

SOUTH WESTERN BAPTIST.

S. HENDERSON, J. BATTLE, EDITORS.

VOL. 15—NO. 9.

The South Western Baptist,
A RELIGIOUS FAMILY NEWSPAPER
PUBLISHED WEEKLY.
HENDERSON & BATTLE,
PROPRIETORS.

For the South Western Baptist
"Be of Good Cheer."

BURNT CORN, June 24th, 1863.

We are never alone, our best friend the Lord Jesus Christ is always near. He is with us in the church, the parlor, the farm, the sick room, the street, the battle field, and the storm, he controls all. Doubtless he is interceding for us as individuals, as a nation and a people whom God will give the victory. O most consoling truth, "He ever liveth to make intercession for us." By day and by night, in the calm, in the storm, in the battle field, his all prevalent prayer arises, "Father keep them from the evil." In every event, important or trivial in the estimation of man, He speaks and says, "Be of good cheer, it is I," for his own declaration is, "my Father worketh hitherto and I work." Whatever be the nature of the storm, from whatever quarter the battle may rage, Jesus is there. Even amid the darkest gloom Jesus, by the eye of faith may be seen in majesty upon the waves of trouble, and amid the mighty elemental din his still small voice of mingled dignity and love may be heard, saying, "Be of good cheer." Let us therefore endeavor to recognize Christ more vividly in all our troubles, as speaking directly to us. But let us bear in mind, that simply the recognition of his voice as one of power, is not alone sufficient to take away our fear and calm our troubles. It might increase it. For he who speaks in love and mercy, is the God whom we have offended by our sins, and whose mighty power enables him only the more effectually to secure our punishment. We must behold Jehovah as the God of grace; we must see him in the person of his Son, before our fears entirely vanish. We must see "God in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing our trespasses unto us," before we can rejoice fully in God. For Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father, but by him. We have redemption, through his blood, the blood of Christ, cleanse us from all sin. Then disciple of God, "Be of good cheer."

But alas! what will the poor unpardoned sinner do? O, you are exposed to the wrath of a sin avenging God. Destruction is before you, and the whirlpools of an awful hell yawn to engulf you. You are voyaging on the ocean of life, without a compass, a pilot or chart. You are now in great peril, awful, inconceivable.

You have no rudder to guide you to the heaven of eternal rest, and no anchor to hold you from the storm of God's wrath. The terrible tempest will soon burst over you, and you will sink down to those depths of darkness and misery where hope and mercy never can reach you unless you come to Christ soon. Unpardoned sinner, if you refuse Christ and still linger in sin, the door of mercy long open will be shut! The ark, long waiting will float away and leave you abandoned forever on the ocean of despair with neither oar nor boat, and no friendly ship will ever pass by to take you to rest. It may soon be, "Let him alone," he is gone! he is gone forever! Lay then as Peter did when he began to sink, "Save, Lord or I perish," and he will hold out his hand to help you at once. Lay hold of it by faith and salvation is yours. Look unto Him as your only Saviour and believe in Him, with all your heart, and thou shalt be saved.

Geo. L. Lee.

For the South Western Baptist.

DURLEYVILLE, June 19, 1863.

Dear Brethren of the Liberty Association:

I embrace this opportunity to make out a short report of my labors in your bounds, and according to the order of the Chairman of your Board. I spent some 20 days in November last, then quit until about the 6th of March, labored 30 days, then the 15th of May, so on until the present day. And brethren I find in your bounds

a great deal of destitution; I find 7 churches destitute; among them Mt. Zion with only one male member, and he 101 years old, all poor distressed sisters and young girls. Will the brethren of sister churches help us there; bro. Foreman has helped much at that place, at all the churches I have the preaching, praying, exhorting and singing to do. Bro. Hand from Antioch, Trapp Co., helped me much at State Line. Bro. Hand is an effort man. I hope his labors will be blessed there. I have not had the first preacher of your bounds to meet me at one of the destitute churches. If your preachers that are at home would take each two churches, you would have no need to employ one so unworthy as I am to fill the important station as missionary of your bounds.

In as much as I am old and have the destitution to fill; I hope the brethren will take no offence if I scold a little. Dear brethren, you all live in my heart. Awake out of this state of lethargy, you are in danger of getting rusty, then rusting ultimately eating dirt. Let me wear out rather than rust out; let me die a sudden death rather than cleave to the dust, at last linger and die—I mean a spiritual death. Therefore, brethren, put on your armor, come up to the help of the Lord against the mighty. The destitution in your bounds demands your labors. I hope you will not be offended at me for my plain talking.

Again I find among privates, deacons and preachers, too few religious papers half my time among them. I ask for the Index, I don't take it—I ask for the Baptist, I don't take it—call for the Banner and Baptist. Not hear. Brethren too much political reading, while our little ones are suffering for religious information. A few weeks past, I went to a brother's house, (Saturday night,) next morning left myself to get to the prayer-meeting, expecting him on soon, went through the services of the day; no bro. Deacon. On the next meeting, I wanted to know the cause: "Well, I became so interested in reading the way news, the first thing I knew it was too late to go to meeting." Brethren, preachers, deacons, these things ought not to be. Let us remember the responsibility we are under to those loved ones around the family circle, as well as to pray for those in the war. Let us try to rivet divine things in the minds of those around our knees, so as to guard against the evils when all our dear boys come home from camp life, and religious papers and divine worship is best calculated to do that work.

