

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

The S. W. Baptist.
TUSKEGEE, ALA.:
Thursday, Oct. 22, 1863.

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

Rags! Rags!!

We will pay the highest market price for rags at this office. It is now our only chance to get paper. Will our patrons and friends who desire the continuance of our paper, save their rags, and send them in at their earliest convenience?

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 Publishers announce that they can not print Minutes for Associations this year. The scarcity of paper, and the weakness of their force of printers, forbid it.

Alabama Association.

The recent meeting of the Alabama Association was, in many respects, the most interesting occasion of the kind we have attended for years. Indeed, we cannot say that we have ever seen it surpassed. The interest was not in the number of delegates present from the churches, for they were fewer than had ever met in that body, there being little more than half the churches represented. There were also but few visiting brethren from other associations. It was in the harmony, the kindly affection, and the unparallelled benevolence of all who attended. They literally "provoked one another to love and to good works." Never have we seen that beautiful expression of David so impressively illustrated: "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." Every brother felt and acted as if charged with the most solemn behests, which Christianity and patriotism could impose.

We reached the place of meeting, which was Bethany, Lowndes Co., just as the introductory services were closing, which were conducted by elder W. B. Jones, of the Tuskegee Association, the regular appointee being absent. Elder David Lee was re-elected Moderator, and J. E. Bell, Clerk, and deacon W. B. Harrell, Treasurer. Some of the churches reported revivals, and quite a number of accessions by baptism during the year. The contributions to army missions sent up by the churches, and made up on Sunday, amounted to between four and five thousand dollars. For the Bible cause and Sunday School Board there were about twelve hundred dollars contributed. Between three and four hundred dollars were made up to send our paper to the army, nor was the Foreign Mission Board forgotten. Altogether there could not have been much short of seven thousand dollars sent up by the churches and raised at the meeting. Thus has this single Association contributed as much this year as used to be contributed by our State Convention.

The Missionary Sermon on Sunday, preached by elder I. T. Tichenor, was a unique affair, founded upon Heb. 12:5: "My son despise not thou the chastenings of the Lord." The object of the sermon was to show in what respect the chastenings of the Lord were despised—as when we failed to recognize His hand in the diversities of providence, and imputed these adversities to second causes—when these chastenings weakened instead of strengthened our faith and patience, and produced a murmuring spirit; and finally, when these chastenings were made the excuses for shutting up our bowels of compassion to the cry of distress and the claims of God's cause. These views were elaborated with a pathos and power which carried conviction to every heart; and the sequel showed that there were none in that assembly, in or out of the church, but what felt the force of divine truth. Brother Hawthorn, agent of the Domestic Board, and missionary to the army, blended in some happy remarks, after which some three thousand dollars were raised on the spot.

It would be unjust not to say, that the church and congregation of Bethany contributed largely to this fund. Some of the most liberal contributions were made by the citizens of the community, who were members of no church. If our soldiers in the field could have witnessed the deep interest manifested by that body of Christians in their spiritual and temporal welfare—if they could have seen the emotions produced on that assembly by every allusion to their sufferings and achievements—with what a thrill of joy the accounts of the work of grace among them were received—together with the solemn determination of all to see that their loved ones at home should never suffer for the comforts of life—surely it would encourage their hearts and strengthen their hands in every conflict. Unquestionably our people are waking up to the duties of the hour. Let it become general, and day will soon dawn upon our country.

The condition of the poor, and the indigent families of soldiers received a due share of attention; and similar resolutions to those of the Tuskegee Association were adopted—to wit: to sell corn to these families at one dollar per bushel—wheat at two and a half dollars—and beans at twenty-five cents per pound; and that these families shall be preferred to all other purchasers.

At 10 o'clock on Monday, the Association took a recess to listen to a funeral discourse on occasion of the death of brother Hooper Caffee, who, at the time he volunteered was clerk of the Bethany church, and who was mortally wounded in the battle of Gettysburg, Penn.—The sermon was preached by elder P. H. Lundy, the pastor of the church, who paid an eloquent and feeling tribute to the memory of the young Christian soldier. A young wife and one child lives to mourn his death. May the widow's God sustain her amid these deep waters.

Resolutions were unanimously adopted, the congregation joining in the vote, expressing our unabated confidence in the Confederate government, pledging life, fortune and honor to the holy cause, utterly repudiating all political connection with our enemies, and reiterating our determination never to yield this struggle until God shall bless our efforts to achieve our liberty and independence.

