

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

**The S. W. Baptist.**

TUSKEGEE, ALA.  
Thursday, Nov. 19, 1863.

AGENTS.  
B. B. Davis, of the "Book Emporium," Montgomery, Ala., is our authorized Agent for receiving 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 Baptist Convention.

"The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this," exclaims the prophet Isaiah, as he looks in prophetic vision upon all coming time, and welcomes the triumph of Messiah's reign. Generation after generation of martyred saints rose before him. Kingdom after kingdom arose, accomplished its mission, and disappeared in the vortex of revolutions. But amid the wreck of falling dynasties, he followed, with ecstatic joy, the fortunes of one kingdom which was to break in pieces all other kingdoms, and was to stand forever. On the fortunes of that kingdom, all the lines of a gracious providence fell, until the "new heavens and the new earth" appeared to vindicate the wisdom, power and goodness of Him who established it with judgment and justice. Against this kingdom no weapon could prosper; for "the zeal of the Lord of hosts" was engaged to establish it "from henceforth even for ever." Age and infirmity might relax the zeal of some of his people; but his was ever fresh, knowing no abatement from the lapse of ages, or all the combinations of evil.

Such an assurance of divine aid may well encourage the people of God in the darkest hours of tribulation and embarrassment. If our weak faith and inconstant zeal shrink back from the contemplation of those dark clouds which now hover over our country and our churches, yet we know that these dark clouds are but the pavilion of his throne, and that when the fury of this tempest is past it will appear, as it has ever appeared, that "all things work together for good to them that love God."

Never since this terrible war commenced have we been so much encouraged by a sense of the divine presence amongst our people as at the last session of our State Convention. The reports from our Missionaries and Chaplains in the army—from many of the Associations and Churches in our State—together with the zeal and liberty displayed by the friends of Jesus on that occasion—did more to encourage our hearts with the assurance that "the Lord of hosts is with us," than the greatest victory that has yet crowned our arms in the field. Surely the Lord has some gracious purpose in store for a nation whose war-worn and battle-scarred soldiers are existing by thousands under the honor of Immanuel. "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon" was not more potent in the hands of "the three hundred men that fought," in overcoming the armed hosts of the Philistines and Amalekites, than it will be now, wielded by the hands of Christian warriors.

The Convention met in Marion on Friday the 5th inst., and was organized by the election of the Hon. J. L. M. Curry, of Talladega, President, A. B. Goodhue, of Marion, Secretary, and W. N. Wyatt, Treasurer. The attendance was as large as could have been expected—the falling off being but little more than one third. First among all the objects of the Convention now stands

#### ARMY MISSIONS.

There were present several missionaries of the army, who gave most interesting accounts of the great revival now progressing amongst the soldiers. These accounts were listened to with the deepest interest. On Sabbath, bro. Wm. Howard, one of the missionaries of the Domestic Board to the army of Mississippi, was appointed to preach a sermon on this mission. He was followed in an address of thrilling eloquence and power by the President of the Convention, bro. Curry; after which bro. Sumner, Secretary of the Board, took up a collection of about nine thousand dollars for army missions. In the evening at three o'clock, bro. Huff, agent of the Colportage Board of Virginia, in connection with bro. Spaulding, of Selma, addressed the congregation on behalf of that Board, and secured something over sixteen hundred dollars for that object. At night, bro. C. Manly delivered an annual sermon on Sabbath Schools, followed by an address from bro. Elford, of Greenville, S. C., on behalf of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention; whereupon a collection of over fifteen hundred dollars was taken up for that Board. Thus on Sabbath alone, there were collected between twelve and thirteen thousand dollars. These amounts, in connection with what was sent up by the Churches, Associations and Societies represented, footed up over thirty-eight thousand dollars. Last year our contributions were but little over ten thousand dol-

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD.

As already intimated, this Board was represented in the Convention by bro. Elford, who was for some time its Corresponding Secretary. The Board is prosecuting its work with great zeal. Already it has issued a large edition of Sunday School Hymn books, and contracted for another. There are in course of preparation three question books adapted to various classes of pupils. The difficulty of procuring paper operates as a great drawback upon the Board. When this difficulty is overcome, they will be able to enter largely into the work of publication. Twenty-five thousand copies of the New Testament have already been procured for Sunday Schools. Those who desire them can write to B. B. Davis, Montgomery, Ala., who will soon have the proportion assigned to our State on hand.

