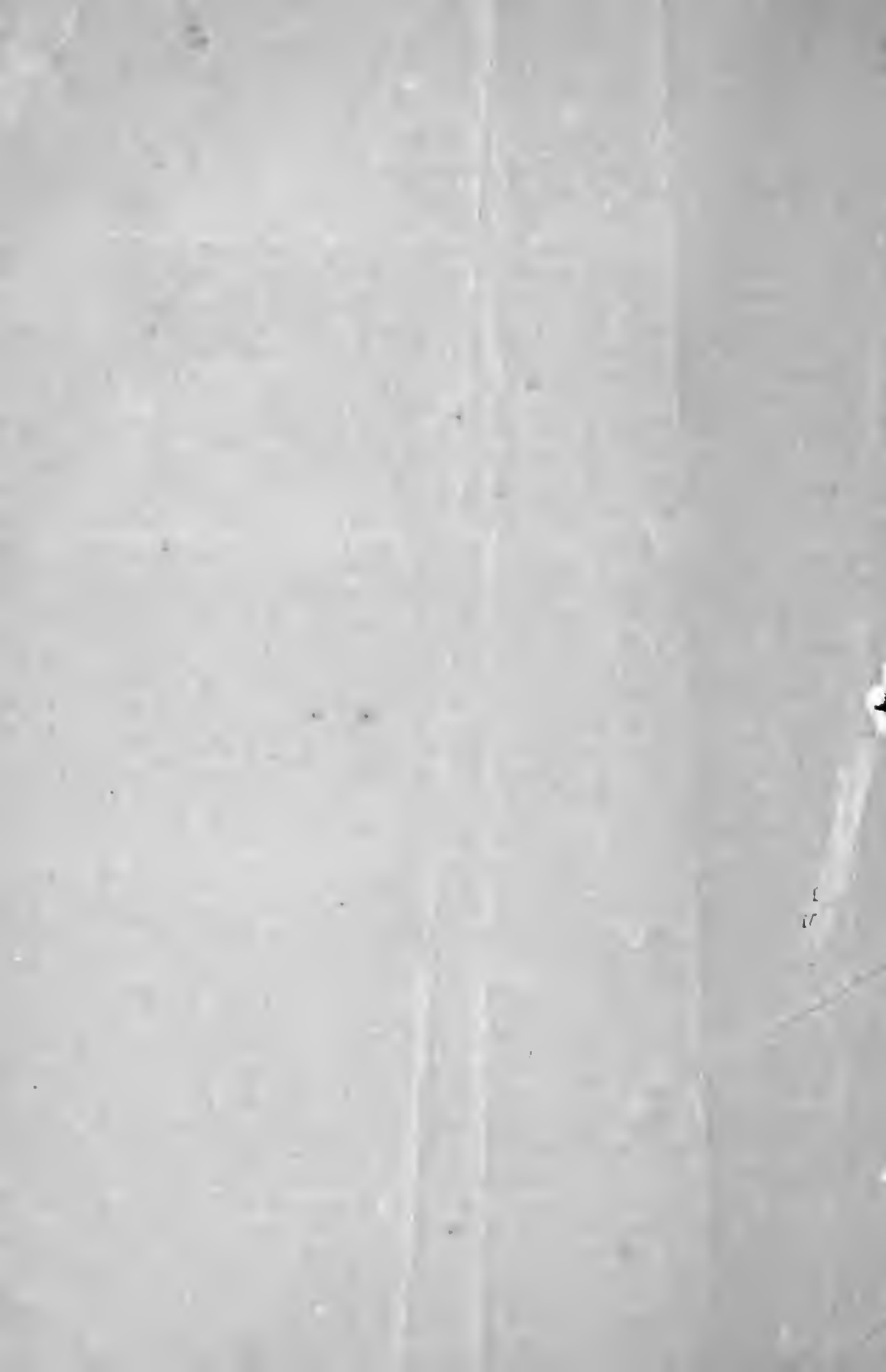


The next session of this Association will be held with Mt. Pleasant Church, commencing on Saturday before the 2nd Sunday in October, 1899.



