

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

By S. W. Baptist.

USKEGEE AIA.  
Thursday, Jan. 14, 1864.

AGENT.  
P. 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 mar-  
ket price for rags at this office. It is  
your only chance to get paper. V  
our patrons and friends who de-  
sire the continuance of our paper,  
send their rags, and send them in at  
the 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 subscrip-  
tions can be renewed. Look out for  
the Red Cross Mark.

To our Patrons.

From and after the first of January, 1864,  
the subscription price of the South Western  
Baptist will be five dollars per annum. The  
price of material and labor leaves us no other  
alternative, unless we suspend altogether.

The Currency—Once More.

The press of other matter prevented us from  
publishing the letter to which we recently  
referred on the currency. It will be found in  
another column of this issue. As it is from  
one of the best financiers in our State—a  
gentleman, too, who has had a large ex-  
perience in commercial transactions, it occurred  
to us that although it was only a private let-  
ter written in the familiar and easy strain of  
private correspondence, and without any view  
to its publication, it would nevertheless be in-  
teresting to our readers. The question to  
which it refers grows in importance every day,  
and we are anxious to give publicity to our  
views upon it, dictated by enlightened patri-  
otism. As already intimated, we are wedded to  
no plan. Any scheme that will save the cur-  
rency and the cause, we will gladly accept—  
Any system of taxation not combined with a  
plan which will force the funding of not less  
than two thirds of our present circulation, we  
would greatly distrust. The present war tax,  
both in money and in kind, when collected, will  
have hundreds of millions more in circulation,  
than was when the tax was levied. On this  
question, we are reproducing the history of the  
revolutionary war. At the end of the third  
year of that war, continental money depreciated  
to the ratio of six or seven for one; at the end  
of the fourth year, twenty-seven or eight for  
one; at the end of the fifth year, from fifty to  
sixty for one; and in the first six months of the  
sixth year, it required one hundred and fifty  
dollars in that money to represent one dollar  
of good money. We are now near the close of  
the third year of this war, and striking an av-  
erage of every thing bought and sold—land,  
negroes, provisions, and every thing made in  
the Confederacy, it requires at least seven dol-  
lars of Confederate money to buy what one  
would have bought before the war; and the  
tendency is still upward. Not the slightest  
impression has been made upon this upward  
tendency by the present tax law or the volun-  
tary funding system. Is it unreasonable, then,  
that we should distrust a system of relief which  
has already been proved and found wanting?

If Congress should pass a law requiring a  
large proportion of the war tax to be paid in  
the coupons of Confederate bonds, say an  
amount that would require the funding of not  
less than four or five hundred millions of the  
present circulation, we should then have not  
less than three or four hundred millions in cir-  
culation. And then if the Treasury depart-  
ment were restricted not to issue more than a  
given amount annually, say two hundred mil-  
lions, about what would be taken up in taxes,  
the currency would at once appreciate vastly.  
Congress will, in a few days we suppose,  
adopt some plan of relief, which we trust will  
be equal to the emergency. We shall await  
the issue of its deliberations with deep anxiety.  
But we have our fears that the disease has gone  
too far ever to be reached by any remedy, short  
of bankruptcy—the transition from paper to  
cash. Then we will have the opportunity of  
showing whether we are worthy descendants of  
a noble ancestry, who achieved the most bril-  
liant successes of our revolutionary struggle  
after their money had become worthless.

Recruiting the Army.

The repeal of the substitute law, and the  
subjecting of the principal to conscription, as a  
matter of course, will give rise to some dissa-  
tisfaction from some quarters. Those who have  
bought substitutes will argue that the law im-  
pairs the validity of contracts—that it is there-  
fore unconstitutional and unjust. On the other  
hand, it is argued that the law allowing substi-  
tutes was simply a temporary privilege, subject  
to be withdrawn whenever the exigency of the  
country demanded it—that the government can  
not alienate its right to the service of any man  
in it when the public interest demands such  
service—and that the alternatives upon the  
government now are either to subject these men  
to military duty, or to give up the cause. We  
suppose that every man is convinced that the  
army must be recruited promptly and effectively,  
or the cause is lost. In this aspect of the case  
the only question which any patriot can ask  
himself is, "in what capacity can I best serve  
my country?" If our allegiance is due to our  
country at all, that country has a right to that

