

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

The S. W. Baptist.
TUSKEGEE, ALA.:
Thursday, Dec. 3, 1863.

AGENT.
B. B. DAVIS, of the "Book Emporium," Montgomery, 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.

The Late Bank Convention.

We have read with deep interest the proceedings of the late Bank Convention which was held at Augusta, Geo., for the purpose of recommending some measures of relief in regard to our currency. Without pretending to any knowledge of a question so profoundly perplexing to all our people, the measures recommended by this Convention strike us as being more feasible in theory at least than any thing we have yet seen. After setting forth the inadequacy of the measures heretofore adopted to reduce the currency to a proper standard, they recommend the following measures:

1. That a new issue of Coupon Bonds be made to the amount of one thousand millions of dollars. The bonds bearing six per cent interest—the coupons payable annually in coin; and that, in future, to meet the wants of the Confederate Government, the policy of issuing Treasury notes be abandoned, as far as possible, and a tax sufficient for all the requirements be adopted as the true policy to sustain the credit of the Confederacy.

2. That an Act be passed levying a tax of sixty millions of dollars, to be collected annually during the whole period of the said loan, for the payment of the interest on the above bonds, and that the good faith of the Government be pledged for the continuance of such tax until the maturity of the said loan; and that the said tax shall be paid in coin, and that the coupons of the above bonds be received in the payment of this tax in lieu of coin.

3. That before the bonds shall be offered for sale in any other manner, or at a price above par, they shall first be apportioned among the States of the Confederacy, and that a committee shall be appointed for each State to make known to the tax payers in each collection district the necessity of providing themselves with a sufficient amount of bonds to pay this specific tax, and who shall sell at par, to the tax payers in each district, the amount of bonds required to provide coupons for the payment of their taxes; and that all bonds heretofore issued by the Government and Treasury notes of all issues be received in payment for the said bonds; and that the said payments shall be required in convenient instalments to suit the circumstances of persons of moderate means; but the privilege of paying in full at any time shall be accorded to all.

4. That all existing distinctions between Treasury notes of different issues and dates be abolished.

5. That interest on the stock of the fifteen millions loan be paid by checks on the Treasury, and that the said checks be received in payment of the export duty on cotton in the same manner as the coupons on the bonds of the same loan.

6. That a five per cent call loan be established, similar to the first original call loan, and that all Treasury notes be received at the Treasury therefor; and that the present five per cent, and four per cent, call loans be abolished.

7. That the right of the holder of Treasury notes, which upon their face are fundable in eight per cent stock, ought to be recognized, and an eight per cent stock at a short period provided for that purpose, and also that all the privileges attached to the original six per cent call loan be restored to the holders of all outstanding certificates of that loan.

8. That an increased duty be levied on all imports and exports during the continuance of the war, and that the same be collected in coin or approved bills on England or France, or in the interest on the fifteen million loan.

9. That an Issue Department be created by the Government, and kept separate from the Treasury Department, whose duty it shall be to supply a new issue of Treasury notes in exchange for the amount that may remain in circulation of the present issue; and that the new issues shall express on the face of the bills that the same are receivable in payment of all public dues except such as are specifically required to be paid in coin.

10. That there should be an issue of bills of a large denomination, viz: \$500, \$1000, \$5000, and \$10,000—sufficient to facilitate the transmission of funds and the settlement of balances.

This is a bold measure, and the effect of it will be to force the funding of nearly all our currency, and make the coupons of these Bonds, together with gold and silver, the currency of

the country. Prices will tumble down to the old standard, and the credit of the country will be maintained. Those who desire to keep up it; but those who expect the government to redeem prices, and make fortunes, of course will oppose its issues—who are willing to sacrifice their personal interest to the claims of patriotism—who prefer to give their substance to the cause rather than have it confiscated by our enemies to pay the price of our subjugation—will not hesitate one moment, if the wisdom of Congress shall adopt this, or some other measure equally effective. Practically, it is a forced loan; and if our people are prepared for it, they are prepared for independence. The "cotton loan" in Europe is to all intents and purposes a failure. It has purchased us a navy which is on the eve of completion, and which, could we avail ourselves of it, would be adequate to sweep our harbors of every blockading vessel from Norfolk to Galveston. But those vessels have been seized and detained by England and France, and we shall never secure them. Thus are we again thrown upon our own resources for the maintenance of this war. We must, therefore, by every means in our power aid the government by sustaining its credit, and supplying it with all the means necessary to a vigorous and successful prosecution of the war. If the Atlantic had been converted into an ocean of fire at the opening of this contest, it would have been an incomparable blessing to us. Recognition will never come from any quarter, until the right arm of the abolition government shall be broken. God and our right arms are the only friends we have on this broad earth, and had we realized this at the beginning, it had been infinitely better for us.

