

# SOUTH WESTERN BAPTIST.

S. HENDERSON, EDITOR.]

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

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The South Western Baptist,  
A RELIGIOUS FAMILY NEWSPAPER,  
PUBLISHED WEEKLY.  
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The S. W. Baptist.  
TUSKEGEE, ALA.  
Thursday, April 7, 1864.

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 (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.

All sums over five dollars sent to us hereafter, will be subject to an abatement of thirty-three and a third per cent. To avoid confusion, we will publish the amounts as sent in our receipt list, but give credit on the books at the above rates.

Domestic Mission Board.

We are glad to know that this Board is prosecuting its work with great zeal, and with more than common success. From every part of the field, there comes encouraging accounts of the labors of its missionaries. The quietude of our armies for the last two or three months, has furnished a most inviting field for preaching among the soldiers the unsearchable riches of Christ. There yet remains a few weeks which may be wisely improved, before the Spring Campaign opens. May not the efforts of the Board be effectively supplemented by some voluntary service by our pastors? Could not many of these devote a few weeks to this service, and thus improve the only opportunity which may ever offer itself to preach the gospel to thousands who are so soon to take their stand in the deadly breach, and perhaps be swept into eternity by the tide of battle? Meetings are being held in many brigades of the army with manifest tokens of the divine favor. Serious attention is already awakened—we have but to thrust in the sickle and reap a glorious harvest. The hope is almost universally entertained that this is the last year of the war, (God grant that it may be well founded!) and how important is it that our soldiers enter this great decisive campaign under the most favorable auspices of success! The life of a great nation trembles in the balance, and it becomes every man to throw whatever of weight he can—moral, religious or material—into the scales. And as we profess to be a Christian people—as we are firmly persuaded that the battle is the Lord's—that He is to award the final result—is it not incumbent on us to work with a zeal that never relaxes, and to pray with unceasing fervency, that those men who are to meet the dreadful shock may be prepared by divine grace for every emergency? What does our Saviour mean by calling his people "the salt of the earth"? Can He mean less than this, that they are the conservators of government and society—and that it is on their account that He exercises a kindly providence over this world? And if this be so, is not the conclusion irresistible, that if God interposes for us, if He crowns our efforts with success, and gives us a place among the nations of the earth, it will be for the sake of His "elect that cry day and night unto Him"? O, it is a most solemn truth, that the Christianity of the South carries with it the fate of our Confederacy!—No prophet ever called more imperatively upon his ancient people than the providence of God now addresses us, "O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the mountain; O Jerusalem that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, behold your God! It is when Zion awakes and puts on strength—when her watchmen shall lift up the voice together, bringing good tidings and publishing peace, that the clangor of war shall cease, our waste places shall sing together, and "the Lord shall make bare his holy arm in the eyes of all nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God." This strength can only be put forth by elevating the standard of piety and increasing the faith and activity of the churches, and multiplying the number of the redeemed. They are his "jewels," the only part of earth's teeming population that will show to an assembled universe how much this world has been directly worth to God—how much its harvest will yield for a better world. To be instrumental in adding to the wealth of heaven, what an honor! How all the honors of this world pale before the splendors of that crown which shall circle the brow of him who shall "turn many to righteousness"—"Thou shalt the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father!"

## Fasting and Prayer.

The near approach of another day of fasting and prayer, (to-morrow) appointed by the last session of the First Congress of the Confederate States, furnishes a suitable occasion for some further remarks on these solemn duties. Before this great struggle commenced, various religious bodies in our country appointed days for the observance of these duties in various portions of the country. Divine direction was earnestly implored, in the prospect of this contest, to guide our people in the measures to be adopted to secure the blessings of good government. Results have proven that the instincts of Christianity were far wiser than the sagacity of statesmen. The magnitude of this war was much more accurately measured by the Christian in his closet, than by the Statesman in the Senate. This may have resulted from the fact that long before the Southern States separated from the old Union, the largest and most influential denominations of Christians in the South had been forced to withdraw from all association with Northern churches by a necessity even more imperative than that which drove the Southern States into a new confederation. When this separation of the churches occurred, the whole Southern portion of these churches came in a body, and for years before this struggle commenced, they had been acting as if they each belonged to different governments. And as this whole revolution had its origin in religious fanaticism, and as this fanaticism first manifested itself in those organizations which brought Northern and Southern Christians together periodically, and sought to pervert these religious meetings into the means of promoting its wicked purposes, it is not singular that those who were eye witnesses of that deep malice which severed the strongest ties that ever bound man to his fellow man, would precipitate such a struggle upon the country as has seldom been witnessed, and perhaps never surpassed in the annals of war. Is it, then, strange, that before entering upon so fearful a struggle, the Christians of our country should have betaken themselves to fasting, humiliation and prayer: that God would vouchsafe his direction and aid to us through so fearful a conflict?

Many days of fasting and prayer have been appointed by Confederate and State authorities, as well as by religious bodies, since the war commenced, with results such as should encourage the hearts of all Christians. The first battle of Manassas was preceded by a day devoted to this service. So also of the Siege of Vicksburg—and perhaps others. Indeed, we do not remember an instance of the kind, in which God has failed to crown our arms with signal success, soon after the observance of such a day. To the thoughtful reader of history, sacred and profane, this is not singular. He who spake as never man spake has declared that "he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." God has made his interposition in such cases dependent upon such a recognition of his agency in the government of the world, as that sacred service implies. Those who act as if there were no God, He often abandons to just that fate as if there were no God—leaving them to the machinations of their own wicked hearts.

