

SOUTH WESTERN BAPTIST.

S. HENDERSON, Editor.]

VOL. 16—NO. 9

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

The S. W. Baptist.
TUSKEGEE, ALA.
Thursday, July 28, 1864.

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.

Sunday Schools.

We are glad that a brother every way competent to the task, has undertaken to discuss the question, how Sunday Schools can be made efficient. We published his first article last week, and bespeak for the entire series the candid and prayerful consideration of our readers. A more important subject could not be discussed in our columns. Sunday Schools, as a means of imbuing the youthful mind with religious and moral truth, are doubly important now. Vast multitudes of children throughout our land, are shut up to this as their only means of instruction, so far at least as instruction comes by reading. We entreat every Christian patriot of our country, to take his mind off of the war long enough to ask himself the question, What will the boon of independence be worth, if it is to be bequeathed to an ignorant and vicious posterity? How long will our Confederacy last, if the rising generation are not properly trained to wield its destinies? Every Church and Sabbath School in the land is a bulwark in the glorious fabric we are rearing; and those who are instrumental in preserving and perpetuating these organizations through these trying times will be pronounced the most skillful architects of our political superstructure. From these sources are to go forth that conservatism which is at once the life and glory of the temple. The children of the Confederacy! O, it is these that nerve the arm of our patriot warriors on every battle field! it is these that guide our future with the radiance of hope! Why may not every meeting-house in our land be made at once a nursery of virtue and piety? Why may not every Christian be a priest to officiate at these sacred altars? Rest assured that patriotism itself can find no sphere of usefulness higher than this; and the Church of the living God can never fulfill a higher mission than by obeying the divine injunction, "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Education of Maimed Soldiers.

The education of young soldiers who have been maimed by this war so as to be unable to pursue any manual labor, we are gratified to know, is beginning to engage the thoughtful attention of good men. Many of these men could be fitted for business and usefulness by timely attention to this subject.

We allude to this matter now, for the purpose of raising the question, whether, while the Howard College is suspended, its buildings and endowment could not properly be used to promote this object? We know the buildings are now used as a government hospital; but we make no question that such an arrangement could be effected with the government as would give us a portion of the rooms, sufficient, at least, for present demands. Many of the convalescent soldiers now in that hospital could now avail themselves of the advantages of a course of instruction, if such a plan could be adopted. Under the most favorable circumstances, it will be some years before that institution can enjoy its former prosperity. Three or four years would be as long as it would be necessary to use the College for this purpose. We can see no good reason why the College could not be used for this length of time for this purpose. We could offer many reasons why it should be so appropriated. One of the main objects of its erection was to benefit poor worthy young men; and who are more worthy than these maimed soldiers? Who will likely exert a wider and more powerful influence upon society than these gallant young men? Suppose we could secure the services of such a man as Dr. Manly to take charge of this department of instruction. And is there any good reason why his services could not be secured? Would he not as likely devote the evening of his life to this great work as to any that could be offered to him?

But we do not propose discussing the subject in *extenso* now. We only throw out these suggestions for the consideration of our brethren before the meetings of our Associations and Convention. Let them be prayerfully considered.

CORRECTION.—We understand that the depot at Notasulga was not destroyed by the late raiding party, as we stated last week. Between eight hundred and a thousand bales of cotton were burnt up in Major Armstrong's Warehouse, a large portion of which belonged to him.

We are now having fine rains in this locality. The crops will be greatly benefited by these refreshing showers.

Religion in Tennessee.

We were made glad the other day at the receipt of a letter from an old and valued friend, one whom we had known from boyhood, and whom we had only known in love. Under date of Tenn., June 23, 1864, he says:

"My DEAR BRO. HENDERSON: Several weeks ago some one found an opportunity, and sent me a copy of the S. W. Baptist, which was the first religious paper I had seen for more than two years. I had wondered many a time since my exile (being closed up in Tennessee), whether the S. W. Baptist still lived, and was glad to see that it did, and that it looks quite healthy. Oh, how I wish that I could be a weekly reader of it!"