JAMES BARROW.

For the South Western Baptist.

The Paper Borrower.

Mrs. Stuart, I wish you would lend me your last S. W. Baptist paper, my husband and I both love to read it; in fact I think it one of the best papers I ever read.

I will certainly do so my dear Mrs. Jenkins. I cordially agree with you that it is a splendid paper. It contains all the telegraph, and a great many interesting letters, besides a number of pleasing and impressive anecdotes my children love to read and gain information from. I would not be without it for three its cost.

I would like to take it, but times are so hard I can't afford it. I think you can if you look at it correctly.

Well, how? Take the money you use to give for your lady's books, and get the paper for yourself, and with the remainder get one for the soldiers.

You are very considerate, and you may be sure I will never borrow again. I hope I have not made you angry. Oh! no, but before another week I will do as you have advised, get a paper for myself and one for the soldiers.

If any other reader borrows, let them follow the example of Mrs. Jenkins. Look not behind thee: there is nothing there worth having; look still before thee, and press toward the mark.

Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.

TUSKEGEE, ALA., THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1863.

For the South Western Baptist
Letter from Hon. David Clopton.

TUSKEGEE, ALA., July 4th, 1863.
Hon. David Clopton:

Sir—It has been currently reported in some portions of the District that you, as a member of Congress, voted for the bill fixing the present pay of members of Congress, and against the bill to increase the pay of Soldiers; and also, that you voted to increase the pay of other officers.

We desire you to inform us how you have voted upon these several questions, and any other subjects of general interest that you may think proper. Knowing your votes ourselves, and approving them, we make this request, in order that your constituents may be informed as to your action as their Representative.

Respectfully,
THOS. S. TATE,
R. H. HOWARD,
WYLIE W. MASON,
WM. P. CHILTON, Jr.

TUSKEGEE, ALA., July 7, 1863.

Genl.: Yours of the 4th inst. was handed to me this morning, requesting information as to my votes upon the bills mentioned in your letter, and any other questions of general interest, stating what I have previously heard from various sources, that these votes had been misrepresented in some portions of the District. I recognize the right of the people to hold their representatives to the strictest accountability, and the duty of the representative to inform them of the manner in which he has discharged his trust. Duty and inclination concur in this instance, and I cheerfully comply with your request.

When the first permanent Congress met in February 1862, severe military reverses had attended our arms. Forts Henry and Donaldson had fallen, Nashville had been evacuated and our gallant little army was rapidly retreating to the confines of Alabama and Mississippi. The abandonment of the memorable plains of Manassas, and a movement to Yorktown for the defence of the capital of the Confederacy became a necessity. The term for which a large portion of the army had been enlisted was expiring, and volunteers were not filling up the ranks as rapidly as they were thinned by the discharge of others. Such was the condition of the country. Something quick, prompt, and decisive had to be done. Under these circumstances, the bill, commonly known as the conscript act, was proposed and passed. Convinced as I then was, that conscription was necessary to the salvation of the country, I, as a faithful representative, voted for the law. Regiments were being disbanded every day, while the measure was under discussion, and in the space of one month from the date of its passage, one-half of our effective forces would have been mustered out of service. The spring campaign was then opening. McClellan was threatening Yorktown with an army already greatly outnumbering ours, and Buell was advancing upon Gen. A. S. Johnson at Corinth. Without conscription, what would have been the consequence? The twelve months' troops would have been discharged, leaving the remainder of the army to be overpowered by overwhelming numbers, the country to be overrun and devastated, and the people brought under the yoke of subjugation. By conscribing all between eighteen and thirty-five years of age, the army, as organized, was retained and recruited—the battle of Shiloh was fought and won, and the battles before Richmond crowned our arms with glory. Having no previous connection with the Government, I can, in no wise, be held responsible for the condition of affairs which produced the necessity of conscription. Without stopping, however, to inquire, when the lives and liberties and property of the people were in imminent danger, whose fault it was, I was called upon to meet the emergency as I found it to exist. The choice was between conscription and subjugation.

