

MINUTES  
OF THE  
TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION  
OF THE  
TUSCALOOSA  
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT  
GILGAL MEETING-HOUSE,  
TUSCALOOSA COUNTY, ALA.,

From the 17th to 20th September,

1859.

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Tuscaloosa :

PRINTED BY JNO. F. WARREN, "OBSERVER" OFFICE.

—  
1859.



# MINUTES.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1859.

1. A large congregation assembled at 11 o'clock, A. M., and the Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. JESSE THOMAS, from the text—"No man can come unto me except the Father which hath sent me draw him"—John 6: 44.

2. After recess of half an hour, the Delegates to the Tuscaloosa Baptist Association convened in Gilgal Meeting-house, where prayer was offered by Rev. Charles Manly.

3. The names of the Churches being called, their respective Delegates came forward, presented their letters, and voted for Moderator and Clerk of the Association, which resulted in the selection of Rev. J. THOMAS, Moderator, and N. H. BROWNE, Clerk.

## FIRST DISTRICT.

Mt. Moriah, . . . Bibb, . . . R. C. Caffee, J. Hill, Jr., W. F. Goodson.  
Cedar Grove, . . . " . . . P. M. Cobb, J. W. White, A. J. Burns.  
Shultz Creek, . . . " . . . J. Blake, S. Hall.  
Siloam, . . . " . . . I. R. ARNOLD, O. Vernon.  
Liberty, . . . Tuscaloosa, . . . V. King.  
Big Hurricane, . . . " . . . A. Burchfield, L. Pumphrey.  
Hephziba, . . . " . . . W. Bryson, J. Ray, J. H. Lowry.  
Mt. Zion, . . . " . . . J. P. THOMPSON, Sr., B. Jennings, J. Hewett.  
Mt. Olive, . . . " . . . W. J. Herring.  
Davis' Creek, . . . " . . . J. B. Starkey, W. McFeirn.  
Sardis, . . . " . . . S. Bowen, J. H. Ward.

## SECOND DISTRICT.

Gilgal, . . . Tuscaloosa, . . . J. B. Eddins, S. W. Eddins, S. R. Hamner,  
South Sandy, . . . " . . . W. Phipps, W. Hester, D. F. Tubbs.  
Little Sandy, . . . " . . . H. B. Rogers, J. B. Davis, E. Wright.  
Hopewell, . . . " . . . B. Darden, N. H. Browne, S. J. Miller.  
Big Sandy, . . . " . . . T. Davis, R. P. Staggers.  
Ruhama, . . . " . . . D. Riley, W. Ward  
Tuscaloosa, . . . " . . . C. MANLY, A. J. BATTLE, C. A. Hester.  
Big Creek, . . . " . . . A. M. BRYANT, J. T. Yerby.  
Pleasant Field, . . . " . . . Not represented.

## THIRD DISTRICT.

North Port, Tuscaloosa. . . T. Barbour, J. Mills, J. Brown.  
Bethel, . . . " . . . M. B. Hassell.  
Chapel Hill, . . . " . . . L. Finnell.  
Philadelphia, . . . " . . . Not represented.  
Salem, . . . " . . . J. Thomas, T. W. Smith.  
New Hope, . . . " . . . J. Edwards.  
Friendship, . . . " . . . J. Walters, W. Franklin.  
Bethabara, . . . " . . . W. Watkins, A. Ramsey.  
Black Warrior, . . . " . . . E. Delong, J. Patten, J. T. Gilbert.  
Piny Grove, . . . " . . . Not represented.  
Concord, . . . Fayette, . . . E. Melton, J. Coleman.

## FOURTH DISTRICT.

Bethany, . . . Tuscaloosa, . . . J. Sartin, O. J. Hall, J. W. Mitchell.  
 Dunn's Creek . . . " . . . R. JONES, J. White.  
 Spring Hill, . . . " . . . A. Gewen, E. Howell.  
 Mt. Tabor, . . . Pickens, . . . J. THOMAS, J. Fox, W. P. Richardson.  
 Moore's Bridge, Tuscaloosa, T. McCracken, G. Ghaston.  
 Bethesda, . . . " . . . B. Mitchell, B. Hollingsworth.

4. Agreed to proceed in business in the order observed at the last Association.

5. Ministers from other Associations, those in this not Delegates, and Messengers, were invited to participate in our business.

6. The Moderator announced the following Standing Committees:  
*Arrangement of Preaching.*—J. Ray, C. A. Hester, J. Brown, J. Sartin, and the Deacons of Gilgal Church.