The address of bro. E. on Sunday evening was listened to with profound interest by a large assembly. We doubt not that results far more important than appeared at the Convention will be realized by the timely visit of our brother. That Board is now placed upon the calendar, and will receive its due attention in all respects hereafter.

#### INSTRUCTION OF THE COLORED PEOPLE.

Quite an animated discussion on the report of the committee on the instruction of our colored population sprung up on Monday, which elicited many important facts bearing upon that vital question. Our people are not yet awake to the full magnitude of this subject. True, it has been growing in importance and interest for many years; but much remains yet to be learned. The fact which has recently been announced in Europe that there are half a million of the sons of Ham in this country who are members of our several churches, has done as much to refute the slanders of our enemies, and to place the Christianity of the South right upon the record, as any thing that has yet appeared in our favor. We hope that our churches will redouble their efforts in this respect, and that our Domestic Board will be enabled to supply many destitute fields with suitable missionaries.

#### ORPHAN ASYLUM.

The subject of establishing an Orphan Asylum for the children of deceased soldiers was brought to the attention of the Convention by bro. Spaulding, of Selma, and resolutions adopted commending the enterprise to the favorable consideration of all our people. This is the most important movement we have made during the war. We publish in another column an appeal to the country on that subject. It is a matter of such transcendent interest, that it needs only to be mentioned to command the universal sympathy and benefactions of every Christian and every patriot. The brethren who are moving in the enterprise, will soon organize, and have suitable agents in the field. Not less than half a million of dollars will be required to place it upon a permanent foundation. We understand that the building of the Talladega Baptist Male-High School has been tendered to the committee temporarily. The permanent location of the Asylum will not be made for some time perhaps. Will not every pastor in the State constitute himself into an agent, and collect the money at once, so that no time will be lost in a matter of such infinite magnitude? Let us rear an institution worthy of the object, so that as the dying soldier thinks of his little loved ones at home, he may be cheered with the thought that their physical, moral and religious wants will be supplied by a grateful country. His death upon the field turns this responsibility upon us. Let it be promptly met, and we will furnish another evidence to posterity of that noble Christian patriotism which has already challenged the admiration of the world. God will bless the enterprise, and many of these orphaned children will rise up and call us blessed!

The next Convention will be held in the city of Montgomery at the usual time.

The proceedings of the citizens' meeting held in the Court House in this place recently, to devise the best means by which to assist the Probate Judge in furnishing provisions for the soldiers' families in this county, came in too late for this issue, but shall appear in our next.

For the South Western Baptist

#### Our Richmond Correspondence.

**Drewry's Bluff—The Volunteer Navy Seizure of our Rains in England—General Pemberton's defence—Glad news from the churches—Conservation of individual Christians.**

RICHMOND, OCTOBER, 1863.

Dear Bro. Henderson:

I have been frequently of late to our Richmond Gibraltar, Drewry's Bluff. A naval General Court Martial has been in session there for several weeks trying cases of desertion and others. The court is composed of the commanding officer on the Bluff, Captain S. S. Lee, of the Navy an elder brother of General Robert E. Lee, and of other naval officers on the Bluff and on the steamer "Richmond," which lies just off the Bluff. I learn that the court has been recently engaged in the trial of a deserter from our navy who was captured on the Yankee steamer Sattellite by the expedition commanded by Lieutenant Wood. The accused James R. Davis is a tall looking man, just such an one as we should suppose cared not which side he was fighting for. If he is convicted, it will go hard with him.

Drewry's Bluff is beyond all question the most strongly fortified point in the confederacy. The number of the guns have been considerably increased since the attack in May 1862, in which, you will remember, the Yankee gunboats met with a quick and disastrous repulse. I have but little knowledge of military defences, but in my view of the matter, I should unhesitatingly say that "On to Rich-

mond" in that direction will always be fruitless. I am not communicating any thing in this declaration that ought not to be mentioned. Somehow, the Yankees now as much about our defences as we do—a great deal more in many instances than our own people. The command at Drewry's Bluff have a neat little chapel in which there is regular service. A son (I believe) of the Rev. J. E. Edwards officiates as the clergyman. "The Richmond" is now under the command of Capt. Robert B. Pegram, a gallant Virginian who will distinguish himself if an opportunity offers.