I have not and do not approve of conscription as the permanent policy of the Government in raising armies, and would not have voted for it except from extreme necessity. Hence, when at the next session of Congress it was proposed to extend the conscript act to all male citizens under forty-five years of age, I voted against its extension. The same urgent necessity did not exist at that time, as when the first conscript act was passed; and I preferred other modes of raising armies, when there was ample time to resort to such other modes. In this connection, it is proper for me to state that I voted against the exemption law, which caused so much dissatisfaction with the army and people. In reference to the bills particularly mentioned in your letter, it is sufficient for me to reply, that I voted against the bill fixing the pay of members of Congress and against all bills to increase the pay of officers, civil or military. At each session of Congress a bill has been introduced and passed by the House of Representatives to increase the pay of soldiers. On each occasion I have voted for the increase of their pay and have never voted against its increase either directly or indirectly. The most effective mode of sustaining the currency has, perhaps, been the most difficult question submitted to the consideration of Congress, and has occasioned much thought and deliberation. I believed that taxation was necessary to this end, and would have supported a proper and reasonable tax bill, based upon principles of equality and regulated in view of the increased State and County taxes. But notwithstanding this, on account of various objections to its provisions, details and some of its principles, I was compelled to oppose and voted against the present tax bill. These are the main questions which have agitated the public mind and produced a diversity of opinion among the people of the Confederacy. I have deemed it sufficient to state my votes without entering into any elaborate argument concerning them, which would have occupied too much space. Without regard to the source whence any particular measure may have come, or by whom recommended, I have voted according to the dictates of my own independent judgment, and, as in my opinion, the interests and rights of my constituents demanded. You will excuse me for alluding to one other subject. I have heard that complaints have been made by some persons against the present Congress, because, as asserted, overtures of peace from the North-west were not received in a proper manner. Such complaints sound strangely. No commissioners from the North-west have ever been in Richmond—no propositions of peace have ever been made, and there is no party in the North-west, in or out of power, which has been authorized or intimated a desire to conclude any terms of peace with us whatever, until within the last few weeks, since the exile of Vallandigham, all which has transpired since the adjournment of Congress. The South is upon the defensive. The question of peace or war rests with the North—we must fight as long as they determine to continue the war. Anxiously desirous of seeing a cessation of the war and the termination of its evils, I am prepared to respond to propositions of peace; but it must be a peace consistent with the rights, safety, honor and independence of the Confederate States. Our people, thus far, have generally manifested a determination never to grasp, in political fraternity, hands reeking with the blood of the best and bravest of their relatives and friends, never to live under the same government with those who have murdered our citizens, devastated our homes, involved in indiscriminate ruin friend and foe; and in utter disregard of the highest constitutional obligations, have suppressed among themselves, the freedom of the press and liberty of speech. Their avowed determination is extermination. The alternative presented is subjugation or independence; and, by their cruelties, oppression and vandalism, they have fastened upon

the public mind, that eternal separation is the only ark of safety. When we entered upon this war we had just organized a Provisional Government—without credit, arms, ammunition, or the means to manufacture them. We had nothing but the undeveloped resources of our country and the resolute patriotism of our people. During the two years of its progress, we have organized, armed and equipped as brave and gallant an army as ever marched to the field of battle. We have achieved more than any people have ever done before us. We have defended our country against the invasions of the enemy, and now have won upon their own soil the greatest victory of modern times. We have but to be true to ourselves, our country and posterity a space longer, and we shall have conquered peace and independence.

In this reply I have gone beyond the scope of your letter, because I deemed the occasion suitable to render an account of my representative course in order that I may be judged by my own acts and votes, and not by those of others, even if those others should constitute a majority.

Respectfully yours,
DAVID CLOPTON.

Messrs. Thos. S. Tate, R. H. Howard, Wylie W. Mason, W. P. Chilton, Jr.

(From the Religious Herald.)

Elder R. H. Stone and Wife.

Among the recent arrivals, under flag of truce, at City Point, were Elder R. H. Stone and wife, missionaries of the Southern Baptist Convention, to Central Africa. They were detained nearly two months in the United States, and many unsuccessful efforts were made to prevail on them to take the oath of allegiance to the Government of that country. At length, with the assistance of Rev. G. W. Samson, D. D., they secured from the Secretary of War, at Washington, an unconditional permit to visit their kindred in this, their native State, and when prepared to resume missionary effort, to return by way of the North to their field of labor. We are happy to add that the health of Mrs. Stone has steadily improved from the date of their arrival in America; and as it was on account of her failing strength that they were compelled to seek a more salubrious climate, for a season, this fact encourages us to hope that their present absence from Africa is but temporary. They are now in Calpeper, of which county they are both natives, and in which their parents still reside.

Our Comforter in Trouble.

According to a tradition of the Jews, the office assigned to Elias, when he passed from the flesh, was, to come and succor such as are in affliction. Would it please you to know that this man of God, stoops from his state of glory to watch around your path, when threatened with the incursions of evil, and minister to your mind when pierced with the shafts of sorrow? Take, then, the higher, dearer comfort, that this office of sympathy and help has been assumed by the God-man,—He whose bosom glows with all that is tenderest in human love, and whose arm wields all that is sublimest in Divine power,—"the man of sorrows," that He may feel for you—"the God of consolation," that His feeling in your behalf may become resistless effect.—Oh, to exchange Him even for an Elias—for an Elias even glorified, would be like exchanging life for death, heaven for earth. You recognize this, when we speak to you of it. But does your heart speak of it, day by day, hour by hour? That is your privilege. Long for it, rise to it, and affliction will no longer afflict. Death will brighten into life; earth wax glorious as heaven.

The Fear of God.

"The great God, that formed all things, both rewardeth the fool and rewardeth transgressors." "He is excellent in power, and in judgment, and in plenty of justice." "According to their deeds, accordingly will He re-

pay, fury to His adversaries recompense to His enemies."

