

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 S. W. Baptist, TUSKEGEE, A. I. A., Thursday, April 28, 1864. AGENT, B. B. DAVIS, of the "Book Emporium," Montgomery, Ala., is our authorized Agent, to receive subscriptions and dues for our paper.

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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.

Orphan Asylum.

Our brethren having this enterprise in charge are greatly encouraged by the flattering success which thus far attended their efforts. While in Montgomery last week on business, we attended a large and interesting meeting of the friends of the orphan in that city at the Baptist Church. Judge Bibb presided over the meeting, and addresses were made by the Rev. R. Holman, General Superintendent of the Asylum, Governor Watts and Judge Phelan, at the conclusion of which a subscription of fifty thousand dollars was secured in a few moments. It is believed that the city of Montgomery will contribute not less than one hundred thousand dollars to this cause. In the course of his remarks, Judge Phelan said among many other good things, that the inauguration of this movement at this time was one of the most encouraging symptoms of the times. While it assured our brave soldiers that the people at home were determined to do their duty to their children, it was no less auspicious as indicating the blessing of God upon our cause. God would take care of those who took care of the poor and the orphan. He also expressed his great gratification that the Baptist denomination had led off in this great movement. It was better to have such institutions under the care of single denominations than to have all unite in erecting one, as it secured more unity of purpose and action, than if various churches with different views should combine, and that other denominations would follow, and thus ample provision would doubtless be made for the wants of the State.

Governor Watts estimated that Alabama had already sent into the field about eighty thousand soldiers. Of this number, not less than thirty thousand were married men, at least one third of whom had either died of sickness or been killed in battle. Every consideration of humanity, of philanthropy, and patriotism united in appealing to us to provide a home for their children. These fathers have made infinitely greater sacrifices to the cause than we can make by the most manifest contributions of money. They have laid down their lives—they are only called on to give our money. It is a debt we owe, which must be paid, if we hope

to secure the blessing of God upon our country. Several subscriptions of ten, and five thousand dollars were made, besides some of less amounts. Montgomery has set a noble example, and if followed by other cities and towns, the amount will soon be realized. Bro. W. W. Waller led off by subscribing ten thousand dollars. He was followed by Gov. Watts, and bro. Tichenor. Dr. Ware gave five thousand dollars, and his example was followed by Messrs. Gilmer and C. Molton. But we have not room to specify. Suffice it, that every heart was encouraged with the hope that at no distant day, the orphans of our dear deceased soldiers would have a home.

It is the intention of the Board, so soon as their funds will allow, to locate the institution at some accessible point in the State. In the selection of a location, they design securing land sufficient for farming as well as all such mechanical pursuits as can be profitably followed. It is designed to educate these children in all respects—mentally, physically and morally, and thus prepare them for usefulness in every department of society. Thus the problem of peace, which is only less difficult than the problem of war, will be solved. Those who else would have grown into manhood in ignorance and vice, to wield the destinies of the Confederacy, will become industrious, intelligent and virtuous citizens. As one of the speakers observed, the very fact that these children, when they arrive to manhood, can say that their fathers fell in the noble struggle to secure Southern independence, will give them a passport to popular favor. If they are ignorant and vicious they will nevertheless fill important offices of honor and profit. We are now, under God, to decide whether they shall be safe depositaries of these sacred trusts.

On the whole, let us all unite heart and soul in this great movement, and God helping us, we shall raise the means in a few months. It ought to be in successful operation by midsummer. Several applications have already been made to the Board in behalf of some of these orphans. Why can we not raise the requisite amount in three months as well as in three years? Let this be done promptly, and let our General Superintendent devote his time and talents to the organization and equipment of the institution, instead of raising money for its erection.

Rev. W. C. Buck, of this brother has been appointed by the Domestic Board Missionary for the hospitals in the city of Montgomery, and he is now at his post, presenting that work with his usual vigor. The basement of the 1st Baptist Church affords him ample room for his congregations. Surely God will bless a cause which enlists the prayers and energies of matured piety and the experience of age, as well as the vigor of youth and manhood. God bless our dear brother in Israel in his great work!

The Editor will be absent two or three weeks on a visit to the Army of Tennessee. He has made the best arrangements in his power to have the paper attended to in his absence. The indulgence of the reader is solicited for any typographical errors that may occur meantime. He will communicate with them from the army.

We learn from telegraphic dispatches that Forrest's success at Fort Pillow was complete. He killed over five hundred out of seven hundred that garrisoned the place, including all the officers in the Fort. Over 100 citizens who had gone to the Fort to avoid conscription ran into the river and were drowned. Forrest's loss was 20 killed and 60 wounded.