GAZETTE, PRINT., TUSKALOOSA.





MINUTES.

Newtonville, Ala., Oct. 8th, 1898.

The 28th annual session of the New River Baptist Association convened with Shepherd Church, on the 8th day of October, 1898, and in the absence of the appointees, the Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder A. N. Reeves, from Romans 1st and 16th to a large and very attentive audience. After which the body adjourned to partake of a bountiful repast, which was furnished on the ground.

Reassembled at 1.30.

After devotional exercises the body was called to order by Elder G. W. Gravlee. The former Moderator and clerk being absent, on motion Elder G. W. Gravlee was made moderator pro tem and Brother S. W. Clements clerk pro tem, List of churches called and letters presented. Brethren J. H. Newton and P. P. Mayfield read letters.

NAMES OF CHURCHES AND DELEGATES ENROLLED.

Shepherd—Rev. G. W. Gravlee, W. A. Vice and P. P. Mayfield.

Pleasant Hill—J. W. Hosmer*, John Sparks*, J. H. Newton. J. R. Chambliss.

Rehoboth—B. T. Selman*, J. L. Moore, W. T. Labert*.

Rocky Mount—J. R. Agerton, W. S. Bobo, J. F. Freeman.

Friendship—W. J. Aikins*, W. J. Blankenship*, J. H. Mahearg, R. R. White.

Unity—A. N. Reeves, J. S. Shirley*, W. B. Shirley*.

Salem—S. W. Clements, W. B. Davis*, W. T. Kelley*.

Mt. Lebanon—J. F. Willis*, J. W. Ballinger, J. F. Holliman.

Pleasant Grove—Samuel Steven, J. Henderson*, J. R. Palmer*.

Philadelphia—J. S. Townsend*, G. W. McGinnis, James Sawyers*.

Elbethel—W. F. Gilpin, W. T. Bobo*, Thos. Loftin*, W. J. Hassll.

Pilgrim Rest—J. W. Freeman, S. L. Rainey, J. S. Yerby.

Fayette—J. C. Yerby, E. C. Lawlis, J. M. Steward.

Macedonia—J. E. Cox*, S. M. Lindsay, J. A. South.

Concord—J. Oatswal, G. A. Doughty, M. C. Patterson.

Mt. Pleasant—S. L. Stocks, R. L. Biard, G. H. White.

Liberty—Walter E. Gardner, James V. Montgomery, H. H. Gardner.

Bankston—W. G. Baker*, J. L. Willingham*, G. W. Divers.

By motion omitted reading Constitution, Rules of Decorum and Articles of Faith. The moderator requested Brethren Ashcraft of Sipsy Association and Brother Godfrey of Yellow Creek Association to act as tellers.

Proceeded to election of moderator and clerk which resulted in the choice of Rev. G. W. Gravlee as moderator, and S. W. Clements clerk, and A. N. Reaves, corresponding secretary. After a few appropriate remarks by moderator proceeded to business.

1st. By motion a memorial from Mt. Lebanon Church was received and referred to Committee on Documents.

2nd. Calls for letters of petition from any church or churches wishing to become members of this Association.

3rd. Invited visiting ministers not delegates to seats with us.

4th. Called for correspondents. Brothers G. W. and James Ashcraft came forward with letter and minutes from Sipsev Association and Rev. G. W. Godfrey of Yellow Creek association, who were cordially received and welcomed to seats with us.

5th. Appointed Committees as follows:

On Devotion—J. F. Holloman, J. H. Newton and J. C. Yerby and delegates from Shepherd Church.

On Documents—A. N. Reeves, G. W. Freeman, G. W. McGinnis W. F. Gilpin and G. H. White.

On Arrangements—G. W. McGinnis, E. C. Lawlis and R. R. White.

On Education—J. F. Holloman, P. P. Mayfield and J. H. Mehearg.

On Nominations—W. F. Gilpin, J. M. Steward, J. T. Yerby, W. J. Hassell and S. L. Stocks.

On Finance—G. A. Dougherty, J. R. Chambliss and J. V. Montgomery.