While on the subject of Naval defences, let me call the attention of your readers to the Volunteer Navy scheme which has been agitated not a little in the Richmond newspapers. This is an admirable thing, and if carried out with spirit and promptness will very greatly advantage our cause. If we could only get aloft a dozen or more "Alabamas" we should make our foes in a little while sick of the war. Their commerce is their most vulnerable and vital point, and though we have struck them some severe blows in that direction, we must and will strike more of them in the future than in the past.

You will have heard ere this communication reaches you of our misfortune in the loss of the Rams which were building for the Confederacy in England. That government is playing a deep policy. She is not willing to put aloft a set of ships that will break the blockade—it does not suit her yet to have that effected. She is more anxious that the commerce of her rival on the ocean, the U. States, should be damaged; and she will have no objection to the fitting out of innumerable "Alabamas" who will perforce confine themselves to injuring the commerce of the U. States on the high seas and can not hope to break the blockade.

Have you noticed in the papers the method Lincoln and his party adopted to carry the Pennsylvania election? The New York World publishes an elaborate account of the manner in which the thing was done. A detail of a sufficient number of soldiers was made for the purpose, and the election results "show the Black Republicans victorious by about the same majority as there were soldiers sent to vote." Was there ever a more corrupt and intolerable tyranny? If the U. States can tolerate such oppression, without resorting to something more than murmurs through the newspapers, there is no hope of putting an end to this war until the South shall conquer a peace, for not until then will the votes in any of the United States show a majority against the Black Republican party. I do not place great confidence in the divisions of our foes, but I confess to no small degree of pleasure in witnessing their divided counsels. I do not wonder they are divided. They ought to be divided, so long as any party among them insists on the prosecution of the war. The case is different with us. We ought to be united as one man in the maintenance of our rights. All we hold dear is at stake. And a common interest and common necessity should blend us into perfect unreserved unanimity.

General Pemberton, or a friend of his, publishes a huge defence in the "Sentinel." I regretted his crimination. I have not much respect for newspaper criticism of military men and measures. All the skillful in war ought to be in the field, and in the sheerest charity I presume that editors who have preferred to remain at home know little about the art of war. As a general rule, then, the critics of military men darken counsel by words without knowledge. Granting the editors, indeed, abundant military skill if they were possessed of the whole field of operations, what can they know of the wisdom or good policy of any movement, or failure to move, when the plans of operations are studiously and necessarily kept secret from the public—kept secret from them? with knowledge so partial and incomplete as they possess, the wisest strategist that ever lived would be at fault in managing the movements of his command.

I have glad news to communicate from the churches. There is an extensive and widespread awakening on the subject of religion. The prayers of the saints in the army in behalf of Christians and sinners at home are about to be answered. At least the Richmond churches, many of them, are being revived, and I earnestly hope we are on the eve of a revival of signal power. At the Grace Street

Baptist church, the people are beginning to feel on the matter of greatest moment, and there is every reason to believe that the awakening which has begun will not terminate without the happiest results. Other churches, especially those connected with the Methodist persuasion, are being revived, and inquirers are anxiously seeking the salvation of their souls. God be praised for his great amazing grace! The churches are being revived elsewhere, and Christians are beginning to realize the importance of Christian devotion and earnestness. What ought I to do? is an inquiry which is just now pressing itself upon the attention of many of God's children. Let me answer the question by repeating what Isaac Watts said he should do when he came near to God. It is the fittest answer to the question I can think of. "If I could but come near the mercy-seat, he says, I would confess how great my sins are, and I would pray for pardoning grace. If I could get near the seat of God, I would tell him how many my enemies are and how strong; how malicious and full of anger; and I would beg strength against them and victory over them. I would say as David: 'many there be that hate me, many there be that rise up against me; and many there be that cry of my soul, there is no help for him in God; but thou O God art my glory, my shield and the lifter-up of my head.' I would tell him what darkness I labor under, either in respect of faith or practice. I would mourn and tell him how little converse I have with Himself, how much He is hidden from me, I would complain and tell him how far off I am from Him the most part of my life, how few are the hours of my communion with Him, how short is the visit, how much his face is concealed from me, and how far my heart is divided from Him—I would tell Him too of my temporal troubles, because they unfit me for His service, they make me incapable of honoring Him in the world and render me unfit for enjoying him in his ordinances. Lastly, I would not go away without a word of pity and complaint concerning my relations, my friends and acquaintance that are afar off from God. I would put in one word of petition for them that are careless and unconcerned for themselves; I would weep a little at the seat of God for them. I would leave a tear or two at the throne of mercy for my dearest relatives in the flesh, for children, brothers and sisters, that they might be brought near to God in the bonds of the spirit. Then would I remember my friends in Christ, my brethren and kindred in the gospel; such as labor under heavy burdens, languish under various infirmities of life, or groan under the power of strong temptations. When God indulges in the favor of his ear, I would spread their wants and sorrows before Him, together with my own and make supplication for all the saints. I would leave a petition at the mercy-seat for my native country that knowledge and holiness may overspread the nation and while I send up my request for the British Island I would breathe out many a sigh for Zion, that she may be the joy of the whole earth."