We should like to extend these remarks, but our space forbids. We must mention, however, that three wounded soldiers handed us twenty dollars to send our paper to their old comrades in arms, Company "H" of the old 3rd Reg. Ala. Volunteers. The package will be regularly sent.

On Monday evening the body adjourned, and we took leave of the kind and hospitable brethren and friends at Bethany. Long will these pleasant scenes linger upon our memory!

Alabama Baptist Convention.

This body will meet in Marion, on Friday before the 2nd Lord's day, in November next—three weeks from now. We hope the attendance will be as large as the circumstances of the country will allow. Never was there such a call upon the Christian activities of our churches as now. The claims of our Savior and country alike demand a consolidation of our means and agencies, both for the spiritual and political salvation of our people. Let us meet in the fear of God, and devise those liberal things by which we shall stand. We are glad to know that our Associations are "coming up to the help of the Lord" with a zeal and liberality unparalleled. Let our Convention catch the spirit and do something worthy of the crisis, so that in after years when history shall record these stirring scenes, posterity will no blush at the part we their fathers acted in this fearful revolution.

Public Meeting.

Special attention is invited to the call for a public meeting in Tuskegee on Saturday the 31st instant, for the purpose of supplying more efficiently the means to support the families of soldiers. It is essential that there be a prompt and generous co-operation between the people and the Judge of Probate, in this matter, or he will be compelled to resort to imprisonment. Let every man then, who desires to preserve Macon county from such a stigma, come up, and agree upon some plan to supply the destitute families of soldiers that shall protect the patriotism of our people. We can at least agree upon a price for articles of prime necessity that shall be uniform throughout the county. The Judge of Probate will cheerfully co-operate in any plan the people will agree upon. Surely our people need no argument to prove the necessity of prompt and efficient action in this matter. He who is deaf to this call may not hope to escape a fair proportion of responsibility in this respect. The wants of these families MUST be supplied, either by willing placing the means within the reach of the proper authorities, or by the strong arm of the law.

We have received several private letters from soldiers written to sturdy persons, with the request that we publish them. We only wish we had a mammoth sheet to publish them all, for they would be read with interest; but it is impossible for us to keep up with our own regular correspondents. We must therefore decline to publish them. We have not the space.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The Rev. J. C. Wright has changed his location from Eatow to Clinton, Green county, Ala., where his correspondents will address him. Should like to publish the articles to which he refers, but positively we have not the space.

For the South Western Baptist.

RAPIDAN STATION, VA.,
Sept. 29th, 1863.

Bro. Henderson: Allow me to say another word about chaplaincies. I have received within the last few days a number of letters from brethren desiring positions as chaplains. Brethren are under a mistake about this matter. It is very seldom that one can get a Colonel to recommend the appointment of a minister to that position in his regiment when the Colonel is unacquainted with the man desiring the place; and specially so when the man urging the appointment knows but little of the applicant. I have this day visited three different regiments, trying to get some appointments to that office made, and while the officers all seemed anxious to have a chaplain, they positively refused to recommend any man until they could see and hear him. The speediest way to get a position as chaplain, is to come to the army, and the right sort of men can easily get such a place. But brethren cannot get a chaplaincy by staying at home and writing a letter to some one. A few may succeed in that way, but the majority will fail. O, but, says some one, it is too expensive for a minister to have to pay his way to the army! But did you know that if you had a commission as chaplain that you would still have to pay your way? Chaplains are not allowed transportation. It is an interesting fact that most of our officers have undergone some change on the subject of chaplaincies. They say that

when they first started out it made no difference with them what sort of man they had for chaplain, or whether they had any at all; but now you will not talk with an officer ten minutes about it until you will discover that he does not want a chaplain simply to "hold service," but he wants a man who will promote the religious good of his regiment. I have had irreligious officers to tell me that a good chaplain is worth more for the government of troops than any officer in a regiment. A Colonel said to me to-day, "I would rather have the assistance of an efficient chaplain than a Lieut. Colonel or Major."

I baptized ten soldiers to-day.

J. J. D. RENFROE.

For the South Western Baptist.

Army Missions.

