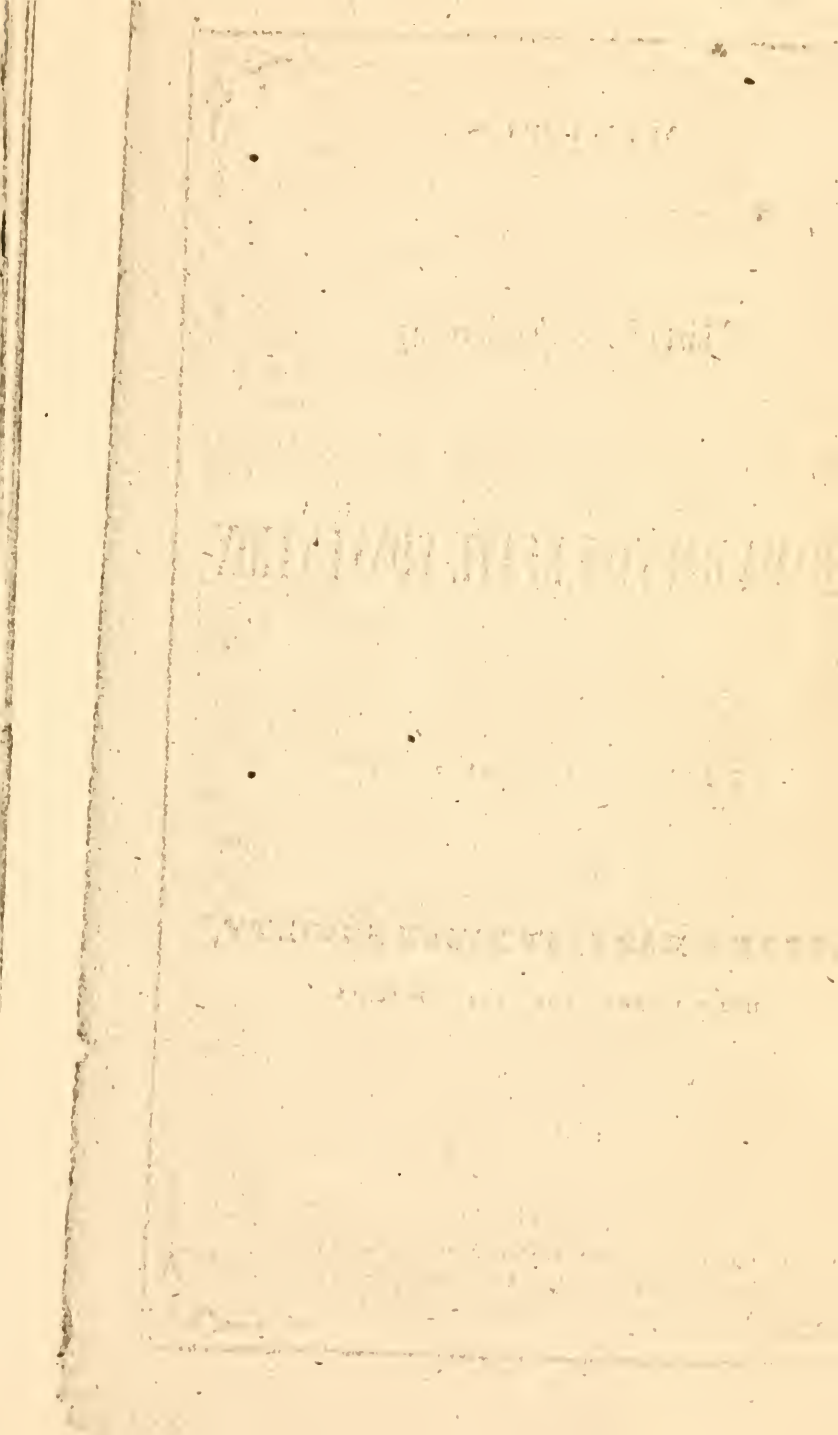


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MINUTES

OF THE

Thirty-third Anniversary

OF THE

ALABAMA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

HELD AT

LAFAYETTE, APRIL 11-14, 1856;

AND OF THE

ALABAMA BAPTIST BIBLE SOCIETY,

HELD AT THE SAME TIME AND PLACE.

TUSKEGEE, ALA.

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE SOUTH WESTERN BAPTIST.

1856.

OFFICERS OF THE CONVENTION.

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W. P. CHILTON, *1st Vice Pres't.*
H. TALBIRD, 2d " "

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WM. N. WYATT, ESQ.,
DR. O. L. SHIVERS.

MINUTES.

LaFAYETTE, FRIDAY, April 11, 1856.

Reading of the Scriptures, and prayer by the President.
Letters read and names of Delegates enrolled, as follows:

ASSOCIATIONS.

Alabama—P. H. Lundy, I. T. Tichenor, W. B. Haralson, D. Lee, M. S. Cleveland, D. Gordon.

Salem—J. T. S. Park.

Bethel—J. Talbert, E. G. Talbert.

Liberty—F. Culloway, J. P. Bledsoe, H. Carmichael, J. W. Williams, D. H. McCoy, W. D. Harrington B. Stumps.

Eufaula—G. W. Curker, J. Sims.

Cosa River—H. E. Tulinferro, S. G. Jenkins, J. A. Collins, M. Garrett, J. Williams, J. Wilmer.

Central—J. D. Williams, J. M. Russell

Unity—Funds.

Tuskegee—W. B. Jones, J. W. Echols, S. Henderson, W. Williams, J. M. Newman, L. McDonald, A. T. M. Handy, E. C. J. B. Thomas, R. Killam.

Pine Barren—P. Stout.

Cherokee Baptist—J. D. Renfro, C. W. Lay.

Tuskaloosa—A. J. Battle.

Cary—A. G. Beckham.

Union—J. C. Foster.

Cahaba—A. G. McCraw, J. H. DeVotie, F. M. Law, H. E. Brooks.

Canaan—Funds.

CHURCHES.

Auburn—J. C. Sale, J. J. Mason.

Liberty—S. Granberry.

Boiling Springs—J. C. Foster.

Cubhatchie—J. M. Newman, A. T. M. Handy.

Unity—P. H. Lundy.

Wetumpka—Z. G. Henderson, P. Stout, J. D. Williams.

LaFayette—W. Hill, S. Pearson.

Ebenezer—Macon county—J. W. Swearingen, J. J. Cloud.

- Shiloh*--M. S. Cleveland.
Spring Hill--L. B. Law.
St. Francis St.--Letter and Funds.
Selma--A. G. McCraw, H. E. Brooks, F. M. Law, W. Wilks.
Montgomery--I. T. Tichenor, A. Williams, J. H. DeVotie
Osfaulo--A. Van Hoose, E. Y. Van Hoose, J. S. Paulin.
Town Creek--Funds.
Centre Ridge--D. R. Lide.
Grant's Creek--J. C. Foster.
Benton--Funds.
Bethel--Marengo county--J. Talbert, E. G. Talbert.
Sardis--J. Huguley, D. Taylor.
Bethel--Tallapoosa co.--G. W. Henderson, J. M. Pearson.
Tuskegee--O. Echols, H. H. Bacon.
Union--Coosa county--A. T. Holmes.
Jacksonville--Benton county--E. T. Smith.
Uniontown--J. Walker.
Spoan--W. H. McIntosh, J. Walker, A. B. Goodhue, H. Talbird.
Newburn--Funds.
Union Grove--Funds.

LIFE MEMBERS.

- H. Talbird, W. B. Haralson, L. B. Lane, J. Talbert, J. H. DeVotie, D. Lee, D. Gordon, J. A. Collins, A. J. Battle, J. C. Foster, Z. G. Henderson, J. M. Newman.

OTHER BODIES.

- Judson Female Institute Missionary Society*--J. Walker, L. B. Lane.
Students Howard College--J. Walker, H. Talbird.

CORRESPONDING BODIES.

- B. F. M. S. B. C.*--R. W. Priest, Missionary elect to Africa.
B. D. M. S. B. C.--J. H. DeVotie, President, J. Walker, Cor. Secretary.
Florida Baptist State Convention--W. M. Davis.
Southern Baptist Publication Society--J. P. Tustin, Cor. Sec.
Bible Board, S. B. C.--A. C. Dayton, Cor. Sec.
Georgia Baptist State Convention--W. D. Atkinson.

The former President, the Rev. Dr. TALBIRD, having declined a re-election, the Convention was organized by the election of the following officers :

- REV. A. G. McCRAW, President,
 A. B. GOODHUE, Recording Secretary,
 H. E. BROOKS, Assistant Secretary.

Appointed committee to fill various vacancies caused by the absence of those selected to preach the Introductory and Missionary Sermons : J. Falkner, H. E. Brooks, A. Williams.

Appointed committee to arrange preaching during the session : J. Falkner, B. Stamps, W. Hill, L. B. Lane, E. G. Talbert, W. B. Haralson.

Invited the following brethren to seats and to participate in the deliberations of the Convention, as officials of the bodies which they respectively represent, viz :

Rev. P. Stout, Agent Southern Baptist Publication Society.

Rev. J. A. Collins, Agent B. D. M. S. B. C., for Alabama.

Rev. J. D. Williams, Agent B. F. M. S. B. C. for Ala.

Rev. W. Wilkes, Financial Secretary for Howard College.

Rev. F. M. Law, Cor. Sec. Ala. Baptist Bible Society.

Rev. J. H. DeVotie, Financial Secretary, B. D. M. S. B. C.

The Convention then adjourned.

TWO O'CLOCK, P. M.

Committees to report during the session announced, viz :

On Finance ; D. R. Lide, J. Wilmer, D. Gordon.

On Periodicals ; A. T. Holmes, W. Wilkes, J. T. S. Park.

On Letters and Documents ; J. F. Bledsoe, J. Talbert, Z. G.

Henderson.

Auditing Committee ; J. Falkner, M. S. Cleveland, J. C.

Foster.

To Nominate Preachers for the next Convention ; F. M. Law,

H. E. Taliaferro, E. T. Smith.

To Nominate remaining Officers ; W. H. McIntosh, D. Lee,

J. A. Collins.

Invited ministering brethren present to seats ; invitation accepted by Rev. J. Barrow.

Report of Committee on Temperance laid on the table.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, in order to hear the Introductory Sermon, by Rev. P. H. Lundy, to-night.

SATURDAY, 9. A. M.

Prayer by Rev. J. H. DeVotie. Minutes read and approved.

Added I. T. Tichenor and A. Williams to Committee on Southern Baptist Publication Society, to fill vacancies, and made the report of this committee the special order of the day for Monday, 10 o'clock.

Appointed a committee to inquire into the relation existing between this Convention and the Judson Female Institute at Marion, to report to this body at its next session : I. T. Tichenor, J. Walker, L. B. Lane, J. L. M. Curry, S. Henderson

Appointed a new Committee on Education, the members of

the one appointed at the last session not being present: A. J. Battle, W. H. McIntosh, and A. T. Holmes.