Thus wrote an eminent saint; and the churches and individual Christians in the army and at home, in a period of awakening, would do well to imitate him. Perchance, if the heart of this great nation be revived and turn to the Lord, the horrors of war will cease, and sweet peace be once again restored to the land.

#### OCCIDENT.

For the South Western Baptist.

#### To the Christian Public.

"THE ORPHAN ASYLUM OF ALABAMA."

The Board of Trustees have determined to begin at once the collection of orphan children. They desire also to secure further funds for the support of Alabama's orphan children through all coming time. The object of this Asylum is to gather all of the poor orphans in the State of Ala., and to improve them in body, mind and heart, so that they shall be happy and beneficial both to society and Christianity. The location is in a healthy and central part of the State, so as to secure good health, and every comfort for the children, and so as to be accessible by all parts of the State.

The physical, mental and moral training that these little helpless children will receive, will be of incalculable value to the progress of civilization, mental expansion, and moral improvement throughout our beloved State. For we intend to teach them regular habits of physical industry and close application in study

as well as habits of Christianity.—This plan, by the blessing of God, will secure to the country, virtuous, healthy, intelligent, enterprising, and moral men and women.

The dying soldier, as he falls in defence of our liberties, even while the cold ground drinks the warm blood from his heart, is heard amid the roar of battle, to say, "Oh! my poor wife, oh! my little children what will become of them?" Soldiers, here is the answer: "The Orphan's Asylum for the State of Alabama." Its name tells its mission. Ye silent sleepers in the tombless grave of the brave and free, and ye that battle by them, we pledge ourselves to you, for the welfare of your little ones at home. And to this end, we appeal to every man and to every woman in Ala., to help by sending us all the money they can give. We want the date, full name, Post-office, and amount, so as to record the names of all those whose hearts shall be moved by this holy and sublime impulse. We ask the pastors of all churches to act as voluntary Agents for this enterprise. We wish to prove by our actions, that we feel and deeply tell the debt of gratitude we owe to the distinguished dead; and to those who yet may die for our freedom.

A. T. SPAULDING, Cor. Sec.,  
Selma, Ala.,  
(In behalf of the Board of Trustees)  
All monies to be sent to C. E. Thames, Selma, Ala.

#### "THE ORPHAN ASYLUM OF ALA."

The following Board of Trustees have been elected for the ensuing year: Hon. J. L. M. Curry, President; Gov. J. G. Shorter, Gov. Elect, T. H. Watts, Hon. W. P. Chilton, L. W. Lawler, Esq., Walker Reynolds, W. W. Waller, T. P. Miller, B. F. Noble, Isaac Bellingslea, W. N. Wyatt, Esq., E. A. Blunt, W. M. Smith, C. C. Huckabee, Asa Parker, O. A. Hester, Col. Jefferson Falkner, A. B. Fannin, Rev. Andrew Jay.

Rev. A. T. SPAULDING, Cor. Sec.,  
C. E. Thames, Tr. Selma, Ala.

The male Institute, a large and commodious building in Talladega is to be immediately prepared for the reception of the Orphans. Rev. Rufus Figh, will for the present, act as Superintendent and Chaplain. The Pastors, all over the State, are requested to act as agents in collecting funds and children. As soon as the Building can be prepared, the call for the children will be made.

Send the Funds to C. E. Thames, Selma, Ala., and

A. T. SPAULDING, Cor. Sec.,

The following extract is from a business letter:

"The course of the S. W. Baptist in these trying times is such as to cheer every patriot. I think, in its moral effects, it is worth thousands of dollars to the cause."