measure and kind of service which we are best  
adapted to render. No supposed private in-  
terest or right can be alleged as a plea of ex-  
emption, which would imperil the result of our  
struggle for independence. When we establish-  
ed our government, every man pledged to its  
support his life, his fortune, his all; and that  
pledge cannot be redeemed by the payment of  
a few hundred or a thousand dollars for a sub-  
stitute to take his place in the ranks. Our  
first duty is to our country, for it is lost, nothing  
remains but utter, hopeless, irredeemable ruin.  
Will it be any consolation to those men who  
have furnished substitutes, in such an event,  
when they shall be stripped of every thing they  
possess, and bow their necks to the yoke of  
oppression that will not leave them the pitiful  
right of petition or complaint? Then let  
every man yield a cheerful and willing  
obedience to the only policy that can save us  
from such a doom. With what show of justice  
could Congress reimburse the whole Confed-  
erate army now in the field—that army of  
veterans which has faithfully served the country  
for nearly three years, and wrenched from the  
most formidable armies of modern times some  
of the most brilliant victories ever recorded—  
and leave these men to the ease and quietude of  
home, who have made comparatively no sacri-  
fices for the cause?

General Morgan's Command.

We notice a generous enthusiasm throughout  
our country to remount and equip the command  
of the intrepid Morgan. His escape from the  
loathsome prison of the enemy and arrival in  
our lines have already been announced. The  
Rev. Mr. Hunter, one of his chaplains, visited  
our town last week, and secured a contribution  
of nearly two thousand dollars from our citi-  
zens, besides sundry articles of clothing, for  
this purpose. The city council of Augusta  
Geo., has appropriated ten thousand dollars to  
the object, and other cities and towns are mov-  
ing in the matter. We rather judge that if the  
gallant partisan ever gets an opportunity, he  
will make his fiendish enemies rue the day they  
ever shaved his head and consigned him to  
fellow's doom. True to his reputation, we  
understand he came through Kentucky in the  
capacity of a mule drover, purchasing stock  
for "the best government the world ever saw,"  
bringing two fine chargers with him.

We publish two interesting communications  
from Richmond, "Uno," and "Occident." The  
latter will be recognized as an old contributor,  
whose articles have been read with profound  
interest by all our patrons. We welcome him  
back to our columns with a hearty good will.  
The former is a new contributor, whose articles  
will always be more than acceptable.

Our Richmond Correspondence.

RICHMOND, DECEMBER 15, 1863.

Congress—Mr. Foote—Long Speeches  
—Growth in Richmond—Crime—  
Poor—Lectures of Dr. Hoge—Mr.  
CLOPTON—Mr. Curry.

Dear Bro. Henderson:  
Congress has been in session nine  
days and has done nothing thus far  
but listen to Mr. Foote. Foote is a  
universal talker. He talks about ev-  
ery thing; and to very little purpose,  
upon any. If he could be quieted  
there would be a great saving to the  
country of precious time, and no spe-  
cial loss would be incurred by reason  
of the absence of his contribution to the  
intellectual stores of the House.  
The newspapers at the Capital and  
elsewhere, with one voice, have been  
proclaiming against long speeches.—  
What we need, they say and rightly  
say, is vigorous and right action—not  
declamation. It is not to be presum-  
ed that the members of Congress will  
heed advice administered in such gen-  
eral terms without special application.  
Why do not the secular journals  
choose a signal example of criminality  
in this regard and open on Foote? They  
would receive, I am sure, the hearty  
thanks of the House, though they  
might fail to spread on their re-  
cords an expression of their grati-  
tude. A verbose talker, a loose and  
inaccurate thinker would be the very  
worst sort of material for the leader  
of the House, and yet Mr. Foote as-  
pires to the position with no better  
qualities than these. I need not tell  
you, that he fails of his purpose.—  
There is no man who rises to his feet  
to speak in the lower House who  
commands so little attention. His  
advocacy of a measure is almost  
equivalent to its defeat.

The country is looking to the pres-  
ent Congress with no little anxiety.  
We have certainly reached the crisis  
of our national history. A city paper  
not many days ago applied to the  
Congress now assembled the remark  
of Napoleon on his battle-scarred vet-  
erans on the day of the battle of the  
Pyramids. Pointing to the lofty pile  
before him he exclaimed: "Soldiers,  
Forty centuries look down upon you."  
The thought is a noble one. The fu-  
ture of this Confederacy is committed  
to the keeping of the present Con-  
gress, and the fate of untold millions  
may be hanging upon the decisions of  
the present hour. God grant that our  
statesmen may be equal to their re-  
sponsibilities, and that this the con-  
cluding session of the First Perma-  
nent Congress, may be distinguished  
by wise counsels and judicious legis-  
lation.