I received also by the same hands a copy of the Christian Index and one of the Confederate Baptist, to me an entirely new paper even by name. I read the three papers with great interest, having had a desire to know what was the tone of religious feeling in the South during the trying time of this war; and supposing the three religious papers would give some indication of its character.

The state of religious feeling in this portion of Tennessee has been very good, and indeed continues so. Christians are greatly humbled at the afflictive providence that has desolated the country and brought so much suffering and sorrow to so many homes. During the past fall under my ministry we enjoyed one of the most remarkable revivals seasons I ever witnessed. There were at the three churches where meetings were held, about one hundred and fifty conversions out of a population where all the men capable of military service were gone. I baptized eighty into the fellowship of the churches. In these meetings I had the presence of Elder John Selvidge, and as much assistance as his feeble health would permit.

I have preached as regularly during all this war as before, and though the times have been trying here, under God, done something to sustain and preserve the churches from desolation. I am almost entirely ignorant of what is going on out of my immediate neighborhood; I know nothing of my brethren South, or in other parts of Tennessee, with whom I need to associate. I am cut off from some of my children and have not heard from them in a year; I therefore feel, my dear brother, the affliction of this war. Still God has blessed me and my family with health and a sufficiency of the comforts of life.

Finding a need going South I concluded to drop you this by way of remembrance. I began it as a communication for the S. W. B., but changed my mind before I got far, and you will receive it as a private letter. Present me to any of my old friends whom you may see. Hoping the time may soon come when there will be a reunion of friends in peace.

I remain truly your friend and bro.,

It is truly gratifying to us that the good work continues to go on in the good old State, notwithstanding it has been so overrun by our enemies. When public calamities tend to humble our people, and induce them to seek God, we know they are accomplishing the highest divine purpose. Surely for "the elect's sake," these days of calamity will be shortened.

The example of constancy under the most untoward embarrassments, which the conduct of our brother presents, is worthy of all praise. Few have done as well even within our own lines. A responsibility which the providence of God seldom imposes is now devolved upon ministers of the gospel to labor with more than common zeal. Many of our churches have already, we fear, gone into a state of practical disorganization. How impressive the exhortation: "Strengthen the things that remain that are ready to perish." Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thy heritage to reproach, that the heathen should say, among the people, Where is their God? Then will the Lord be jealous for his land, and pity his people." No waters can quench the fires of divine anger but the tears of deep, ingenuous repentance. No power can break the rod of His displeasure, but the power of faith.

The Perils of the Hour.

Are Christians properly alive to the dangers which now threaten our country? If they are, surely prayer without ceasing must be ascending to God from every pious heart. We have never yet past such a crisis as is now upon us. We do not mention this to alarm, but to awaken serious thought and a prayerful spirit. Those dangers which steady the nerves, which inspire preparations to meet them, and above all, which fix the heart upon God as our only defense, may cast down, but they will not destroy. We are satisfied that if our people will do their duty—organize in every county, and be ready at any moment to co-operate with our authorities—and commit the issue to the Lord of hosts, that all will yet be well. But if we settle down in the quiescence of security, or in the insensibility of despair, the next sixty days will entail consequences upon us, the very contemplation of which may well sicken the heart.

Sunday School Agent.

The Rev. WM. E. CHAMBLISS has been appointed Agent for Sabbath Schools in this State. We commend him to the confidence and affections of our Churches, and trust he will be abundantly useful. See his communication in another column.

Summary of War News.

Last week Genl. Early's corps achieved another great victory in the Valley of the Shenandoah driving the enemy back 25 miles, re-occupied Martinsburg, and captured 1500 or 2000 prisoners. So says the telegrams.

On Friday last, Sherman massed a heavy force on our left wing, and attempted to turn it, but was repulsed, and driven from two lines of his entrenchments. Our forces subsequently fell back to their former position. Generals Stewart and Loring were slightly wounded.

A raiding party of the enemy struck the Railroad between Atlanta and Macon near Lovejoy's, inflicting a slight damage, but were driven off by Jackson's cavalry.

TUSKEGEE, ALA., THURSDAY, AUG. 4, 1864

For the South Western Baptist.

Sunday Schools.

NUMBER 2.