Appointed a committee to report on the subject matter of a communication from Wm. Jenkins, administrator of the Will of Wm. Jenkins, Sen., deceased: J. H. DeVotie, D. Lee, S. Henderson, H. Talbird, J. Falkner, W. Williams, P. H. Lundy.

Report of Board of Trustees of the Judson Female Institute, referred to Committee on Education.

Report of the Board of Trustees of Howard College referred to Committee on Education.

Set of resolutions offered by W. Wilkes, in relation to the claims of Howard College to the support of the Convention, referred to the Committee on Education.

Report of Committee on Domestic Missions adopted. [*Appendix A.*]

Resolved to give place to the Bible Society from 3 o'clock this afternoon until night. Adjourned.

SATURDAY, 2, P. M.

Report of committee to nominate the remaining officers of the Convention adopted:

WILLIAM P. CHILTON, 1st Vice President,
H. TALBIRD, 2d " "
S. S. SHERMAN, Corresponding Secretary,
S. H. FOWLKES, Treasurer.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

E. D. King, Wm. Hornbuckle, J. T. Barron, J. Billingsley, A. A. Connella, J. F. Bailey, W. N. Wyatt, I. W. Garrott, J. S. Ford.

Accepted the resignation of J. H. DeVotie as Trustee of Howard College, and appointed W. H. McIntosh to fill out his term of office.

Report of committee to raise stock to purchase S. W. Baptist, adopted. [*Appendix B.*]

Adopted the following resolution, viz:

Whereas, it appears that the committee to nominate Trustees of Howard College at the last session reported for re-election the names of three whose term of office did not then expire, viz: J. H. DeVotie, O. L. Shivers, and W. P. Chilton, in place of three whose term of office did then expire, viz: I. W. Garrott, A. G. McCraw, and W. N. Wyatt, therefore,

Resolved, That it was the intention of this Convention to re-elect the latter, whose term then expired.

Adjourned till 7 o'clock, to hear the sermon on Education, by the Rev. A. J. Battle.

SUNDAY, 11 A. M.

Preaching at the various churches in town by members of the Convention.

THREE O'CLOCK, P. M.

Mass meeting for Missions and addresses by R. W. Priest, Missionary elect to Africa, J. Walker and J. H. DeVotie—amount of collection, \$205 60.

MONDAY, 9, A. M.

Prayer by Rev. I. T. Tichenor.

Report of Committee on Foreign Missions adopted.--

[*Appendix C.*]

During the discussion of the motion to adopt the above report, some very effective remarks were made by Bro. Priest, Missionary elect to Africa, and on motion of J. H. DeVotie,

Resolved to unite with the President of the Convention in prayer to Almighty God in his behalf.

Took a recess in order to give the members an opportunity to contribute for the support of Bro. P., and raised in cash and pledges \$201 50.

Adopted the following resolution, viz :

Whereas, the colored congregation at the Baptist church in LaFayette, without being solicited to do so, did on yesterday take up a collection among themselves for the African Mission amounting to \$11 00 ; therefore,

Resolved, That said sum of \$11 00 be appropriated to the support of Bro. Priest, exempt from the pro rata tax for the expenses of the Convention.

Authorized the Finance Committee to pay over to the proper officers of the different Boards present, the funds belonging to said Boards, and resolved to exempt the Bible Society from the pro rata tax for printing minutes.

Report of Committee on Southern Publication Society laid on the table for the time being

Resolved, That when this Convention adjourns, it will adjourn to meet in Marion.

Made the report of the Committee on Education the special order for half past two, this afternoon.

Report of committee on the letter of Wm. Jenkins read, and pending a motion to adopt, the Convention adjourned.

2½ O'CLOCK, P. M.

Report of the Committee on Education, the special order for this hour, adopted. [*Appendix D.*]

Report of Board of Trustees of Howard College adopted. [*Appendix E.*]

Report of Board of Trustees of Judson Female Institute adopted. [*Appendix F.*]

Report of Committee on Wm. Jenkins Letter, taken up and adopted. [*Appendix G.*]

Treasurer's Report referred to Auditing Committee. [*Appendix H.*]

Appropriated ninety dollars for printing minutes.

Appropriated forty dollars for distributing minutes.

Report of Committee on Finance referred to Auditing Committee. [*Appendix H.*]

Report of Committee on Southern Baptist Publication Society taken up and adopted. [*Appendix I.*]

Resolved, That the members of the Convention will exert themselves to raise at least \$5,000 for the S. B. P. Society on E. King's proposition, before the first of June.

Appointed the Secretary, Treasurer pro tem.

Appointed delegates to the Convention at Augusta, Ga., to consider the propriety of establishing a Central Southern Baptist Theological Seminary: S. Henderson, J. H. DeVotie, W. H. McIntosh, W. Williams, J. C. Foster, of Tuscaloosa co., D. Gordon, and A. Williams.

Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools adopted. [*App. J.*]

Report of Committee on Periodicals adopted.-- [*App'x K.*]

Committee on Letters and Documents reported that nothing had been presented to them claiming their notice.

The President announced the standing committees:

On Temperance; A. Van Hoose, J. C. Foster, of Tuscaloosa county, W. Wilkes.

On Foreign Missions; I. T. Tichenor, J. D. Williams, A. T. Holmes.

On Sabbath Schools; W. H. McIntosh, Z. G. Henderson, J. Wilmer,

On Domestic Missions; J. H. DeVotie, D. Lee, J. Falkner.

On Education; H. Talbird, P. H. Lundy, A. J. Battle.

On S. B. P. Society; W. Williams E. C. J. B. Thomas, J. C. Foster, of Wilcox county.

Report of Auditing Committee adopted.

Appointed delegates to the Georgia Baptist Convention: S. Henderson, D. Gordon, D. Lee, J. H. DeVotie, W. H. McIntosh, L. M. McDonald, H. H. Bacon, F. T. Tichenor, A. Williams, A. Van Hoose, J. Walker T. M. Harbin, P. H. Lundy.

Appointed delegates to the Cherokee Convention: J. D. Renfro, L. B. Lane, E. T. Smith, C. W. Lay, S. G. Jenkins, W. C. Mynatt, W. Hill.

Appointed delegates to the Florida Convention :

S. Henderson, P. Stout, J. H. DeVotie, H. H. Bacon, J. T. S. Park, G. W. Cariker, J. S. Paullin F. Calloway, J. Falkner.

Appointed delegates to the General Association of North Alabama and Middle Tennessee : W. B. Jones, W. Wilkes, J. T. Russell, J. D. Williams, P. Stout, S. Henderson, A. J. Battle, J. H. DeVotie.

Appointed delegates to the Mississippi Baptist Convention : J. C. Foster, I. T. Tichenor, P. H. Lundy.

Report of Committee to nominate Preachers for the next session adopted :

Introductory Sermon by A. T. HOLMES ; A. VAN HOOSE, alternate.

Missionary Sermon--I. T. TICHENOR, W. WILKES alternate.

Sermon on Education--S. HENDERSON, H. E. TALIAFERRO alternate.

Passed a vote of thanks to the citizens of LaFayette for their kind hospitality, and to the members of the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches for the use of their houses of worship.

Resolved, That the S. B. P. Society be requested to regard the fund given them from the bequest of Wm. Jenkins as a permanent one.

Referred all unfinished business to the Board of Directors.

Adjourned to meet in Marion on Friday before the second Sabbath in April, 1857.

Prayer by Rev. F. Calloway.

A. G. McCRAW, President.

A. B. GOODHUE, Recording Secretary,

H. E. BROOKS, Assistant Sec'y.

A P P E N D I X .

[A] Report of Committee on Domestic Missions.

The Committee on Domestic Missions offer the following Report :

Never, in the history of this department of christian effort, have its interests presented a more inviting prospect, or called more earnestly for the united prayers, labor, and liberality of christians, than at the present time.

To the Board of Domestic Missions of the Southern Baptist Convention, the Macedonian appeal is borne from every quarter, and had that Board the means in hand, or the assurance that their Treasury, like the widow's cruse of oil, should not lack, but be replenished as often as drawn upon, they could at this time greatly widen the circle of their operations. A prudent caution has constrained them to defer for the present the appointment of additional missionaries, and the occupancy of new fields of labor, but which it is hoped the beneficence of the churches will enable them to do at their next meeting. They have now under appointment, one hundred missionaries and agents. During the year ending first of April, 2251 persons have been baptized, and when all of the reports of missionaries shall have been received, the number will no doubt be considerably increased.

These missionaries are laborious, self-sacrificing men, whose compensation in no case is more than barely adequate to their support, and in many instances requires the most rigid economy and judicious management to supply the necessaries of life.

Besides what this Board is doing, there are many independent Associational organizations, of whose labors and results we have no means of obtaining any definite knowledge, but which we do not doubt would greatly swell the sum total. Your committee would earnestly recommend the general co-operation of our Associations with the Board at Marion. This can be done without diminishing the amount of missionary labor performed within their own boundaries. Let each Association contribute its funds to the Board of the Southern Baptist Convention at Marion, and designate their own missionary, who shall receive his commission from that Board, and report to them his labors. This plan would insure accurate statistics of funds contributed, work performed, and results attained, which at a glance would show what we are doing; it would increase the concern of all the parties interested, and we think greatly facilitate the work.

At the meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, in May last, the Indian Mission was placed in charge of the Board of Domestic Missions. Upon an investigation of its affairs, it was found to be embarrassed with a debt of \$7,000. This debt our brethren in the South and West have nobly met, and we are happy to learn is almost to the last dollar extinguished. Old appointments (of missionaries) have been renewed, and new appointments made, so that we have a larger number of native preachers in the field than ever before. In this mission the prospect brightens every day.

The transfer of Indian affairs to the Board at Marion, imposes additional responsibilities upon the Board, and demands increased liberality on the part of Christians. A great work has been confided to them, and they can accomplish it only so far as they are sustained by the prayers and contributions of their brethren.

With devout gratitude to God for mercies received, and relying upon Him for wisdom, grace, and protection, and the generosity of the churches to sustain the work of our country's evangelization, we take courage and go on.

WM. H. McINTOSH, Chairman.

[B] Report of the Committee to raise Stock for the South Western Baptist.

The Committee to whom was referred the matter of raising funds to purchase the South Western Baptist printing office from the Hon. W. P. Chilton, respectfully submit—That owing to the removal of one member of the committee, Bro. Keene, from the State, and the want of convenient opportunities for conferring together upon the subject, they took no steps to comply with the request of the convention at its last session.

They learned that some time after the adjournment of your body, the proprietor, under the apprehension that no steps would be taken, and not having time to devote to the interest of the paper, sold out his entire interest in said printing establishment, with all its assets of every description, to Elders Willis B. Jones, Samuel Henderson, and H. E. Taliatferro, for the price of three thousand dollars, they engaging to pay the outstanding liabilities incurred on account thereof. Since then, the paper has been carried on by these brethren, who have not as yet paid the former proprietor any portion of the purchase money.

Your committee state that the present proprietors have exerted themselves vigorously to make the paper such as it should be and have incurred considerable expense in the purchase of new type and appliances for the office—the expense amounting to not less than seven hundred dollars.