These statements of Scripture respect the righteousness of God in the administration of providence. They place Him before the universe in an attitude inspiring awe. Perhaps, it is when seen from this point of view that His dread chiefly falls on the unrepentant. His sword gleams in the sky; it comes down with resistless stroke on the wicked, to drink their blood; and men tremble before the display of holy wrath. But there is a deeper reason why the righteous fear before Him. They look beyond His providence to the sanctity of His nature. Not what He does in the course of human events alarms them; what He is in Himself—so spotless from all taint of evil, so glorious in holiness, sin such an utter abomination to His soul, iniquity an object of such hatred that His eyes cannot endure even to behold it—this troubles them as nothing in the whole series of His judgments since the world began; nothing in the outward terrors of the day which, in the end of the world, shall gather the nations that forget Him before His bar. It was this that led Dr. Stiles, on his death-bed, to say: "I do not doubt the sufficiency of the Redeemer, or the mercy of God; but the want of purity makes me afraid to appear before a God of infinite purity."

Oh, is it true of us that we have this mark of the children of God—to tremble rather before the holiness of His nature, than the strokes of His providence? This is a grace of the Spirit: let us strive to attain it. If it does not chasten our lives, it will enliven death to us—at least, until we learn, amid the agonies of dissolving nature, that highest lesson of faith, to realize the infinite purity of God, and yet trust in Him still. Shall we not learn this lesson betimes—learn it even now?

A Worthy Example.

A correspondent of the "Christian Index" says in a letter from Richmond:

"Active participation in war, doubtless, is often unfriendly to piety. But there are instances which prove that however natural this result may seem it is by no means necessary. While some ministers in the army appear to have forgotten their higher calling under the pressure of duties imposed by their response to the call of arms, Gen. Pendleton, a doctor of divinity in the Protestant Episcopal Church, who since his entrance into the service early in '61, has approved himself one of our most active and efficient officers, has never failed to preach on Sabbath, except when the army was either in battle or on the march. Such an example of unflinching Christian zeal, amidst the toils and cares of military life, administers a rebuke which should be felt by those who have not been called from the 'walks of peace,' but whose labors for Christ have been interrupted, or languid beyond their wont. He has not done more than his duty. How much less than theirs, then, must they have done?"

LOOK OUT FOR THE COUNTERFEITER.

—A short time ago a three dollar bill on "The Augusta Railroad and Banking Company," signed "W. C. Campbell," President, was carelessly taken in at my office. It is proper to state that there is no such bank in existence. It is a bogus arrangement, gotten up for circulation in the army. I am disposed to believe that these bills have been circulated to some extent in Tennessee.

Luckily there are some few facts in the possession of a friend, which will soon, very probably, identify the scoundrel and bring him to punishment. I will say no more now, lest the thief should become alarmed, and make his escape.—Confederate Bap.

THE GRACE OF GIVING.—In the year 1300 Pope Boniface VIII. promised forgiveness of sins to all who would make a pilgrimage to Rome; and for one year, two priests stood, night and day, with rake in their hands, to collect, without counting the heaps of gold and silver that were poured upon the altar of St. Paul. What an example to us, who call ourselves enlightened Christians!

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\$3 per Annum, Invariably in Advance.

50 NOS. IN A VOLUME.

The S. W. Baptist.

TUSKEGEE, ALA.
Thursday, July 23, 1863.

AGENT.
B. B. DAVIS, of the "Book Emporium," Montgomery, Ala., is our authorized Agent, to receive subscriptions and dues for our paper.

AGENT FOR THE S. W. BAPTIST.—The Rev. A. Broadus, employed by the Colportage Board, to collect money for Testaments and tracts for the soldiers, is also authorized to act as agent for the S. W. Baptist.

Notice the Red Cross (X) Mark.

Those whose terms of subscription are about to expire, will find on the margin of the paper a red cross mark. We adopt this plan to save the expense of writing and forwarding accounts. We will give some two or three weeks notice in this way, so that subscriptions can be renewed. Look out for the Red Cross Mark.

The Fall of Vicksburg.

During the interval since the last issue of our paper, the disasters which our enemies have so long threatened, and many of our own people have apprehended, has fallen upon us. Vicksburg, our vaunted Gibraltar, the stronghold which we fondly hoped was impregnable, which has for more than twelve months withstood all the power of the North, has been compelled to yield. She did not, however, succumb to the superior powers or even numbers of the enemy. These she successfully defied in numerous terrific assaults of the foe. But famine, starvation, necessitated the surrender of that glorious city by the garrison, after a most heroic resistance and sufferings unprecedented in the history of this war. We are informed that for two weeks they had been living on mule flesh and pea bread, and that the men were scarcely able to stand up, so much were they weakened by their long agony of toil and famine. We had fondly hoped that the glory which had hitherto encircled the name of Vicksburg would increase in splendor by her eternal defiance of the power of the enemy—that she would illustrate the annals of our revolution as the "European Gibraltar has that of England, by the renown of invincibility. But though we are disappointed in this, yet her history will be bright with enduring fame, and our brave soldiers who so gloriously defended her, will be deserving of immortal honor.