But then there are other duties connected with fasting and prayer, which give them, we may say, all their importance. In the 35th chapter of Isaiah, God has prescribed the fast which He approves. Let us listen to his words, and ponder them in our hearts: "Is it such a fast that I have chosen? a day for a man to afflict his soul? is it to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? will thou call this fast, and an acceptable day to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and to bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? Such are the conditions of the fast that God has chosen. And if the day of fasting and prayer which we are on the eve of observing, shall fill these conditions; then may we claim the promise which immediately follows: "Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. . . . And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not." Fasting without repentance, and repentance without reformation, are but abominations in the sight of God. They but aggravate our evils by adding to all our other sins the sin of hypocrisy. If after days shall prove that this fast has been observed in the true spirit, a nation's redemption will soon reward its hallowed services.

The enormous prices of provisions is now the only point of weakness from which we have most to dread. These prices not only affect the currency seriously, but they bear with tremendous weight upon all non-producers. The armies of soldiers are, we believe generally provided for as well as could be expected; but what is to become of those families who are destitute, and who have no such claims upon our authorities? There is an ample supply in the country, if it could be properly distributed; but money will not buy it. Let our people look to this, and see that our greatest disaster shall not occur at this point.

Again: the army must be supplied with provisions, cost what it may. Will our people lay upon the government the necessity of again flooding the country with a currency that may prove utterly worthless and in the end be repudiated? Why not take such prices as will save the currency and credit of the government?—We observe that prices have not yet been ma-

terially affected by the tax and currency bills. If these high prices continue to rule, it needs no prophet to foresee that in six months we will be fighting this war without a currency. As well be fools as to be wise too late.

We would inform brother Holman, that we had published the names of the Board, before his letter reached us. We apprehend no difficulty in the matter he suggests. We believe that every brother whose name appears on that Board will serve, and promote the object of the organization with all his might. If any brother, however, declines to serve, his place can be supplied.

A brother, whose name we need not give, has authorized the Secretary of the Domestic Board to draw upon him for twelve hundred dollars to sustain a missionary to the army. Are there not others who will imitate his example, and thus multiply those laborers who are now reaping so rich a harvest of souls?

The following Board of Trustees and Executive Committee were elected by the Association:  
**Board of Trustees of the Orphan Asylum.**

Gov. THOMAS H. WATTS, President.  
Ex-Gov. J. S. GILL, Secretary, (Vice President)  
Hon. J. L. M. CURRY, (Vice President)  
Rev. R. L. HOLMAN, General Superintendent.  
Rev. A. T. SPALDING, Recording Secretary.  
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Rev. G. L. Edd, Conecuh.  
Rev. Andrew Jay, Conecuh.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.**  
W. N. WYATT, Chairman.  
E. A. BLUNT, J. E. PRESTRIDGE.  
W. W. WALLER, C. C. HUCKABEE.

**GENERAL AGENTS.**  
Rev. J. J. D. RENFROE, Rev. S. R. FREEMAN.

The association of brethren, which met and organized in this city some weeks since, and appointed a Board of seven Trustees to establish and manage an Orphan Asylum for the State of Alabama, held a special meeting last night, and re-organized, altered the Articles of Association, enlarged the Board and appointed an Executive Committee. It is earnestly hoped that the present organization will so co-operate and concentrate the talent, energy and faith of God's people in the State as to secure His blessing on this effort to save the poor Orphan.

A. T. SPALDING, Secy.

Selma, Ala., March 19th, 1864.

For the South Western Baptist.

MARION, ALA., March 17th, 1864.

Editor South Western Baptist:

DEAR BRO.: I send you for publication a list of collections made as agent of the Domestic Mission Board, in Georgia, Ala., and Miss. Tuskegee, \$627 25; Montgomery, 367; Wetumpka, 455 20; Talladega 770 25; Macon Geo. (forwarded by bro. T. B. Elfe), 669 00; Americus, 128, 00; Albany, 60 00; Ft. Gaines, 9 00; Thomasville, 160 00; Talbotton, 75.

It is due to the generous and hospitable brethren of Albany Ft. Gaines and Talbotton, to state that at either of those points did circumstances allow me to take a formal collection, and that the amounts accredited were simply handed me privately by one or two brethren upon leaving. It may also be well to state that at Americus and Thomasville I had no opportunity of presenting my cause to the brethren in their church assembly.

Justice also suggests that I should say that I was prevented by inclemency of the weather while in Montgomery from affording the church there a fair opportunity of sustaining its well earned reputation for liberality. I feel it both a duty and a pleasure, before I close this report, to return my heart felt acknowledgements to the brethren and friends at the various points mentioned, for the kindness and consideration with which I was personally received. I went among them as a stranger—I feel that I left them as a friend.

B. S. CALLAGHAN.

For the South Western Baptist

Exemptions From Jewish Military Service, according to the Mosaic Laws.

It may not be uninteresting or unprofitable under existing circumstances, to recur to this subject, inasmuch as it evinces equal wisdom and hu-

manity on the part of the Jewish Lawgiver.