We have our fears that our Congress will not have the nerve to meet this crisis, but that they will again attempt to "dab with untempered mortar." Several of the old members have recently lost their seats for their adherence to principle rather than cater to popular prejudices. But as their term of service will not expire until the 18th day of February, and as no motive can now influence them but patriotism, it is too much to expect that they will rise to the full magnitude of their responsibilities, and do their duty in contempt of all personal considerations? Let Congress realize that other generations are to pass a verdict upon their conduct as well as this; and that if those generations cannot vote, they are at least to share the destiny we are working out for them. The truth is, we need more courage in Congress now, than we do in the field.

Another Great Battle.

A dispatch dated, Chicamauga, Nov. 25th, from Gen. Bragg to Gen. Cooper states that our lines around Chattanooga were attacked on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday the 23rd, 24th and 25th, and that after several unsuccessful assaults, our left centre gave way, which caused our left wing to fall back in considerable confusion, and that our whole army has been withdrawn to Chicamauga, some five or six miles this side of our former position. The fighting is represented as desperate. Our right wing repulsed the enemy four times, and dove then across the Tennessee river, and burned their pontoon bridges. We can get no particulars. The only estimate of the relative losses we have seen, states our loss to be one thousand killed and wounded, and upwards of five thousand prisoners, while the loss of the enemy is put down at twenty thousand. But nobody is deceived by such Munchausen telegrams as these. Multiply our loss in killed and wounded by five, and divide that of the enemy by two, and we will, we suppose, approximate the truth. When this war commenced we got the truth in the main from these sources; but now we question whether the Yankees can beat these news agents in the number and hugeness of what a plain man would call lies, but what in polite circles is known as statements "entirely inexact." We trust the reverse will not prove to be a serious one.

NEW SENATORS.—The Hon. R. W. Walker, one of the Supreme Judges of this State, was elected to the Senate of the Confederate Congress, on the 25th inst., to succeed the Hon. C. C. Clay.

Hon. H. V. Johnson has been re-elected Senator from the State of Georgia.

For the South Western Baptist.

MESSRS. EDITORS: Gentlemen! If you will give us room in your paper for the proposition, I propose to be one of 50 or any less number, who will deliver 10 loads each of wood to the Probate Judge of our county for the soldiers' wives who are destitute. The parties will give in their names to your office, or at the office of Probate Judge. THOS. N. McMULLEN.

For the South Western Baptist.

The Work of God—Domestic Board.

Rev. D. M. Breaker, S. C., reports 14 baptisms in the army for October. Rev. J. B. Lee, Western Va., writing from Blue Ridge, says, "We have some 1200 soldiers here in the Valley belonging to Stuart's cavalry. I have been laboring with them, as they have no chaplain, during the last month, 60 have professed conversion. I have baptized 25; others have gone home on furlough to be baptized. Some 10 have been reclaimed. Such an effectual door has been opened here that I have not been able to go home since I last wrote you. Although I am worn down with excessive labor—preaching often twice a day, besides other labors, I have not had a day to rest. O, how anxious are the soldiers to have the word of life! Many inform me that they have not heard a sermon for 12 months."

Rev. J. Judson Knapp, Wilmington, N. C., reports 6 conversions and 4 baptisms during the month (Oct.) He says, "There is a good state of feeling existing among the troops in the command, and the influence seems to be spreading." Rev. J. L. Tru-

man, Petersburg, Va., baptized 11 during the month (Oct.)

Rev. Wm. Howard, Mississippi, for Oct., reports 50 conversions and 29 baptisms, and 17 backsliders reclaimed, and 9 others received for baptism.

Rev. G. W. Camp, Kinston, N. C., for Oct., reports 11 conversions and 8 baptisms. He says, "The good Lord has been pleased to bless my feeble labors this month. I have seen the tears of deep penitence tracing their way down the weather beaten cheeks of those who had stood the shock of many a battle. I have heard the earnest prayer coming up from the hearts of those perhaps, who had for the first time prayed in true earnest—saying, 'God be merciful unto me a sinner.'"

Rev. G. W. Given has baptized 4, and 4 others are awaiting baptism.—Bro. G. is at Marietta, Ga., and is greatly encouraged.

Rev. W. W. Odom, Savannah, Ga., reports the conversion of 15 soldiers. Rev. James A. Tool, Marietta, Ga., reports the baptism of 2 soldiers.