A. T. Spalding—Baptism, &c.

Below you will find an interesting letter from bro. Spalding, the efficient and amiable pastor of the Selma Baptist Church, Ala. His church has given him leave of absence for three months. He has gone to the army under the appointment of the Domestic Board. During the past month Rev. J. B. Lee, Western Va., has baptized 28 soldiers, and reports the conversion of 150. Rev. Wm. Howard, Miss., has baptized 26, and reports the conversion of 30. Rev. T. C. Teasdale, Tenn. (Bragg's Army), has baptized 34, and reports the conversion of 150. Rev. W. H. Carroll, Va. (Lee's Army) has baptized 27. These are but a few of the fruits of this work in the army.

Yours truly,

M. T. SUMNER.

Cor. Sec.

CAMP OF THE 10TH ALA.,
NEAR ORANGE C. H., VA.

Rev. M. T. Sumner, Marion, Ala.:

DEAR BRO.—The late movements of the army have temporarily suspended much of the organized labors of ministers in this army. We have been in this camp but a few days, yet the men to-day hastily prepared a new wood-chapel, and some 500 were present to hear the word of God. After I had preached to them, Bro. Renfro received for baptism a worthy son of Ala. The deep Macedonian cry comes up to us to-day from other Brigades. It is impossible to resist them all, and equally as impossible to meet the demands of all. I am glad that I came. True, the sacrifices have been great, but Jesus is proportionally precious. If my feeble voice fail not, I hope to remain till the severe weather shall compel a return. I am to preach again to-morrow. Bro. Renfro has been blessed of God in every way. The position he occupies in the confidence and affections of this Brigade is an enviable one. He has already baptized 75. Bro. Cumbe of the same Brigade—an ordained Baptist minister—not a chaplain, but a Lieutenant, has baptized 50. If his life be spared, and his labors be continued with this people, you will hear much of a Brigade, of which, as a model, Alabama may already be proud.

The officers have already won my affections. But I simply wished you to know that I am now at my post.

As ever, yours in the Savior,

A. T. SPALDING.

For the South Western Baptist.

BANKS OF CHICAMAUGA, NEAR
CHATTANOOGA, TENN.,
Oct. 6th, 1863.

VERY DEAR BRO.: Of course you have heard of and rejoiced with us over the result of the great battle of Chancellorsville. It was a terrific conflict and a glorious victory. It rendered Georgia safe, for the present at least, and we hope for all time, from the pollution of an invading Yankee army, and secures the early redemption of Tennessee and Kentucky. If Rosecranz whole force be not captured where it is or elsewhere not far off, it will be driven back the desolated line of its advance to and across the beautiful Ohio.

The fearful charge made by the troops under the command of Gen. Cleburne, in conjunction with the veterans of Cheatam's Division on the left wing of the enemy Saturday night, was certainly one of most, if not the most terrific of this or any other war. The storm of musketry and roar of artillery was not unlike some hurricane you have witnessed, accompanied by wind, flashes of lightning and rapid peals of thunder, and foreshadowed the direction of the attack that was to be made the following day. The line was nearly a north and south line, and at once told the enemy that he must look to the safety of his communication with Chattanooga. This attack was renewed the next morning and—as eminently suc-

cessful in driving the enemy from his chosen position. Just as night closed in he was routed from his last stronghold and driven in wild confusion towards the Tennessee river. I am fully persuaded that nothing but darkness saved his army from being captured or scattered to the four winds. Could our brave men have had three or four hours more of daylight, the boasted army of Rosecranz would have lived only in the past; the present and future would have known nothing of it. An intelligent prisoner while looking at some of our troops as they passed him on their way to the field of conflict, was so deeply impressed by their soldierly bearing and appearance that he involuntarily exclaimed, "And this is the demoralized army of Gen. Bragg!" A generous rivalry sprung up between the forces from Virginia and those of the army of Tennessee, and no men from any part of the Yankee land could have stood before them. The foe was compelled to give way. He could not help it, it was flight or death, and most of them chose the former. Their only safety was in their heels and they did not long hesitate to seek it.

