

building called Paine Memorial Hall was opened in Boston, to be headquarters of the *Boston Investigator* and the temple of the infidelity which Thomas Paine is the chief oracle. The property is now advertised for sale on foreclosure of a mortgage and for unpaid taxes. The end seems to have come, and sooner than anticipated—*Watchman*.



## Alabama Baptist.

E. T. WINKLER,--EDITOR.  
J. J. D. RENFROE,--Associate.

MARION, ALA.:

Thursday, June 28th, 1877.

## A Splendid Offer.

We will send the ALABAMA BAPTIST to new subscribers from now until January, 1878, for ONE DOLLAR. We make this offer for the purpose of putting the paper within reach of all, and with a view to the extension of its circulation. We trust our pastors, and others, will take advantage of this and lose no time in pressing the claims of the paper on all who are not now subscribers. Remember, it is only one dollar from now until January 1st, 1878.

## Misapprehensions as to the Future State--Its Character.

The character of the future state is misapprehended by many. They erroneously regard it as a condition of entire rest and inactivity.

In part this error has its ground in the nature and experiences of men. With some the exhaustions of labor and the cares and engrossments of business may encourage the anticipation of an immortality, where the worn muscle may be relaxed, and the jaded mind may be undisturbed, forever. They sigh for Elysian fields where the bread is no longer harvested by the sweat of the brow,--for happy abodes remote from the arts of rivals, the fluctuations of trade and the clamor of tongues.

Others have had acquaintance with sore afflictions. They yearn to be delivered from a fragile body, from false friendships, from a home whose pillars are crumbling, from a world that never ceases to feed upon life and love and strength and beauty. O, to be in a world where there is no more pain and loss, no more sickness and death, no more hunger and nakedness, no smiting suns or howling storms! but the Heavenly Father's hand shall wipe away all tears from our eyes!

When such conditions of toil or pain oppress us, there is nothing that seems so sweet, or that we are apt to wish more ardently than rest. And we are apt to form an idea of heaven corresponding to the heart's desires.

And the more undoubtedly when we find expressions in the Scriptures which seem to justify such an expectation. Thus we are told by the author of the Epistle to the Hebrews, (4:9, 11) that "there remaineth a rest for the people of God." As the Israelites marched through the wilderness to Canaan, where their pilgrimage would be ended, and they would enjoy a peaceful triumph under the protection and blessing of God, so we pursue life's journey, with the better country full in view. The text implies a rest like that of God, an eternal Sabbath in which the week-day toils of earth shall be resigned forever. Of like purport is that magnificent passage with which the angels might welcome each new saint to his throne: Rev. 21:3, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord." Yea, saith the Spirit; for they rest from their labors and their works do follow them." When earth's treasures are resigned, its silver and gold and precious stones and pearls, heaven's richer blessings are given instead; God's promises and Christian virtues yield their priceless returns, and all life's weary works are ended or abide only in joyful memories.

And yet to believe that heaven is only rest, or that it is such rest as many suppose--the repose of inactivity, is to indulge an idea which is contrary to human nature and to the Word of God.

Constituted as we are, who could be happy in a state of inaction? Would not a complete rest from employment prove rather a source of discontent and uneasiness than of pleasure? How heavily time hangs upon our hands when we have nothing to do. Think then what would be the burden of an idle eternity. Who could long bear such a condition--having nothing to hope, nothing to undertake, nothing to accomplish, through all the endless years of God!

We need not ask whether such an arrangement would correspond with the wise and mighty Author of Redemption, that God's children should be fixed in some spot in the vast beyond, where, like impets on a rock, they shall be buried in the depths and feasted upon the abundance of the infinite ocean. It is enough to insist that such a lot would be unsuited to a rational creature like man, gifted with the eminent powers, that reveal themselves even here. Man cannot hold these powers in vain without wronging himself and his Maker. He cannot leave them unused either in time or eternity.