1. The Levites were exempt. This is evident from Numbers 1: 37, where it is said that "they were not numbered among" those who "were able to go forth to war in Israel." The reason assigned is, their divine appointment "over the tabernacle of testimony," to them was committed the care of the tabernacle and its treasures. Their service or warfare was spiritual in its character, and demanded the entire, constant, earnest and uninterrupted consecration of their bodies, souls and spirits to the work to which they had been solemnly set apart. In their spiritual capacity they might and did accompany the armies of their country. It was made the duty of an appointed—the Jews say an appointed—priest, to instruct and encourage the soldiery of Israel, immediately preceding a battle. Thus as Chaplains they were found, but not as soldiers. (See Dent. xx: 2.)

The wisdom of this law has been recognized by every civilized nation from the days of Moses to the year 1863, when the Federal Government departed from it, by drafting its ministers of religion in common with the other classes of its population. In this case, perhaps, it was just as the large proportion of those infatuated men had disrobed themselves of their sacred garments, put aside the duties of their holy calling, offered strange fire upon the altar of Jehovah, and by their absorption in secular affairs, their fomenting, aiding and abetting the causes which led to this cruel war, had forfeited all claims to the priesthood of the Most High God. We say it was just they should be drafted, and they may read their sin in its punishment. But still the wisdom of the Mosaic Law in exempting ministers of religion from military service is not impeached. For whatever may be said by irreligious statesmen, the faithful minister certainly belongs to that class whose labours are more beneficial to the country while engaged in his legitimate duties than when serving in the ranks. The Confederate Government recognizes a Supreme Ruler, and has called upon the people again and again by prayer and fasting to humble themselves under His mighty hand. But if the ministers of religion were considered, and places of worship closed, and congregations left without a pastor, would the people heed such proclamations? With sin abounding and unbeknown, the tones of the Sabbath bell silenced, how long would it take a people to forget God, his claims upon them, and their consequent duties? It may be said, that there would be ministers enough above conscript age to attend to the spiritual wants of the people. But is this so? Is it not a statistical fact that ministers are short-lived? Look at Ala., and especially at the Baptist denomination with which we are best acquainted. If all our ministerial brethren above 50, or even above 45, were placed in the ranks, how many would be left? There are comparatively few who have attained that age, as the attendance upon our Associations and Convention conclusively demonstrates. Even as it is, so many have voluntarily entered our armies, that vacant churches all over the State are pleading for help. The aged sire, the desolate wife, the heart-broken widow with her innocent children, and last, though not least, the faithful slave, are all longing for the bread of life, and those consolations which none can impart so well as the minister of religion. So earnest, and general, and impassioned has this appeal become, that our Domestic Board realizes its importance, but cannot find the men to supply even a tithe of the destitution. Is it not essential that the spiritual wants of the classes named should be met? Does it require proof that wherever the house of God is closed, and a community left without the minister of Christ, that there gloomy discontent is in the ascendant. It is susceptible of the clearest proof that it is precisely from such communities that those letters have been written which have led to so much destruction. If then you would keep our ranks filled let the ministers of the gospel be exempted, that by their

labours they may encourage the desponding, remove the causes of discontent, and pour the balm of heavenly peace into the sorrowful and distracted soul.

It has been said that ministers belong to the non-producing class. But what has proved so efficacious in correcting vice, removing ignorance, uprooting idleness, and stimulating industry, as the preaching of the gospel. Let history tell whether any other means have ever produced such marked and immediate effects upon individual and national greatness and prosperity, as this simple but sublime institution. In all the departments of benevolence, whether providing for the wants of our shoeless and tattered soldiers, or for their famishing wives and children at home, or in furnishing a home and the means of education for the poor, friendless orphan, is it not notorious that ministers of religion have ever been in the van? Who, so prompt and severe in denunciation of heartless extortion, and speculation which reeks with the blood of innocence and poverty? God forbid that the ministers of the meek and lowly Jesus should ever magnify themselves, but they may legitimately "magnify their office."

All these considerations, and many others we might adduce, prove conclusively the wisdom of that law which exempts ministers of religion from military service. They are called of God, and are not to entangle themselves with secular affairs. The discharge of their legitimate duties will prove far more beneficial to their country than any service they can perform in the ranks.

In succeeding papers, the other exemptions under the Mosaic law will be considered, that is with the consent of the editors.

WM. HOWARD.

For the South Western Baptist

GREENWOOD, S. C. March 21, 1864.

DEAR BRO. HENDERSON: Having occasion to visit my old State, Alabama, on business, I took the opportunity as I was passing to say something incidentally for our Sunday School Board, and have the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt of over thirty-six hundred dollars for that cause.—The Tuscaloosa church paid me \$545, bro. J. L. M. Curry \$50, the Selma church \$508 50; together with subscriptions of 92, which, bro. Spalding has promised to try to collect for me. Bro. Sumner handed me \$1719 42; collected upon the subscription taken at the Convention, on which there remains still uncollected some \$375.—The S. S. Society of the Ala. Bap. Association paid me \$500; and I am informed by bro. Waller its president, that the society has nearly \$200 more for the object. A partial effort was made in the Montgomery church, resulting in \$343; from about a dozen persons. Bro. Tichenor intends extending the appeal, and securing contributions from others. These collections, take literally on the wing, show that there is every readiness on the part of the churches to respond to any reasonable call for this excellent object.