The assembling of Congress and of  
our State Legislature has crammed to  
overflowing the houses in Richmond,

but we have not yet reached the point  
humorously described by a writer in  
the Southern Literary Messenger.—  
There was at one time apprehensions  
of a scarcity of provisions, but that  
has disappeared, and there need be no  
repetition of it, if the Government will  
do right in the matter; and I have no  
doubt it will. We have grain enough  
to supply every reasonable want if  
the impressing officers will permit the  
farmers to bring it to market.

Crime has been largely on the in-  
crease at the Capital. The Richmond  
correspondent of the Confederate  
Baptist rightly estimates it as at least  
75 per cent. more than usual. This  
rapid increase is not attributable to the  
sudden depredation of the native  
or resident population, nor of course  
to the refugees who have been driven  
here from their homes. It is the re-  
sult of the aggregation of a vagrant  
band of felons and thieves who are  
attracted by large assemblages, hop-  
ing to drive there their trade of crime  
with more impunity and success.—  
House breaking has become so com-  
mon that house keepers are compelled  
to secure their provisions by distribut-  
ing them in different parts of their  
houses. With this exception, the  
frauds and crime perpetrated are not  
very flagrant.

Our poor are not suffering so much  
as was apprehended. Sirens of ef-  
forts are making to supply them; and  
our Young Men's Christian Associa-  
tion, ever foremost in the good work,  
is doing what it can in this direction.

The Young Men's Christian Associa-  
tion has begun its Lecture season  
earlier than usual. Dr. Hoge, who  
has recently visited England on a  
mission to obtain Bibles, &c., for the  
Confederate States, has already de-  
livered two lectures and is announced  
for the third. The Doctor is an en-  
tertaining lecturer and has been greet-  
ed by crowded audiences. In his lec-  
ture last evening, he gave us a very  
interesting account of the London  
clergy. He paid a handsome tribute  
to Spurgeon and to Brock, (the biog-  
rapher of Havelock,) whom the lec-  
turer described as a faithful, zealous  
and able minister of the gospel.

I understand that the course of  
lectures is expected to be quite ex-  
tended. Mr. CLOPTON, of your State,  
and Mr. CURRY, have been invited to  
deliver lectures in the course. I hope  
they will consent to do so. I have  
never heard a lecture from the form-  
er. He made the strongest speech on  
the floor of Congress in support of the  
constitutionality of the Conscription  
law, and another effort of his on the  
Finance question at the last session  
was spoken of in the highest terms.  
If he will consent to lecture, he will  
doubtless be greeted by a large au-  
dience, and from what I know of him  
his audience will not go away un-  
profitably. Mr. Curry has a national  
reputation as an orator. As a lec-  
turer he will secure a high position.  
He has already delivered two lectures  
before Richmond audiences on both oc-  
casions. His lecture last winter was  
on "Individuality, or Self-hood, and  
contained some very excellent pas-  
sages; though as a whole, it was not  
equal, it seemed to me, to the lecture  
he delivered the winter before. That  
was on "The two wants of our Con-  
federacy." The wants were, an en-  
lightened public opinion and Chris-  
tian statesmen. The discourse was  
an admirable one. The speaker's eu-  
logy of Calhoun was worthy of all  
praise and should be remembered  
among the choice extracts from South-  
ern writers. More anon.

OCCIDENT.

RICHMOND, VA. Dec. 19th, 1863.

MESSRS. EDITORS: What do you  
say to some observations in Richmond,  
not many or long; and if not enter-  
taining, at least, not wearying? Apart  
from the Confederate Congress, now  
in session, here may be seen others,  
the representatives of all the views,  
feelings, opinions, speculations, extor-  
tions and aught else throughout the  
Confederacy. In this city, congregate  
all classes; from the grave and se-  
date to the jovial and the gay; from  
the red and yellow of fancy men and  
women to the dingy brown of the  
poor and uncared for; from the sun-  
shine of hope and expectation to the  
darkness of despondency. How they  
live, what they eat, wherewithal they  
are clothed is one of the mysteries,  
yet unsolved by "the city fathers."