And let it be added that the texts we have quoted, by no means signify

what many think they have found in them. They afford no reason to believe that the active powers will cease to serve God in the life to come. For when we are told there remaineth a rest for the people of God, the allusion is to God's rest after the labors of creation. God did not cease to work after he had built the stately fabric of earth and heavens, but henceforth his activity was tranquil, steady and unobscuredly operating through laws and elements, and seasons and gracious providences and influences from heaven. So shall the activities of the saints be--unwearied, steadfast, majestic--all charged with Sabbath calm and sanctity.

And when we are assured that the blessed dead rest from their labors, we are to understand that they are freed from the afflictions and troubles that beset them here. And this will only the better prepare them for the service. O, what is it but a preparation for ministries mightier, more buoyant and alluring when every chain is burst that holds us to our prison and our clay?

No more fatigue, no more distress, No sin nor grief shall reach the place; No grief shall mingle with the songs That swell upon immortal tongues. No rude alarms of angry fires, No cares to break the long repose, No midnight shade, no clouded sun, But sunny, high, eternal noon!

## Toleration in Turkey.

The account of the operations of the British and Foreign Bible Society, given in the 6th annual report of that association gives quite a different view of religious liberty in Turkey than that presented in most of the political papers. As this is a subject now attracting a great deal of attention, our readers will be interested in knowing the facts which are here presented by an authority whose means of information and whose truthfulness and whose means of obtaining accurate knowledge none will be disposed to question. The data are supplied by the missionaries, American and British, employed in the dissemination of the Holy Scriptures through the length and breadth of the Ottoman Empire.

The report asserts and illustrates the amazing change that has been going on in Mussulman mind during the last half century. The accounts of the religious intolerance of the Turks being to a former generation, when the advent of Christian workers from foreign lands was regarded as a profanation of the domain consecrated to the religion of the Arabian Prophet. At that time the most awful terror of Protestantism prevailed. It was looked upon as the embodiment of all mischief and confusion, and in no way to be encouraged by a cowardly and mistaken tolerance. To forsake the Koran and renounce the Moslem faith was a crime infallibly entailing death, and the headless trunk of some unfortunate offender might occasionally be seen rotting in the streets of Constantinople, torn of dogs and insulted by man, as a warning against apostasy. At that period the ideas of religious liberty and freedom of conscience were utterly repugnant to the native mind; their meaning could scarcely be comprehended. To admit them in practice was supposed to foreshadow a revolution of the worst and most dangerous character. It was the same in the domain of religion and in the civil government, for not only did Mohammedanism ruthlessly wield the sword of persecution, but the Christian churches, Greek and Armenian, were fiercely intolerant, and breathed a spirit of intense animosity and hatred one towards another.

It is all reversed now. Religious liberty and freedom of conscience are accepted as established principles, and no one feels that he has a right to interfere with the convictions or belief of his neighbor. The Moslem mind is not now what it was then on the subject of religion; and the privilege of every man to belong to whatever ecclesiastical community he pleases, without incurring any pains or penalties, is as really recognized in Constantinople as in Great Britain or America. Christianity may be taught without molestation to whoever is disposed to receive instruction. Schools are set up into which the children of any nationality are free to enter, and Christian workers are employed to teach whatever instrumentality they please for the furtherance of their objects, provided they do not overstep the limits of civil law. The like remarks apply to the Christian churches. The idea of reciprocal toleration has penetrated their communities, and the spirit of domineering tyranny is resisted. This is seen in the present state of the Bulgarian church, which sets at defiance the decrees of the Greek Patriarch at Constantinople, and clamors for spiritual emancipation.

Education has become a new thing in Turkey; it is altogether on a different footing from what it was formerly; and the valuable books of instruction used by the missionaries have served as a standard never understood before. The government is establishing schools on a large scale, and the example they have witnessed has led to no slight influence in calling forth the exertions that are now felt to be imperative for the welfare of the nation. Christian work has been a power in Turkey, not a mere name; and its effect in moulding and altering the long cherished notions that had asserted their supremacy for ages cannot be contemplated without emotions of astonishment and gratitude. It is no merely in these directions that results are visible. Protestant communities have been organized. Converts have been gathered sparingly, it is admitted, from the ranks of the Moslems, but far more abundantly from the members of the corrupt Christian churches. The press sends forth a copious and fertilizing stream of pure and ennobling religious literature. The Scriptures have been translated into languages, and are being rapidly diffused, and a Christian work of large dimensions, and combining various agencies, is now in active operation and bearing rich fruit, scarcely a germ or trace of which could be discerned forty years ago.