Children singing—The children's sermon—The Melodeon—A. G. Thompson.

DEAR BRO. H: The effort toward improvement in the Selma Baptist school, was to introduce singing by the children. In this consists the chief feature and power of the school. Two dozen "Sabbath-school-Bell" note books were obtained, and a great part of the hour was devoted to singing. At first not a boy would even try to sing, and but few girls would attempt it. But by dint of faithful perseverance and many little kind speeches, at last the Pastor had taught the school to sing "Let us walk in the light." That was our first triumph. The ice was broken—the winter had begun to pass away.—Soon other tunes were mastered—"morn amid the mountains."—"I want to be an Angel."—"Kind words can never die."—"Happy day."—"The shining shore."—"The Sunday school," and "Homeward bound." (The children's sermon.) It was then announced that the Pastor would preach a monthly sermon to the children on Sabbath morning at 11 o'clock, and that the children would do the singing. This, besides subserving other good purposes, advertised the school to the church and congregation, and secured for us an increase of teachers as well as pupils. Children's hearts melted under the touching little stories of the word of God, and parents wept to see their children weeping. Eyes all unused to tears were seen to pay their tribute as the little ones rose and sung. Many objections were made against such innovation on the regular services of God's house. But, month after month, the children's sermon was preached, and crowds came in to hear. On two such occasions at least, God gave the Pastor a soul for his hire.—The melodeon. To aid the singing, a melodeon was purchased. (Thereby hangs a tale, shall I tell it?) and one of our scholars recently baptized was chosen to play on it for us. This soon became a very attractive feature. The school had now gone up nearly to 100. About this time Bro. A. G. Thompson came into our school, and was soon elected Chorister. This was a new era with us. The school, under his masterly hand, steadily became more and more orderly, systematic and religious. Great development was made in singing. Half an hour, before and after school, was devoted to the culture of vocal music. At first little girls were abashed at the idea of singing a solo, but by inspiring them with self-confidence, and breathing into all the vocal exercises a spirit of holy devotion, he was soon rewarded with the consciousness, of having the best singing Sabbath school in the Confederate States. It would require an entire letter to even begin to give an adequate idea of the manner and effect of some of these sweet and precious songs. I propose therefore to devote to this a separate letter.—But that little disclosure respecting the Melodeon! One Sabbath morning the Pastor stated to the school, that if the Ladies would collect \$75, he would add \$50 to them, and we would buy a Melodeon. Next morning the money was more than made up without the Pastor's \$50; the Melodeon was purchased together with a nice chair to accompany it, and the Pastor found himself the possessor of two chairs purchased with the remainder of the money. The S. S. Bell note books are not now to be had. It is hoped that this deficiency may be soon supplied. Still let every effort be made to teach the children to sing.

A. T. SPALDING.

SELMA, July 8th, 1864.

For the South Western Baptist.

To the Friends of the Sunday School.

Being commissioned by the S. S. Board of S. B. Convention, to labor as S. S. Missionary, in the State of Alabama, I will be happy to communicate with any church or neighborhood desiring to establish a Sunday school.

If you wish, brethren, a visit to awaken interest in this great and good

work; or if you need assistance in organizing your school, or in procuring the publications of the Board, the services of the S. S. missionary, are at your command.

Please address me at Selma, Ala. Bro. Spalding, that efficient friend of Sunday schools, will have a care that your communications shall reach me, should I be absent from the city. W. E. CHAMBLISS.

Are we as a People Humbling Ourselves before God?

Assuredly we ought to be humbled. Our present circumstances ought to humble us. We are at war, and this of itself affords presumptive evidence that something about us is wrong.—War is the offspring of sin, and is a judgment for sin.—James iv: 1, 2. 2 Sam. xxiv: 13.

And remember that in this war our enemies were lately our fellow citizens and the sins which occasioned the conflict where all sins of the nation to which we belonged at its beginning.

We may well be humbled too when we reflect upon the anticipations with which our people entered upon this struggle: they were so foolish and so ill-founded, as the event has proved. It is not necessary to recount them fully. Do not the very phrases "King-Cotton"—"Foreign Intervention"—"Friends at the North"—"Northern Democrats"—"Yankees will not fight," suggest grounds of confidence that now seem so absurd as justly to fill us with shame.