A stranger can find many things to  
engage his attention and employ the  
hours, necessarily denied to business  
in this city of formal routine and  
unbroken "tapestium" in all depart-  
ments, official, et cetera. Jews always  
excepted and provided Mr. Benjamin  
is not one of the Israelites. Congress  
meets daily, "Sunday excepted," at

the hour of 12, M. and, if the aforesaid  
stranger desires to look upon, measure  
and weigh the legislative wisdom of  
the country in council assembled, he  
has but to repair to the Capitol at  
that hour. There, in either House,  
she sits before him—deeply and plain-  
ly stamped upon the expressive faces  
and heads of some, legibly written  
upon others, and, as to a few, "invisi-  
ble green." Did circumstances per-  
mit, I would give you my impressions  
of some of the prominent members;  
some of them prominent by virtue of  
merit and talent, some by the hard-  
ness and quality of "brass," and some  
by the shallowness of the reality and  
the depth of their pretensions. But  
this would be personality, "a danger-  
ous, deadly trick," and somebody  
would think, if not say aloud, "tis  
trash," 'tis certain, and certain 'tis  
'tis trash." Suffice it now, that a  
thorough observation will satisfy you,  
that the present Congress possesses  
more legislative ability, than you  
would suspect from a mere glance.  
It is generally believed by those  
professing to know, that it is a more  
able body, than the succeeding and  
newly elected Congress.

Apocryph. The defeat of your es-  
teemed friend, Mr. Curry, is univer-  
sally regretted. Having by industry  
and talent, attained a position in the  
first rank of statesmen, well qualified  
for any position, by an intimate ac-  
quaintance with the political history  
of the times and country, cognizant  
of the wants of the people, and pro-  
foundly impressed by the emergencies  
of the crisis, and above all, a Chris-  
tian patriot, his constituents have  
failed in their duty, not only to them-  
selves and the State of Alabama, but  
to the entire Confederacy and the  
great cause of constitutional liberty.  
I do not know his successors; but I  
would not like to stand in his place,  
for he will be measured by his prede-  
cessor.

One thing has particularly im-  
pressed me in my intercourse with  
several of the members—a pervading  
conviction of the necessity of prompt,  
strong and efficient measures for re-  
equipping the army and the relief  
of the currency. The former is under  
consideration by the military committee  
and the latter has been referred by  
the House to a special committee,  
who meet, as I am informed, daily  
and nightly, maturing a scheme of  
financial relief for the action of Con-  
gress. I am not advised, what par-  
ticular plan will be recommended,  
but taxation is the central idea of  
every plan. A bill has already pass-  
ed prohibiting substitutes hereafter,  
and several bills have been introduc-  
ed, affecting those who have put in  
substitutes heretofore.

On last evening I heard Rev. Dr.  
Hoge lecture in the 1st Baptist Church  
on the sentiment of England towards  
the Southern Confederacy. He was  
sent across the waters last Spring by  
the Bible Society to procure books,  
and was quite successful in his mis-  
sion. He was admitted among all  
classes and into all places, where a  
minister ought to go; had conversa-  
tions with numberless persons and  
various means and ways of access to  
the public sentiment. As the result  
of his observation, he expressed the  
opinion that Queen Victoria is, in  
sympathy against us, arising from the  
great ovation, with which the Prince  
of Wales met throughout the North-  
ern States during his visit to their  
country; that Earl Russell is hostile  
to us, because of his anti-slavery  
fanatism, but that the aristocracy,  
(with few exceptions), the educated  
classes and the business men were  
favorable to us, that the opinion of  
Englishmen concerning the people of  
the Confederacy had undergone a  
thorough change, and their opinion  
regarding slavery was undergoing a  
gradual change. He urged our Gov-  
ernment and people to do nothing in  
this crisis, that would tend to alienate  
the British people.

For several weeks past extensive  
revivals of religion have been pro-  
gressing in several of the Baptist  
Churches, especially in the 1st Baptist  
and Grace Street Churches. I attend-  
ed some of the meetings and wit-  
nessed one baptism. These meetings  
have now suspended on account of  
the exhaustion of ministers and mem-  
bers. I understand that about one  
hundred and twenty five or thirty  
have united with each of these  
churches. Many soldiers have been  
converted and baptized. Such reviv-  
als are uncommon, if not new in a  
condition of war. Oh! That they  
may extend throughout the entire  
extent of our population and pervade  
the whole army. I consider them  
the surest evidences of the fact, that  
"God is with us." When spiritual

peace shall prevail over the Confed-  
eracy, temporal peace will certainly  
follow in the train.