It is further proper that your committee should state, the present owners are not in a condition to submit to sacrifices in order to carry on said paper; neither do we believe that a generous and liberal denomination should suffer

the burthen of sustaining its organ to fall upon a few individuals, even if they were able to sustain such loss. That the paper must be sustained, we all agree; but how shall this be done? It is a fact, fully confirmed by the past history of the paper, that every one who has hitherto attempted to carry it on, has lost money by it. To say the least of it, the capital invested in its purchase has been, in the hands of the owner, wholly unproductive.

The paper appears now to be on a firmer basis than it ever was; but it does not more than pay its current expenses, and the owners have nothing to compensate them for the dead capital invested in its purchase. Under these circumstances, your committee are fully satisfied that justice to the proprietors and a due regard to the Cause of Christ, and to the honor of the denomination, require that the burthen of sustaining the paper should be shared with the proprietors. To this end we strongly recommend that a subscription be raised of half the capital invested—say \$2,000. That this be paid to the proprietors, and that they bind themselves to use it in maintaining the paper and extinguishing its liabilities; and that they will keep it up, not inferior in appearance and matter to its present issues.

There are a number of liberal minded brethren who have expressed a willingness to contribute in this way, and we feel confident that no object in the range of benevolent enterprise appeals more loudly for aid, nor is fraught with more interest as involving the advancement of truth, and the prosperity of genuine Christianity and sound doctrine.

Brethren, come up at once, and do your duty.

Respectfully submitted.

J. M. NEWMAN, Chairman.

[C]. Report on Foreign Missions.

The Committee on Foreign Missions have found it difficult to frame a report at once guarding against prolixity on the one hand and brevity on the other.

We do not feel that it is incumbent on us in the discharge of the duty assigned us at this late period of time, to prove by multiplying quotations from the Bible, that the missionary enterprise has the sanction of Jehovah; that the various evangelical institutions which are the boast of the present age and the glory of the Christian Church, are laudable in their zeal, and calculated to exert a salutary influence on the character and destiny of man. The great majority of the christian world has long since, with one united voice, decided this question. It is, then, only necessary for us to excite, if possible, the Church to the discharge of her high and important duty.

Christians are urged to activity and liberality in the noble cause of missions, by inducements strong as the ties that bind them to their fellow men; obligations as obligatory as the commands of the eternal word; and in connection with the execution of such duty, there are associations as cheering as the consciousness of having discharged one's duty, and the reflection that God approves the course. "Much has already been accomplished by the blessings of the Lord upon the labors of his servants in heathen lands: but what has been, compared with what ought to have been, and with what must be done, before the world shall have been revolutionized by grace divine, is as a drop to the mighty ocean. Millions of Adam's race are yet bound by the chains of ignorance and superstition. Of the one thousand millions that swarm upon the earth's surface, not more, perhaps, than one hundred millions of real christians. Fearful are the odds with which the church must contend in the war waged against Satan's kingdom. Yet she need not fear. Omnipotence proposes, and omnipotence can and will execute. All the enemies of Christ are to be subdued, and His Church on earth is the instrument in His hand, for the accomplishment of His glorious purpose. When the united energies of the church shall have been brought to bear directly against Satan's kingdom, under the direction of the blessed Jesus, the powers of darkness must wither, and the throne of that usurping despot will crumble into atoms. But we may be asked if we have unmistakable signs from missionary

labor in heathen lands, that the Gospel can and will triumph. We answer that the evidences of final success are amply sufficient to inspire confidence in the friends of the Redeemer, to arouse them to a higher exertion than has heretofore been made. Missionary success in every land, has been commensurate with the effort made, and in every region of the globe, where the gospel has been faithfully preached, we find votaries of religion—the servants of Jesus—the privileged heirs of heaven. This truth, taken in connection with the promise made by Christ: “Ask of me and I will give thee the heathen for thy inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.” Add to this the glorious truth that “the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth,” then every doubt in relation to the triumph of christian principles is removed, and every fear quelled.

The present seems to be an auspicious time for the augmentation of our missionary army. The political revolutions in the old world have opened the door wider for the introduction of the Bible. Ours indeed is a remarkable age. Progress is stamped in legible characters on her front. Could the learned and the good who lived in ages that are past, be reanimated and again walk forth upon the earth, the scenes that would meet their bewildered gaze would convince them that they had been aroused in another planet. The absurd theories that pervaded every branch of physical and intellectual science have vanished before the omnipotence of truth and experiment. Through the ingenuity of man the remote bounds of the universe have been made to approximate—the other continent has become our neighbor, and the isles of the ocean almost our kindred.

If the children of light were as wise as the children of this world, all this vast improvement would be made subservient to the grand purpose of revolutionizing and christianizing a world. They but point the lovers of Jesus to what may be accomplished by intense application and concentrated effort. With the accumulated facilities for the introduction of the Bible, and for the propagation of correct principles, should also come corresponding activity and benevolence on the part of the lovers of Christ Jesus. Although the past should encourage us, we should feel that there is no time for idleness, or the tightening of the purse-strings while so much remains to be done. But little more than a half century has passed since modern missionary enterprise commenced. Since then, though obstacles have been constantly met with, though it has been compelled to war against prejudice, ignorance, bigotry and avarice, the Bible has been translated, in whole or in part, in languages and dialects spoken by about seven tenths of the inhabitants of the earth (It is true that but a small proportion of the seven-tenths have yet had direct access to the word of truth.) From eight to ten thousand missionaries and assistants have been employed; by them schools have been built up, and churches organized, and now, perhaps, there are four hundred thousand souls in heathen lands, who live in hope of Heaven through the medium of the cross. While such has been the grand total accomplished, our own Board for the Foreign field have clearly proven their capacity for, and devotion to, the great enterprise committed to their care. All that could be reasonably expected from the means placed in their hands, has been accomplished. I learn from the last report of the Board, that we have three stations, forty missionaries and assistants, seventeen schools, with about five hundred pupils. Since this report was made, three other missionaries have been appointed for Africa, two of them now on their way. The fields occupied by these missionaries are two of the cities of China—the coast of Africa—and the noble little band headed by Bowen in the interior of that dark territory. How inadequate the means for the end desired. China, with her three hundred millions, and only fifteen or twenty agents to promulgate Baptist principles, and rear there the banner of the cross. Did our brethren properly feel the value of immortal souls, and the claims which Jesus has on all his subjects, their numbers would be immediately augmented, a fresh impulse would be given, and the wheels of missionary enterprise would roll on more smoothly. Africa presents perhaps a yet more inviting field for christian philanthropy and missionary effort. That land for ages in darkness and night. “To her, light has sprung up.” In the interior of that great mass of ignorance and superstition, has the

pioneer missionary already entered. Thus new fields for christian enterprise scarcely equaled in promise and extent, are opening before us. The Macedonian cry "come over and help us," have reached us from large cities, the existence of which until recently was almost entirely unknown. May the time not be near when "Princes shall come out of Egypt, and Ethiopia shall stretch her hands unto God." The Providence, however, that opens up to us those widening fields for benevolent exertion and christian philanthropy, also increases our responsibilities. So far as Africa is concerned, this responsibility must be mainly met by the members of Southern churches. The church North seems to expend all her sympathy and offer all her charities to those of the African race to whom the gospel is already faithfully preached, and who need not their charity. Let us nobly respond to the call which Africa makes to our christian charity, send to her the gospel and a living ministry, and at once discharge an obligation we owe to Jesus and the benighted heathen, and at the same time repel the foul charges so frequently made against us by Northern fanatics that we are destitute of sympathy, and all the noble qualities that should adorn and dignify christian character.

Your committee would recommend the ministers and delegates present to make a vigorous effort to raise ten thousand dollars for the foreign missionary field the ensuing year.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

P. H. LUNDY, Chairman.

[D] Report of Committee on Education.

The committee regret that the short time allotted them for the preparation of a Report, will not permit such an investigation of the subject assigned to them, as its importance demands. The necessity of Education is now so generally admitted and appreciated, that to undertake to demonstrate it would seem a superfluous task. The deep interest which the Baptists of Alabama have manifested in promoting this important object, affords a gratifying evidence of their determination to keep pace with the progressive spirit of the age; while the enterprizes they have begun open a most hopeful prospect for us and our children.

The committee have the pleasure to report, that the various educational establishments, under the control of Baptists in our State, are enjoying a high degree of prosperity. One or two new ones have been inaugurated since the last session of this body, which give promise of the best success and usefulness. The two Institutions claiming the patronage of this Convention are fulfilling the wishes of their friends in a manner truly surprising, if we consider the difficulties which they have had to encounter.

The Judson Female Institute is truly an honor to the denomination. It has acquired a reputation almost national—at least it is known and appreciated throughout the Southern States. Since the last session of the Convention, it has undergone a change of administration for the first time since its establishment; and so far from suffering under the present regime, it promises to out-run its past marvellous success. It is a most gratifying circumstance, and one which we cannot but regard as providential, that our denomination is leading in the education of that portion of the rising youth, who are destined to mould the character and impress the principles of the next generation. With such Institutions as the Judson, and its twin sister, the East Alabama Female College, properly sustained, together with a number of other Seminaries of high grade for the education of females under our influence, it needs no prophet to foretell the predominant religious complexion of future generations.

Female Seminaries when well patronized are self-sustaining; not so male colleges. These require a permanent fund from which the operations are carried on from year to year. Howard College, the offspring of the Convention, though established years since, is yet without an adequate endowment. By the energetic labors of its agent—brother De Vore—during, past years, the fund has reached the sum of about \$85,000. This, for a College suitable

to our wants, is but a beginning. The denomination in Alabama should not be satisfied with an amount less than that possessed by the most munificently endowed College in the State. The University of Alabama has an available fund of \$300,000. The contemplated Greensboro' University, projected by the Methodist Conference, has already a subscription of near \$200,000; though the work of building has not yet been begun. Let us not be behind any. With our strength we can compete with the strongest, and with our principles we can distance the proudest of rivals. Then we urge upon our brethren the necessity of making an immediate effort in behalf of this our cherished Institution. Let us, the representatives of the great Baptist family of our State, set the example here, and when we return home let us omit no effort to secure speedily a competent endowment of Howard College.

Your committee cannot fail to notice and commend the faithful and successful efforts which have recently been made by brethren De Votie and Wilks, the energetic agents of the College. The former during the short course of his agency secured the sum of \$10,000. The latter, but very recently appointed, has obtained ———. Bro. De Votie has, also, with great labor and care, collected a valuable set of minerals and fossils; which constitutes a nucleus for a good Cabinet. For this he merits the gratitude of the Convention.

The committee would call the attention of the denomination to the subject of contributions for the support of beneficiaries in the College. The amount sent to the last Convention was only \$155.62—a sum utterly inadequate for the purpose. It is hoped that this matter will receive the consideration it deserves. Here are young men of talents and energy who are full of zeal for souls, and who under favorable circumstances would become useful laborers in the Master's vineyard. But they are without that culture so imperatively demanded by the exigencies of the times, and are without means for obtaining it. While we pray that God would raise up and qualify ministers for the work, let us do our part and supply them with the necessary preparation.