A battle was fought on the 8th inst. at Mansfield in Desoto Parish, La., between Gens. Kirby Smith and Banks, in which the Yankees were defeated. Their loss is estimated at 8,000, including two thousand prisoners, 20 pieces of artillery, two hundred wagons, and thousands of small arms. We suffered heavily in officers.

For the South Western Baptist. Promise to write Redeemed—Solemn changes—Independence—Peace Resolutions—Currency and tax laws—State of the Churches—Accessions—Evangelization of the army—Recognition—The current Reformation—It's success.

RICHMOND, VA., April 6th, 1864. BRO. HENDERSON: I remember when parting from you in this city more than a year ago, you requested that I would occasionally let you see the "color of your (my) ink," meaning that I should furnish an occasional letter for your paper. If you will take them at intervals of a year or longer, I think I can comply with your request, for I do assure you that this is the first communication I have penned for a public journal since we last saw each other. Writing has become unfamiliar to me and unless I again resume editorial toils, I shall not recover the art. But it is a pleasure to talk now and then with my friends (your readers) in the South, and this is an ample motive for this epistle.

What changes have filled up the rapidly passing moments since we gave the parting hand at a brother's house on 'Gambol's Hill! What battles there have been fought, and how many noble sons both of Ala., and Ga., have passed into the grave! This is the

great price which the South must pay for independence. Yet we can not think of peace short of independence, and the price must be paid. I am glad to see that the Alabama Legislature has passed no resolutions about peace, such as have lately passed the Legislature of Georgia. I am quite sure that the noble Georgians on active duty in the field, have no sympathy with the measures which have lately been enacted at Milledgeville. While I respect Gov. Brown as a gentleman and a Christian, I in common with thousands in the Confederacy deplore his seeming opposition to the measures of the late Confederate Congress. No matter if many of that Congress have been beaten at the polls at home, its currency and tax laws will save the country. The people ought to sustain these measures and bear the burden cheerfully, and they are doing it with but a very few exceptions. Men in power may throw their official positions and influence against their execution, but Georgia proper will not thank them for their labor, nor will history or patriotism supply them with crowns of glory. To raise questions about the 'habeas corpus' to keep persons out of the army, may prevent those opportunities for offering peace to Mr. Lincoln after every victory which some gentlemen seem so much to desire. But enough on war and of politicians.

At present there is no unusual manifestation of Christianity in our city churches. During the past twelve months, however, these churches have received more, I believe, than those of other denominations. The first church (bro. Boroughs') added over 100. The Grace Street church (bro. Jeter's) over 100. The second church (bro. Seeley's) about 40. The Leigh St. Church (bro. Solomon's) about 40. The Manchester church (bro. Hatcher's) perhaps 75. The colored churches have also been numerically strengthened but I have not heard to what extent. Many—perhaps a large portion, of the baptized belong to the army. The churches have not been much strengthened by them, but the kingdom of Christ has been enlarged.

Missionary and paper work are now the great means of evangelization in the army. Tracts, though still used have lost much of their popularity. Soldiers' papers published monthly and semi-monthly are displacing the tracts. I never did have as much confidence in tracts as some of my brethren, and I have reason to believe from personal observation that papers—not the weeklies, but papers gotten up for the purpose, are much more efficient. Preaching, however, is the great instrumentality and the best agency of all for the conversion of souls. The Methodists understand this, and have sent many of their best men into the army. Your Board at Marion have done wisely in this matter, and the Baptist hereabouts are wisely imitating their example. The Virginia State Mission Board which had, as I think, unwisely been given up, has virtually resumed its labors in another form. Ministers and city pastors make preaching tours in the armies with good success. Bro. Jeter is now absent on such a mission, and when last heard from, his labors were receiving the divine blessing.

Perhaps you have not heard of an important recognition—not a recognition of the Confederacy, which took place some months ago in the Capitol of the Confederate States of America. Strange indeed is it that the religious papers of this city have not published the fact with a graphic description of the interesting services which the occasion called for. And as they have neglected their duty in this particular, I must take it upon myself to keep the public posted, lest the history of the time be incomplete. Well, you have heard of the current reformation, and of a people called "Campbellites." These people held a convention, or, which is the same thing, a co-operation meeting in Richmond embracing a Sabbath. And, would you believed it, the pulpits of the Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian Churches were opened to them, and they "proclaimed the ancient gospel" in the first Baptist church, the Grace St. Baptist church,

and the Methodist and Presbyterian churches! Thus after a belligerent contest of more than 30 years, in season and out of season, by pen and by tongue, through papers, pamphlets, and books; Alexander Campbell and his denomination have been duly recognized by at least three of the great foreign powers. And that, too, in the city of Richmond, the capitol of the Confederacy, where the great Alexander began the rupture of the Baptist churches, where the leaders in the Dover Association reside where "Campbellism Examined" was written, and where the 'Herald' was wont for many years to belabor this Reformation. 'Tis a fact accomplished, the Campbellites have been duly recognized, and must from henceforth be considered an independent nation among the religious sovereignties of the earth. What is the use to resist them any longer, since they have been endorsed by the distinguished preachers in Richmond.