On Orphans Home—J. R. Agerton, S. L. Rainey and G. H. White.

On motion adjourned till 9 o'clock.

Prayer by Brother Gilpin.

OCTOBER 9TH.

Met pursuant to adjournment and after devotional exercises the Brother Moderator called the body to order and called for report of Mission Board which was read and discussed.

Prayer by Reverend Brother McGinnis.

Adjourned till Mouday 8.30 a. m.

After adjournment Elder G. W. Gravlee preached a Missionary Sermon from Psalms 2nd and 8th, after which a collection was taken up for missions which amounted to \$9.15

Prayer meeting at 5 p. m. conducted by Elder Freeman and preaching at night by Rev. A. N. Reeves from First Corinthians 13th chapter and 13th verse.

MONDAY MORNING.

Met pursuant to adjournment. After the reading 3rd chapter of 1st Corinthians by Brother Moderator and prayer, Rev. A. N. Reeves and others proceeded with the discussion of the report of Missionary Board which was adopted. The regular order of business was suspended and delegates with letter from Bankston Church received.

Committee on order of business reported as follows.

1st. Devotional exercises.

- 2nd. Read Constitution, Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum.
- 3rd. Present Letters of Churches.
- 4h. Election of Officers.
- 5th. Call for Petitionary Letters.
- 6th. Invite Visiting Ministers to seats with us.
- 7th. Receive Correspondents.
- 8th. Report on Missions.
- 9th. Report on Sabbath Schools.
- 10th. Report of the Treasurer.
- 11th. Appointment of a Treasurer.
- 12th. Return Correspondents.
- 13th. Appointment of Special Committees.
 - 1st. Committee on Devotion.
 - 2nd. Committee on Documents.
 - 3rd. Committee on Nominations.
 - 4th. Committee on Finance.
 - 5th. Report of District Meeting.
 - 6th. Report of the Temperance Committee.
 - 7th. Report on Religious Literature.
 - 8th. Report on Orphan's Home.
 - 9th. Report on Prayer Meetings.
 - 10th. Report on Ministerial Education.
 - 11th. Miscellaneous Business.
 - 12th. Reading of Minutes.
 - 13th. Adjourned.

Report adopted.

G. W. MCGINNISS, Chairman.

Returned correspondents as follows:

To Sipsey Association, Brethren S. W. Clements, G. W. Gravlee, G. W. Black, G. H. Doughty, G. H. White and G. W. McGinniss
 Yellow Creek—Brethren J. M. Stewart, J. F. Holloman, G. W. Freeman and J. T. Willis.

North River—S. L. Stocks, J. P. Dickerson, Rev. Frank Wilson and G. W. Gravlee.

To Harmony Grove—J. F. Willis, W. F. Gilpin and W. J. Blankenship.

Delegates to State Convention—G. W. White and W. F. Gilpin.

To Southern Baptist Convention—Rev. Frank Wilson, G. W. Gravlee, Alternate.

Suspended regular order of business and took collection to defray expenses of delegates to the Southern and State Conventions, (\$12.20.)

REPORT OF SABBATH SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

We, your committee on Sabbath Schools, beg leave to submit the following report.

We held one meeting but as our chairman had moved off, no one was willing to assume the responsibility of chairman, consequently there has been nothing done by us only the organization of three Sabbath Schools—Pilgrim's Rest, Mt. Pleasant and Pleasant Hill. However, we believe that much might be done in and through the energetic efforts of a standing committee on Sabbath Schools.

J. H. NEWTON, Chairman.

Moderator was instructed to appoint a special committee on Orphans Home. A. N. Reeves, W. T. Bobo, G. H. White, W. J. Hassell and G. W. Black were appointed on said committee.

Following brethren were appointed on Prayer and Praise, W. F. Gilpin, J. M. Steward, J. W. Graham, G. W. Freeman and G. W. McGinniss.

On Temperance—J. P. Dickerson, J. R. Gladden and G. H. Mehearg.