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## What Can We Do for Our Paper?

1. Subscribe yourself. Subscription consists of two parts, the one the giving you, the other the remitting the amount you desire to pay.

2. Find out how many of your friends or neighbors are without a church paper, urge them to subscribe, and having obtained their names, stir them up to begin, amongst their various circles, the work of obtaining subscribers, and let them send us speedily the result of their labors.

3. Let those who can do so send us articles on topics. Do not wait until the time arrives, which seldom comes, when you can sit down and write an elaborate essay, for the paper, but send that which you can without delay, a short, pointed paper, dealing with some matter which you have solved or on which you want light.

4. Take the trouble of sending us a short account of any church news from your neighborhood, so that all may be stirred up to greater exertion by the account presented of what may be doing throughout the land for the cause of Christ. Try and give such practical suggestions as will enable others to follow out the course which has proved beneficial in eradicating some evil, awakening religious feeling, or strengthening those that stand.

5. Remember that a church newspaper worthy of a name which, if distributed, gives you an opportunity through its columns of presenting the gospel to present friends and relatives, in whose hearts you desire to kindle or keep alive a sense of the spiritual life you desire them to live.

6. Ask God daily to bless this newspaper enterprise, and to enlighten the understanding and strengthen the hands of those engaged in it, that it may be conducted in a proper spirit, and to the glory of him whose great name it is intended to honor.

## Literary Notices.

SOUTHERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY. PAPER, Richmond, Va. J. William Jones, D. D.

The double number, for May and June, contains The Dalton and Atlanta Campaign, Battle of Chancellorsville, by Gen. Lee, Diary of Capt. Park, Tennessee, Gen. Jones Report of operations about Charleston, Sketch of Gen. Cooper, Battle of Seven Bins, Gen. Starns' Cavalry Operations in Maryland, and miscellany. The number is valuable. The magazine is offered at \$3 a year.

WISCONSIN REVIEW for April. N. Y.: L. Scott & Co.

The articles are Popular Fallacies in regard to the functions of Government, Consensus and Marriage in France, Charles Kingsley, Slavery in Africa (something as terrible as the "horrors of the middle passage"), Lord Macaulay as a Historian, [a vindication of Macaulay from Gladstone's aspersions], The Factory and Workmen Acts, Russia, Contemporary Literature.

## Field Notes.

The Baptist Sunday-school at Huntsville went on a picnic excursion to Point Spring last Thursday. A ball an hour's work on the part of each one of our subscribers, would enable our subscription list in one week. The General Association of Texas meets July 20th, in Paris. We see that Rev. J. S. Besons is a candidate for Tax Assessor of Jackson county. "Dr. Hawthorne ranks side by side with the finest spirit orators in this country, and no one in the South can scanvily equal him in this respect. To gather such a rare and very essential accomplishment, he is known and accepted as being a man of deep piety and active earnestness in his divine calling."--*Allegheny Mountain Home*.