The consequences of the loss of this post, are serious and important. By it, we have also lost Port Hudson, whose fame will be second only to Vicksburg in the heroic endurance of its garrison. And thus, our last point on the hither bank of the Mississippi has been wrested from us. But this does not give the Yankees the unobstructed navigation of the great river. As long as the States on both banks of the Mississippi are hostile, there can be no trade nor even safe passage for the enemy's vessels. If the opening of the Mississippi is intended for the benefit of Northwestern trade, the fall of Vicksburg will only reveal to the eyes of the Yankees the impossibility of any peaceful commerce between us. If they attempt to ship their produce down the river, we can foil them at innumerable points. A battery of field artillery secretly planted at any one of a thousand convenient places, would play havoc with their vessels laden with commodities—tho' under the convoy of their terrible gunboats. Indeed, the troubles of the Yankees are just beginning. While Vicksburg and Port Hudson stood, we had to keep a garrison and supplies at these two points, and the enemy could concentrate all their strength upon them. But when they have to guard with forces and gunboats a thousand miles of river shore against blockade, which our ships may erect at unexpected places, they will see the hopelessness of their aim. So much for the opening of the river.

But the surrender of Vicksburg, it is urged lays open our Gulf States to invasion and desolation by the armies of the enemy. Not until our army under Johnston has been defeated and annihilated. Why can he not hold Grant in check as Bragg has kept Rosecrans from overrunning E. Tennessee and Georgia, or as Lee has protected the tide-water region of Virginia? If his army is small, let it be increased by the instant enlistment of every able-bodied man in the States of Mississippi and Alabama. Surely we have men enough left at home to meet and triumph over such an emergency as this. And surely there is patriotism enough in our people to prompt to any sacrifice for the salvation of the country. A prompt and liberal offer of personal service now is all that is required to destroy the army of Gen. Grant. The farther he marches within our territory, the more perilous his situation. His lines of communication being lengthened he is in constant jeopardy of being cut off and ruined. Then our people take heart! Let every man

buckle on the knapsack, and shoulder the musket, and rush to the aid of Gen. Johnston. With determined energy, the resolve never to submit, we can, with the help of God, roll back this tide of invasion and save our beloved country.

The Domestic Mission Board—Its Work and Responsibilities.

For the South Western Baptist.

THESE ARE FOUR FOLD.

1st. The cultivation of the Domestic field. When this war was pressed upon the country more than one hundred missionaries, scattered throughout the land, occupying destitute points, were under appointment of the Board. These devoted men could be found from the States bordering upon the Atlantic to the Pacific coast, and from the Northern boundary of the Slave States to the Gulf of Mexico. Hundreds of churches had been organized as the fruits of their untiring labors, and thousands of souls taught the principles of the gospel, but for this agency, must have remained ignorant of the way of salvation. But the war so deranged all our plans that the Board were compelled, for the want of means, to suspend this great work, and say to the brethren under appointment, you must look to other sources for your support. The result was that many churches were left without any spiritual guide, and these interests have greatly suffered as was sadly anticipated. Thus far during the war but few missionaries have been sustained upon the Domestic field. Only six have been at work under appointment of the Board. This subject was brought to the attention of the Convention in Augusta, and the Board was instructed to resume its Domestic operations as rapidly as possible. Many neighborhoods are destitute of a Gospel ministry, and should be supplied from the liberal contributions of Southern Baptists. Many families of our brave soldiers have not heard a sermon in months, and when called to suffer the loss of an affectionate husband and devoted father, have had no kind and faithful minister to administer to them the consolations of religion. How many a soldier dying upon the battle field, or lingering out a painful existence in some distant hospital, has had his sufferings only intensified, by the reflection that the loved ones, at home, would have to leave their affections with none to sympathize with them. The moral and spiritual condition of the country earnestly appeals to us, to send out the faithful, living ministry, that the people at home may have the bread of life to support them in these times of suffering and distress. Brethren of our churches, shall we address you in vain? Friends of Jesus, can you be indifferent to these calls? In order to put an adequate force into the field the Board must have the means—money is indispensable. Can it be withheld? We think not. Shall this department of labor be longer neglected?

2. The army. This must be supplied with the living ministry and the printed page. Since January 1862 the Board have been actually engaged in meeting the moral and religious wants of the soldiers of the Confederate army. Forty-four missionaries have been employed, who have been constantly in the camps and hospitals of the army preaching Christ, and distributing tracts, religious newspapers and Testaments to our self-sacrificing troops. As the result of these labors hundreds have professed faith in Christ, many of whom have submitted to the ordinance of baptism, and by their lives exhibited the fruits of righteousness. Still the spiritual wants of the army are great. There are yet to be found regiments and whole brigades without a chaplain, and many of these have not heard a sermon in months. The eagerness with which they receive the labors of Christ's minister encourages us to prosecute this work with increased zeal. Protracted meetings are held in every division of the army, and glorious revivals are yielding their fruits to the praise and honor of Him who came not to condemn, but to save. The thousands of Testaments and Bibles distributed to the soldiers are proving the Word of life indeed to many, and the pious tract is but following up the impressions previously made upon the mind by the voice of the earnest preacher as he unfolds the blessed truth that Jesus died for sinners. Shall we look in vain to you, my dear brethren, for aid to carry forward this labor of love?