This was a great deliverance vouchsafed to the people of the South by a gracious providence. "He hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad." Instead of repining that more was not accomplished, let the people rather cherish profound gratitude that so much has been done. Through the same strong arm, what remains to be effected may be brought about. Thanks be to God who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

It has been remarked by men qualified to judge, that the battle of Chancellorsville illustrated the military science and skill of the commanding officer in the highest degree. It was planned and executed with consummate ability, and demonstrates that Gen. Bragg is one of the great Captains of the age. Who has done more for his country during this bloody war, when all the circumstances are taken into the account? The only reason why he has not done more is, that he has not had the means, and not want of ability. Gen. Bragg, as all will now admit, is the right man in the right place. He thoroughly understands the field in which he is operating, and the tactics of the wily foe with whom he has to contend. We do not fear the result. God helping, he can and will be driven into his own place beyond the Ohio. Our trust is in God. Let his people look to Him in never ceasing prayer. We cannot lay our armour down till the priceless jewel of independence be gained, and that can be obtained only by crushing victories, of which God is the giver. Hence the suitability of prayer. Oh! how much longer shall the gigantic struggle be continued? How much longer shall we be engaged in the strange work of war?

Can you not visit our brethren in the army soon and preach for them? We should all be glad to see and hear you.

As ever,

L. H. MILLIKEN.

For the South Western Baptist.

CAMPS OF THE ARMY OF NORTH VA.,
NEAR ORANGE C. H.,
September 11, 1863.

DEAR BRO. HENDERSON: I left Talladega on Tuesday after the 1st Sabbath in August. After enjoying the hospitality of bro. Waller's family in Montgomery, (which by the by, was a great treat,) I found myself at the Depot in company with some of my former congregation in S. C., with whom I traveled to Columbia. I have never seen such throngs of ladies traveling in my life, and never expected to find traveling so uncomfortable. Ladies have sometimes to travel on the cars standing, and do without water to a great extent. The nearer I approached the army the brighter the hopes of the people appeared to grow; and when I reached it I found everything in the most cheerful state possible. As I left the scenes of prosperity, where the foot of the invader had never trod, I found my heart grew more cheerful. Patriotism and contentment seemed to pervade the hearts of citizens and soldiers. It may be well to modify the above expression, by stating that I found very many of our brave defenders mourning over their sins, and seeking Christ with sorrowing hearts. Bro. Renfro had been holding a protracted meeting for several weeks, when I reached the 10th Ala. Reg't. I found the interest in these meetings had permeated that Brigade, so that when I commenced to preach with him, the congregation was large and attentive. When so invitation was

given for anxious enquirers to approach for the prayers of God's people, they came in immense crowds, and I suppose there has been an average of five or six hopeful conversions each night. The revival seems to be general throughout the army. It is thrilling to hear the experience of some of the noblest young men in the Confederacy. Some being convicted when drawn up in line of battle. Some from the death of a comrade, and others under the direct appeal made to them from the minister of the Word. You will see from the Herald that I was at the Dover Association. I am happy here to state, that the body seemed in fine spirits, though its territory was almost covered by the two armies. The members, like the soldiers, have the most unbounded confidence in Lee & Davis, seem to have no thought of our subjugation. You will also observe that this venerable body has distributed \$5300 for the salvation of souls. I am compelled to omit many important and interesting items in this communication, but there is one particular item I wish, above all things, to mention, and it is this: It takes the very best capacity in the line of ministerial duties to be a successful chaplain, or missionary; because the talent and education of the South is generally in the army. This shows the very great importance of each church asking the solemn question: "Are we doing right not to send our pastor to labor with the soldiers? It also shows the importance of keeping the Home Mission Board in all the money it wants to supply the heavy demand that the army is making on it. I will now venture, for the sake of some, who are always complaining, to state a few secular items.

I was told the other day of a young man whose father had written him to quit the army and come home—come if he had to desert. The brave youth wrote his father word not to send him any more such letters; and instead of taking his father's advice, he volunteered as the Color-bearer of his Regiment, which was going into battle; he led his brave comrades, had his flag-staff shot into two, but seizing the top part, he pressed forward, waving his flag until he was shot through the body, and died. I was also told of a soldier who had lost one hand, volunteering to carry the colors into battle again; then another who had lost his leg, but having a wooden one, he went again into the ranks to meet the enemy.

As Talladega has ever been conspicuous in the counsels of the nation, it may not be improper to mention that her noble sons have filled the expectation of their people at home, as well as the entire State. Mr. James E. Shelly, a company officer—I do not know whether Lieut. or Capt.—was promoted on the recommendation of the officer of the 10th Ala. to the rank of Lieut. Colonel "for courage and skill." If I had time I might mention very many others whose heroic deeds are not surpassed by any name on the bloody record of military fame.