*Documents.*—A. J. Battle, J. T. Yerby, J. Fox.

*Finance.*—J. Mills, C. A. Hester, J. B. Eddins.

*Nominations.*—T. Smith, S. J. Miller, T. Davis.

7. An opportunity being offered for the admission of Churches to this body, Delegates with petitionary letters from Mt. Olive, Moore's Bridge, and Bethesda, respectively came forward, and, the letters being read and approved, the Churches were unanimously received. Moore's Bridge and Bethesda were attached to the 4th District, and Mt. Olive to the 1st.

8. Messengers from corresponding bodies being requested to make themselves known, Bro. V. King, presented a package of Minutes from the Mulberry Association. Rev. W. H. McIntosh and Bro. P. B. Hill, were welcomed as Delegates from the Cahaba Association, and Bro. McIntosh was also received as a Representative of the Domestic Mission Board (of which he is President) at Marion, Ala. A letter, no minutes, nor Delegates, was received from the North River Association. Rev. A. C. Thomason, was welcomed as a Messenger from the Canaan Association.

9. Returned correspondence as follows:

*To the Union Association.*—C. Manly, A. J. Battle, R. Jones, R. P. Latham, J. Thomas and Dr. J. S. Bacon.—A. J. Battle to write.

*North River Association.*—J. Thomas, R. Dodson, T. W. Smith, I. R. Arnold.—I. R. Arnold to write.

*Canaan Association.*—I. R. Arnold, J. H. Lowry, L. Pumphrey, W. F. Goodson, W. Bryson.—J. H. Lowry to write.

*Mulberry Association.*—J. H. Ward, J. Blake, J. Hill, Jr., W. F. Goodson.—W. F. Goodson to write.

*Cahaba Association.*—Correspondence being resumed—B. Manly, Sr., R. Dodson, S. W. Eddins, A. J. Battle.—C. Manly to write.

*East Alabama Convention.*—N. H. Browne, J. H. Lowry, J. Hill, Jr., N. H. Browne to write.

10. The Committee on Arrangement for preaching, reported that there would be prayer meeting at 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning; 10 o'clock, a sermon by Rev. W. H. McIntosh, to be followed by a Missionary Sermon from Rev. A. J. Battle—after which, a public collection is to be taken up and applied to Domestic Missions within the bounds of the Association, unless otherwise directed by the respective donors.

Rev. C. Manly proposed the following Resolution, which was adopted:

*Resolved,* That a committee of four (one from each District) be appointed by the Moderator, to report on the propriety and order of holding Missionary meetings some time the next year.—C. Manly, S. Bowen, M. B. Hassell and J. Sartin, were appointed said Committee.

After prayer by Rev. W. H. McIntosh, the Association adjourned until Monday morning, 9 o'clock.

**SABBATH.**—The services were conducted as previously arranged, and the public collection for Domestic Missions in the Associational bounds, amounted to \$51.35.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment.

11. The Minutes of Saturday were read and approved, the roll called, and it was ordered that the names of absentees shall not appear in the Minutes.

12. The Constitution, the Articles of Faith, and the Rules of Decorum were read.

13. The Committee on Nominations made the following report, which was adopted :—That Rev. R. Dodson preach the next Introductory Sermon—Rev. R. Jones, alternate ;—Rev. C. Manly to preach the Missionary Sermon—Rev. J. Thomas, Alternate ;—Dr. J. S. Bacon, to write the Circular Letter.

*Delegates to the Baptist State Convention.*—Dr. B. Manly, Sr., N. H. Browne, Rev. C. Manly, Rev. R. Dodson, Rev. J. H. Lowry, B. W. Justice, J. B. Eddins, and S. J. Miller. T. DAVIS, Ch'n.

14. The Committee on Documents made report as follows, and it was adopted :—An examination of the letters from the Churches brings to light but one item claiming the attention of the Association : Friendship Church submits the following query :—What course would the Association recommend a Church to pursue towards a member of her body, engaged in buying and selling intoxicating liquors to be drunk as a beverage ; and when a majority of the Church are opposed to the same, the individual still persists in the practice ?

We simply bring this query to the notice of the Association, leaving it to the body to take action upon it or not, as they may decide.