The season of the year is upon us, when the trees and plants put on their summer freshness and beauty, and when those Sunday Schools, which are not "evergreen and perennial," usually begin operation. I trust that the hundreds of Baptist churches in Ala., will not forget to go to work in this matter. Assuredly, in these times, a peculiar call comes to us to labor for the children, when so many of the opportunities of instruction, and of the means of grace are out of reach.

I had more opportunity, as it happened, of seeing the workings of Sunday School enterprise in Selma, than in any other place, during my stay in Ala. It was pleasant to see that already those who went forth there bearing precious seed are returning, bringing their sheaves with them. I had the privilege of giving one of the Sunday schoolers the right hand of fellowship at his reception into the church; and of mingling in a children's prayermeeting, which I trust may be the means of bringing many others to Jesus. Bro. A. T. Spalding is doing a good work there, and has much endeared himself to the people.

Bro. Thompson, too, the efficient Superintendent of the school, though sick and absent during my visit, has evidently made his mark on those young minds.

I was pleased to learn that a revival occurred in Tuskegee, also having some connection with the Sunday School, in fact taking its rise, (so I heard,) in connection with some labors of bro. Battle with his Bible class.

In Marion, I had the privilege of meeting with a number of young ladies of the Judson, in a prayer-meeting, which they are accustomed to hold on Sunday afternoons; but though they gave serious attention, I am not aware of any special concern among them.

What are Alabama Baptists going to do as to the Orphan Asylum, of which something was said at the last Convention? It is a noble enterprise, worthy of the energies of our best men, and of the benefactions of liberal hearts. Shall it fail, because of the present "currency excitement"? I trust not. If there is any duty we owe to the persons who have offered up their lives for the good of the country; if there is anything that could have cheered their hearts when dying, or animated them to valorous deeds while living; would be the assurance that their children, should be faithfully and fully provided for; that an education and a home should be theirs till they became able to care for themselves. There are difficulties in the way of the enterprise. So with every other good thing. It will require some generous donations, and some self sacrificing labors. But it amply deserves, and will abundantly repay them, if successful. This is one of the things that we should not willingly let die.

Much inquiry was made of me in Alabama, as to the condition of Charleston. I came through there as I returned home. It was very gratifying indeed to see how little damage had been done. Though the whole city almost South of Calhoun (formerly Boundary) street, has been within range, the injury has been confined chiefly to two or three localities. If I might judge from the lines in which the shell have fallen most frequently, it must be concluded that the two steeples of St. Philip's and St. Michael's churches have been targets for the enemy's practice, and any objects in a line with them or nearly so, have suffered. Two shells have struck the old Baptist church, one of them demolishing the organ, and creating strange music among its harmonious pipes. The rest of the city is practically exempt, though endangered. A few weeks would suffice to repair the damage to buildings from the shells. Only four lives have been lost by the bombardment. An old man and his daughter, who were trying to get something away from their house near the market—a white woman and a negro woman, are all.—Not a single soldier has been killed by the thousands of shell thrown. I will not tell you about the "big gun," nor about the "little David" preparing to assail and vanquish Lincoln's mighty Goliath of the waters. That might be telling tales out of school. Nor will I speak, as I would like to do, of the neat and orderly hospitals, with kind and efficient nurses, where our sick and wounded are cared for. A couple of days spent with bro. Winkler, the senior post chaplain, in visiting these hospitals, were both pleasant and profitable to me. This army work is one that grows upon us, that we must not slacken in, till the war ends.

But in these days of half sheets you need short articles, and this has already outgrown its intended dimensions.

Truly Yours,

B. MANLY.

For the South Western Baptist

Orphan Asylum.

Hon. J. L. M. Curry made an able address in behalf of the orphan asylum in Selma March 20th. The inclement weather caused a comparatively thin audience. A collection of a little over \$7000 was taken up which has since been increased to \$12,000.

Horace Ware, Esq. of Columbiana proposes to be one of 25 to raise \$50,000 in Shelby county for this object.



L. B. Parker of Autauga proposes to be one of 20 to raise \$20,000 in that county. It is hoped the friends of the cause in each of these counties will make the necessary exertion to fill up these lists. Let some set the ball in motion in other communities.

R. HOLMAN.

For the South Western Baptist.  
The Orphan Asylum.

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION.

The undersigned do hereby agree to form an association, to be called "THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE ORPHAN'S ASYLUM FOR THE STATE OF ALABAMA." The objects and purposes of the Association are to receive, rear and educate intellectually, morally and physically, all helpless and destitute Orphans in the State of Alabama—especially the destitute Orphans of Soldiers who may have fallen, or may hereafter fall, in defense of our country.

To this end, a Board of Forty-five members shall be elected from the Baptist Churches in Alabama, consisting of a President, two Vice Presidents, a Corresponding Secretary or General Superintendent, a Recording Secretary, a Treasurer, and Thirty-nine other members.

The Board shall hold a regular Annual Meeting, on the Thursday before the second Sabbath in November, at the place of meeting of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, and such other meetings as the President may call.

It shall have power to elect its own officers, fill all vacancies that may occur in its own body, appoint the executive committee provided in the next Article, determine the salaries of its officers and agents, adopt such regulations and employ such instrumentalities as may be deemed necessary to attain the end of this organization.