Well Bro. H. I have given you four pages, and with these I bid you adieu for the present.

JOSEPH WALKER.

For the South Western Baptist DALTON, GEO. April 8, 1864.

DEAR BRO. HENDERSON: This day, set apart by our Congress, approved by proclamation of our President, as a season of humiliation and prayer, has been so wet and disagreeable to prevent that general assemblage for public worship, which was desirable. Still by order of Gen. Johnston, offices have been closed and military routine suspended as far as practicable, and in town and many of the Brigades, appropriate religious services have been held. On inquiring, I find that a good feeling prevails among the soldiers on the subject most important to them. Meetings have been held, some are still in progress, in which, quite a number of conversions have taken place. I regret to say, that many Regiments are without chaplains. Unfortunately, some who held that position seemed not to possess the requisite aptitudes and an unwillingness to supply their places exists to some extent. Of course, this remark is not general. Some systematic effort is needed to find proper chaplains for every Regiment. The deficiency should be supplemented by missionaries. Not unfrequently, our ablest and most useful ministers at home should be sent by their charges to hold protracted meetings in the army—great good has been accomplished among the soldiers by preaching and distribution of Testaments, Tracts and newspapers. The field is yet large and inviting. Camp life is not favorable to piety. Christian effort should be unceasing to counteract Satanic agencies. There is yet much intemperance, profanity, licentiousness, and people at home are sadly deceived, if they imagine these vices to be confined to the privates. If Christians could realize the magnitude of the work to be done, and its unspeakable importance, they would labor more abundantly, than they have yet done. If such men as the Manlys, Henderson, Tichenor, Renfro, Spalding, Taliaferro, &c., would come up here and spend three or four weeks at a time, they would, in all probability, find more seals to their ministry, than a years labor will furnish. The churches should pay their expenses and send them out.

Instead of the irregular method of receiving members, baptizing, administering the Lord's Supper, which prevails and may have been unavoidable, would it not be a good plan to organize, at least one Baptist church in every Brigade.

The telegraph furnishes you all military news from this point far ahead of the "slow coach" of the mail. The usual stereotyped phrase of "all is quiet" still applies. No demonstrations of a hostile character are being made in our front, but rumors are rife, (and there are more unreliable rumors in camps than I have ever heard elsewhere,) that reinforcements are going from Chattanooga to sustain Grant in another overwhelming demonstration against Richmond. Our army is in better condition than I have ever known it and is really more efficient. The esprit is higher and the

morale better. The soldiers have implicit confidence in Gen. Johnston, and feel that under his able leadership, they cannot be conquered. It is hard to credit the fact of the revolution that has been wrought in this army. The discipline is more rigid, the evils which afflict large masses of troops have been lessened, the health is almost as good as it can be, the food and clothing are sufficient, while a contented cheerfulness shines in nearly every face. Duties are performed with alacrity. Hardships are borne without murmuring. There is no bickering among the officers. A generous rivalry exists between the different corps, and the opinion is universal, that the model Virginia army, in no respect is superior to this. Gen. Johnston is almost ceaseless in his activity. Few things escape his watchful eye, and every well-being and effectiveness of his men, receives his personal attention.

If the sentiment of the country will keep pace with and sustains that of the army, if croakers will cease their mutterings and malcontents hush up their harsh and unjust criticisms on army and government, and all will put their trust in God; this Summer's campaign will be productive of decisive results.

KIFFIN.

For the South Western Baptist DALTON, GEO., 13 April, 1864.

DEAR BRO. HENDERSON: The monthly meeting of the association of chaplains and missionaries was held here to day. It is a body of fine looking and intelligent laborers. Cheering reports were brought up from many of the Brigades. A lamentable deficiency, however, exists in the number of chaplains and preachers. I think it would be a good idea to identify a missionary with some particular Brigade. I was disappointed in not gathering from the reports which were read, definite results. The statements were too general. It would be easy to systematize and get what the lawyers call in pleading, certainty and verity. A great work is being done. The record should be definite and accurate. It should be quite easy for practical business men to ascertain what regiments had chaplains, what were unsupplied; the number of Christian associations and Sabbath schools with their membership; the number of conversions, &c. The want being obvious and felt, hereafter I hope for more certain statements.