But, "too long, too long," I hear  
you whisper. So I shall stop; threat-  
ening you, as I shall have to sojourn  
in this city for several weeks, to give  
you some further observations upon  
"matters and things in general" and  
congressional legislation "in particu-  
lar."

UNO.

Dec. 14th, 1863.

DEAR BRO. HENDERSON: How is  
it that you have, unwittingly, fallen  
into the error of endorsing the wild  
and impracticable financial scheme  
recommended by the Bank Convention  
recently held in Augusta? Surely you  
have never qualized it. What does  
it propose?

1st. To levy a tax of \$60,000,000  
payable in specie. How many of the  
tax payers in the Confederacy have  
gold or silver enough to pay such a  
tax. Not one in every hun-  
dred. How, then, is the tax to be  
paid? By purchasing 6 per cent  
bonds of the Government and thereby  
obtain coupons which are to be re-  
ceived in payment of this specie tax.  
How many bonds would each man be  
required to purchase, to obtain cou-  
pons enough to provide for his taxes?  
Just 16 1/2 times, the amount of his  
taxes. How would this operate?  
The present State tax of Alabama  
produces about \$1,500,000. The pro-  
portion of Alabama, of the \$60,000,  
000, specie tax would be fully \$8,000,  
000, or more than five times the  
amount of the present State tax.—  
Then multiply the present State tax,  
by 5, and the result by 16 1/2 and you  
have the amount which each tax payer  
would be required to invest in bonds.  
How absurd!

To whom would those who have  
property, but not much money, be  
able to sell their property? Under  
that scheme it would become neces-  
sary for \$1,000,000,000 to be invested  
in a certain class of bonds, for, at  
6 per cent interest, it would require  
that amount to provide \$60,000,000  
of coupons, the amount of the specie  
tax. "The whole circulation of Con-  
federate Treasury Notes is supposed  
to be \$700,000,000, nearly one third  
less than the amount to be invested in  
bonds. What will the people exchange  
for the remaining \$300,000,000?—  
And after the whole circulation is  
absorbed, and property for taxes is  
put upon the block for sale, who  
would or could buy it? None but a few  
bankers, manufacturers and specu-  
lators whose fortune it is to hold an  
excess of treasury Notes, on the  
amount required to provide for their  
own taxes. A good negro man would  
not bring \$50, in gold, nor good land  
one dollar per acre, if that scheme  
were to be adopted. The poor would  
perish, for nobody, who would be will-  
ing, could help them. \* \* \* \*

For the South Western Baptist

A Sad Reflection on the Present

Time.

Many are the sad effects of war,  
and among the saddest may be reck-  
oned the demoralization of our people.  
In conversation a few days since, with  
a highly respected citizen of Alabama,  
he related some particulars illustra-  
tive of this sad truth. Some one  
purporting to be an agent of the  
government had secured by fraudulent  
contracts about fifty thousand dollars.  
This gentleman was employed as a  
detective for discovering the author  
of the fraud, who evidently had as-  
sumed a false name. He soon made  
the desired discovery, and found to  
his amazement that the guilty one  
was a young lady about twenty years  
of age, of a most excellent family,  
highly educated and remarkable for  
her talents. He could but ask her,  
how she was induced to venture upon  
a step so strange and ruinous. She  
replied "Sir, this war has demoralized  
us all, and it has demoralized, me  
too." The sad remark has weighed  
as a burden on my mind, and while I  
hesitate much to admit that "this war  
has demoralized us all," alas I meet  
often with scenes of sin which should  
be most startling because they really  
are so little so. On the evening of  
the 26th inst. I came on board the  
Henry J. King, leaving Selma for  
Montgomery. A large number of  
passengers both ladies and gentlemen  
were on board. Immediately three  
tables were surrounded by card  
players, and so soon as supper was  
ended a negro violinist was found,  
and the dance commenced. It was  
Saturday night, and I was reflecting  
as I sat by the stove that the saddest  
year of my life and of my country's  
life was about closing. A gentleman  
at my side remarked "It is a little  
strange to see such frolicking now."  
The homely thrust went home to my