3. The Indian Department. It is known that this department of labor has been under the management of the Board since 1855. It has been prosecuted with vigor throughout, even during the war, the work, though somewhat interrupted, has not been abandoned. The native preachers (between 30 and 40) have for the most part joined the army and taken their muskets in hand to fight the battles of their country. But during all this time they have not failed to preach Christ to their countrymen as they had op-

portunity. There are 7 Indian regiments in service, 2 from each of the tribes, the Creeks, the Cherokees, and the Choctaws, and one composed of whites, and Indians from the Territory. But for the presence of these native preachers in the army there would be no preaching to the Indian regiments, as most of them do not understand English. How thankful should we be then that we are able to have the Gospel proclaimed in the hearing of these brave defenders of our Western homes, and that they should enjoy its conservative and sanctifying influences. The white missionaries, brethren Beckner, Silver, Reid, Burns and Hogan, with the exception of the latter, have been driven from their homes, and have taken refuge in Arkansas and Texas, where they are occupied still in proclaiming the everlasting gospel to the soldiers of our army, and others as they may find opportunity. They have not been idle, though their labors have necessarily been much interrupted. The expenses of this department are heavy, and demand of the friends of the Board the continuance of their liberality. The Board has recently made an appropriation of 3000 copies of the New Testament and 300,000 pages of tracts for the use of this trans-Mississippi department to be taken out by Bro. Compere in a few weeks. It is to be hoped then that the Associations hitherto in the habit of making up contributions for the Indian Missions will not be unmindful of our wants at this time. Bro. Compere will take out some \$6000 to meet our present liabilities with this department.

4th. Bible Distribution. This labor is now impressed upon the Domestic Board for the home field. The Convention at its late meeting in Augusta abolished the Bible Board at Nashville, and made it the duty of this Board to superintend the distribution of the Word of God upon its field of operation. Since the meeting in Augusta the Board have gone to work in good earnest, and already has it purchased some 12000 copies of the New Testament, and several hundred copies of the Bible for the use of the army. All funds for Bible distribution can properly be sent to the Domestic Board, when they will be employed as the donors may desire.

The operations of the Board, as appears from the above, are extensive, and require the constant sympathy, prayers and aid of the brethren to give them efficiency. Will not our churches at once take up collections in aid of these objects and forward the amounts to Rev. M. T. Sumner, Cor. Sec. of the Board, Marion, Ala. 7. Brethren, this Board belongs to the Baptists of the South. They have given it existence, to them we must look for its support. Our operations in the army are daily increasing. Two appointments are made at every meeting of the Board. Bibles and Testaments must be purchased, and tracts, all of which are had, specially at this time, at great expense. But is not the liberality of our people equal to the demand? Will they say to the soldier in camps, we can send you no more preachers, our money is exhausted, and you must go without the Word of God? No. Never can we forget these noble men. May Heaven's blessing be upon them!

M. T. SUMNER, Cor. Sec.
MARION, ALA., July 9, 1863.
P. S.—The Baptist papers are requested to copy.

M. T. S.
For the South Western Baptist.

Army Missions and Colportage.

DOMESTIC BOARD.

The labors of the missionaries for the month of June have been truly encouraging. They have held protracted meetings in camp, and the spirit of God had been poured out in the conversion of the soldier, nobly defending our rights. Thousands of tracts and Testaments and religious newspapers have been freely scattered and read with attention. The work moves on to the praise of our blessed Redeemer. A few words from the missionaries.

Rev. Thos. C. Tensdale from the army in Texas. "The results of the month so far as developed, are, under the circumstances, quite encouraging. I have preached 20 sermons, 30 have professed conversion, 6 backsliders have been reclaimed, 175 Testaments distributed, 12000 pages of tracts, and 28 soldiers baptized. My labors have been mostly confined to Genl. Anderson's Brigade. A deep interest has been evinced, and more than a hundred have, at different times, requested prayers. But for the interruptions occasioned by recent important movements in the army, and other causes, I think I should have been permitted to report a much larger number, both of conversions and baptisms. Several Brigades desire me to hold meetings with them. There is a general anxiety to hear the word preached. The congregations are very large, and evince the most solemn attention."

Rev. A. D. Cohen, Savannah, Ga.—

"During the past month (June) I have been much engaged in holding protracted meetings with the 32d and 12th Ga. Regiments. At these meetings many seemed to have been deeply concerned for their salvation, and twelve or thirteen professed conversion. The meetings became more and more interesting, and we had to leave them to bestow some labor upon other fields."

Rev. Wm. Howard, with the army in Miss.—"Seven soldiers have professed conversion and four have been baptized. I have labored principally in the hospitals upon the M. & O. R. R. There is a still greater degree of religious interest at these points than the month previous, and the good work is progressing. The conversions reported are nearly all from Tracy's Brigade, and the fruit of the meeting held with them on Chickasaw Bayou; I met with their wounded and sick at almost every hospital, and from large numbers I have the soul cheering intelligence that God has been gracious to them. Eternity alone will reveal the good accomplished. A large number of sick have been sent to the hospital at this place. Yesterday evening after preaching to them, between 40 and 50 requested prayers. They are all Alabamians and Georgians, and appear to be deeply interested about their soul's salvation. I intend, if practicable, to commence a protracted meeting in the large hospital building, and ask the prayers of the Board that the Holy Spirit may be richly poured out upon us."