On Sabbath Schools—G. H. White, G. W. Freeman, J. L. Harbin, J. S. Townsend and J. H. Newton.

REPORT OF DISTRICT MEETINGS.

The first District held its session with Mt. Pleasant Church and located the next session of the Association at Mt. Pleasant Church $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles south east of Fayette Court House. The 1st District will meet with Rehoboth, 8 miles north east of Fayette Court House on Friday before 1st Sabbath in September, 1899.

1st Query. What is meant in Second Peter 2nd chapter, 21st verse? Opened by J. S. Townsend on Friday afternoon.

2nd Query on Saturday A. M. Does the Bible teach that regeneration preceds repentance and faith? If so why did Jesus exhort the people to repent and believe the Gospel? Opened by J. M. Keenum.

3rd Query. Was the atonement made by Christ full satisfaction for the Adamic race? Opened by J. J. Patterson.

J. S. TOWNSEND, Moderator.

J. R. GLADDEN, Clerk.

REPORT OF SECOND DISTRICT.

The Second District will convene with Mt. Lebanon Church, Friday before the 2nd Sabbath in September 1899. Elder W. J. Aikins to preach the opening sermon. Rev. W. F. Gilpin, Alternate.

1st Query. What did the Savior mean by saying "If he neglect to hear them tell it to the church; but if he neglects to hear the church let him be unto thee as an heathern man and a publican?"

2nd Query. "I indeed baptize you with water unto repent-

ance, but He that cometh after me is mightier than I whose shoes I am not worthy to bear. He shall baptize you with the Ho'y Ghost and with fire."

3rd Query. What is meant by the following: "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work, only he, who now letteth will let until he be taken out of the way."

A. N. REEVES, Clerk. J. S. SHIRLEY, Moderator.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS.

We, your Committee on Nominations, beg leave to report as follows: That Elder W. J. Aikins preach the opening sermon. J. P. Dickinson, Alternate.

Elder A. N. Reeves to preach Sunday at 11 a. m. W. G. Baker, Alternate.

Mission Board—J. R. Gladden, J. C. Yerby, W. T. Bobo, W. B. Shirley and W. D. Doughty.

Ministerial Education—G. H. White, J. S. Shirley and J. W. Graham.

We recommend that the Board be requested to make an effort to raise means from the different churches in this association to enable them to have regular monthly preaching in the destitute parts of this association; furthermore we recommend that said Board look out the most suitable places for said monthly preaching and have them supplied.

W. F. GILPIN, Chairman.

REPORT OF TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE.

Upon investigation we fail to find any decrease in the unlawful use of intoxicants, and that intemperance is unabating within our bounds. We therefore advise our churches to suppress as much as possible the evils of strong drink; and the intemperate use of things lawful.

J. P. DICKINSON, Chairman.

Prayer by Brother Godfrey after which adjourned for hour and half for dinner, which was bountifully served on the grounds.

Reassembled at 2 p. m. when the foregoing report was discussed by Brethren Reeves, Dickinson and others. The regular order of business was resumed and a collection taken for Elder J. E. Cox (\$5.15) which was sent by J. M. Stewart.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

For Minutes	\$18.80
Associational fund	9.00
Home Missions	5.50
State Missions	4.70
Foreign Missions	8.20
State Sunday School Missions	.15
Orphans Home	5.55
Total	\$51.90

E. A. DOUGHTY, Chairman.

L. W. Clements was appointed Treasurer.

REPORT ON ORPHAN'S HOME.

We heartily endorse the report of last Committee on Orphans Home and we feel it to be the duty of this body to carry it into effect, and we recommend this body to take up a collection at once for the support of this institution.

J. R. AGERTON, Chairman,

Collection was taken and received \$3.40.

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

Nothing done as there was no application made to your Board.

A. N. REEVES, Chairman.

REPORT ON LITERATURE.

We recommend the study of the Holy Scripture and as reading matter The Alabama Baptist and Foreign Mission Journal published at Richmond, Va. We also recommend to our Sunday School the literature published by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention at Nashville, Tenn.