We cannot close this report without alluding to an enterprize which is in contemplation, and which we regard as a most important one. Time will not allow us to treat of this subject as we would desire. But we are convinced that it is just what is needed by the denomination. We refer to the establishment of a Central Southern Theological Seminary. And we recommend that this body send delegates to the Convention which will assemble for the consideration of this subject, on the 29th of April, in the city of Augusta.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

A. J. BATTLE,	} Committee.
W. H. McINTOSH,	
A. T. HOLMES,	

[E] Report of the Board of Trustees of Howard College.

The education of the young is an object of deep and paramount importance. It commends itself to the sympathies of the christian, the benevolence of the philanthropist, and the wisdom of the legislator. When conducted with a wise reference to the moral and intellectual wants of the age, it is eminently conducive to the best interests of society, and to the glory of God. The importance of the subject has not failed to attract the attention of religionists of every denomination, and all are striving to build up superior literary institutions, merely for the influence they confer on those who control them. The Presbyterians have labored in this good work with a perseverance and success which may well challenge the admiration of the world. The Episcopalians have been scarcely less zealous, and have labored with almost equal success. The Methodists are beginning to view this subject in its true light, and are rapidly combining their wealth and numbers in well directed efforts to establish and endow Institutions of learning. During the last year, the Methodists of Alabama have made the noble contribution of over one hundred and sixty thousand dollars to endow a college at Greensboro'.

In these facts we cannot fail to perceive the duties which devolve upon us as Baptists. We must, in self defence, and in generous rivalry, address ourselves with renewed energy to this great work. No middle-ground is before us. It is success or failure, honor or dishonor. We must be first or last. The necessity is laid upon us to build up and sustain institutions of our own or be content to allow others to reap all the advantages they bestow. We must also be willing to have our sons educated under influences of which we can never approve.

Baptists, it is true, have not been wholly inattentive to these momentous interests; and the infinite importance of providing suitably for the education of our young people is forcing itself upon the denominational mind with a constantly deepening impression. In relation to this whole subject, we rejoice to perceive in our midst the indications of a more enlightened policy. In other States, much has already been accomplished, and the denomination has now the control of some of the most firmly established colleges in the land. Even in Alabama we have made a beginning, and have, as the result of our efforts, a college which is partially endowed. True, it is yet in its infancy, and is suffering from the coldness and neglect of those who should be its most decided patrons and supporters, if they would carry into action the principles they profess. If the Baptists of Alabama will cherish a personal and religious regard for the Howard, and labor as individuals to promote its prosperity as the college of the denomination, its success may be regarded as certain.

During the year 1855 the Rev. James H. DeVotie filled the office of Financial Secretary of the College, and discharged its duties with distinguished success. He secured contributions amounting in all to about forty thousand dollars—one half for the erection of the building, the other for the increase of the endowment fund. The Board regret that they could not induce him to continue in his office for another year. They are happy, however, to state that they have secured the services of the Rev. W. Wilkes. He has entered upon his work with great enthusiasm, and with encouraging prospects of success. If the favor of the denomination to its educational enterprise continues to increase for the next few years as it has done for two or three years past, your Board are persuaded that in a very short time they will be enabled to report a sufficient amount of endowment fund to place the college beyond all reasonable contingency. The present financial condition of the college is as follows:

Theological Fund.....	\$20,000 50
Literary Fund.....	59,628 21

Experience has taught us that it is not the work of a year to endow a college, and it is no ground of discouragement if the end is not speedily attained. It is by advancing slowly and securely, year by year, that the object must ultimately be accomplished. The above are the results of your labors—less, it is true, than we could have wished, but in drawing comparisons between this and similar enterprises, it must be admitted that our reasonable expectations have been fully realized.

In addition to all this your Board are persuaded that no institution of equal age and advantages can be found in our country which has taken a higher stand in the department of instruction, or in which that instruction is more thoroughly given. In the Languages, the students are well trained and are progressing with great rapidity. The Professor of Mathematics has succeeded in advancing his classes in these difficult branches with a thoroughness and rapidity which has both surprized and gratified your Board. Thus the Freshman class will, in a few days, have completed, in a highly creditable manner, the whole of Algebra and Geometry; and the Sophomore class, the entire course of pure mathematics. In the department of Natural Sciences—if any where—it might have been expected that an institution so recently organized, would fail in efficiency. Such, however, is not the fact. Immediately after the destruction of the college building, with the entire Philosophical Apparatus, the citizens of Marion, by private subscription, presented a fund to the college to supply the latter. This fund was increased to something over three thousand dollars by friends not residents of Marion. A

complete Chemical Apparatus has been purchased, and a Philosophical Apparatus being in quality of the first class, and superior to that destroyed. In order that the Convention may form some idea of the facilities possessed by the college for imparting instruction in these branches, we invite your attention to the subjoined extract from a report of the Professor of the Natural Sciences:

"During the present session, now six months gone, there have been exhibited to the classes studying these branches: In Mechanics thirty distinct experiments; in Hydrostatics ten; in Pneumatics forty-eight; in Optics there have been few illustrations, chiefly because the room designed for and adapted to such experiments is not yet finished. The powerful Solar Microscope has not yet arrived, but is expected daily. The no less powerful compound Microscope is on hand. In Electricity and Magnetism one hundred and twenty-one experiments have been exhibited—subject not yet completed. In Heat, and the remaining Physics connected with Chemistry, sixty. Chemistry proper, the class has but first entered upon. Only six or seven of the elements have been discussed. Up to the present time the experiments number only eighty-one; making in all, thus far in the session, three hundred and fifty distinct experiments. When the entire apparatus is received, and the rooms designed for this department, now in process of erection, are finished, nearly twice as many illustrative experiments will be exhibited."

Your Board are persuaded, even at the present rate, that the students in Howard College will enjoy the benefit of more than double the number of experiments usually exhibited to the classes studying these branches in our most favored colleges. The college is in possession of all the necessary appliances for giving instruction in Astronomy, except a Telescope. The Ladies of Marion have presented the college with \$160 to purchase an instrument, but at least double this amount is requisite, and the instrument has not yet been ordered. The cabinet contains a good suit of Geographical and Mineralogical specimens.

The Board have done all in their power to provide suitable accommodations for the college in buildings. One dormitory 122 feet long and 50 feet wide, has been so nearly completed as to be fit for occupancy. The main college building is now in process of erection. The work has been delayed by the severity of the winter, and the building will not be finished before September. It will be ready for occupancy by the opening of the next session. It will contain a Chapel, Philosophical and Society Halls, Library, Cabinet and Recitation Rooms. Before the close of another year, the college will greatly need a second dormitory building. The amount of money in the hands of the Board, which may be appropriated to that purpose, does not warrant them in contracting for its erection. It will require about \$12,500 to pay for the building, and some \$8,000 of it must yet be procured. Your Board would respectfully inquire whether the Convention cannot suggest some plan by which this want of the college may speedily be supplied.

The whole number of students registered during the last session, was 134, of whom 14 were connected with the Theological Department. At the last annual commencement, an interesting class of six young men received the honors of graduation. Of these, three were students of Theology, and are now engaged in the active duties of the Gospel Ministry. This is a feature in the college which should endear it to every Baptist heart; and the Board would earnestly commend this branch of the institution to the especial attention of the Convention, with the confident hope that they will cheerfully promote its interests in all possible respects.

In the last annual report of the Board, the following sentence occurs:—"The history of the Preparatory Department attached to the college, shows that it has fallen short of defraying its expenses, and it is submitted whether or not it would be advisable to stop the constant drain on the treasury or dispensing altogether with this department." The Convention did not act on this suggestion, but referred it back to the Board. At their last annual meeting, your Board, after mature deliberation, decided that the interests of the college would be promoted by dispensing with the Preparatory Department. Immediate measures were taken to consummate the arrangement,

and the Board of Trustees of Howard College, as such, has now no connection with the Grammar School.

The result has not disappointed the expectation of the Board. Both institutions exhibit more decided marks of efficiency, and the number of students in the two does not vary much from 140—more than half of whom are connected with the college. In making this change, the Board did not lose sight of the wants of the Theological Department, and the Faculty of the College have it in charge to furnish instruction for all who enter the college with the design of studying for the ministry, without reference to the state of their advancement. There is, therefore, no difference in this respect, and all who wish to pursue a course of studies preparatory to the ministry of the gospel, may come with the assurance that provision will be made for their instruction.

It is due to the young men that the Board should testify to the correctness and propriety of their deportment, and to their industry and application to their studies.

At the close of the last session, Prof. L. Brown signified his intention to decline a re-election to the professorship of languages, and Professor D. G. Sherman was appointed to fill the vacancy. In other respects, the faculty remain the same as at your last anniversary meeting.

E. D. KING, President pro tem., Board Trustees.

[F] Report of Board of Trustees of the Judson Female Institute.

The Board of Trustees of the Judson Institute are happy to inform you that it was never in a more prosperous condition. The number of students is two hundred and thirty, and one hundred and forty of that number are music scholars. We are satisfied that the Institution has not and never will suffer in the slightest degree by the change of principals. Prof. S. S. SHERMAN is considered fully equal to the former principal. He has also a corps of Teachers unsurpassed in any institution in the United States.

E. D. KING, Pres't of Board Trust.

[G] Report on the Bequest of William Jenkins, sr.

The ninth section of the will of William Jenkins, deceased, is in the words following: "I give to the Baptist State Convention of this State, four thousand dollars, to be used by said Convention, or under its direction, for the spread of the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, according to the faith of that Church of which I am a member."

Wm. Jenkins, jr., the executor of the will, states in his communication to your body, that he will be prepared to pay the amount specified at any time after the 20th day of July next. He also requests the appointment of an agent who is a resident of Talladega county, to receive and receipt for the same.

To perpetuate the memory of the beloved departed, and the blessings which may, under Divine Providence, flow from this bequest, and to meet the views of the executor and carry out the intentions of the donor, your committee offer the following resolutions for the adoption of the Convention:

Resolved, That J. L. M. Curry, of Talladega county, be, and he is hereby authorized to receive this fund and receipt therefor to the executor, as the agent of this Convention.

Resolved, That the amount bequeathed to this Convention be and is hereby appropriated to the spread of the Gospel, as follows, to-wit: One-fifth of the whole amount to the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, located at Richmond, Virginia; one-fifth of the whole amount to the Domestic Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, located at Marion; one-fifth of the whole amount to the Bible Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, located at Nashville; one-fifth of the whole amount to the Southern Baptist Publication Society, located at Charleston; and the remain-

ing one-fifth to the beneficiaries of Howard College, in the Theological Department of the same; which last one-fifth shall be permanently invested in some safe way, the annual interest alone of which shall be used.

Resolved, That J. L. M. Curry, the agent appointed to receive from the executor the sum bequeathed, be, and is hereby authorized to pay over the above amount to the accredited agents of these institutions, so soon as application shall be made to him after he shall have received the bequest.