A. J. BATTLE, Ch'n.

15. On motion, the regular order of business was suspended to allow Rev. I. R. Arnold, the Tuscaloosa Home Missionary, to make his annual Report. Whereupon, Bro Arnold submitted a very interesting written and verbal report, which was followed by instructive and appropriate addresses from several of the brethren. Rev. C. Manly being requested by the Association to preach upon the subject of Missions, proceeded forthwith to discharge that duty.

Rev. A. J. Battle then presented the following Resolutions, which were unanimously adopted :

1. *Resolved*, That the present time seems to be peculiarly marked by Providence in the development and advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom, by opening new fields of Missionary labor, removing ancient barriers, and awakening a spirit of earnest zeal in the hearts of his people throughout the world, and that the signs of the times appeal powerfully to us to put our hands to this work, and to "come up to the help of the Lord."

2. *Resolved*, That the wants of the Southern Board of Domestic Missions, demand our active sympathy, and summon us to the rescue of this important agency in our denominational enterprise.

Rev. J. C. Foster appeared, and was received as a Messenger from the Union Association ; and Rev. A. C. Thomason presented a package of Minutes of the East Alabama Convention. And then the Association took a recess of one hour.

The Association re-convened at the time appointed, and, on motion, considered the propriety, with our means in hand and pledged, of employing an itinerant Home Missionary for the ensuing year ; when it was concluded to leave this matter to the Executive Committee ; which, by ap-

pointment of the Moderator, consists of J. U. Foster, J. Brown, C. Manly, J. S. Caldwell, J. B. Eddins and S. W. Eddins

16. Reports from District Meetings, as follows:

The Annual meeting of the FIRST DISTRICT will be held with Big Hurricane Church, Tuscaloosa County, on Friday, before the 2d Sunday in Aug. 1860. Rev. I. R. Arnold, will preach the Introductory Sermon—Rev. J. H. Lowry, his alternate. Rev. I. R. Arnold to preach the Missionary Sermon—Rev. J. P. Thompson, Sr. alternate. 1st Quest. for discussion:—"How long should a Church hold a member in fellowship, who holds a letter of dismission? 2nd. Has a member a right to commune at the Lord's Table, while holding a letter of dismission?—3d. What shall a Church do when a person holds a letter of dismission from a Church and that member desires to join a Church, when some members can't hold them in fellowship? 4th. Is it necessary to cultivate the mind, feed the hungry, and clothe the naked, to successfully consecrate gifts to our Lord; or to present them as lambs of Christ's fold at the altar of prayer?"

The SECOND District meeting will be held, with the Big Sandy Church, on Friday before the 2nd Sunday in Aug. 1860. Introductory Sermon will be preached by Rev. C. Manly—Rev. J. P. Thompson, Sr., alternate. Subject for discussion:—"Are Baptist's at the present day, what they once were?"

The next Annual meeting of the THIRD District to be held with Concord Church, Fayette County, on Friday before the 3d Sunday in Aug. 1860. Introductory Sermon by Rev. A. M. Bryant—alternate, Rev. J. Thomas. Subjects: 1st. "Does the New Testament furnish the form and government of the Church? 2d. Who has the right to constitute a Church?"

The FOURTH District meeting to be held with Dunn's Creek Church, Friday before the 4th Sunday in Aug. 1860. Introductory Sermon by Rev. J. Rushing—Rev. R. Dodson, alternate.

17. Report of the Finance Committee:

Rec'd from Bro. J. Thomas of last year's Minute Fund,	\$18 25
"    From Churches for Minutes,.....	52 25
	<hr/>
Total,.....	\$70 50
Paid Clerk for services,.....	15 00
	<hr/>
Balance for Minutes,.....	55 50
	<hr/> <hr/>
Rec'd for Associational Fund,.....	\$39 25
	<hr/>
Paid Bro. Arnold of this Fund,.....	1 35
"    "    J. H. Ward, (Messenger),.....	3 80
"    "    R. Jones,.....	4 75
	<hr/>
	\$9 90
	<hr/>
Balance and paid to Executive Committee,.....	\$29 90
	<hr/> <hr/>
Rec'd for Home Missions from Churches,.....	\$188 98
"    From Bro. R. Dodson,.....	5 00
"    From Bros. Rogers and Hinton,.....	5 00
"    From Sabbath Collection,.....	51 00
"    *By Bro. Arnold, from Churches, ...	248 32
"    From Asso. Fund,.....	1 35
	<hr/>
Rec'd from all sources,.....	\$500 00

Rec'd For Indian Missions,.....	10 00
“ For Domestic Missions,.....	8 20
“ From Bible Board, .....	4 00

\* The Committee think it unnecessary to state the particular amounts received by Bro. Arnold, from each Church, as in many cases, part of the pledges were paid to him and part to the Executive Committee.