W. W. GRAVLEE, Chairman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

"We must educate, We must educate or we must perish." God has endowed man with intellectual and moral faculties; and made it incumbent on him to develop them for good and for His glory. The grand achievements in art, sciences, inventions and discoveries of all ages have been wrought by the educated mind. We should exert every effort within our power to obtain a better system of Public Schools throughout our bounds, and to further the cause of education in every community. We also recommend for young men Howard College, East Lake, Ala, and for young ladies the Judson Institute, Marion, Ala., and the Alabama Central Female College, Tuscaloosa, Ala.

P. P. MAYFIELD, Chairman.

LETTER OF CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

The New River Association to her sister associations with whom she corresponds, sendeth greetings. Dear Brethren we are now in the midst of a harmonious session. Your correspondents as shown in our minutes have been welcomed among us. We return correspondents as shown in our minutes. The next session of this body will be held with Mt. Pleasant Church, 8 miles southeast of Fayette Court House commencing on Saturday before the 2nd Sunday, in October, 1899, where and when we hope to meet your correspondents and have their aid in the work of our body.

A. N. REEVES, Cor. Sec'y.

MEMORIAL TO SIPSEY ASSOCIATION.

The New River Association to her sister, the Sipsey Association. We are grieved to learn, that Oak Ridge Church which is a member of your body has received a member into her fellowship, who was excluded from Rocky Mount Church which is a member of our body. We most humbly ask you to investigate the matter.

A. N. REEVES, Cor. Sec'y.

Following brethren appointed to investigate complaint of Rocky Mt. Church against her sister church of Pleasant Hill

—W. B. Shirley, W. F. Gilpin, M. L. Park, J. M. Stewart, J. R. Gladden, P. M. Walker and J. L. Shirley.

The following named brethren appointed a committee to investigate the grievance of a minority of Mt. Lebanon Church viz, W. T. Bobo, W. F. Nichols, W. B Shirley, W. B Melton, W. F. Shackelford, A. J. South; W. B. Melton to be chairman of said committee.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTS.

We, your Committee on Documents, report as follows:

Having examined the documents placed in our hands, we find:

First, A complaint from Rocky Mount against her sister church, Pleasant Hill for refusing to consider a complaint against Rev. J. W. Hosmer for his denial of what he said concerning his brother ministers in the pulpit at Rocky Mount Church the fifth Sunday in May and the Second Sunday in August 1897. We recommend that the Moderator appoint a committee of nine, whose duty it shall be to investigate the cause of said complaint and take such steps as in their judgment will best bring about reconciliation and sustain the cause of Christ.

Second. Another complaint from Rocky Mount against her sister church, Oak Ridge, which is a member of Sipsy Association, for receiving into full fellowship, without investigation, a member who had been excluded from Rocky Mount Church. We recommend that this body memorialize her sister, the Sipsy Association of the fact and request a consideration of the matter.

Third. Also a memorial from an aggrieved minority of Mount Lebanon Church requesting a committee to investigate the cause of said grievance.

We recommend that said request be granted and that a committee of seven be appointed, whose duty it shall be to investigate cause of said grievance and make such recommendations as the nature of the case demands.

Respectfully submitted,

A. N. REEVES, Chairman.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS, ETC.

Resolved. That this body tender to Shepherd Church and community our sincere thanks for the hospitable manner in which they have entertained us during our stay with them.

Resolved. That the Brother Clerk receive as compensation for his services the amount of the associational funds (\$9.00.) That he have as many copies of the minutes of this session of the body printed, as the minutes fund will pay for, and distribute them among the several churches according to their contributions.

Read minutes, corrected the same, sang a hymn and took the parting hand.

G. W. GRAVLEE, Moderator,

S. W. CLEMENTS, Clerk.

*See page 7
Session 1897
page 481*

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union, who on producing letters, shall take their seats.

ART. 2. This Association shall be known by the name of the New River Baptist Association, which shall have the privilege to enact and carry out missionary purposes in all their bearings; yet so that churches and individual members are left free, and that giving or withholding shall not be a bar to fellowship.