Resolved, That Hon. W. P. Chilton, J. Walter Echols, and B. F. Noble, be a committee empowered to draw upon J. L. M. Curry for the last-mentioned one-fifth designed for the beneficiaries, so soon as the money shall be placed in his hands; and they are hereby requested and instructed to invest it immediately in a safe and profitable manner; providing for the payment of the interest, or installments, at most, annually, to the order of the Treasurer of this Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. DE VOTIE, Cha'n.

[H]

Treasurer's Report.

S. H. FOWLKES, Treasurer, in Account Current with the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

FOREIGN MISSION ACCOUNT.

		DR	
1855.			
May 11.	To cash from Finance Com. for For. Missions,	\$538 22	
	" " " " " " African Miss.	83 95	
	" " " " " " China "	32 25	\$654 42
July 25.	" " " Rev. W. S. Barton,		5 09
			<hr/> \$659 42
1855.			
May 11.	By A. M. Polndexter's receipt,	\$598 92	
	" amount retained for minutes, &c.,	55 50	\$654 42
	Balance on hand		5 09
			<hr/> \$659 42

DOMESTIC MISSION ACCOUNT.

		DR.	
1855			
May 11.	To cash from Finance Com. for D. M.,	\$618 45	
	" " " " " Col'd Miss.,	13 60	\$632 05
July 25.	" " " Rev. W. S. Barton,		5 00
			<hr/> \$637 05
1855.			
May 11.	By Joseph Walker's receipt,	\$562 05	
April 30, 1856.	By amount retained for minutes, &c.,	70 00	
	By Wm. Hornbuckle's receipt,	. 5 00	\$637 05

BIBLE SOCIETY ACCOUNT.

		DR.	
1855.			
May 11.	To cash from Finance for For. B. Cause,	\$11 50	
	" " " " " Domestic "	92 28	\$103 78
1855.			
July 7.	By E. A. Blunt's receipt,	\$103 78	\$103 78

SOUTHERN PUBLICATION SOCIETY ACCOUNT.

		DR	
1854,			
Dec. 8.	To balance, (see last report,)	\$105 95	
	" cash from Finance Committee,	71 40	
May 11, 1853.	To cash from same,	37 75	\$215 10

1854.		CR.	
May 12.	By J. P. Tustin's receipt,	\$177 35	
	" " " "	37 75	\$215 10

GENERAL PURPOSE ACCOUNT.

		DR.	
May 11.	To cash from Finance Committee,	\$22 50	
	" " " Foreign Mission, for minutes, &c.,	55 50	
	" " " Dom. " " " "	70 00	
	" " " Indian " " " "	17 00	\$165 00

		CR.	
July 18.	By A. B. Goodhue's receipt	\$165 00	\$165 00

INDIAN MISSION ACCOUNT.

		DR.	
May 10.	To balance, (see last report.)	\$821 35	
	" cash from Finance com. for Indian Miss.,	180 38	
	" " " " Creek Indians,	67 25	
July 25.	" " " Rev. W. S. Barton,	5 00	\$1073 98

		CR.	
May 10.	By H. F. Buckner's receipts	\$36 25	
Apr 1	" " " "	34 50	
June 9.	" C. F. Sturgis' order,	100 00	
	" amount retained for minutes,	17 00	
Oct 19.	" Joseph Walker's receipt.	886 23	\$1073 98

BENEFICIARY HOWARD COLLEGE ACCOUNT.

		DR.	
May 10.	To balance, (see last report.)	\$167 12	
" 11.	" cash from Finance Committee,	155 62	
July 25.	" " " Rev. W. S. Barton.	5 00	
Oct 23.	" " " Ala. Ass'n for J. R. Webster's ben't	50 00	
" " " " " J. A. Lake for same,	5 00		
Nov. 1	" " " J. J. Lamar,	10 00	
Dec. 19	" " " Ala. Ass'n for J. R. Webster,	24 00	\$416 74

		CR.	
June 19.	By S. S. Lattimer's two receipts,	\$72 00	
July 7.	" E. A. Blunt's "	20 47	
9.	" Mrs. T. B. Hinton's "	43 50	
Aug 6.	" E. A. Blunt's "	66 00	
	Balance,	214 77	\$416 74

HOWARD COLLEGE BUILDING FUND.

		DR.	
Dec.	To balance, (see last report.)	\$52 00	
May 11, 1856.	To cash from Finance	2 00	\$54 00
		CR.	
May 11.	By A. B. Goodhue's receipt,	54 00	\$54 00

To the President and Members of the Alabama Baptist State Convention :

I herewith submit this my annual report as Treasurer of your body, from which you will perceive there is in my hands five dollars, to the credit of the Foreign Mission Board, and two hundred and fourteen dollars and seventy-seven cents to the credit of the Beneficiary Account, making the sum of two hundred and nineteen dollars and seventy-seven cents, now subject to your order.

S. H. FOWLKES, Treasurer A. B. S. C.

April 6, 1856.

Report of Auditing Committee.

The committee having examined the reports of the Treasurer and Financial committee, find them all correct.

J. FALKNER, Chairman.

[I] Report of the Committee on the Southern Baptist Publication Society.

In presenting the interests of this Society to your body, it does not appear necessary to your committee to offer anything like a general review of the many parts of this organization or of its work. The subject has been exhibited much at length in the last year's report of the Society; and a very comprehensive survey was set forth in the Minutes of this Convention, by the proper committee, a year ago.

Your committee would prefer to restrict their attention to a few special considerations of intimate interest to this Convention, in its relations to the Publication Society. The State of Alabama is so situated as particularly to offer scope to such a work as the Publication Society proposes. Its great territory holds but few large cities or towns, and these are wide apart, while our population, numerous in the aggregate, is thinly spread over the broad expanse of the commonwealth. Most of the Southern States present nearly an analogous condition with regard to the distribution of their population, and the general organization of society. Under these circumstances, the Southern people must act, and be acted upon by the press, as the peculiar appliance for all kinds of political, social and moral influence. The mass meeting—the great congregation—the conventicle—the interaction of thronged assemblies—are the methods of chief power for the diffusion of influence in the great and contiguous cities of the North, with their compact mercantile and manufacturing population: but these are not the agencies by which the scattered agricultural people of the South are mostly to be acted upon. By the last census of the General Government, it appears that one seventh of the whole population of the Union are found in large cities, towns and incorporated boroughs of the class containing from five to ten thousand inhabitants and over, in each; while in the Southern States, taken by themselves, fifteen-sixteenths of all the people live entirely in the country, or in villages not larger than the ordinary class of country-seats. For such a people, so situated, the press must be the great channel for the combination and action of the people; and for reaching the minds of individuals by its quiet and ever constant appeal to the eye and the understanding. All of these considerations apply with peculiar force to our many thousands of Baptist Churches—the individuals and families that compose them—and to the large distributive share of the general population under their influence.

It seems to be a singular and Providential co-incidence that the original views which led to the formation of a Baptist Publication Society in the United States, were derived from a regard to the condition of the Southern people, and grew out of the experience of a Southern Baptist minister. The Baptist General Tract Society, which was the parent of this Publication Society and its elder sister in the North, was originated in the City of Washington, in February of 1824. The founder of the Society was a native of Maryland, and at the time of originating this publication scheme, was pastor of the Baptist Church in Norfolk, Virginia. That eminent and godly man, Rev. NOAH DAVIS, is represented, in the person of his son, of the same name, one of the efficient professors now in Howard College, in this State. And though the father has gone to his rest and reward, nearly twenty-six years ago, the organization, which was the outgrowth of his fertile and praying mind, has lived and expanded itself widely over the nation, and for nine years past, has become two bands, neither of them being the less efficient by the separation.

But the situation of our Southern Baptist Publication Society requires a method of policy in many respects peculiar to itself, and some practical considerations on its mode of operation, are all that can now be offered by your committee.

First of all, the management of the *Central Depository* shall be attentively considered, as the fountain and channel of supply, for the widest and most economical diffusion of such publications as are needed by our people. The first six years of the history of the American Baptist Publication movement, while under the controlling hand of Mr. Davis, the founder and manager of

the original Society, suggests some practical lessons. Up to the death of this efficient parent of the organization, it had been laying its foundation for gradual and extensive influence. But about the time of his decease, that Society began to experience many embarrassments from mistaken methods of administration. These chiefly resulted from establishing many "Branch Depositories," under the management of Boards, or Committees of auxiliary Societies. Thus the business, with its countless details, became, as necessarily it must, greatly neglected, from frequent and unexpected changes in the oversight—from accounts not being kept regularly—from damages to books rendered unsaleable, and from the waste of stock, together with the increase of expense consequent upon having so many localities for keeping and distributing the books furnished by the Society.

Your committee deem it as not unfitting, to make some historical reference to those lessons of experience which the parent Society has furnished in its progress of thirty-two years, especially as Southern Baptists were themselves identified with its movements for nearly three-quarters of all that time. The sixteenth annual Report of the General Society, in describing the embarrassments and debts of the years 1831-2, thus speaks: "One of the causes of the embarrassments of the Society, at the time alluded to, must not be overlooked. The Board, at its own expense, undertook the establishment of distant depositories. The result was the accumulation of a considerable amount of stock which lay dead in these depositories. The depreciation of the property thus applied, and the expense of conducting these establishments, soon convinced the Board that the plan of sustaining depositories on its own capital would never succeed; and that sooner or later, it must involve the treasury of the Parent Society. They determined to make no further appropriations for these agencies, but to settle up, and dispose of those in existence."

Ten years later than the period thus referred to, the Corresponding Secretary of the original Society, thus speaks of the sequel, in his efforts to wind up those "Branch Depositories:" "Some were damaged and lost; in others the tracts and books were too filthy to sell, and could hardly be given away. Seldom could a person be found who would acknowledge any pecuniary responsibility. Itinerant ministers and pastors would call and get bundles of tracts, and make no report of them, having gotten the impression that they were given away. No doubt a large proportion thus sent out, got into circulation; were read and did some good, but so far as the books of the Society show, several thousand dollars remained due from some body, and the book accounts of the old Society, with these "Branch Depositories," never were and never could be closed up. The "auxiliaries," with hundreds of other auxiliary societies, connected with our philanthropic institutions in a former age, perished after a brief existence, and are unknown to the present generation."

The results of all this experience, the legitimate inheritance of the Southern Baptist Publication Society, have guided the policy of this institution, now in its separate existence and history, for the last nine years. The managers of the Society have not ventured to learn again the same expensive lessons, of dearly bought-experience, and wasteful expenditure of means and agencies. It therefore seems to be the impending necessity and the duty of our denomination in these Southern States, to consolidate, strengthen, enlarge, and thus to economize the resources provided by our brethren for the Publication Cause. It is the interest of the denomination to have the general depository so located and managed as to become the cheapest dispensing medium which can be found, for supplying books at all points, however remote. The improved facilities for diffusion by means of railroad, steamboat, stage-routes, express, and cheap mail postage for books, are all in favor of concentrating patronage upon one distributing center, where increasing business only tends to increased cheapness and economy; and where the denomination may, at once, look for an easy and safe method of obtaining everything which may be desired in the wide domain of the book-markets of the world.