Rev. W. W. Odum, Savannah, Ga., reports the professed conversion of 20 soldiers and one baptism. He is encouraged. The month of May, R. O. reports 10 conversions and 15 baptisms.

M. T. SUMNER, Cor. Sec.

For the South Western Baptist.

BROTHER HENDERSON: Our district meeting was held with the church at Greenwood, Montgomery Co., commencing on Friday before the 4th Sabbath in June, and continued until Thursday night following. There was but two or three churches represented. Bro. Harden and Mallet remained with me until near the close. Their labors were greatly blessed. Many were aroused to a sense of their danger, and some permitted to go on their way rejoicing. We have never seen greater manifestations of seriousness than was exhibited by the entire congregation. Six were added to the church, 5 by baptism, 1 by letter. Three or four others professed faith in Christ. The meeting closed with about 30 anxious persons in the altar, principally adults, some forty and fifty years of age. Brother Hurt continued the meeting the following week at the Methodist Church, and when last heard from was still continuing. The churches receiving great blessings from God. We have no doubt if the brethren would attend these meetings as they should, that great good would result.

Yours fraternally,
W. E. LLOYD.

For South Western Baptist.

Acknowledgements.

Received per Rev. S. Henderson for the Domestic Mission Board, from Mrs. A. M. Mallory for Rev. Wm. Howard, \$12.00; from sundry persons, for tracts for soldiers, 65.00; from an officer C. S. A. for Army Missions, 20.00; from Antioch Baptist Church for Testaments for soldiers, 35.00; from Antioch Baptist Church, tracts for soldiers, 7.50; Bethesda Baptist Church for Army Missions, 50.00. Total, \$189.50.

M. T. SUMNER, Cor. Sec.

For the South Western Baptist.

The Gulf Mission.

Dear Bro. Sumner:

Allow me to make a few statements in relation to this mission. You are aware that our military forces, while equal to the present demands, are small compared with some other portions of our army. These soldiers are scattered from Pascagoula, Mississippi, to Milton, Florida; reconnoitering, scouting, garrisoning Forts, Gunboats, Batteries, &c., &c. There are three regimental and three Post Chaplains for this field, some of whom appear to be faithful and useful men. In Mobile the troops have opportunity of attending worship, which privilege is improved by many. The missionaries of the Domestic Board have bestowed most of their labor in Mobile and vicinity, the Forts and at Pollard. One of the most faithful and laborious of all missionaries, Rev. S. A. Creath, has gone to his rest. Another, Rev. J. B. Hawthorn, has been compelled to leave his field in search of health. At present Rev. M. W. Jordan is occupying the field. Rev. R. Holman has devoted several weeks' labor there during the winter and spring.

Some of these soldiers are removed from all religious privileges except those furnished by the missionaries of the Board; and among such, preaching seems to be most highly appreciated. Occasionally backsliders are reclaimed; quite a number have exhibited much anxious solicitude for their souls; a

few have expressed hope in Christ and have been baptized. While there has not been the same religious awakening in this field there has been in others, yet there is much to cause gratitude and encouragement.

Many tracts, religious newspapers and Testaments have been put in circulation, all which have been gratefully received. It is not often one of these documents is refused; when it is, the case is inability to read it.

One of the missionaries visited a cavalry company in the suburbs of Mobile found a young man, quite young, lying in his tent sick. He did not look as if he had been long sick yet he had a pale appearance. He was presented with a religious paper and a tract, for which he mechanically thanked the giver when the following conversation took place:

Q.—Have you a Testament?
A.—No sir.
Q.—Do you want one?
A.—No sir.
Q.—Why do you not want a Testament?
A.—I had one and threw it away.
Q.—In so doing you parted with your best friend and wisest counsellor. Why did you throw it away?
A.—Because I did not like the man who gave it to me.
Q.—I think that a very unsatisfactory reason. The character of the man did not affect the excellence of this book. Suppose some one you dislike, should give you \$1000, do you think you would throw it away because you did not like the donor?
A.—No sir, I would not.
Q.—And yet you threw away the New Testament—God's Book—the book that tells you all about the Savior and Heaven, and how you are to embrace the one and enjoy the other, because you did not like the man who gave it to you. I think you have done very unwisely.

Q.—Well, I read some in it, as much as I wanted, any how.
A.—I am very sorry that you should have thrown away the best of books, and that you have so little interest in it. I trust you will think the better of it.

The next day the missionary called again and found the young man much improved and cheerfully accepted a copy of the New Testament, and readily promised that he would keep and read it. A further conversation revealed the fact that he had pious parents; his mother is dead, and he believes, in heaven.

This incident furnishes too suggestions:

1. Missionaries, Chaplains and Colporters should have special regard to their manner of approach to soldiers. A good message may be, and often is, rejected when unattended by that gentleness and meekness which is peculiar to them who are wise to win souls.

2. How many will have abiding cause of gratitude that they have met the missionary of the cross in their thoughtless and perilous campaigns far from home and those who feel and pray for them.