Our sufferings ought to humble us. Look back four years! What a contrast is presented between the prosperity of eighteen hundred and sixty-four! Consider the hundreds of thousands of orphans, and widows, and childless that have become such in three years. Consider the multitudes who have been driven from their homes: above all consider the multitudes whose condition is worse than that of widows or orphans or homeless; far worse than that of those who have been slain by the sword.—I mean the vast numbers who in the enemy's lines are suffering cruelty and oppression that might make a wise man mad.

But why should we be humbled at all this? We can see that we ought to be grieved at it, deeply grieved; but why humbled? Humbled because suffering does not spring out of the ground;—"the curse causeless" does not come; shall there be evil in a city, and the Lord hath not done it? God sent this evil; the God of infinite holiness and infinite love. The Lincolns and Butlers, the Milroys and Whites, the poor creatures who seem its authors are but His instruments, the rod of His anger and the staff in their hand is His indignation and we know that our God does not send suffering without adequate provocation. He does not willingly afflict the children of men.

And though we foolishly suppose our enemies to act independently of God, and deny that He has any concern in the evils they directly inflict; there have been providential dispensations which all but the Atheist must trace to his hand. Why have there been repeated failures of the crops, in those very parts of the Confederacy where it seemed most important they should be abundant? Why have providential interpositions so often seemed to aid our enemies in their operations, or to snatch from our own arms the fruits of victory? Was it not what men call an accident that lost us New Orleans? Was it not a similar accident that at a most critical juncture gave to the enemy the control of the Tennessee and Cumberland river? Was it not an accident that took away from us Jackson, and another accident which for a time has deprived us of Longstreet?

But if God seemed thus to fight against us, is it not evident that our cause is unrighteous, and that he will finally grant a complete triumph to our foes? Not at all. It only proves that a holy God has a controversy with us, and that we have sinned.—We find in it no evidence that he approves or will favor the cause of our adversaries. When two parties in a strife have both sinned, both may expect to be punished. The punishment of the one does not evince its own

greater guilt, far less the innocence of the enemy. In the war between Confederate Israel and the tribe of Benjamin, both parties as sinful met with severe chastisement; but when Israel, at first defeated, and humbled himself before God, a complete victory was granted to his arms.

Gen. Pres.

Sufficiency of Grace.

A minister of the gospel was one evening preaching in Bristol, from the words, "My grace is sufficient for thee," when he took occasion to relate the circumstance of a pious young woman's laboring under a strong temptation to put a period to her life by drowning herself, from which she was delivered in a manner strikingly providential. She had gone to the river in order to comply with the enemy's suggestion; but as she was adjusting her clothes to prevent her from floating, she felt something in her pocket, which proved to be her Bible. She thought she would take it out, and look at it for the last time. She did so, and the above mentioned text caught her eye.—Through the divine blessing attending them, the words struck her with peculiar force, when the snare was instantly broken, the temptation vanished, and she returned home blessing and praising Him who had given her the victory. It is stated, that the relation of this circumstance was blessed to the conversion of a man and his wife who were present, who had lived in an almost continual state of enmity, and whose habitation exhibited a terrifying scene of discord and confusion. In one of those unhappy intervals of sullen silence, which both parties were accustomed to maintain after their quarrels, the wife came to the dreadful determination of drowning herself. She accordingly left her house for that purpose, and approached the river, but owing to its being too light, she apprehended she should be detected before she could accomplish her design. She therefore deferred the fatal act till it should have grown dark, and in the interim, wandered about, not knowing whither to go.—At length she observed a place of worship open, and thought she would go in to pass the time. Mr. W. was preaching, and she listened to him with attention, especially when he related the matter above mentioned. Instead of drowning herself, she returned home after the sermon, with a countenance which, however expressive before of a malevolent disposition, now indicated that a spirit of gentleness had taken possession of her breast. Struck with her appearance, her husband asked her where she had been. On telling him, he immediately said, "And did you see me there?" She replied, "No." He rejoined, "But I was; and blessed be God, I found his grace sufficient for me also."