The President shall call special meetings when so requested by the Executive committee. Fifteen members shall be necessary to form any legal meeting of the Board.

This Association shall appoint, from the Board of Trustees, an Executive Committee of five members, with power to fill any vacancy which may occur in its own body. The Committee shall hold its meetings at the call of the Chairman, and shall be invested with all the powers of the Board until the meeting of the Board; after which it shall be subject to such regulations as the Board may prescribe.

The officers of the Board shall be, *ex officio*, members of the Executive Committee. Any member of the Board present at any meeting of the Executive Committee is authorized to act as a member of the same.

This Association shall also appoint a General Superintendent, who shall hold his office until his successor shall be appointed; subject to removal for sufficient cause. He shall receive such compensation as the Board of Trustees may designate, and shall be subject to the rules and regulations of the Board provided in such cases.

HIS DUTIES.

1. To devise such instrumentalities and agencies, and direct the same, as may be deemed necessary for securing the means of starting, prosecuting and endowing the Institution.

2. When, in the judgment of the Board, sufficient funds are in hand to justify the commencement of operations, it shall be the duty of the Superintendent, in conjunction with such other aid as the Board may direct, to select a suitable location for the Asylum, superintend the erection of suitable buildings, procure the requisite provisions and agencies for the support, government and education of the beneficiaries. In the future management of the Institution, it will be the duty of the General Superintendent to employ such assistance as may be needed to meet the wants of the Asylum, see that they are competent and faithful, exercising a general supervision over every department, doing all in his power to secure the great end contemplated in the organization of the Asylum—the highest good, both physical, mental and moral, of its inmates.

3. It shall be his duty to make monthly reports to the Executive Committee, or as often as in their judgment may be deemed needful, of the condition and wants of the Institution. Besides which, he shall make an annual report to the Board, detailing an account of the proceedings for the year.

The further duties of this officer may be better defined as experience and the practical workings of the Asylum may develop.

And it is understood, mutually agreed and hereby expressly stipulated, by and among the members of

this association, that no power shall vest in anybody or members of this Association, to contract any debt, or liability of any kind, which shall be binding on the Association, unless there shall be, at the time, ample funds in the hand of the Treasurer to pay the same.

And it is further understood, that application will be made to the next General Assembly of the State for an Act of Incorporation of this Association.

The Present Moment.

How very important and solemn are the considerations connected with the present moment; and how changed would many a scene of revelry and mirth, of gayety and levity, become, did the actors in these scenes for once allow such momentous considerations as the following to bear upon their minds:

This moment I am either an unrepentant sinner or a regenerated soul pardoned and saved by grace; a servant of Satan, or a child of God; a traveller in the broad road to perdition, or an heir of heaven and immortal glory. This moment the thoughts and emotions of my soul, with reference to the author of such distinguishing mercies shown to me, are naked and open before Him with whom we have to do. This moment a record is made in that book out of which I am to be judged, a record of my present act with the feelings accompanying it and the motives which prompt me to its performance. The present moment is just going into eternity to be a witness in a case soon to be tried, upon the decision of which my soul's eternal happiness or misery depends. The passing moment shortens the period allotted me for preparation for that solemn event, and brings me so much nearer my eternal home. This moment I am liable to be summoned before the tribunal of the Searcher of hearts—of my heart. This moment if I am an impenitent sinner, I am growing more hardened in sin and the difficulty of my salvation is even now increasing. This moment, if I am unconverted, I am turning back upon the bleeding, groaning, dying Saviour of sinners, and stopping my ears against the touching accents of mercy uttered by the spotless Lamb of Calvary. This moment some soul is dropping the last drop into its cup of iniquity previous to its being given over to hardness of heart and blindness of mind. I know not but I may this moment be passing the critical point, beyond which there is no possibility of my salvation. O my soul, awake to a consideration of thine immortal interests! for on the decision which I may make this moment, my eternal all may be suspended. Heaven forbid that I should delay another moment! God be merciful to me a sinner.—*Hobery.*

INTERESTING FACTS.—The Southern Presbyterian contains a letter dated New York, November 17, 1863. The writer says: "Amid the rapid tendency of churches and political parties here toward Abolitionism, it is refreshing to observe that some of the purest and ablest men of the North are contending for the truth. Rev. Mr. Van Duke, ex-President Lord, Bishop Hopkins, Dr. Seabury, and Prof Morse, have written in defence of slavery. Their efforts are the more admirable in that they have abandoned the weak tactics heretofore prevalent and boldly avow slavery to be a Divine institution."

The Mission of Sufferers.

We feel that we do not estimate highly enough the work that is accomplished for the Church by the sons and daughters of affliction. Really one of the most important instrumentalities in disseminating the gospel, is the testimony wrought out by those who patiently endure suffering. We may see the importance God attaches to their work, in the fact that he scarcely leaves to community without some one in it that is, like Job, called upon to bear far more than his share of suffering.