Respectfully,

C. A. HESTER, Ch'n.

The Executive Committee reported that from an examination of Rev. I. R. Arnold's Annual Report, they find that as Home Missionary in the service of the Association for the last year, he has travelled 2,847 miles; preached 170 sermons; delivered 15 exhortations; attended 46 prayer meetings; administered 39 baptisms; assisted in the constitution of one church; administered the sacrament 4 times; and assisted in the ordination of 6 deacons. That he had of books belonging to Depository at the last Association,..... \$8 00  
That he has since taken of books belonging to Depository,.... 71 25

Making,..... \$79 25

Returned books belonging to Depository,..... \$6 98  
Book given to Rev. J. H. Lowry, ..... 75

Amount due Depository,..... \$71 52

Off 10 per cent. .... 7 15

\$64 37.

That he has received from the Churches as follows:

Piny Grove,.....	25 50
Black Warrior, .....	21 50
Mt. Moriah, .....	15 00
Cedar Grove,.....	26 50
Sardis, .....	37 00
First District, .....	10 75
D. Riley, .....	5 00
Executive Board,.....	107 00

From all sources,..... \$312 62

The Committee appointed to report on the propriety and order of Missionary meetings among the Churches for the ensuing year, submitted the following:

We deem it unnecessary to present any lengthened argument in favor of holding such meetings, in as much as we believe that this Association heartily recognises the furtherance of the Missionary cause as one of its principal objects, as the 2nd Article of the Constitution asserts. And we believe that no better way of interesting the Churches within our bounds in this important subject can be devised, than by an earnest engagement in meetings for that special purpose.

We, therefore, recommend that the last week in July, 1860, (beginning Saturday before the 4th Sunday, and including the following Sunday) be spent by the Churches in holding meetings in the following order:

FIRST DISTRICT.—Siloam, Saturday and Sunday; Cedar Grove, Monday; Liberty, Tuesday; Mt. Zion, Wednesday; Mt. Olive, Thursday; Big Hurrican, Friday; Davis's Creek, Saturday and Sunday.

SECOND DISTRICT.—South Sandy, Saturday and Sunday; Big Sandy, Monday; Little Sandy, Tuesday; Hopewell, Wednesday; Ru-

hama, Thursday; Tuscaloosa, Friday; Pleasant Field, Sat. and Sunday.

THIRD DISTRICT.—Black Warrior, Saturday and Sunday; Piny Grove, Monday; Chapel Hill, Tuesday; Bethabara, Wednesday; Friendship, Thursday; Walter's Meeting-House, Friday; Concord, Sat. & Sun.

FOURTH DISTRICT.—Bethany, Saturday and Sunday; Dunn's Creek, Monday; Bethesda, Tuesday and Wednesday; Mt. Tabor, Thursday; Spring Hill, Friday; Moore's Bridge, Saturday and Sunday.

It is hoped that the brethren from the neighboring Churches will attend as far as possible, as there will be preaching at all these points; and it is also hoped that the private members will take part in discussing the matters brought before them. The members of each Church can provide as they think best for taking collections for Missionary purposes. We beg that the Moderator of the Association be empowered to appoint a Committee of four to report what ministers be requested to attend the foregoing meetings.

SETH BOWEN, C. MANLY,  
M. B. HASSELL, J. SARTIN.

The report was adopted, and the Moderator appointed J. Fox, John Thomas, S. W. Eddins, and L. Pumphrey, to constitute the Committee contemplated; who, after retiring a short time, made the following report, which was adopted:

FIRST DISTRICT.—A. J. Battle, J. P. Thompson, Sr., B. Jennings, W. Watkins and A. M. Bryant.

SECOND DISTRICT.—Dr. J. S. Bacon, R. Dodson, J. Price, J. H. Foster, M. Chism, F. Smith, J. H. Lowry and R. Furman.

THIRD DISTRICT.—A. C. Thomason, B. Manly, Sr., I. R. Arnold, J. Walters, J. Rushing and — Coleman.

FOURTH DISTRICT.—C. Manly, J. Thomas, R. Jones, — Carter, — Brent, — Dyer, — Hollingsworth and E. Howell.

J. FOX, Ch'n.

On motion, the query sent up by Friendship Church, was taken up, pending which, the Association adjourned to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock.

TUESDAY, Sept. 20th, 1859.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Rev. I. R. Arnold.