Another important practical feature in the Publication movement, requiring our attention, is the patronage and encouragement of whatever writing talent may exist among the ministry and membership of our numerous de-

nomination in the South. From the facts already referred to, in the distribution of our population and the organization of our Society, much of the latent resources of our own people, in the way of religious and denominational literature, may never be developed. Facilities and encouragements will not be afforded from a distance, for the publication of Southern books, or for their circulation when published. Most of the products of Southern Baptist piety and talent would be at best but local and fugitive, without a general organization of our own, for appreciating and calling into notice the products of the Southern mind; and for a skillful and well-organized system for both creating a demand in the Southern population, and then for supplying that demand, with books which shall be, as far as possible, those of Southern origin, and suited to the peculiar wants of our own people.

The remaining practical consideration now to be offered, relates to the method of Colportage best adapted to our existing circumstances. This, for obvious reasons, cannot be provided by commissioning and paying on salary a large number of Colporteurs under appointment of the parent Society. It must be effected by looking to Associations, Conventions, and other district organizations, who have home missionaries or colporteurs under their own appointment; and by the parent Society supplying all such brethren in the field, with books, on the most favorable terms, and under the endorsement of the appointing authorities, by whose direction these colporteurs and home missionaries may be acting. The number of such laborers, varies from twenty to fifty or sixty in nearly every one of our Southern States, a number adequate to accomplish much of the desired work of book distribution, with a proper understanding among all parties concerned, and with a proper economy and management.

These suggestions all look toward this one grand result,—of accomplishing the greatest practical good, in the several departments of this work, at the least possible expense. The amount of capital necessary for this system of efficient economy, has been carefully estimated by the managers of the Society; and the sum now desired is the least possible that can be specified, with any pretension or hope of undertaking the proposed work, with any assurances of success. Your committee therefore propose the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That this Convention are convinced that the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars should be immediately secured by the Baptist denomination in the South, for enabling their Publication Society to carry out the several departments of publishing books, and of furnishing the means for the general distribution of a suitable religious and denominational literature.

2. *Resolved*, That this Convention recommend that all colporteurs and home missionaries, under appointment of Baptists in this State, be furnished with supplies of books through this Society, as far as the means of communication and co-operation can be made practicable.

3. *Resolved*, That this Convention have learned, with great satisfaction, that brother Edmund King, of this State, has originated a proposal for securing the special endowment called for by the necessities of the Publication Society; and it is hereby earnestly recommended to the Baptists of this State, to aid at once in securing the conditions proposed for this endowment.

4. *Resolved*, That this Convention learn with pleasure, that Rev. Platt Stout is now acting as agent of this Society, and we cordially recommend him and his cause to our churches throughout the State.

5. *Resolved*, That the publication by this Society of the Discussion on Methodist Episcopacy, between Rev. Sam'l Henderson and E. J. Hamil, meets our most decided approbation, and we recommend this book to our brethren throughout the entire South.

Respectfully submitted,

I. T. TICHENOR, Cha'n.

(J) Report of the Committee on Sabbath Schools.

Your Committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to report. That so far as their knowledge extends, the churches in cities, towns and villages are well-encouraged to a lively interest in this part of christian duty, and the Sunday churches are in many respects hindered by not using the means and employing the opportunities which they have.

Your committee take pleasure in announcing to the Convention that the diffidence heretofore existing in a part of the Baptist denomination as to giving a denominational bias to the minds of youths is being superseded by a feeling of religious obligation to impart our own principles without reserve. The committee, then, have confidence in recommending to the Board of Sabbath Schools in the State, the expediency and necessity of using as far as our own denominational works. The main text books have long been a source in the spread of pious instruction; but since other denominations have almost universally adopted their denominational works, we may not see how our denomination do the same. In view of the whole subject, your committee would recommend the adoption of the following resolutions.

That the brethren throughout the country generally be invited to issue and prosecute some plan for at least the reading and study of the scriptures in their churches and families.

That wherever practicable, in Sabbath schools or our denominational works be used.

Respectfully submitted,

W. WILKES, Chairman.

(K) Report of the Committee on Periodicals.

The limits of an ordinary report will not permit your committee to detail the claims of the different periodicals which in all the South and North-west, are inviting our examination and patronage. Many of them are worthy to be commended and worthy to be patronized, because independent of minor objections, which might be urged against them, they are well calculated to promote the piety of our churches, to increase the usefulness and efficiency of our ministers, and to exert a moral and religious influence upon the domestic and social circles. They are likewise the experience and labors of those peculiar denominational views which we cherish with almost reverence as the Truth of God, committed to His Church, that His name might be glorified in the recovery of a lost and ruined world, and in the triumphant success of the Prince of Peace, whose mission to our earth's redemption and redemption certain and final overthrow of the Man of Sin. Some of these periodicals, however, present peculiar claims, because of the manner in which they relate to us as a Convention of Baptists in the State of Alabama. The *Journal*, at Richmond, and the *South Western Baptist*, at Tuskegee, are especially our papers. They represent us abroad, and they value our interest at home; and while we would not presume to dictate to our brethren as to the periodicals which they may be disposed to patronize, we would urge upon them the peculiar claims of those which we have named, and especially of the *S. W. Baptist*. The neglect of these claims, more than any other one fact, may account for the dissatisfaction so frequently expressed as to the comparative value of our denominational organs. A proper interest in these organs, and a corresponding effort to place them beyond the embarrassment which they are liable, will secure a long subscription list, and a ready supply of good editors, good contributors, good paper, good type, good matter. Can we not secure for ourselves such an organ as we shall be proud to own, and may your committee not be allowed to say that the *S. W. Baptist* editor and present management and direction, waits only that the Baptists of Alabama shall speak and it shall be done.

A. T. WILKES, Chairman.

MINUTES

OF THE

ALABAMA BAPTIST BIBLE SOCIETY, 1856.

The Society met for the transaction of business in LaFayette, Saturday, April 13th. 1856, the President, Rev. James H. DeVotie, in the Chair.

Delegates from the following bodies took their seats:

Central Association Bible Society—J. M. Russell, J. D. Williams, A. T. Holmes.

Liberty Association Bible Society—F. Calloway, J. F. Bledsoe, J. Falkner, H. Carmichael, J. W. Williams, D. H. McCoy, W. D. Harrington, B. Stamps.

Salem Association Bible Society—J. T. S. Park.

Hopewell Bible Society—D. Lee, Dr. Haygood.

Shiloh Bible Society—M. S. Cleveland.

Selma Bible Soc'y—A. G. McCraw, H. E. Brooks, F. M. Law

Ash Creek Bible Society—David Gordon.

Eufaula Bible Society—A. Van Hoose.

Brethren C. W. Lay, M. Garrett, J. Williams, T. M. Harbin. Colporters, were invited to seats.

MEMBERS BY ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

P. H. Lundy, D. R. Lide, Professor H. H. Bacon, Jordan Williams, Jesse A. Collins, James Newman P. Stout, H. E. Taliaferro, L. B. Lane, John C. Foster, John Humphries, C. W. Sarigh, W. B. Jones, John E. Jones, Samuel Henderson, Stephen Nuckolls, Z. G. Henderson, A. G. McCraw, Rev. J. Wilmer, A. C. Dayton, A. J. Battle, D. Gordon, F. M. Law, Henry Talbird, S. Henderson, Wm. H. McFutosh, A. T. Holmes, J. H. DeVotie, W. E. Brooks, John Tulbot, B. Stamps, A. W. Bullard, H. Carmichael, F. Calloway, J. M. Watt, W. Williams, J. W. Swearingen, Miss Ferrell, Mr. Ferrell, Mrs. L. Towers, Mrs. D. Hart, Miss Burton, G. W. Carriker.

To make Bro. Priest a Life Member of the Society.—A. Van Hoose, Z. G. Henderson, Rev. Mr. Davis, Rev. Mr. Foster, J. D. Williams, Jesse A. Collins, W. Wilkes.

J. H. DeVotie re-elected President, and P. H. Lundy, Sec'y.

The Rev. A. C. Dayton, of Nashville, and Rev. A. D. Atkinson, of Georgia, invited to seats.

Appointed Rev. Samuel Henderson to preach the annual sermon on Sabbath night.

Appointed Finance Committee—M. Cleveland, Rev. J. F. Bledsoe, J. C. Foster.

To nominate a Preacher for the next session—H. H. Bacon, B. Stamps, M. G. Haygood.

The Rev. Mr. Tustin, Corresponding Secretary of S. B. P. S., was invited to a seat.

Adopted the report of Corresponding Secretary.

Committee to nominate remaining officers—D. Lee, I. T. Tichenor, S. Henderson.

The report of the Finance Committee received.

Resolved, That our Board be and is hereby instructed, in Colportage department, to seek as close an alliance as practicable with the Southern Baptist Publication Society.

Moved that the Board of Alabama Baptist Bible Society hold its sessions in future in Selma.

Appointed Rev. J. H. DeVotie to preach the next annual sermon—A. T. M. Handy, alternate.

OFFICERS.

Dr. A. B. McWHORTER, 1st Vice President,
Gen. E. D. KING, 2d " "

BOARD.

A. G. McCRAW, President—Dr. Lamar, W. B. Haralson, John Haralson, C. H. Cleveland, J. N. Burns, — Andrews, F. L. Johnson, — Prestridge, F. M. Law, Corresponding Secretary, H. E. Brooks, Treasurer.

MONDAY MORNING, 8 O'CLOCK.

President, J. H. DeVotie, in the chair. Prayer by A. G. McCraw.

Appointed Auditing Committee—H. H. Bacon, W. H. McIntosh, W. Williams.

Appointed W. Williams, J. T. S. Park and J. Falkner a committee to revise the constitution so as to conform to the work in which we are now engaged.

Rev. F. Calloway was unanimously elected a life member of the Society.

Report of the Secretary referred to Auditing Committee.

ONE O'CLOCK, P. M.

The Alabama Baptist Bible Society, met.

The report of the Treasurer was received and referred to the Auditing Committee.

The report of the Committee on Finance was read by Bro. Foster. On motion adopted.

On motion, *resolved*, That when this Society adjourns, it adjourn to meet at the time and place of the meeting of the next State Convention.

Resolved, That this Society appropriate the sum of fifteen dollars as her pro rata for printing the Minutes of the Convention.

Resolved, That this Society appropriate the sum of two hundred dollars to the Bible Board of the So. Bap. Convention.

Resolved, That the Financial Committee be instructed to pay over to the Treasurer of the Society the amount of funds in their hands.

Resolved. That the President of the Board be instructed to call upon the former Treasurer of the Society for the funds of the Society in his hands.

On motion of Bro. McCraw :

Resolved, That an appropriation be made sufficient to purchase a fine Bible to be presented to Bro. R. W. Priest, Missionary to Africa, his name to be inscribed in letters upon the outside, as a present from this Society.