Mobile is fast acquiring a reputation, in morals, equal to any sister city in the Confederacy. The writer does not feel at liberty to question the claim. If the public Journals and private citizens can be credited speculators and extortioners have a fearful account to give. It can boast of high officials of Van Dorn celebrity, and the wonder of many is that they have not shared his fate. Intemperance is on the increase to an alarming extent, drunkards are rapidly multiplying. Not long since I noted the report of the Mayor's court for the preceding day gave six-fifths of the convictions as the result of intemperance. It is said two large distilleries have, of late, been put in full operation with all their paraphernalia for supplying both soldiers and citizens with whiskey—"rifle whiskey" as it is termed by way of eminence. An officer remarked the other day, that it would "kill fifty yards." The city needs a Gen. Bragg. He is the only man who has taken any decisive steps for the suppression of this alarming vice in Mobile, since the war opened. Gambling is another frightful sin of the city. These are the great sins of our army as well as of our chief cities, and are on the increase where they are not counteracted by vigorous religious influence.

The city Churches partake too largely of the spirit of the world. In the midst of abounding iniquity the love of many is waxing cold. Money, position, fashion, pleasure, engross the time and interest of too many who profess to be the children of light.

The white Baptist Churches are now without pastors. As has been stated, the Rev. J. B. Hawthorn, Pastor of the Broad street (mission) Church has left the city, with the hope of restoring his health. It is hoped he will be able to resume his labors in the fall.

The St. Francis street Church has had no pastor since the resignation of Rev. D. P. Bator. The pulpit is now

supplied by Rev. S. H. Ford of Louisville, Ky.

The two churches greatly need pastors who shall co-operate earnestly and with a spirit of determination to remove such obstructions as have, for sometime retarded the progress of the cause in the city. Until this is done, and the members of the respective churches unite in the effort, permanent prosperity can hardly be expected. What a charming sight behold all the churches of the same faith, in a large city working together in beautiful harmony, rejoicing in each others prosperity—Shall we ever see it? Would not such a state be millennial?

Yours truly,

L. N.

For the South Western Baptist.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, COVINGTON, GA., July 16th, 1863.

DEAR BRO. HENDERSON: At the regular Conference of this Church, on Sabbath last a vote of thanks was unanimously passed, and it was made my duty to express the same to yourself, and brethren Warren and Kendrick for your timely and efficient aid in ministering to our congregation and relieving our pastor during the recent revival season in this church. It gives me pleasure to make known to you the cordial thanks of this church, and to announce that 25 converts have already been baptized into our communion, and we have good reason to think that 4 or 5 more will in a few days be added to our number upon a profession of faith.

Yours in Christian bonds,

J. M. ESTES, Ch. Clk.

For the South Western Baptist.

At the Union meeting of the 2nd District of the Central Association, held at Union Church 11th July 1863, the following Report was adopted and ordered to be forwarded to the South Western Baptist, with the request that it be published, viz:

The Committee on arrangement of business beg leave to Report: They find nothing in the Letters of the Churches represented, which call for the action of the meeting.

The name is suggestive of the object of the meeting, to wit: To strengthen the bond of union amongst the sister churches composing it. The union contemplated is that of Fellowship amongst the membership of the churches, founded upon the admitted union, the individuals with Christ the head. Your committee respectfully suggest that the sum of piety of the churches being the aggregate of the individual membership, the bond of union amongst the churches will therefore be stronger or weaker according to the type of such individuals piety. We are happily united in a common Faith in what are regarded as the leading doctrines of Revelation: the practical working or gospel effects of that faith is, your committee fear, the great want of our churches—the element needed, at least in a higher degree than it exists in order to a more perfect union amongst the churches of the saints. Your Committee therefore submit the following for the consideration and action of the meeting—that it be recommended through the messengers, to the churches, that, with faith in God and humble reliance upon the promised supplies of grace, the members individually, prayerfully and zealously use the appointed means of attaining a more elevated tone of piety—that our churches engaged more zealously in the service of Sabbath School, Prayer and social meetings for edification—diligently searching the scriptures to ascertain what the Lord would have them do, and then faithfully do it, whether the obligations require the service of the head, the labor of the hands, or contribution of their substance. That in all things they seek to glorify God by carrying out and exhibiting the spirit of the Master by walking in his steps and doing good to the bodies and souls of men.

For the South Western Baptist.

FIVE MILES NORTH OF CHAMBERSBURG, PA., June 27, 1863.

BRO. HENDERSON: Though I feel disposed to write you a short letter, I hardly know what to say. We are in the "land of Penn.," and still moving on; we have advanced about 30 miles into this State, passing through a beautiful country—finely improved and in a high state of cultivation. The towns and villages are numerous and seem to be in as good a degree of prosperity as the country around. These people, prior to our advance among them, were enjoying life as if no war existed—excepting that they had relatives in the army, and many of them have been bereft of their friends by the casualties of war, who have found graves in the soil of the South. They have all the business that are common to this country, generally, too, at, or near the old prices. They, however, do not like to take "Confederate script" for their good things. In some instances they refuse entirely to receive our money. But the rebel proposing to buy never fails to carry away the article that he needs, and they get many of the anal-