20. In reply to the query sent up by Friendship Church, the following Resolution was adopted:—*Resolved*, That the Association deems that Friendship Church have not fully complied with the Constitutional requisitions in presenting the written query to this body, and the Association respectfully declines to take action upon it at this time.

21. The following Churches and persons pledged themselves for the sums respectively annexed to their names, for Home Missionary purposes the ensuing year:

Mt. Moriah, .....	\$40 00	Mt. Tabor, .....	15 00
Shultz Creek, .....	5 00	Moore's Bridge, .....	10 00
Big Hurrican, .....	10 00	Concord, .....	20 00
Hephzibah, .....	25 00	E. Melton, .....	5 00
Sardis, .....	35 00	R. Dodson, .....	5 00
H. B. Rogers, and } .....	30 00	D. D. Davis, .....	5 00
J. B. Davis, } .....		B. P. Hill, paid, .....	1 00
Hopewell, .....	25 00	Eldridge Eddins, .....	2 00
Tuscaloosa, .....	150 00	Woodruff Hinton, .....	2 00
Big Creek, .....	30 00	Mt. Zion, .....	10 00
Big Sandy, .....	10 00	Bethesda, .....	5 00
M. Hassell, .....	5 00	J. Coleman, .....	2 50
Gilgal, .....	50 00	J. M. Chism, .....	1 00
L. Finnell, .....	5 00	S. J. Miller, .....	5 00



John Thomas,.....	5 00	Cedar Grove,.....	10 00
T. W. Smith,.....	5 00	L. Pumphrey,.....	5 00
North Port,.....	20 00	New Hope,.....	10 00
Black Warrior,.....	40 00	J. P. Thompson,.....	5 00
J. Sir in,.....	} 5 00	M. B. Hassell,.....	5 00
O. J. Hall,.....		L. Finell,.....	1 00
J. W. Mitchell,.....		Troy Hinton,.....	5 00
J. White, paid,.....	1 00		
Elijah Howard,.....	10 00		\$635 50

22. Ordered that the Messengers to correspondent bodies be paid out of the Associational Fund, at the rate of \$1 50 per day, and that the remainder, if any, be turned over to the Executive Committee, to be expended in the employment of the Itinerant Missionary.

It was also ordered, that the Clerk receive for his services, out of the Minute Fund, \$15, and the residue, if any, be handed to the Executive Committee; and he was directed to have fifteen hundred copies of the Minutes printed, and to deposit those for the North side of the Warrior river, at the Store of John Brown, North Port; and those for the East and South side of the river, at the Store of J. W. Martin, Tuscaloosa, (formerly the Store of J. A. Skelton, & Co.)

23. A hymn was sung--prayer by Rev. I. R. Arnold--and the Association adjourned to meet with the Spring Hill Church, 28 miles North-west of the City of Tuscaloosa, Saturday before the 3d Sunday in September, 1860. JESSE THOMAS, Moderator.

NEWBERN H. BROWNE, Clerk.

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## CIRCULAR LETTER.

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### DENOMINATIONAL IDOLATRY REPROVED.

[An extract from the Introductory Sermon preached before the Georgia Baptist Convention, April 22nd, 1859, by Rev. C. D. MALLARY. Published by the So. Bap. Pub. Soc. at Charleston, S. C.]

"Is there not evidently amongst men such a kind of idolatry as this? I think so; and Baptists, unfortunately, come in for their share. Through the influence of the remaining corruptions of our hearts, a kind of denominational pride and self-glorying often springs up, which is not right in the sight of God, and which involves in it the sin of idolatry. This I call denominational idolatry. And with reference to this kind of idolatry, as well as every other, the Saviour speaks to us through his servant John, *Little children, keep yourselves from idols.*