Yours in Christ,

J. F. B. MAYS.

For the South Western Baptist.

Look to Christ.

While the awakened sinner surveys himself he can meet with nothing but discouragement. If he look within, he perceives that the heart, in which he trusted, has turned him aside; that it is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; and the fruitful source of all the evils committed in this life. If he advert to actions in which there was apparently nothing to praise, he finds, on minute inspection, enough to convince him that he imperceptibly sought his honor, and not the honour that cometh from God only. He feels that he is inwardly defiled; he is convinced that all his duties have been shamefully defective; he discovers nothing on which he can safely depend for pardon and acceptance. Like the unclean spirit, when dispossessed of his peaceful residence, he turns this way and that; seeking rest, but finding none; and the reason is obvious: he is looking for that in himself which is only to be found in Christ. Peace for a troubled conscience is not to be attained in this way; nor will the trembling sinner ever experience the inestimable blessing till his attention be called from himself to the cross—till, as a perishing wretch, he look to him that said, when referring to his own death, "If I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men unto me."

Wrongs may try a good man, but cannot imprint on him a false stamp.

Never be at a Loss.

If you are beset by perils from which there are no visible means or hopes of deliverance, all your distress and fear may be embodied in the cry of the sinking Peter—"Lord save me!"

If you are utterly embarrassed and perplexed, that one petition of Saul will invoke light on your path from the source of all light—"Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"

If you are overwhelmed with a sense of sin so as scarcely to dare to lift up your eyes towards heaven, or venture on a direct address to a holy God, there is the prayer of the publican at hand for you—"God, be merciful to me a sinner!"

If you desire inward renovation, profound, complete spiritual transformation rather the prayer of David expresses that wish in its full and perfect form—"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right within me!"

If you desire illumination in the deep things of God, derive a prayer from the intercession of Paul, Eph. iii. 14, to the end. How the soul unfolds its wings in the vastness of that supplication, culminating and resting in a rapturous act of admiration!

If your heart is burdened with anxiety for some beloved one still destitute of grace, there is the fervid intercession of Abraham—"O that Ishmael might live before thee!" Substitute the name which your affection prompts, and the intercession of the Father of the faithful becomes your own.

If material wants press you, the modest petition of Agur (xxx. was also a prophecy)—Prov. xxx.—as every believing prayer is) will express the easily contented desire of a holy mind—"Feed me with food convenient for me."

"I adore," said Tertullian, "the fullness of Scripture." And in no respect is this Divine fullness more admirably displayed than in the variety of its petitions. They express every emotion of a sinful and suffering soul struggling backward and upward to God from the sin and misery of this fallen world. And then, what particularly commends these petitions to our use, is that they were inspired prayers. They were uttered by "holy men of God who spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."—And of nearly three hundred of them recorded in scripture, all but some five or six were answered by the actual granting of the petition—and all, without exception, procured blessings such as God alone can give.

"No God to go To."

A few weeks ago, while far from home, I called up to the "house of the Lord" to worship with His people.—When the hour came for the Sabbath-school, I entered a slip in which several ladies were seated, hoping to garner some good from that day's exercises.

Just before the time of closing came, one member of the class, whose heart seemed all aglow with love of Jesus, and a desire for the salvation of precious souls, requested of the class that they should remember in prayer a dear friend who was deeply afflicted, and who, as she expressed it, "seemed to have no God to go to."

"No God to go to!"—how the words lingered in my heart: I could not shake them off.

"No God to go to!" How dreadful the condition; and yet there are so many among the list of chosen on whose heart the name of the God who made them and loves them with pitying tenderness is not engraven. Thousands and thousands all over our world coldly turn from his proffered mercy, and live on, without "a God to go to."

When never a cloud lowers upon your pathway, and all your hopes bud and bloom and come to ripened maturity with never a blight on their beauty, can you receive all, and never desire "a God to go to," in the spirit of the Psalmist, who cried, "Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice?"

Have you never a "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits," to utter?

Alas, when the rain drops of grief shall fall heavy upon your heart, and the waves of some crushing agony come surging over your spirit, in that hour of utter desolation, how will you feel the need of "a God to go to."

If you have no hope in Him who died on Calvary, seek Him now, that through life and death, in sunshine or cloud, in joy or sorrow, your everlasting trust may be in Him who is ready to receive all who come unto Him.