The general assembly of the United Presbyterian church, at its last session in Sparta, Ill., decided against permitting the use of musical instruments in public worship. Rev. J. O. Abbott died on the 17th inst., aged 72. "What can I do for you?" You will find an answer in another column. Deacon W. E. Penn has secured the services of Prof. J. F. Parker, of Kentucky, to do his singing, Bro. Bart having to take rest, which he greatly needs. Deacon Penn is now at Shreveport, La., and is expected in Little Rock soon. The Arkansas Baptist Convention meets at Forest City July 10th. Bro. Shackelford, formerly of this State, is pastor of the church at Forest City. Show this paper to your neighbor and get him to subscribe. It is not long now until the Convention meets in Gadsden. Let every church be represented. A correspondent of the Baptist Reflector argues that Melchisedec was Shem. A hen-crawled into one of the churches in Jefferson City, on a late Sunday, and laid an egg in the contribution box. While the minister was making an earnest appeal to the congregation for foreign missions, the hen suddenly left her nest, and presenting herself in the chancel, cackled energetically. The deacons discovered the egg when they went forward to get the boxes. The Baptist Bulletin, formerly published at Lagrange, Mo., has been removed to St. Louis where it will hereafter be issued. Bishop Haven, who has returned from his African tour, states that the Baptist churches in Liberia, which have helped themselves are more prosperous than the Methodist, Presbyterian and Episcopal churches, which have been helped by others. The Rev. Mr. Clough, a Baptist missionary in the Ongole district of the Theologion Mission, India, has baptized more than five hundred converts since last July. The State Convention will meet in Gadsden on 12th of July. Great preparations are being made by the people of that place to entertain the delegates and visitors. Let every church be represented. There is important business to be transacted. From a private note of a brother of Eufrasia, we learn that the church and Sunday-school at that place are doing well. Mr. Milner, of Charleston, S. C., and Mr. Jas. S. Manly, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, have moved to Marion, and are putting up a large grist mill and cotton gin. They are good Baptist brethren. Their business qualifications promise success, and their high character justifies unlimited confidence.

## Communications.

## Commencement Exercises of the Judson Female Institute.

(Concluded.)

The *Soiree Francaise*, given by the pupils of the French department, took place in the chapel of Howard College, Monday, June 18. The *Diana Marguerite*, on *La Robe Perdue*, as well as the music, which was composed for the occasion, elicited much applause. The graceful acting, the beautiful appearance of the young ladies, and the tasteful arrangement of the stage rendered the occasion one of interest even to those who were unacquainted with the language. So perfect was the pronunciation that one might easily have fancied himself in one of the most fashionable salons of Paris, listening to the music of silvery voices as they gave utterance to lovely sentiments in this vacillating language. No hesitation or indecision was observable; but each spoke with as much ease and fluency as if she were using her mother tongue. The pronunciation of Miss Maggie Daniel, who acted the part of Athenais, was highly creditable. The ease with which Miss Louie Gwaltney executed the part of Francaise, *sergente de Mme. Guichard*, her fluency in pronunciation, her animated acting, her picturesque costume and her evident enjoyment of the role assigned, fairly "brought down the house" whenever she made her appearance. All the parts were well acted, and reflect credit on the accomplished actresses, Miss Joseph T. Lumpkin. It is an interesting fact that in the class room the pupils are not permitted to express themselves in English; and the French pupils, who occupy a separate table in the Dining Hall, are required to use the French language exclusively. Miss Lumpkin, a graduate of the Judson, and has greatly advanced the interest of this department, since she assumed the charge of it. Judging from her energy and thoroughness, we may look for still more brilliant results of her labor.

The Original Essays by the Sub-Senior Class, were read before a large and appreciative audience in Howard Chapel, Tuesday evening, June 19. The large number composing this class rendered it impossible for all to read, so that those who had distinguished themselves for proficiency in this branch, were selected to prepare essays for the occasion. Judson pupils are always beautiful, in my opinion, but this group of fair young girls, so modest, so intelligent, and so tastefully adorned, presented one of the loveliest sights I have ever witnessed. In variety of subject, in excellence of style and elevation their essays compared with difficulty be surpassed. They ranged from grave to gay, from lively to serene, each seemingly appropriate to the

character or bent of mind of her who had prepared it. Those which impressed me most forcibly, were, "After the Race, the Crown," by Miss Helen Lavender; "The Rapire of Beauty," by Miss Emma Hampton, and "Unpopular Moses," by Miss Ella Brantley. The pupils give evidence of careful training, not only in the subject matter, which was in every instance clear, methodical, logical, but in those graces of rhetoric which so well adorn a woman's education. Compositions have been from time immemorial the *be-chose* of the school girls' existence; but, I am told, that these pupils go about the preparation of an essay as gayly as if they were looking for the first spring violets. They are quite at home among the flowers of speech, and regard it an easy task to write. This department is under the supervision of Miss Josephine Tutt, who spares no pains to make it thorough as well as attractive. The music on this occasion was quite enjoyable.