1. *We must not make an idol of our denominational sentiments.*

All scriptural truth is of vast importance. Every single principle inculcated in the word of God has its own appropriate way to do in sanctifying the hearts of men, demolishing the strongholds of error, and laying the foundation, and carrying up the superstructure, of the Redeemer's kingdom on earth. None but God himself can properly estimate the absolute value of any one single truth communicated in his blessed word. If, therefore, Baptists, in the providence of God, are put in charge of the advocacy and defence of certain truths which either are wholly rejected, or slightly held by other religious denominations, God has certainly put upon them peculiar honors, and invested them with the most mighty responsibilities. They must be faithful to their trust. The pulpit and the press must speak out through them in intelligible, affectionate, and earnest accents. They must not be ashamed of their sentiments. Neither through sinful timidity, nor an equally sinful man-pleasing spirit, must they fail to set forth to all the world those peculiar, important views as to the ordinances of Christ, as to the order of God's house, which the Lawgiver of Zion has committed to their keeping. But they must be careful that their sacred principles be not allowed, through the deceitfulness of sin, to minister to the idolatrous tendencies of the human heart. In an abstract, absolute sense, we cannot value too highly our denominational principles; but, in the comparative view which we take of the various doctrines and duties of the Christian system, we may unconsciously give them a prominence unauthorized by the word of God. In our denominational zeal we may break the just proportion of things. We may so dwell on the peculiarities of our order, as

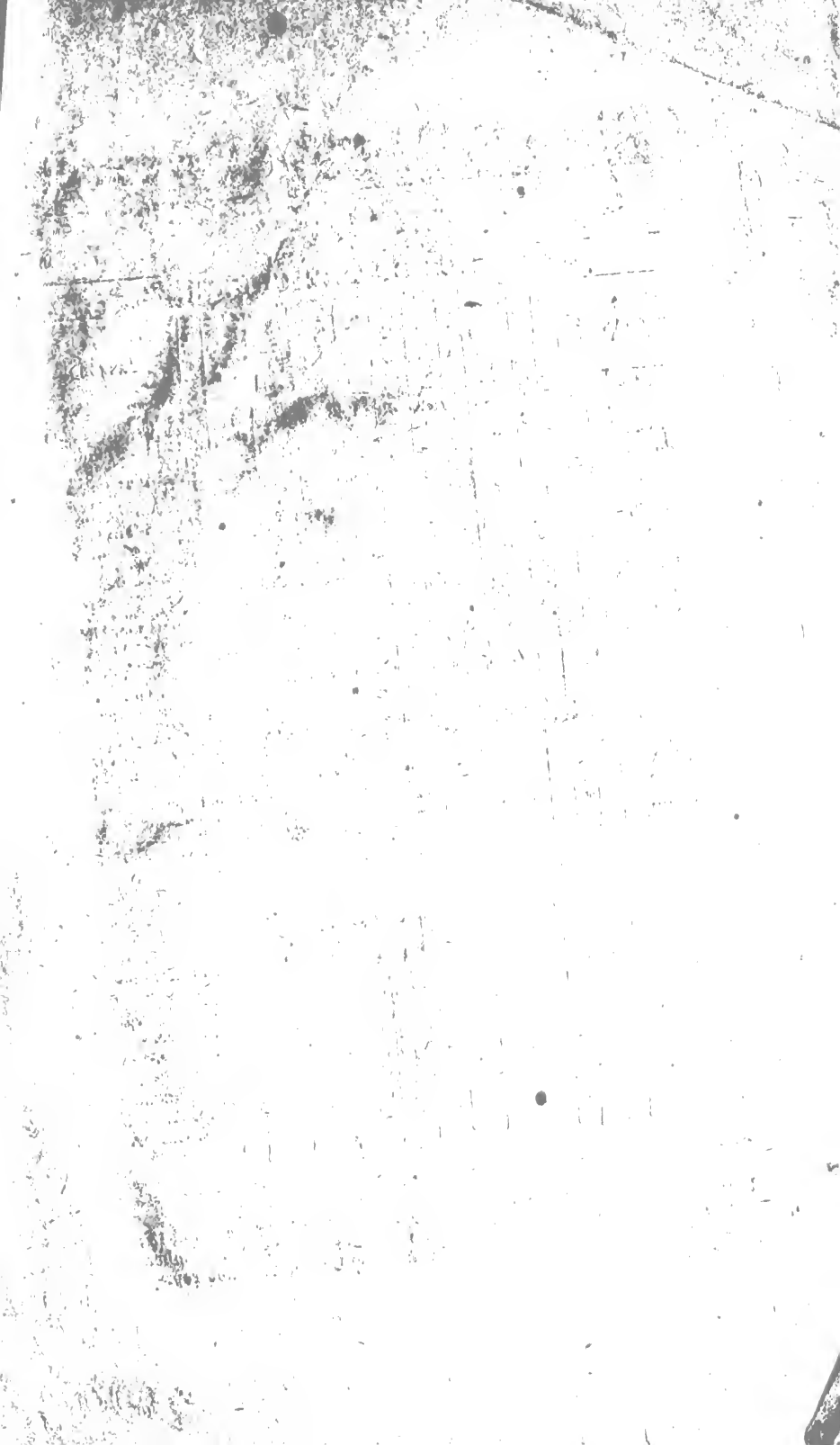
to create an impression on our own minds that we are better Christians than we really are—that so we are thoroughly, profoundly baptistic, we have attained to the main thing. We must never forget that there are other great and important truths which demand our reverence and our zeal; and in the general, aggregate instructions which we give, we must see to it that every one receive his portion of meat in due season. Whenever our denominational peculiarities so absorb our affections and our zeal as to crowd from their due position other portions of the divine testimony, they are made to assume in our hearts, as it were, the character of idols: and in this perverted shape, by being forced to break the due proportion and boundaries of divine truth, they invade unwittingly the just rights of God, and are the occasion of dishonor to his cause. All this is wrong. This is a service which God does not require at our hands. But, in making these remarks, I do not wish to be understood as forgetting, that there may be times when God providentially calls for the special and bold discussion of our denominational doctrines; and that God sometimes raises up men whose duty it seems to be to devote a large portion of their lives and labors to the defence of these peculiar views. But in such cases, that wisdom which is from above, will teach us to be careful not to lift the Baptist element out of its true scriptural position, and that the perversion of which I have been speaking be properly guarded against by a due recognition of the other teachings of God's holy oracles.