The hardest load for such sufferers to bear, usually is the thought as they express it, that they are not permitted to do anything for their Master.—They seem to themselves like a withered branch, and feel as though they were nought but a cumber to the vineyard. But the truth is, that by their patient suffering they are accomplishing, very likely, their most important work. They are bearing testimony. They are preparing ground for the Church to stand upon. They are making instruments for the Church to use in its aggressive warfare with infidelity. One can preach with greater assurance and boldness

for having beneath him such ground; for he may feel that none but the hopelessly hardened can have a face to spread clouds of doubt over the immortal hopes of those from whom all temporal good has flown. In the presence of a strong man, it is conceivable that an infidel may flout his unbelief, and rest somewhat easy in his conscience, notwithstanding it. But by the bedside of a poor sufferer, who stays upon the earth, but scarcely can be said to live in it, and whose only source of consolation is the promises of God, that speaks of a blessed immortality, there is scarcely one so bold as to utter his doubts, or any so abandoned as not to feel there that his doubts are wicked as well as revolting.

That community may count itself happy that is worthy to contain one of the Lord's suffering ones. That minister may count his strength well nigh double, when he has to assist him the silent, yet convincing voice of a Christian's suffering. We may help these sufferers bear their burden of affliction. They, in turn, do certainly help us to bear the burden of convincing sinners that they need a Saviour, and that Christ alone supplies that need. Surely affliction cometh not forth of the dust, neither doth trouble spring out of the ground.

DANGER OF PROCRASTINATION.—A youth, named —, was accustomed to attend the preaching of the gospel and was aroused to serious convictions. His mind was affected, from time, by what he heard; but the serious impressions of the Sunday were effaced by the company and conversation of his profane associates during the week. He yielded to sin; again he was convinced, repented, and struggled; but again he yielded.

I met him, says a gentleman, just at this period of miserable conflict. "G," I exclaimed, "why do you not resolve? why do you not leave your sinful ways, and cleave to Christ with all your heart? why do you not turn to God?" He answered with a look of deep distress, "I know I ought; I wish I could; but I am sure I cannot," and turned away. The next week he was attacked with a sore throat, while he was drinking with his loose companions; he treated it lightly, but it was the commencement of the typhus fever, at that time extremely virulent in the neighborhood, and in three days he was a corpse! "To-day, if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts."

SUBDUING SELF-WILL.—A child, who had been trained in the ways of religion, by a parent who was kind, but judiciously firm, as she sunk to rest in peaceful reliance on a Saviour's love, affectionately thanked her beloved mother for all her tender care and kindness; but added, "I thank you more than all, for having subdued my self-will."

Secular Intelligence.

Gen. Forrest has captured Union City, Tenn., together with over 400 prisoners, their horses, equipments, &c., and burned all their government stores at that point. He next turned up at Paducah, Ky., burned the government buildings and stores at that place, and when last heard from was on his way to Columbus, Ky.

The Alabama at Singapore.

The following extract from a letter, dated Singapore, December 25, and referring to the recent visit of the Alabama to that port, will be read with interest.

"The Alabama is not large, barely 1,000 tons, but she has the air of a dare-devil craft that would hesitate but little to test her strength against a much stronger enemy. She is very low in the water, and extremely long, but the most remarkable feature of her build is her extreme narrowness; her beam amidships we should set down a very little, if anything, over 27 feet. She has tremendous spars, and her greatest spread of canvas is in her fore and aft sails, which are of gigantic proportions. Under canvas alone she has gone as much as 134 knots. Her armament consists of six 32-pound pivot guns, one fore and the other aft the former being rifled for 100-pound shot, and the latter a smooth bore for 68-pound shot. Everything on deck is in splendid order, and of the very best material. The engine room is a picture of neatness, and the engines are double cylinders, of 300 horse power, (nominal), though capable of being worked to considerably more than that power. Under steam alone she has gone 14 to 15 knots. The impression which a thorough inspection of the vessel, left on our minds was that she is essentially a handy craft, capable of the most rapid movements, and effective to the extent of her strength. We had been accustomed to think that she was slightly bluff, but this is a mistake, for, though wooden built, she presents a side equal in strength, to that of any modern vessel of her size. When talked to here about the hard push the Southerners were having for it, Captain Semmes, pointing to the Confederate flag over his head, said: "It is no matter, that flag never comes down"—a bold and confident boast, which only time can test the truth of."

The Southern (English) Gazette states that two steam vessels, the Garland and the Jupiter, lately belonging to the London Chatham and Dover Railway Company, have been purchased for the Confederate States of America.

THE PRICE OF GOLD.—At the last sale of bonds, stocks, &c., by Messrs Lane & Co., gold sold at twenty dollars and seventy cents to twenty-one dollars and twenty-five cents, averaging twenty-one dollars. This was paid for in currency subject to a few days to a reduction of thirty-three and one third per cent. The amount realized, therefore, by the sellers of the gold is only two thirds of the nominal price.

received, or fourteen dollars in Confederate currency for one in gold. This is an immense decline from thirty for one—the price that gold commanded here about the time of the passage of the currency act—and strikingly illustrates the beneficent operation of that measure. Other prices have not yet come down in like ratio with gold, but they will finally follow the lead of the imperial guide. The opinion is expressed by sagacious men that in two weeks gold will be worth not more than ten for one.—*Richmond Whig, 26th.*

HEAVY LOSSES.—The Brandon (Miss.) Republican makes an estimate of the property destroyed during the whole of the enemy's march to Meridian, and sets it down at six millions of dollars. It also, published, a portion of the individual losses in Brandon and Rankin counties. It makes a very formidable appearance.

From Trans-Mississippi.