In many regiments there are real revivals of religion. Sometimes the brave boys by twenties and hundreds respond to the invitation for special prayer. It would rejoice your heart to hear their expressions of gratitude and witness their zeal, after they have found the Savior. Many backsliders are brought to repentance and a renewal of their covenant obligations. Besides the meetings in camps, there have been constant services every night in the houses of worship in this place. In the Baptist house, Dr. Teasdale and Bros. Worrell and Thomas have been preaching with most encouraging results. By day the same brethren preach in the different Brigades. Gen. Lowery, of Mississippi, preached one sermon. He is a Baptist and in the army, has not forgotten, and is not ashamed of the service of his heavenly Master. If more of our officers were actively religious, the influence of preaching would not be lessened.

Every thing still continues quiet here, and at last we are beginning to have spring weather. Soon the one my will be making demonstrations in our front. The strike of the printers in Atlanta has deprived us of our daily newspapers and we are somewhat behind the news.

An incident was related to me the other day illustrative of the barbarity of the Lincoln government and the fidelity of a Tennessee preacher. A local preacher whose name was Amasa Webb, aged over 70 years, was arrested and thrown into the penitentiary at Nashville. Nearly every week the prisoners were marched through the hot sun from the penitentiary to the capitol and inducements held out to take the oath of allegiance. Regularly the question was asked of Mr. Webb, "Are you loyal to the United States?" and his uniform reply was,

"Loyal to the Southern Confederacy." Unable to seduce him from his fidelity to principle, he was only released from the penitentiary and sent to a hospital the day before he died.

Appropos of Nashville, the Union of 5th inst. contains an order from the Provost Marshal of that place, which shows the state of morals in the Yankee army. I append it as an item of importance, which may be interesting to your readers:

OFFICE OF PROVOST MARSHAL, NASHVILLE, TENN., April 5, 1864. Provost Order, No. 71.

EXTRACT. VIII. The frequency with which horses and mules are stolen in the vicinity of this Post, by marauding soldiers and vagrant negroes, calls for the most stringent measures for the suppression of the crime.

Soldiers are hired and paid to fight, and not to trade in horses and mules. The offering of a horse or mule for sale by a soldier, is in itself an offence, and is prima facie evidence of his having come in possession of it by felonious means; and any citizen purchasing it, becomes an accomplice of his guilt.

Any soldier selling, or offering for sale, a horse or mule, or any citizen purchasing the same of a soldier, will be arrested and punished.

No negro will be permitted to sell or offer for sale any horse or mule without a special permit from this office on proof of ownership; and any citizen purchasing a horse or mule from any negro without such permit, will be arrested and punished.

The patrols will be instructed to arrest all soldiers found riding or having in their possession horses or mules not branded with the Government brand.

By command of BRIG. GEN. R. S. GRANGER. JNO. W. HORNER, Lt. Col. 18th Mich., and Provost Marshal.

Can't you come up and preach a month for us before the army is put in motion? KIFFIN.

For the South Western Baptist WETUMPKA, ALA., April 13th, 1864.

DEAR BRO: I send you for publication a brief account of a visit I recently paid, as General Agent of the Marion Board, to the Missouri Brigade at Demopolis. I spent a day or two with them, but owing to the inclemency of the weather, on Sabbath did not have an opportunity of addressing them. A few brethren and friends however took the matter in hand, and in a few hours I received a contribution of sixteen hundred and ninety eight dollars and sixty cents (\$1698, 60) for army missions. Is not this an effectual answer to the plea too often urged by brethren and churches at home, that religious literature and missionary effort in the army are not appreciated or desired? But even this is not all, for it is but justice to state that this Brigade of noble and self sacrificing men, had contributed more than five thousand dollars, in the few months preceeding, my visit to charitable and benevolent objects, and all of this too, the face of fact that they had not received a dollar of their hard earned wages for six months or more. Bro. Editor, is not a simple statement of the facts sufficient?—Nothing that I could say, could add anything to the reputation of admirable Brigade. They have written out their own record upon many a well contested field. But should not their liberality spur us at home to a sense of our responsibility? I trust that we will deal candidly with our consciences in this matter. The army, standing as a living and unyielding wall between us and the tide of invasion, is calling to us for the "bread of life," may they are manifesting a disposition to pay for it themselves, out of the scanty pittance which they receive, when the opportunity is offered. Brethren of the home churches, will we be deaf to this solemn call? Will we, can we refuse to contribute of our abundance to supply the spiritual wants of these patriotic men? I beseech you brethren to resolve the question as in the light of the judgment day.

The Marion Board are accomplishing a glorious work in this promising field. Will the brethren and churches come to their assistance and enable them to extend their operations until the sound of the gospel is heard in every Brigade and in every regiment of our widely extended service? B. S. CALLAGHAN, Gen. Agt. &c.