ART. 3. To give churches the best advice she can in all matters of difficulty, and if the union be broken between any of the sister churches to inquire into the cause of the breach and use her best endeavors to remove the difficulty; but if the breach cannot be repaired, to withdraw from any church or churches which she may look upon as being unsound in principle or immoral in practice until the same can be reclaimed.

ART. 4. The churches in our union shall transmit to every annual session of the Association a written communication, specifying the names of their delegates, their number in fellowship, baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excommunicated and deceased since the last session of the Association, the state of their Sabbath Schools and prayer meetings, and the number of ordained ministers and licensed preachers, with their postoffices which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

ART. 5. Every church in our union shall be entitled to representation in the following manner: Each church shall be entitled to send three delegates and no more. Any church failing to represent herself as above prescribed, shall state her reasons at the next session.

ART. 6. The Association thus formed, a majority of the members present shall choose by ballot a Moderator and Clerk, who shall serve one year.

ART. 7. Churches may be admitted into this union who petition by letter and delegates, and upon nomination, if found orthodox and orderly, shall be received by the Association, which shall be manifested by the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

ART. 8. Every query sent up to the Association by any church in the union, shall be read and put to a vote by the Moderator whether it shall be debated, and if there be a majority for it, it shall be taken up and investigated, but if not it shall be withdrawn; provided, always, that those be first considered which effect the union of the churches.

ART. 9. Voting shall be confined exclusively to the body in all acts respecting their internal concerns.

ART. 10. The Association shall not adjourn any session until she shall have finished all the business on hand, except in extraordinary cases.

ART. 11. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the session rises.

ART. 12. The Association shall in all cases, be governed by a majority of the members present.

ART. 13. Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any

session of the Association when a majority of its members present shall deem it necessary.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe there is one only living and true God, and three persons in the God-head, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

2. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and the only rules of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of human depravity; that it disables man from keeping the law for life, and that man's recovery and final salvation depends entirely upon the provision which Christ has made, and offered upon the condition of faith.

4. We believe in the doctrine of election through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.

5. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, only by the merits of Jesus Christ.

6. We believe the saints shall persevere in grace, and not one of them shall finally fall away.

7. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and general judgment, and that the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

AS FOR GOSPEL ORDER.

1. We believe that the visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers who have gained Christian fellowship with each other, and have given themselves up to the Lord, and one to another, and have agreed to keep up a godly discipline according to the rules of the gospel.

2. We believe that Jesus Christ is the great head of the Church, and only law giver, and that the government is with the body, and is the privilege of each individual; and that the discipline of the church is intended for the reclaiming of the Christian who may be disorderly either in principle or practice, and must be faithfully kept up for God's glory and unity of the churches.

3. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only proper subjects, and conscientiously do believe the true mode of baptism is immersion.

4. We believe that none have the right to administer the ordinances but ministers of the Gospel regularly ordained to that office.

5. We believe that none but those regularly baptized have a right to participate in the Lord's Supper.

RULES OF DECORUM.

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

2. To expedite business, committees may be appointed at the direction of the Association.

3. The Moderator shall be deemed judge of order, and shall have the right to call to order at any time, and any brother not satisfied with his decision on any point of order, may appeal to the Association, on the same day, but at no other time.

4. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, except withdrawn by him who made it.
5. Every case taken up by the Association shall be decided or withdrawn before another shall be offered.
6. Every person who shall speak in debate shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator, and not be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject, or use words of personal reflection.
7. The Moderator, when addressed for leave to speak, shall signify the right of the applicant by naming him or otherwise.
8. No person shall speak more than twice on the same subject, without leave of the Association.
9. No member shall be tolerated in any practice which tends to interrupt public speaking.
10. Any person wishing to retire shall obtain permission from the Moderator.
11. The Moderator shall give the casting vote, and shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, provided he appoint another to his seat during the time.
12. The application of Brother shall be used in our address one to another.
13. The names of delegates shall be called as often as the Association may direct.
14. Any member violating the above rules may be reprov'd as the Association thinks proper, only on the day the offense shall have occurred.