Rev. A. D. Cohen, for Oct., reports 5 conversions. Bro. C. is at Savannah, Ga.

Rev. B. W. Whilden, S. C., reports the conversion of 23 soldiers for Oct. M. T. S.

For the South Western Baptist.

SELMA, Oct. 21st 1863.
REV. M. T. SUMNER, Cor. Sec. &c.,
DEAR BRO.: By reason of circumstances, I have not been able sooner to give a general outline of the last three months operations; and now at this late date must content myself with a very meagre sketch.

Arriving at Staunton Va., I met an order from Gen. Lee, that no person should leave Winchester for the seat of war in Pennsylvania, in less numbers than five hundred armed men.—There was a Battalion of some six hundred, just leaving with an ordnance train; and I decided to make my way with them to the army. The sun poured its rays with intense heat upon pike, and the reflection from the hard surface, even blistered my lips and face. Before the first day's march was ended my feet were severely blistered. After six days the command reached Winchester with the train, and you may be sure that march alone, was felt to be a serious thing. But by frequent foot baths in the cold springs and streams with which the valley abounds and riding twenty miles on the stage, I managed to keep along. Here we began to meet squads of the more slightly wounded from the great battle of Gettysburg, marching their way as best they could to the various hospitals. It was a matter of surprise how many of these dear men, worn and haggard, with great places torn in their flesh, many of them even shot through the legs, and their garments literally "rolled in blood," had made such a long and tiresome march in so short a time.—And how many of them were to go to Staunton, a distance of ninety-two miles on foot and live, I could not see: I was at Winchester two days, and during that time the most part of the wounded arrived in ambulances, waggon, carts, buggies, and some hobbling on sticks. It being the purpose of the government officers, to send all of them to other hospitals, I left for the army. On the way to Martinsburg and Williams Port, we met long trains, loaded with the wounded, and four thousand Federal prisoners.

Crossing the Potomac early in the day we made in squads for various commands, in the region of Hagerstown Maryland. When we neared the army, cannonading and skirmishing were going on and a fight was expected; but late in the evening our forces fell back a few miles, and late in the night I reached Law's Brig.—Early next morning the troops moved out into line of battle, and awaited attack several days. Preparations for crossing the river being completed, and the enemy failing to give battle, the army crossed into Va.—Hood's Division left camp, 9 o'clock at night, and the weather was very heavy. Thick clouds poured out hard showers in quick succession, and during the rains it seemed that Egyptian darkness could not have been more dense. Part of the way was exceedingly rocky and another very muddy, and the men were constantly stumbling and falling and frequently leaving their shoes in the deep mud. It was a dismal time. Long before the rear of the army reached the pontoon the Yankee cavalry was upon them, and they fought all the way to the bridge, inflicting some damage to us—capturing some stragglers, wounding and killing few men, among them Gen. Pettegrew, was mortally wounded. Gen. Lee, had posted several pieces of Artillery on an eminence on

the south side of the river, which relieved our men as soon as the Yankees came in sight. There I saw one of the enemy struck down by a shell from one of our cannons at least a mile by an airline. The command was halted two days near Bunkers Hill and as soon as the men rested a little, I call them together and preached to them. And in the evening of the same day Bro. Renfro, Chap. 10th Ala., after preaching to his own men, preached a fine sermon in Law's Brig. He had been right with his men, through all the campaign, and preached to them in line of battle.—There is no better chaplain than Bro. Renfro. On the way to Culpeper, considerable skirmishing occurred at Manassas Gap and Battle Mountain. After arriving at the Court House, as soon as circumstance would allow Bro. R. and I commenced preaching to the men, and we had several appointments, in different Regts. and Brigades, when the troops moved to meet the enemy, who were advancing towards the town, driving our cavalry. The Yankees being driven back, Hill's Corps, moved to Orange, and I was brought on my way by Capt. Robbins and Serg't. Ms. Cleveland, of the 8th Ala. These officers treated me with great kindness; by transporting my baggage, furnishing me horse to ride, giving me tent room and rations, all of which was duly appreciated after the long marches—the Lord bless them! Here Bro. Renfro and I held some meetings in different Reg'ts. in Wilcox's Brig. I then left for Hood's division near Fredericksburg; and visited Law's Brig. and there was not a chaplain present in it. The chaplain 48th Ala., was dead—and chaplain 44th captured—chaplain 4th, at hospital, and I do not know where the chaplain of the 47th was. I learned from various parties, that they had had but little preaching—Christians, with but few exceptions, were in a cold backsliden condition, and some had become out breaking. Gaming, with its kindred vices, were rife in camps. I commenced a series of meetings for the Brigade, and preached three times a day, and directly there were indications that God's Spirit was present, among the men to bless; and after some days, there was fine state of feeling extending to many: Christians were greatly revived, and others were anxiously enquiring what they should do to be saved. Bro. McJunkin, now came to my assistance. He had been a private in 15th Ala., and was severely wounded at the second battle of Manassas; both arms have been desecated, and he discharged from the service; but has entered upon the great work of preaching to the soldiers, and is doing much good. He is a young Baptist Minister of fine promise. Ten days later, and Rev. Robt. Frazier, chaplain 4th Ala., returned from the hospital in feeble condition, but did some good preaching. For several days now the meetings progressed with growing interest. Several of the brethren became actively zealous, and some made public profession of faith and conversion and the number of the serious greatly increased. As if sent by the Master, bro. Small of Selma, Ala., now arrived, greatly to our gratification, and entered soul and unight, upon the good work and did some excellent preaching; but on account of illness he was forced to leave camps, in about ten days. During these meetings, some of the Regiments were detached nearly all the time and the entire Brigade, marched to Port Royal a distance of twenty five miles, and underwent two reviews and returned to camp. While at Port Royal, I baptized seven, in the presence of a large crowd, in the Rappahannock; and Major Cambell 15th Ala., Methodist minister immersed several.