The next entertainment in order was the Anniversary of the Alumnae and Graduating Exercises of the Excelsior Class.

These exercises, which also took place in the Howard Chapel, occurred Wednesday, 10 A. M. There were present a large number of Active and Honorary Members. This society numbers between five and six hundred regular or active members--ladies from all parts of the Southern States, whose refinement and culture justify their rank in the highest rank in social life and whose very appearance, it has been said, pronounce them to be graduates of this famous old Institution. The entertainment afforded on this occasion was quite *recherche*. The music, all of which was furnished by members of the Alumnae Society, was directed by Mrs. Wm. King, *nee* Miss Fannie Modavell. It was of the highest order and performed in the most scientific manner, proving that Judson girls do not forget their accomplishments quite so readily as most graduates are reputed.

The essay on Poetry, read in a most pleasant manner, by Miss Maggie Daniel, of the Excelsior class, was a most beautiful composition. This young lady has honorably completed the highest course of instruction offered by the institution, and in token thereof received at the hands of Dr. Gwaltney the Excelsior Diploma, bestowed only on graduates of the second degree. A brilliant career opens invitingly before her; young, beautiful, amiable, accomplished--what more potent accoutrements could the most ambitious demand? She will ever bear with her the kindest wishes of the entire community to which she has endeared herself by her many attractions.

It was a sore disappointment to the numerous friends of Sumter Lee, Esq., that he was prevented by urgent legal engagements from being present on this occasion. He was the chosen orator and his eloquence would have given prestige to the Anniversary. In lieu of the expected oration, Dr. Gwaltney made a few extempore remarks which well merited the hearty applause bestowed. The elegant essay, prepared by Mrs. Wm. Byrd, *nee* Miss Lizzie Billegstad, and read by her, will long be a source of delight to all who enjoyed the privilege of hearing it. "The Lessons Time Teaches Us"--Patience, Humility, Resignation, Hope--were each dwelt upon and glorified by her facile pen. One almost lost sight of the fact that she had herself been learning these lessons in almost half a score years of wedded life. Doubtless many in the audience recall the day when she stood on the same stage, the Valdeictorian of her class, and elicited applause from an admiring crowd by combined beauties of person and intellect. Not the less radiant stood she there on this occasion; indeed, added years and matronly dignity imparted new charms to her, who was always the fairest among the fair. Her pen seems to be wielded with a more masterly hand than formerly, and her mind has gathered rich treasures from the store-house of knowledge. Though first in order on the programme, I have reserved the mention of this feature for the last, because it was the crowning event of the day. It is the first time in the history of the society that the public exercises have been of this character. Though the Association was organized about ten years ago, it was reserved for this brilliant and accomplished woman to inaugurate a feature which will, I trust, prove lasting. There is no surer test of the merit of an institution than to investigate the career of her pupils subsequent to graduation. I dare say the pupils of the Judson will present as fair a record as those of any institution in the land. Mrs. Byrd's appeal to the Alumnae was appropriate and earnest, and should they exert themselves in the future as they have done in the past, they will without doubt celebrate their next anniversary in their own Hall. "Tis a consummation devoutly to be wished," as all will testify who have had to walk to the Howard College,

At 8 o'clock, p. m., of the same day and at the same place, occurred THE GRAND ANNUAL CONCERT.