heart, and I sighed with pain. O my  
stricken bleeding country! Just then  
I heard boisterous swearing, but so  
confused were the tones that I could  
distinguish only the word "Kentucky"  
and parts of horrid oaths. As I look-  
ed up I saw a squalid soldier, John  
Flemming of the 2nd Kentucky moun-  
ted rifleman. He was much intoxica-  
ted, a laughing stock to some, an  
annoyance to others, and certainly a  
sad spectacle to me. The night wore  
on till about 10 o'clock; the officers  
of the boat and some military officers  
with the ladies were still gliding  
through the Quadrille or whistling  
through the waltz. I came back to  
the gaming table farthest removed  
from the dance. There I saw Flem-  
ming again. He said, "boys, let me  
have a hand here." One answered with  
an oath "I don't care," another with  
an oath "no I don't want him," Flem-  
ming soon became troublesome and a  
guard carried him to the lower deck.  
I lay down soon after, but found it  
difficult to sleep. I was expecting  
that soon the dance would close and  
the card table with its incessant  
rap would be set aside, and then I  
would fall to sleep. The time seemed  
very long, at length I arose and look-  
ed at my watch. A young man pass-  
ing at the moment said, "most 12  
o'clock," and laughed loudly; my watch  
pointed to 6 o'clock of the Sabbath  
morning. The dance was still proceed-  
ing and the card players were still  
betting at two tables. I sat down by  
the fire. Capt. B—a Kentuckian,  
came up and said "have you seen any-  
thing of Capt. —?" "no sir," said  
I, "what has become of the soldier  
that was so intoxicated last night?"  
"O, he's drowned, he fell off the boat  
last night at about 11.30 o'clock. I  
was startled, and could it be that the  
poor drunkard swearer was so quick-  
ly hurried to perdition, and the tables  
above were all the while surrounded  
with gamblers and the cabin filled  
with dancers! I went below and  
made some inquiries of the soldiers  
there. "Was a man drowned last  
night?" "He was," said a soldier,  
"he was drunk and fell overboard."  
"What was his name," said I. "John  
Flemming, he was a good soldier too."  
"Didn't the boat stop?" "no sir,"  
"why didn't you let it be known?"  
"We did sir, but the captain said it  
wasn't worth while to break up the  
ball, just for Fleming."

O what a little history was here! what  
a sad recital! My thoughts ran back  
to midnight, when God's holy day—  
the last Sabbath of this dreadful year  
was ushered in. I heard his shriek  
for help as he plunged into the swollen  
river. His comrades rush to look,  
but the steamer dashes on. Had he a  
mother living; perhaps he had, per-  
haps a wife who has waited for him  
and prayed for him, now almost three  
long years. Send above! call the  
captain, perhaps he may swim until  
help can reach him! But stop; the  
ball now desecrating God's holy  
Sabbath and provoking His anger—  
cannot be broken up for Fleming,  
though he be unprepared for death,  
though a mother's heart yearn for  
him, though a wife may be weeping  
for him, though his orphans might be  
beggars in a far off land. The greater  
part of the Sabbath was spent on the  
steamer and the gaming went on as  
on any other day. I saw a gentleman  
whisper to one of the players who  
answered "well it is Sunday! I'll be  
d—d if it isn't." And with that the  
game went on. On arriving at Mont-  
gomery I heard that the poor soldier  
was not drowned, but succeeded in  
swimming out. My heart was much  
relieved. But still the hardness of  
those who should have pitied and  
helped him, haunts me. Are we indeed  
grown callous to the sufferings of  
humanity. Has this war demoralized  
us all! I have written this, not to  
reflect upon the reputation of the  
steamer or the officers on board. I  
do not compare them unfavorably  
with any on this river. But I would  
have all who chance to read these  
lines consider whether the chastening  
rod of God be not hardening their  
hearts. If we be corrected by His  
rod. He will bless us, and we will  
say with David "It is good for me  
that I have been afflicted." But if not  
then are we becoming callous and  
when we shall have become incorrigi-  
ble He will destroy us.

T. WHITFIELD.

For the South Western Baptist.

Leisure Thoughts.

I write as my heart dictates. I  
hope no one has been offended by my  
plain expressions. I feel that this is  
no time to mince matters. Immortal  
souls are rapidly leaving this world  
and they are either going to heaven,  
or to hell, shall we whittle down our  
admonitions, to polite suggestions, or