The meetings were kept up during this trip, with fine interest, though under great disadvantages. I must here express, my heart felt thanks, for the great kindness shown me by Capt. Hudson, A. A. Q. 4th Ala., in furnishing me tent, transportation and every kindness and encouragement. Also, for the very marked kindness of Capt. McConico, a Brig. Commissary. Indeed, my best thanks, are due a large portion of the dear men, of Law's Brig. both private and officers, for their constant and almost unequal kindness to me. On the night of the 7th of Sept. a march was ordered that compelled the meeting to close. Being requested by two who had just made public profession, not to let them leave the camp without baptism, we repaired to the creek, near a mile and at 11 o'clock at night, by the flickering light of candles, the ordinance was administered. It was a

solemn scene, and the Spirit of God descended on the crowd in signal manner. During these meetings, I baptized thirty nine (five for bro. "Mat" Anderson, at the crossing) and about twenty five joined the Methodists. It is supposed there were more than one hundred conversions, and deep seriousness pervaded many minds, promising great ingathering of souls, if the meetings could have been continued a little longer. No doubt the seed sown in many hearts will spring up and produce fruit to the glory of God; indeed some told me soon after that they had found peace in believing and desired baptism. Many backsliders were reclaimed and restored to the joy of salvation, and Christians were greatly revived and strengthened for their duties and sufferings in the future.—It is believed, that the effects of these meetings will be felt for all time and eternity.

With the lights then before me, I deemed it best to go to Chickamauga. Here, I witnessed the awful struggle between the two great armies, contending for the mastery—the abolition for territory, and boot y, ours for the heritage that God has given us. I will not attempt to describe the feelings, with which, I listened to the thunder of cannon and roar of muskets, in the fearful conflict of 19th. Late in the evening, the noise of battle ceased, and there was a strange lull, something like that which follows the tornado. But directly another conflict, more fearfully terrible was raging which lasted till long after dark. The firing at the opening, resembled in sounds those rattling, roaring, rapid claps of thunder frequently heard, when clouds are gathering into a general storm. But soon the sound of thousands of muskets, became all confluent, as the rolling of an enormous Gong, in an immense hall, and that of the Artillery, rolled in to swell the volumes until it seemed that a thousand thousands, had met in fury, and were fighting together. Occasionally, shell plunged into the ground near, and it really seemed that no considerable portion of men could go through such a fight and live. After moving through hospitals and speaking to many suffering soldiers and witnessing much of the sad effects of battle, and thinking I could be more useful next morning, I went to the front. The battle proper opened, 20th, 10 o'clock and raged all along the lines, at intervals during the day. For a time the contest was considered doubtful; the lines waved and the battle raged fearfully, when by a desperate charge, the enemy were driven, near a mile, and never regained any of the ground, but were pressed and driven till after sunset, when they gave way and fled at every point.