#### Remarkable Divine Interposition.

A native of Sweden, residing in the South of France, had occasion to go from one port to another on the Baltic Sea. When he came to the place whence he expected to sail, the vessel was gone. On inquiry, he found a fishing boat going the same way, in which he embarked. After being for some time out to sea, the men observing he had several trunks and chests on board, concluded he must be very rich; and therefore agreed among themselves to throw him overboard. This he heard them express, which gave him great uneasiness. However, he took occasion to open one of his trunks that contained some books. Observing this, they remarked among themselves, that it was not worth while to throw him into the sea, as they did not want any books, which they supposed were all the trunks contained. They asked him, if he was a priest? Hardly knowing what reply to make, he told them he was. At which they seemed much pleased, and said they would have a sermon on the next day, as it was the Sabbath. This increased the anxiety and distress of his mind, for he knew himself to be as incapable of such an undertaking as it was possible for any man to be; for he knew but very little about the Scriptures; neither did he believe in the inspiration of the Bible.

At length they came to a small rocky island, perhaps a quarter of a mile in circumference, where was a company of pirates, who had chosen this little sequestered spot to deposit their treasures. He was taken to a cave and introduced to an old woman, to whom they remarked that they were to have a sermon preached on the next day. She said she was very

glad of it, for she had not heard the word of God for a great while. His was a trying case, for preach he must, and still knew nothing about preaching. If he refused, or undertook to preach and did not please, he expected it would be his death. With these thoughts he passed a sleepless night. In the morning, his mind was not settled upon anything. To call upon God, whom he believed to be inaccessible, was altogether vain. He could devise no way whereby he might be saved. He walked to and fro, still shut up in darkness, striving to collect something to say to them, but could not even think of a single sentence. When the appointed time for the meeting arrived, he entered the cave, where he found the men assembled. There was a seat prepared for him, and a table with a Bible on it. They sat for a space of half an hour in profound silence; during which the anguish of his soul was as great as human nature was capable of enduring. At length these words came to his mind: Verily, there is a reward for the righteous; Verily, there is a God that judgeth in the earth. He arose and delivered them; then other words presented themselves, and so on till his understanding became opened, and his heart enlarged in a manner astonishing to himself. He spoke upon subjects suiting their condition: the rewards of the righteous; the judgments awaiting the wicked; the necessity of repentance, and the importance of a change of life. The matchless love of God to the children of men, had such a powerful effect upon the minds of those wretched beings, that they melted into tears. Nor was he less astonished at the abundant goodness of an Almighty Creator, in thus interposing to save his spiritual as well as his natural life, and well might he exclaim, this is the Lord's doings, and marvellous in our eyes; Under a deep sense of God's goodness, his heart became filled with such thankfulness, that it was beyond his power to express.

What a marvellous change was thus suddenly brought about by Divine interposition! He who a little before disbelieved in communion with God and the soul, became as humble as a child. And they who were so lately meditating his death, now were filled with love and good will towards each other; and particularly towards him; manifesting affectionate kindness and willingness to render him all the assistance in their power.

#### The Prints of the Nails.

There is an anecdote, told somewhere of a young Muselman, who had succeeded to his father's estate and honors, but who, to the grief of his mother, did not inherit his virtues. It was not the fault of nature, for she had lavished her gifts freely upon him—nor of education; for he had been placed, from his infancy, under the wisest instructors; nor of example, for he had mingled only, with the good, and seemed to have no temptation to lead him astray. But notwithstanding his early advantages, and his early promise of great distinction and usefulness, he fell into dissipated habits, and was wasting his estate, his reputation, and his health. His mother remonstrated with him, but in vain. No plea nor entreaty, could prevail on him to abandon his wicked companions. He seemed obstinately bent upon his own ruin, and was plunging every day, deeper and deeper in the vortex from which few escape.

At last his mother, who was fruitful in invention, hit upon this expedient in order to reclaim him. She exacted of him a promise that he would comply with her request in one particular. In your little chamber, said she, I have placed a keg of nails and a hammer; and now for every act of your life, which your conscience admonishes you is wrong, take one of these nails and drive it into the ceiling of your room; and for every virtuous deed, let a nail be extracted. Time rolled on; and the ceiling was soon lined with these mementoes of his wickedness, till at length, he became alarmed by their number, and resolved to abandon at once his wicked career. The result was that nail after nail was withdrawn, till not a single one remained to tell the tale of his former dissipated habits. He then went to his mother, and with exultation he spoke of the conquest which he had achieved. "There is not a solitary nail," said he, "remaining in the ceiling of my chamber." "But, remember, my son," said she, "that the prints of the nails are there. Let these remind thee of thy fall and of thy recovery, and be humble."