We are indebted to a gentleman from Texas, who crossed the Mississippi river one day last week, for some interesting items of information from the Trans-Mississippi Department. He represents the condition of affairs in that region as more cheering than our most sanguine friends suppose. The prospect of the grain crop was never more promising, and the outfit of our army has never been so complete, or the spirit of our troops more buoyant and confident than at present.

The famous guerrilla chief Quantrill has been playing sad havoc of late with the Yankee farmers who have appropriated the lands and negroes of the refugee citizens along the Mississippi river. There is scarcely a plantation occupied by the Yankees on the western side of the river that has not received a visit from some of his force, and such is the celerity of their movements and the summary manner in which they dispose of captives, that the greatest terror prevails among the negroes and their self-styled masters in relation to them.

Our informant is of the opinion that but little profit will be derived from the products of these farms the coming season.

It is suggested to furloughed soldiers and others who may contemplate crossing the river, that the utmost caution should be observed as to their movements after reaching the west bank. There are Yankee spies who mislead them and afterwards turn them over to the negroes who invariably murder them. Several of our men were massacred in this manner a short time since, but a party of Quantrill's scouts fell upon the butchering party just as they had concluded the fiendish tragedy, and not one was left to tell the tale.

The gunboats which patrol the river afford but poor protection to the lighter craft and but little is doing in a commercial way. Indeed, a trading boat seldom passes without receiving a volley, and commanders have a wholesome fear of sharpshooters who line the banks.

We have great hopes of the Trans-Mississippi army, and feel confident that it will not be long before we can give our readers gratifying accounts from that department.—*Mississippi, 27th.*

FROM FLORIDA.—The Lake City Columbian has reliable information that a Federal gunboat ascended the St. John's river on the 19th, a considerable distance above Palatka, and captured the steamer Sumpter. The informant did not know whether the crew were captured or whether the steamer was loaded. The Sumpter has been taken to Palatka.

The same gunboat had gone up the river again to search for the steamer Hattie, but the mission will be fruitless.

The enemy, between 1500 to 2500 strong, are quietly rendezvousing at Palatka. No fortifications have been erected there. The Yankees desire, by feints, to cause Gen. Anderson to withdraw a portion of his forces from their present position. Then the Yanks will have a better chance to advance.

SPIRIT OF OUR PRISONERS AT THE NORTH.—In speaking of Confederate prisoners, the New York Herald says:

"As a general rule, the prisoners seem happy and contented. There are few, if any, that would subscribe to the President's amnesty. Two only have done so, and these have been sent away. On the contrary, they are exceedingly obstinate in their adherence to the bogus Confederacy, and no sentiment of a contrary nature is permitted among them. The two mentioned as subscribing allegiance to the Federal Government had a narrow escape from assassination at the hands of their fellow prisoners, rendering their removal necessary. Stories have been set afloat of a large and glowing Union sentiment among them, which are simply absurd and groundless."

For County Superintendent.

We are authorized to announce

JNO. F. YARBROUGH,

as a candidate for re-election to the office of County Superintendent for Macon County. Election first Monday in May next.

Due Notice.

Forbearance has ceased to be a virtue. We have repeatedly requested short obituaries, as we did not charge for them, but they increase in length. Our limited space compels us to change our rule. We shall in the future charge as advertising matter all obituaries over ten lines. From this rule we shall not depart.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

NEW TANYARD.

LOOK HERE!

Sheriff's Sale.

Sheriff's Sale.

NOTICE.

NOTICE.

NOTICE.

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NOTICE.

A LIST OF LETTERS

REMAINING in the Post Office at Tuskegee, Ala., on the 1st of April 1864:

Anthony, Miss Mollie Lettridge, Mrs. N. P. 2  
Alexander, Miss M. A. Lashaw, Miss Ella  
Allen, James Lewis, Miss Josephine  
Allen, Mrs. S. E. Lee, Capt. W. J.  
Brown, Mrs. S. H. Litchfield, W. I.  
Bullard, Mrs. M. J. Lasser, Mrs. Amos  
Benson, Miss Lucy McWhorter, Mrs. L. J. 1  
Barrow, Burrell 2 Mathews, R. Jno.  
Bellock, Jas. B. Miller, Charles  
Broad, Miss N. M. McBride, Miss Maggie  
Brann, M. Mathews, Mrs. P. A.  
Bilby, Miss Mollie Bell, Joshua  
Bell, Joshua 2 Miller, Mrs. Elizabeth  
Beasley, Mr. McKenize, Mrs. John  
Bradley, J. N. Moore, Col. J. S.  
Barrett & Co. Mount, Mary A.  
Berry, J. E. Mansal, Miss Liz.  
Braswell, M. H. Noyse, Mrs. N. 2  
Carter, Lieut. W. W. Nolen, T. S.  
Culbreth, Miss E. E. Oliver, W. D.  
Cooper, M. S. Ogle, Mrs. Sarah  
Cooper, George Overton, Walter  
Carca, Junie Peck, Miss Esther  
Carter, Miss Annie J. Prichard, W. J.  
Cox, Miss Carrie Puenay, Miss Rose  
Denson, Mrs. M. A. Peck, Edward  
Davis, D. Richardson, T. J.  
Dawless, Miss Sarah Rogers, Maj. J. C.  
Davis, Jas. R. Redd, William  
Driskill, W. R. Reeler, Gen'l  
Edder, Mrs. S. J. Singleton, Mrs. M. J.  
Faller, Mrs. M. Snipes, Miss Anna  
Ferrell, R. H. Stickney, Geo. W.  
Grimmett, Miss N. J. Swanson, Miss M. B.  
Green, Mrs. C. H. Smith, J. V.  
Green, C. H. Smith, E.  
Gantt, Edmond Stephens, Miss A. E. 2  
Guthrie, Martin Springer, S. J.  
Gladie, Gen'l A. Jr. Simpson, Wm. H.  
Giddens, Miss V. Spinks, Baker  
Green, J. H. Smith, Dr. S. H.  
Hill, Wm. T. Seale, William  
Happes, Matilda Smith, Biddy  
Harris, Miss Laura Taylor, Mrs. Sallie  
Hartes, Mrs. M. A. 2 Taylor, Mrs. M. A.  
Hood, J. W. Toney, E. W.  
Harmon, S. B. Toney, Miss Maggie A.  
Henderson, S. G. Tedder, W. B.  
Hood, W. G. Telford, H. E.  
Hall, Mrs. Mary Tarver, E.  
James, Miss E. A. Thompson, Mrs. M. E.  
Johnson, Miss Malissa Walker, Miss Eliza  
Johnson, Joseph Wilson, J.  
King, P. F. Wilson, Miss Mattie  
King, Miss Mattie Wilson, Miss Joseph 2  
King, Miss Annie 2 Whitlow, A. B.  
Kidd, Mrs. Mary Willis, Mrs. Mary  
Kendry, Col. J. B. G. Waldrop, Miss Polly  
Lee, Miss Caroline Willis, J. W.