"The Grace that is in Christ Jesus."

Grace is connected with the whole of our recovery as sinners. It is all in all in every part of our salvation.—Whether he is chosen, or redeemed, or converted, or sanctified, or preserved or comforted the believer will acknowledge, by the grace of God. I am what I am—not I, but the grace of God, which is with me.

But where is the grace to be found? The apostle tells us when he speaks of it, as the resources of Timothy, both as a minister and a Christian—Thou, therefore, my son, be strong in the grace, that is in Christ Jesus. As mediator, He is the principle and the treasury of it with regard to us.

It is in him exclusively. And we may as well think of finding snow on the bosom of the sun, or water to cool the tongue in hell, as to think of finding elsewhere than in him, wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. As Pharaoh said to the furnishing multitudes that cried to him for corn, "Go unto Joseph, he has all the corn," so perishing sinners are sent to be blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places—in Christ. If there was only one well in the vicinity of a place, this would soon become the scene of concourse, and thither all the inhabitants would repair or die—and to him shall this

gathering of the people be. If any man thirst, said he, let him come unto me and drink: Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name given under heaven among men, whereby they must be saved.—And what Christian will refuse to join in the ascription.—Of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace?

It is in him all sufficiently. For it is not in him as water in a vessel, which, though as large as the Brazen Sea, would, by constant drawing, be soon drawn dry; but as water in a spring, which though always flowing, is always as full as ever. It is not in him like light in a lamp, which however luminous, consumes while it shines and will soon go out in darkness; but like light in the sun, which, after shining for so many ages is undiminished, and is as able as ever to bless the earth with his beams. There never has been and there never will be never can be a deficiency in him: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, to-day, and forever.

It is in him relatively. He has it for the use and advantage of his people. Is he head over all things? It is to his body, the Church. Has the power given him all flesh? It is that he might give eternal life to many as the father hath given him. Is he exalted at the right hand of God? It is to be a prince and a Saviour, to give repentance unto Israel, and forgiveness of sins. Did he receive gifts? It was for men, and even for the rebellious also, that the Lord God might dwell among them. Many trustees are faithful to their office. The rich have wealth for the poor, but it is either hoarded by avarice, or squandered by extravagance; so that the poor often share but little of it and the design of the proprietor is subverted by the baseness of the steward. But here there is no danger. He to whom our welfare is entrusted, will be faithful not as a servant, like Moses, but a Son over his own house. His work falls in with every disposition of his heart. He so loves the recipients of his bounty, that he even died for them, and rose again! The power and authority to bless them was the joy set before him; for which he endured the cross, and despised the shame.

And it is wisely in him. Could we see no reason for it, we ought to believe in the propriety of the dispensation. God does all things well; and we may always infer the rectitude of any instance of his conduct even from his adopting it. And when he has told us that a particular course of action "became," it is absurd to speculate, and "profane" to object.—But it is easy to apprehend the wisdom of God in his being pleased that in him should all fullness dwell. It is thus infinite secure. Adam had all in his own hand, and soon failed and ruined his whole race. And should we act better than he? But "this man abideth ever!" and therefore the covenant which he is the head, is everlasting, ordered in all things and sure. By this appointment also, there is rendered necessary a communion between Christ and Christians, equally honorable to him, and beneficial to them. Let me explain this by a simple reference. An infant, when born, if left to himself, would perish; for he is entirely unequal to his own support. But he is not abandoned.—Provision is nourishment—where?—In another? In whom? The one—above all others interested in him whose anguish on his behalf—whose love—will always yield him a welcome access to her bosom; and the mutual action of giving and receiving will endear the babe to the mother, and the mother to the babe. It is well we cannot live independent of Christ Jesus. How much are his glory and welfare connected with the blessed necessity of our daily and hourly intercourse with him!

CHRISTIAN JOY, A TEACHER.—Mr. Flavel, at one time, on a journey, set himself to improve his time by meditation; when his mind grew intent, till at length he had such ravishing tastes of heavenly joy, and such full assurance of his interests therein, that he utterly lost the sight and sense of this world and all it concerns,