There is another way in which our denominational sentiments may be made the occasion of nourishing the idolatrous tendency of our deceitful hearts. In contending for them, we may be, to a greater or less extent, sinfully forgetful that they are God's truth. We may sometimes lose sight of the precious, golden link, which binds them to the throne of Jehovah. We may fight for them as *our* truth, our dogmas, rather than as the teachings of the Saviour. We may contend for personal victory. We may become, through the deceitfulness of the heart, intensely sectarian. We may so identify our own little mighty selves with the theme which we defend, that, to a greater or less extent, we fall to loving Baptist truth, and glorying in the Baptist cause, because these are such capital things with which to fight ourselves—Nebuchadnezzar-like—into a little notoriety in the religious world. Baptists must keep their hearts with all diligence as well as other people. The very best of them are sanctified but in part; they are still exposed to the assaults of pride and vain glory. In contending for our sacred principles, we must not unlink them from God's throne, and make an idol of them; but, keeping them firmly bound to that throne, we must set them forth with the spirit of holy boldness, and childlike humility, that Christ, our King, may be duly honored. As far as a mere partisan, sectarian glorying in our principles animates our zeal, and makes us forgetful of God's glory, and the inherent majesty of truth, so far the very truth itself is crucified into an occasion for displeasing God, and ministering to the flesh; and thereby we fall into an error of a certain people of old, who paid a selfish and mistaken honor to their nets and their drags, that brought them advantage. "Therefore, they sacrifice unto their net, and burn incense unto their drag, because by them their portion is fat, and their meat plenteous." Hab. i. 16. *Little children keep yourselves from idols."*

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### Deacons of the Churches.

Mt. Moriah—J. Goodson, D. Allen, W. F. Goodson; Cedar Grove—P. M. Cobb, J. D. Colbert; Shultz Creek—John Lowry, J. Lowry; Siloam—N. D. Vernon, J. W. Keedle; Liberty—T. E. Allen; Big Hurricane—E. Lawrence, L. Pumphrey, E. W. Weaver; Hephzibah—E. McMath, J. Ray, J. Riley; Mt. Olive—W. J. Herring; Davis's Creek—J. B. Starkey, W. McFearn; Sardis—S. Bowen; Gilgal—S. R. Hämner, S. W. Eddins; Little Sandy—H. B. Rogers, E. Wright; Hopewell—B. Darden, J. Spears, S. Miller; Ruhama—H. Hitt, D. Riley; Tuscaloosa—E. Prince, Sr., M. Richards, B. Whitfield, C. A. Hester, T. A. Burgin, B. F. Eddins, J. S. Caldwell; Big Sandy—T. Davis, G. W. Flemming, Chapel Hill—P. Hall, James Brown; Salem—J. Thomas, R. Appling; Friendship—J. Harden, E. McGuire, J. H. Brown, W. Franklin; Bethabara—W. Watkins, C. Montgomery, L. Watson; Black Warrior—J. T. Gilbert, E. Delong; Concord—E. Melton, B. Nall; Spring Hill—S. Poe, W. Pugh; Mt. Tabor—J. Fox; D. Stokes, D. Prewitt; Moore's Bridge—P. H. Wright, T. McCracken; Bethesda—B. Mitchell.