The special committee reported as follows :

The committee appointed to consider the propriety of altering the constitution of this Society so as to change its name and enlarge its object, would recommend that the constitution be altered for that purpose ; and to effect this, they introduce the following resolution, viz :

Resolved, That the first article in the constitution of this Society be altered as follows : This Society shall be called the Alabama Baptist Bible and Colporteur Society, auxiliary to the Baptist Convention, whose main object shall be to aid in circulating religious books and tracts, with funds not specially given for the circulation of the Bible.

Respectfully submitted, WM. WILLIAMS, Ch'n.

Resolved, That Pastors of churches are respectfully and earnestly requested to place the claims and necessities of this Society before their respective congregations, and take up collections to aid in the work in which we are engaged, and especially are the brethren present solicited to use their efforts to stir up in their churches our great enterprize. And further, that funds be sent up directly to our Society, and not through the Convention.

Auditing Committee report that they find the report of the Secretary and Treasurer correct. H. H. BACON, Ch'n.

All unfinished business referred to the Board.

J. H. DEVOTIE, President.

P. H. LUNDY, Secretary.

Treasurer's Report.

E. A. BLUNT, in account with Alabama Baptist Bible Society.

1855.	DR.
May 8. To amount cash on hand,	\$574 75
June 1 To amount cash received of Rev. J. H. DeVotie,	5 00
“ 6 “ “ “ “ “ “	50 00
July 5 “ “ “ “ J. R. Haggard,	10 00
“ 7 “ “ “ “ Sam'l H. Fowlkes, Treasurer of Alabama Baptist State Convention,	103 78
Nov. 13. To cash received of W. P. Holman, Treas'r Cahaba Ass'n,	74 10
“ “ To cash received of Rev. J. H. DeVotie,	77 00
Dec. 8 To cash received of Sardis Church,	3 50
“ “ To cash received of Cherokee Church	3 50
“ “ To cash received of Auburn Church,	9 00
“ “ To cash received of Fnon Church,	5 00
“ “ To cash received of Blunt & Tutt for Books sold.	13 75
Feb. 12, 1856—To cash received of Wm. Hornbuckle, Treasurer of Domestic Mission Board,	10 00
	\$939 38

1855.	CR.
Jan. 1st. By cash for amount of James Brazer's note to Rev. J. D. Williams, as reported in account of 1854,	\$80 32
“ 6 By amount cash paid Dr. F. M. Law, as per receipt of Rev. James H. DeVotie,	50 00
July 5 By cash paid Rev. J. R. Haggard, for services rendered Bible Society in 1854, as ordered by Rev. J. H. DeVotie,	10 00
“ 7 By cash for amount of Rev. J. H. DeVotie's receipt to S. H. Fowlkes, Treasurer Ala. Bap. State Convention,	40 00
Nov. 13 By cash paid for bill of books bought in Montgomery, by Rev. James H. DeVotie,	77 00
“ 14 By cash paid Dr. F. M. Law, as per receipt,	74 10
Dec. 8 By cash paid Rev. A. C. Dayton,	21 00
April 8, 1856—By cash on hand not appropriated,	586 96
	\$939 38

Respectfully submitted.

E. A. BLUNT, Treas. A. B. B. S.

Report of Financial Committee.

We the Committee of Finance of the Alabama Baptist Bible Society, ask leave to make the following report, viz:

Ash Creek Bible Society, Lowndes county,	\$16 00
Shilo Church, Dallas county, for the Bible Bord,	10 00
“ “ “ “ for the Book Depository,	25 00
Hopewell Bible Society, for Home Distribution,	50 00
Funds contributed for annual membership,	19 50
	\$110 50
Amount collected on Sabbath evening in cash,	118 30
	\$228 80

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN C. FOSTER, Chairman.

Report of the Corresponding Secretary.

It has been, now, a little over twelve months since your Board adopted a system of home-evangelization for our own State, by which those destitute of the sacred Scriptures might be supplied; the people generally supplied with religious books and tracts, and with our denominational literature. At the time of the adoption of this plan, I was appointed as your Corresponding Secretary, to raise funds for, and superintend the work. The result of our efforts will appear from this my first annual report.

In this, as is the case in new enterprises generally, we have met with difficulties that have prevented the accomplishment of as much as could have been desired, especially when we consider the importance of the undertaking. It is *important*, because it promises the attainment of an end out of which, with the blessing of God, great good will grow. Strange as it may seem, as a State we have in our midst a great many families without the word of life—even thousands! These people ought to be supplied. They can be. True, as some say, they might, with a little effort supply themselves. But the painful fact that stares us in the face is, *they neglect to do so*. Blinded by the god of this world, not understanding their imminent danger, the worth of their immortal souls, they remain indifferent gliding unconsciously down the broad road to eternal death. These persons reside mostly in regions where they seldom or never hear preaching; and hence their want of interest on the subject of their souls' salvation. They should be awakened and warned of their danger; pointed to the Savior of sinners, and the word of God placed in their houses. They are our neighbors, and if their wants are supplied, we must supply them. If we, as the children of light, feel the worth of their never-dying spirits, and appreciate the price paid for their redemption, we will not hesitate to do this. With united hands, and hearts filled with the love of Christ, we will haste to send his messenger with salvation to every house, and rejoice that we are accounted worthy to perform this precious work. Experience has taught us that these people will receive the word—many of them believe and embrace it most gladly. Now, the question is, *shall they have it?* and we should bear in mind that our response will be registered on high.

As above mentioned, you have associated with this Bible work, book and tract distribution. The value of this feature can scarcely be estimated. While our country is flooded with a class of literature which has a most pernicious influence, the masses are without religious books. The blasting, withering influence of this state of things is seen and felt by us every day. The tastes of the young are perverted—cultivated to appreciate only such reading as is calculated to lead them away from piety and virtue. Our Churches, too, suffer irreparable loss for want of a good religious reading. Could they be supplied, we would not long see that degree of ignorance and lethargy which now so extensively prevail in many places in our denomination. In thus referring to the happy change that might be brought about, and religious reading as an *instrumentality*, we would not attach an undue importance to religious books—an importance that would detract anything from the value of studying diligently the volume of inspiration. All others are subordinate to this; yet good evangelical works will aid us very materially in the study and right understanding of the Scriptures. And it may be set down as an universal rule, that the Christian who reads most of such books as breathe the spirit, and impress the great truths of Christ, is the one who reads and delights most in the study of the Bible, and hence, will be the most spiritually minded, and appreciate most fully what is comprehended in being a follower of Jesus. The people need good books—the churches need education, religious instruction.

With regard to the existing necessity for the *denominational* part of the work, certainly no Baptist will doubt for a moment. While Pseudo-Baptists have been diligently engaged in circulating books and tracts by thousands that teach their peculiar—and as we believe often false—views, Baptists have been content to remain too inactive. Error has been and is still being broad-

cast over the land. Yet we are prepared, in the strength of Jehovah, to meet it. We have the weapon—truth—on our side; the sword which is sharp and double-edged. Will we take it from the scabbard and go forth to defend the great interests of the Master's Kingdom? As a denomination, we have as respectable a literature as any other, but the books are piled up in our publishing houses. Now we would call upon our brethren to know if they intend to let this state of things be continued? It is to be hoped not. Send out the truth into every community—let it be proclaimed from the house-tops; on the highways; by the firesides, and in the private chambers. If we will do this, we have every reason to believe that God will bless it to the advancement of his kingdom in the upbuilding of our churches.

What we have briefly referred to, is not all that we do. There is the personal labors and influence of the colporters, who, when properly adapted to the work, make the most efficient evangelists in the world. Engaged as they are, daily in this work, they grow in grace, and possess much of the spirit of Christ and his early Apostles, and as they go from house to house, their theme is salvation. They preach in neighborhoods, and by the firesides, comforting the saints and warning sinners. It will require but little reflection to see the nature and design of the work you have undertaken, together with the great necessities existing for it.

When undertaken, the Society had no funds with which to commence the work. A circular was prepared and sent out to the churches calling on them for assistance, to which, however, very few responded. The Corresponding Secretary has spent much of his time in visiting the Churches and Associations in person, and making direct appeals to the brethren. In many instances he has had his heart cheered by the sympathies expressed and liberal contributions made by the brethren. In other cases expressions of approbation have been made, while there has been a failure to recognize an obligation to aid the enterprise. The past year, however, has been one peculiarly unfavorable for starting a work requiring, like this, a large collection of funds to commence. And when this fact is considered, the particulars of which are known to all, although a great deal has not been accomplished, enough has been done to encourage the Society to persevere in its undertaking. We have reason to hope that the coming year will be a much more fruitful one with us than the past—that seeds already sown will bring forth, some sixty and some an hundred fold.

The collections for this year have been about three thousand dollars, (not all contained in this report,) besides some eight hundred dollars worth of Bibles owned by the Society beforehand. Your General Depository is now worth something over two thousand dollars. In colportage we have not accomplished much. In the early part of the year we could not labor in this department for want of funds, and in the winter season the weather was so inclement that it was impossible to do a great deal. We have now ten colporters engaged, most of whom promise well. Some of these only give us a part of their time—being engaged in missionary labor, or having charge of churches.

It will be necessary to strengthen the Depository before the work can safely be extended farther. And I would suggest that the Society pursue some course by which our means may be increased. No very inconsiderable part of your Secretary's time will necessarily be occupied in the business of the Depository. This will prevent constant traveling to raise funds; and unless there can be some plan or means used to get pastors and influential brethren to lend a helping hand, it will be impossible for us to make that progress that will set the work soon on a firm and substantial basis.

This, with the financial part of my report, annexed below, is respectfully submitted.

F. M. LAW, Cor. Sec. Ala. Bap. Bib. & Colp. Soc.

F. M. LAW, Corresponding Secretary, in account with Alabama Baptist Bible Society.

Received from

BIGBEE ASSOCIATION.

1855.

	DR.	
JONES CREEK CHURCH—Public collection	\$20 00	
J. H. Gary,	5 00	\$25 00
FORKLAND CHURCH—N. J. Wynne,	10 00	
Mrs. M. Brassfield,	1 00	
Mrs. M. Fleming, 5 ; M. R. Brassfield, 5 ;		
R. M. Brassfield, 2 50 ; J. D. Brassfield,		
2 50 ; W. M. High, 5,	20 00	
C. C. Jordan, 5 ; A. Perrin, 2 50 ; Philip		
Burt, 6 50 ; Eld. M. B. Clement, 5,	19 00	50 00
CLINTON CHURCH—W. W. Paschal,	5 00	
Jane Harrison, 1 50 ; Danmaris Wills, 2 ;		
Margaret Head, 1,	4 50	
J. H. Butler, 5 ; Mary Parham, 1 ; S.		
Maxwell, 10 ; Eld. Wm. L. Foster 2 50,	18 50	28 00
SUMTERVILLE CHURCH—J. C. Brown, 5 ;		
Dr. A. H. Smith, 5 ; J. C. Brown, 5,	15 00	15 00

CENTRAL ASSOCIATION.

Pub. collection, 16 15 ; sent up by		
churches, 13 50,	29 65	
George E. Brewer, 1 ; John A. Pylant, 1 ;		
Martha Walker, 10 cts ; John B. White,		
25 cts ; W. C. Barnes, 1,	3 35	33 00

ALABAMA ASSOCIATION.