Persons calling for any of the above letters, will please say they have been advertised.  
JOHN HOWARD, P. M.  
Tuskegee, April 1, 1864.

Obituaries.

Mrs. ANN J., wife of Malcomb Patterson, fell asleep in Jesus on the morning of the 9th Feb. 1864.

Death, like a thief, came to her unexpectedly, but she was found ready. She had for nearly fifteen years lived a model member of the Good Hope Baptist Church, and was a loved member of the pale messengers without alarm and "run up with joy the shining way." During her brief pilgrimage in the world, it was her delight to administer to the wants of the needy and suffering. As a Christian she was a regular attendant upon the means of grace, and a warm and devoted friend of her pastors. She bore her afflictions with much fortitude and patience. From her first illness she seemed to be strongly impressed with the belief that she would not recover. A short while before she died, she called her mother to her and said: "Mother, do not grieve for me, for your loss is my eternal gain." And after requesting her to write to her brothers in the army that it was her desire to meet them in heaven, she quietly sank into the arms of death and her spirit was gently conveyed to the regions of immortal glory. Weep not, fond husband, she lives to dwell more. Father, mother, sister and brothers, take courage! "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord." W. G. C.

Brother Henderson: My daughter, ANN K. VERNON, died on March 5th, 1864. She left six children of her own, (two besides them killed in the army), and five step children. Her husband is now in the army. She was a member of Antioch Church, and I have no doubt she is now resting from all the troubles of this life with her Saviour.

Business Department.

Receipt List.

	Paid to Volume	No.	Amount
Mrs N Weaver	17	5	\$ 10 00
Rev J A Fonville	17	10	5 00
Rev J A Waller	16	43	5 00
Rev Y D Harrington	16	50	5 00
Mrs L F Rungley	17	29	10 00
Dr S B Law	16	43	5 00
Rev J H Devote	J S B	for sol	5 00
L M Dodson	16	43	5 00
Domestic Miss N Board	S W B	for sol	7 75 00
			40 00
Colportage Board of Ala Bap. Asso			11 00 00
Mrs Lucy Robinson	16	26	5 00
Miss W Dillard	16	26	5 00
W W Paschal	16	42	5 00
J H Lockhart	16	42	5 00
Dr D A Floyd	16	41	5 00
Mrs Fannie McCay	16	41	5 00
W Guy	16	43	5 00
W R Gandy	17	7	10 00
Miss C P Drysdale	supplement to subsc.		2 00
Mrs W A Dankin	14	42	10 00
	16	14	2 00
Dr B A Blakey	16	42	5 00
J Mallory	16	27	5 00
	S W B	for sol	10 00
F S Mallory	16	27	5 00
Rev E E Kirvin	17	15	5 00
Mrs C Derrin	16	49	5 00
Miss Carrie Bolton	16	41	5 00
Mrs S Noble	16	44	5 00
B F Ivey S W B	for sol		20 00
Mrs Ivey			20 00
Rev E Y Van Housen	11	29	5 00

The State of Alabama—Macon County.

PROBATE COURT—SPECIAL TERM.—On and after the 1st day of April, 1864, the Probate Court of Macon County, Alabama, will hold its Special Term, for the purpose of receiving and settling accounts of executors, administrators, and guardians, and for the purpose of settling the estates of deceased persons, and for the purpose of settling the estates of minors, and for the purpose of settling the estates of persons who have been declared insane, and for the purpose of settling the estates of persons who have been declared incompetent, and for the purpose of settling the estates of persons who have been declared incapable of managing their own property, and for the purpose of settling the estates of persons who have been declared incapable of managing their own affairs, and for the purpose of settling the estates of persons who have been declared incapable of managing their own business, and for the purpose of settling the estates of persons who have been declared incapable of managing their 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