## STATISTICS OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES.	Baptized.	Rec'd by Letter.	Restored.	Excommunicated.	Excluded.	Widows.	Col. M.	Total.	Prop. Mem.	Assessable.	Value of Christian.	Month.	PASTORS.		
Mt. Moriah,	2	1	11	1	1	1	113	2	00	3	50	1816	1 A. C. Thomason.		
Cedar Grove,	5	3	7	1	1	1	41	1	00	1	00	1857	2 R. Arnold.		
Shultz Creek,	5	1	8	1	1	1	32	1	00	1	00	1879	1 A. L. Cochran.		
Silom,	1	3	3	1	1	1	86	1	00	1	00	1817	1 H. P. Griffin.		
Liberty,	2	2	1	1	1	1	26	1	50	1	50		1 B. Jennings.		
Big Hurricane,	25	0	0	0	0	111	12	25	1	3	1835	1 A. C. Thomason.			
Hephzibah,	11	1	22	1	1	1	100	2	00	1	5	1817	1 A. C. Thomason.		
Mt. Zion,	4	3	21	1	1	1	103	2	00	1	5	1820	2 J. P. Thompson.		
Mt. Olive,	1	1	1	1	1	1	17	1	50	1	00	1853	1 W. McComb.		
Davis' Creek,	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	00	1	00	1823	1 W. L. Weir.		
Sardis,	1	2	12	1	1	1	23	1	00	1	00	1817	1 R. Arnold.		
Gilgal,	2	2	10	1	1	1	21	1	00	2	00	1817	1 H. Foster.		
South Sandy,	20	6	2	1	1	1	1	1	00	1	00		1 W. M. Hobson.		
Little Sandy,	1	1	1	1	1	1	26	1	00	1	00	1817	1 J. M. Chism.		
Hopewell,	1	1	5	1	1	1	55	1	60	1	00	1836	1 H. Foster.		
Ruhama,	18	1	4	2	1	1	50	2	52	1	50	1810	1 J. P. Thompson.		
Tu-kaloosa,	15	1	4	1	1	1	5117	158	2755	00	3	00	1818	2 C. Manly.	
Big Creek,	6	1	2	1	1	1	70	183	1	50	1	00	1820	1 Reuben Dodson.	
Big Sandy,	4	1	1	1	1	1	11	1	32	1	00	1857	1 J. Tool.		
North Port,	5	1	3	9	1	1	60	2	68	2	00	2	00	1833	1 Reuben Dodson.
Bethell,	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	1	16	1	00	50	1817	1 A. M. Bryant.	
Chapel Hill,	1	1	1	1	1	1	25	1	27	1	00	50	1838	1 J. Walters.	
Philadelphia,	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	50	1	00				
Salem,	15	4	8	1	1	1	151	13	167	1	50	1	00	1821	1 Reuben Dodson.
New Hope,	1	1	5	1	1	1	41	1	50	1	00				
Friendship,	4	1	11	2	1	1	78	2	75	1	50	1	00	1825	1 J. Walters.
Bethabara,	3	1	2	2	1	1	60	2	62	2	00	50	1818	1 A. M. Bryant.	
BPk Warrior,	2	8	1	1	1	1	17	1	17	1	50	1	00	1858	1 R. Arnold.
Piny Grove,	1	1	6	1	1	1	70	1	71	1	00	1839	1 J. Walters.		
Concord,	2	1	1	1	1	1	28	1	47	1	00	1832	1 R. Jones.		
Bethany,	3	2	3	2	1	1	75	1	78	2	00	1	00	1834	1 R. Jones.
Dunn's Creek,	110	110	2	1	1	1	17	11	58	1	50	1	00	1827	1 J. Rushing.
Spring Hill,	1	3	19	1	1	1	45	6	51	1	50	1	00	1830	1 Jesse Thomas.
Mt. Tabor,	13	6	1	1	1	1	32	1	32	1	00	1850	1 R. Arnold.		
Moores Bridge,	13	6	1	1	1	1	39	1	39	1	50	1	00	1850	1 B. F. Carter.
Bethesda,	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	00				

RECAPITULATION. Baptized 140; Rec'd by Letter 108; Restored 13; Dismissed 179; Excluded 71; Died 24; Widows 18; Total 1819; Col. Members 44; Total 2346. Pleasant Field, Philadelphia and Piny Grove, were not represented, and their numbers are not known.