W. B. Haralson, Treasurer, for Association,		
58 97 ; I. Lyon, Treasurer Bible		
Society, 64 30,	123 27	123 27
SULLON CHURCH—Lewis Johnson,	10 00	
William Johnson, 2 ; C. H. Cleveland, 5 ;		
public collection, 7,	34 00	44 00
SISTER SPRING CHURCH—Jerry Johnson,	5 00	5 00
Town Creek Church Bible Society	34 50	
Ash Creek " " "	17 00	
BETHANY CHURCH—T. W. Dunklin	7 00	58 50
MONTGOMERY CHURCH—W. W. Waller,	5 00	
I. T. Tichenor, 10 ; B. F. Noble, 10 ; S. W.		
Watson, 5 ;	25 00	
G. W. Cole, 10 ; C. Phillips, 5,	15 00	
B. B. Davis, 5 ; F. Hargrove, 5 ; J. M.		
Zimmerman, 2 ; Eld. Albert Williams, 5 ;	7 00	
Dr. S. Rambo, 1 ; Dr. A. B. McWhorter,		
5 ; A Friend, 5,	11 00	
S. N. Brown, 10 ; T. H. Watts, 1,00	110 00	

F. M. LAW, Corresponding Secretary, in account with Alabama Baptist Bible Society.

1855. For Bibles for Kansas emigrants	100 00	283 00
Ashtoch Church--J. H. Coghurn	10 00	10 00
CAHABA ASSOCIATION.		
SELMA CHURCH--F. M. Law,	25 00	
McCraw & Prestidge	200 00	
Mrs. Kate Law, 5 ; W. Milton, 15,	20 00	
Dent Lamar, 25 ; Lizzie Lamar, 5 ; A. Muckle, 5 50,	35 50	
D. C. Muckle, 5 ; H. E. Brooks, 20,	25 00	
Wm. Smith,	1 50	
Public collection	29 00	
Dr. C. C. Billingslea,	10 00	
F. L. & M. A. Johnson,	10 00	
Jas. O. Miller,	25	
E. Melton,	25	
G. W. P. Law, 1 ; B. J. Duncan, 1,	2 00	
Cash, 25 cts ; W. R. Ditmass, 1,	1 25	
F. M. Ridgeway, 50 cts ; L. S. Riggs, 2,	2 50	
A. J. Smith, 25 cts ; Mrs. Epperson 25 cts ; Nancy Weaver, 1 ; J. Haralson, 1 ; R. A. Ferguson, 2,	4 50	
Dr. H. O. Milton, 50 cts ; cash, 180,	2 30	
Mrs. H. B. Johnson, 1 ; Jas A. Works, 1 ; Wm. M. Ford, 5 ;	7 00	
Martha Keith, 50 cts ; Wm. F. Davis, 1 ; J. D. Nance, 50 cts,	2 00	
History of Baptists in Alabama,	17 00	395 05
OAKMULGEE CHURCH--Mrs. S. B. Goldsby, 14 ; H. Martin, 5 ; O. H. Perry, 1 ;	20 00	
Geo. Hopper, 5 ; G. W. Hopper, 2 50 ; J. W. W. Crow, 4 50 ; pub. col., 20 50,	32 50	
Sol. Smith, 2 ; Church fund by hand of Bro. Crow, 2 ; B. Johnson, 2,	6 00	58 50
HOPEWELL CHURCH--J. H. DeVotic,	25 00	25 00
GREENSBORO' CHURCH--Mrs. K. A. Croom,	5 00	5 00
MARION CHURCH--W. H. McIntosh, 5 00 ; E. A. Blunt, 5 ; G. C. Mattison, 3 ; Mrs. Lockheart, 1 ; S. S. Lattimore, 1 ; Z. G. Henderson, 1 ; Joe Hunter, 2 20 ; H. Talbird, 3 ; E. Parish, 1 ; E. M. Posey, 1 ;	24 20	24 20
T. B. Hinton, 1,	5 00	
SHILOH CHURCH--Isaac Thomas		
PISGAH CHURCH--Dr. M. Gary, 1 ; D. S. Boyd, 15 cents,	1 15	6 15
CONCORD CH.--By hand of S. R. Freeman,	20 60	
UNIONTOWN CH.--C. C. Patillo, 50 cts ; A.		

F. M. LAW, Corresponding Secretary, in account with Alabama Baptist Bible Society.

1855. G. Hudson, 1 50,	2 00	
PROVIDENCE CH.—By hand of J. R. Haggard	7 20	
PISGAH CH.—“ “ “	4 20	
J. Mixon,	1 25	
Public collection at meeting of Association, by hand of E. A. Blunt, Treas.	74 10	109 35
COOSA RIVER ASSOCIATION.		
W. L. Sims, Treasurer, 50 95		
BIG SPRING CH.—J. M. Scott,	15 60	
GOOD HOPE CH.—Mrs. M. A. Barclay, 5 ; J. Wilmer, 1 ; Tignal W. Jones, 1,	7 00	
TALLADEGA CH.—Walker Reynolds, 10 ; L. W. Lawler, 5 ; Wm Mallory, 5 ; W. J. Young, 1 ; Premium on gold, 60 cts,	21 60	
Book Concern, 86 02 ; collected by Bro. Garrett, 12 ; col. by Bro. Williams, 15 30,	113 32	
SALEM CH.—By Wilmer,	4 70	
TUSCALOOSA ASSOCIATION.		
TUSCALOOSA CH.—A. J. Battle, 2 50 ; Mrs. A. J. Battle, 2 50 ; B. W. Justice, 3 ; Miss C. Drysdale, 3 ; Mrs. Isabel Pratt, 3 ; Mrs. J. E. Hays, 2 ; Dr. S. J. Edwins, 5 ; O. Parker, 10 ; J. A. Skelton, 2,	25 00	194 62
O. Prince,	1 00	
GILGAL CH.—Sam'l Edins	4 00	
UNION ASSOCIATION.		
BEULA CH.—E. T. Burton,	2 00	
UNITY ASSOCIATION.		
SHADY GROVE CH.—Nat. Bozeman, 3 ; J. H. Burns, 5 ; A. Andrews, 23,	31 00	
PLANTERSVILLE CH.—Blake Harvill, 5 ; W. W. Gandy, 2 50 ; J. H. McGehee, 1 ; Dixon, 25 cts ; D. T. Vincent, 2 50,	11 25	
Collected by Bro Sartor,	7 00	
“ at Convention in July	31 00	
Jas. Nunn, Treasurer, 55 ; Dent Lamar, 5 ; Harmony Church Bible Society, 10,	70 00	157 25
PINE BARREN ASSOCIATION.		
Public collection at Friendship,	3 25	
ALLENTON CH.—C. T. McConico, 2 50 ; Miss Susan McConico, 50 cts,	3 00	
Rock West—Dr. R. H. Ervin,	5 00	
Mt. Moriah—J. B. Scott,	5 00	
H. R. Ward, 50 cts. ; P. Steene, 5,	5 50	
Anticch--W. M. Watson	1 00	

F. M. LAW, Corresponding Secretary, in account with Alabama Baptist Bible Society.

1855. A sister,	25	
Dr. Ervin, Treas., 23 ; Kedar Hawthorn,		
Agent, 51,	74 00	
Contribution of Eld. P. Stout	25 00	122 00

BETHLEHEM ASSOCIATION.

MOBILE ; <i>St. Francis St. Church</i> —Thomas P. Miller,	50 00	
W. A. Buck, 10 ; A. P. Bush, 5 ; Mrs. Dupin, 50 cts. ; H. Getts, 2 50,	18 00	
A friend, 50 cts ; Byrne, 50 cts ; J. M. Ward, 4 35 ; E. A. Shaffer, 75 cts ; B. W. Miller, 1,	7 10	
Mrs. Ann Dale, 50 cts ; Mrs. E. Elgin, 1 ; C. Barnes, 25,	26 50	
A. B. Couch, 1 ; Mrs. Borum, 50 cts ; Sisters Witter, 2 50 ; Phillips, 1 ; Sallie Shelly, 50 cts ; J. B. Witter, 2 50,	3 00	
<i>St. Anthony St. Church</i> —Garland Goode,	5 00	114 60

SALEM ASSOCIATION.

J. T. S. Park, Treasurer,	3 50	
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SHELBY ASSOCIATION.

<i>Shoal Creek Church</i> —Edmund King, 5 ; Mrs. S. King, 1 50,	6 50	10 00
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LIBERTY ASSOCIATION.

Bible Society,	47 40	
Miss Barr, 70 cts ; Miss Stamps, 5 cts ; Miss ———, 20 cts ; sale of ring, 1 20 ; John Phillips, 50 ; J. F. Bledsoe, 1 ; Sent up by the churches, 19 35. (Of this amount, 4 25 retained by Associational Bible Society,) leaving	18 75	66 15
J. H. DeVotic, President	50 00	
Jeptha Harrington	50	
F. Lewis, 95 cts ; Hopewell church, 23,	23 95	
Henry Griffin, 2 ; H. H. Bacon, 20,	22 00	
J. T. S. Park, on draft,	31 50	
<i>Spring Hill Ch. Pickens co.</i> —S. Williams	10 00	137 95
<i>Shilo Ch. Perry co.</i> —Isaac Thomas,	2 50	
Collected by bro. Lay	4 75	
American Tract Society,	20 00	
J. D. Williams, (Baptist Hymns)	71 60	
A. G. McCraw, (Masters to servants)	5 60	
Collections in Lib'y Ass'n by bro Harbin	89 33	193 78

2295 07

F. M. LAW, Corresponding Secretary, in account with Alabama Baptist Bible Society.

STOCK FROM VARIOUS QUARTERS.

1855. Selma Depository,	70	85	
Montgomery Depository,	103	40	
Bible House in Montgomery,	77	00	
Camden Depository,	200	00	
Gainesville Depository,	62	10	
Wetumpka Depository,	31	80	
McAfee's order on Wilmer,	29	15	
Tichenor's " " Henderson,	197	97	
Balance on Park's Draft,	34	05	
Balance on Bacon's draft	34	50	
Bibles in hands of W. C. Harris,	10	55	
Note of W. C. Harris	32	23	
Cash on sales.	1253	23	1253 23
Whole am't of receipts herein stated,			\$4432 65
			CR.
Paid for Books and Bibles,	1754	45	
" " Freights,	90	76	
" " Incidental expenses	47	81	
" " Colporters,	85	60	
Depository rent for 1855 and 1856	200	00	
Salary Cor. Sec'y to 1st June, 1856	750	00	
Am't of Grants, Bibles Books and Tracts,	226	18	3154 80
			1277 85
Cash from John Jones	4	00	
" " J. W. Echols, Treasurer,	19	85	
Balance in stock,	751	86	775 80
Present strength of Depository,			\$2053 56

The Auditing Committee report that so far as they have had time to examine the Secretaries report they find it correct.

WM. H. McINTOSH, Chairman.



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