During a cessation, I went out against the front line, looking up the wounded, when a heavy column rushed up took position, advance a few paces and opened a terrible fire, and the grape and minnies whizzed rapidly by, and fell thick around me. The rear of a large army, during heavy battle beggars description, but if my limits would allow I could record many things of interest, that occurred under my own observation. To look upon a great battle, and see the wounded—some scrambling and crawling off, others hobbling on guns and sticks, others supported by comrades, and yet others borne helpless on litters—all mangled and gory, will impress any thoughtful people, with the importance of preaching the Gospel constantly and faithfully to our soldiers. And then to pass over the field and see the dying and dead strewn in every direction, is enough to stir the hearts of all Christians, in this confederacy, to earnest and constant efforts, to supply every soldier, with the printed page and the preached Gospel. There can be no mistake on the part of our churches, in thinking it their duty to give up their pastors, at least, part of their time, to labor for the salvation of our dear soldiers. Eternity alone can unfold the grand and glorious results, of labors of your Board and S. S. and colportage Board, Richmond, Va.—Already, may souls, converted through the instrumentality of your Missionaries, and baptized by them, have gone to heaven from various battlefields and hospitals. Many out of the number, of smartly over one hundred, that I have baptized already this year have gone to their final glorious reward—exchanged scenes of war and suffering, for those of heaven.

Yours in the Gospel,
W. H. CARROLL,
Missionary, Dom. Miss. B'd, S. B. C.

Relatives take the greatest liberties, and give the least assistance.

Nobody Cares for Us.

At Culpeper C. H., on the 2nd instant, just the evening before our army fell back from that point, I had a long conversation with a cavalry officer, who is an intelligent and pious young man. In the course of our talk he said: "One thing that sometimes weighs very much on our spirits and of which we talk sadly together is the thought—it keeps creeping over us—that the people at home do not care anything for us. They are living there in quiet and comfort; many of them better off than they ever were before; but whenever they think of us at all, it is as of men who are a great way off, very useful in our places, no doubt, but not worth bothering themselves about. If we'll just stay here and fight and keep the enemy away from them, it is all they care for."

Now, if a soldier is reading this, and is inclined to think my friend was half right, let me assure him that it is a mistake. Selfish men there are, to whom such a description applies; but not so with the great mass, old and young, rich and poor, male and especially female. No they do care for you, with all their hearts. Not only in the immediate circle of your kindred—you were not meaning them, of course—but in the whole community where you are known, they think of you much oftener, and with much warmer interest than you have any idea. With what anxiety they search the lists of the killed and wounded, after a battle, and how relieved they are when your name is not there. How tenderly they speak of your comrades, who have fallen,—with what a gentle respect, albeit seldom expressed in speech, they look upon the bereaved. How commonly are heard, when friends meet, even for a moment, such inquiries as, "When did you hear from James?" "I hope your husband was well, when he wrote last." "Johny, have you had a letter from your Pa. lately?" These things are not formalities; they show a real abiding interest. Every prayer in every prayer-meeting includes petitions for you. And, O, soldiers, if God spares your dear lives, till this horrible war is ended, and you get back home, then you'll see how it is—when old men meet you with warmest greetings—when mothers and wives, and children, gather round you with tears of joy—when fair faces oft seen in your dreams are in all their radiant reality before you with smiles of welcome—then you'll know and feel that you were never forgotten.

Yet, if some one is reading this at home, let me say, that perhaps, we do not take sufficient pains to let our soldier friends know how much we think of them, and love them. The fact is, the young officer hit me a pretty hard blow; though he didn't look as though he wanted to be personal. He is my cousin, and told me when we met, that he had written to me four times since he entered the service, and had received no reply. To be sure, three letters never reached me, but the first did, and I only "kept intending" to reply to it. Now, Cousin A. is a great favorite in my family, and we speak of him very often, and with warm affection; but how was he to know that? He used to see, plainly, that we loved him, when he was there; he would soon see it again, if he could return; but, would it be strange, if he should, sometimes, feel that even we had ceased to care for him, when I never wrote? I have done injustice to him, and injustice to myself and my family; and I mean to do better.

Reader, is it only necessary to change the name, for this story to be told of you? One of the worst things about camp life, is its stupid dullness. Do relieve it, for your friends, by frequent and cheerful letters.—Religious Herald. J. A. B.

THE WIDOW'S MITE.—The Christian Mercury, reporting the proceedings of the Baptist Association of that city, says:

A pleasant incident occurred, which it may be interesting to relate. In the collection taken up at the Baptist Church, for the benefit of the soldiers, a plain gold ring was found. It was afterwards proposed that the ring be purchased by subscription, the amount paid into the treasury, and the ring returned to the donor, who was supposed to be a poor widow. The plan was received with favor, and the subscription for the ring amounted to about \$200. Thus was the self-denying act of a poor widow the means of contributing a large additional sum for the benefit of our soldiers.