This took place under the direction of Prof. S. P. Snow, the Principal of the Music Department, and his accomplished assistant, Miss Mary Gwaltney. In point of tasteful selection, variety of style and brilliancy of execution, it has seldom been surpassed in Marion. The Professor's pupils give evidence of a careful course of training, thereby proving that this department has kept pace with other branches of study in the Judson. The instrumental music was particularly worthy of commendation, the most skillful performers being Misses Daniel, Gwaltney, Hudson, Dean and Lee. Although the vocal music was not in the ascendency, still the character of those pieces rendered was very fine. Miss Effie Cooke's brilliant solos were of the highest order and were executed with grace and ease. Misses Hampton and Lobman both gave evidence of talent in this direction. It was a source of regret to all who have heard Miss Alice Tutt sing, that she was prevented by indisposition from taking the part assigned on the programme. An immense amount of work must have been accomplished in this department, for independent of his concert, Prof. Snow furnished music for every public exercise during Commencement week.

The interest of the Commencement week culminated in GRADUATING DAY, which was observed with proper ceremony in the Howard Chapel, on Thursday June 21st, 10 a. m.

Long before the appointed hour the spacious building, including the galleries, was filled to its utmost capacity. The Graduating Class, composed of ten beautiful young girls, were preceded in their entrance into the chapel by the Board of Visitors and the Honorable Board of Trustees, and followed by the faculty and officers of the Institute. In this class are found every type of beauty from the flaxen haired blonde to the brunette, whose tresses were like the raven's wing. Such a display of beauty, united with intelligence and modesty could not fail to elicit admiration.

Dr. Gwaltney informed the audience that among the contestants for the Valdeictory there were two whose records showed so slight a shade of difference that it had been deemed best that they should share equally the First Honor. The happy pair who thus divided the honor were Misses Sallie Fox and Amarion Vary; the former reading the Valdeictory, the latter the German Salutatory. The Second Honor was borne off by Miss Mollie Poole, who read the French Salutatory.

The essays of the graduating class were more than usually interesting, which is doubtless attributed to the right course of daily instruction in this branch of education. Among the best essays were: Love, the Divine Principle, by Miss Ella Harre; Knobs, by Miss Isla Lavson, and the Reign of Fiction, by Miss Louie Gwaltney.

The Baccalaureate Address, by Dr. Gwaltney, although we were assured no time had been spent in its preparation, was, nevertheless, "a feast of reason and a flow of soul." Notwithstanding the numerous demands upon his attention at this particular time, and the unusual press of excitement, business and fatigue incident to his responsible position, Dr. Gwaltney was keenly alive to the weightiest matters of interest, as well as the slightest indications of that most conservative element--fun. His introductory remarks were facetious, arresting and retaining the attention of the large and intelligent audience. The three points in his address most forcibly dwelt upon, were that each should cultivate, 1. Self-reliance; 2. A habit of thinking intelligently for herself; and 3. That love should be fostered in every breast.

In a dignified manner he then presented the diplomas, and amid a round of applause resumed his seat. Although the Dr. does not think his Baccalaureate, still his friends are willing to regard it, nor will they soon forget his first appearance on a Commencement occasion as President of the Judson.

During this, the first year of his administration, he has, by his courteous bearing, endeared himself to the whole community. Old and young are alike attached to him, on account of attractions which are too numerous to be mentioned. He has won the hearts of all his pupils by his uniform kindness, sympathy and encouragement. Thoroughly identified with every benevolent work, he is exerting an untold influence for good. In harmonious and active relation with the Baptist denomination, he at the same time cherishes the kindest feelings for those of different religious opinions. An accomplished scholar, he ranks among the first educators in the land; an excellent disciplinarian, he is mild so gentle, that it is to his pupils, a positive pleasure to obey; an able financier, he has already made such wise use of the income of the

school, that the debt resting upon the institution is in a large measure liquidated. Faithful in great things, there is nothing too small to merit his notice. Every act seems to be performed in a spirit of love to God and his fellow man, and those who come daily under his influence seem to have caught the inspiration, and there breathes a pure moral atmosphere in every department.

With delight was received the announcement made by the President of the Board of Trustees to the effect that Dr. Gwaltney, aided by a corps of efficient teachers, would resume his labors the first Monday in October. Long may he live to exert his beneficent influence upon the minds and hearts of the daughters of the Sunny South. May prosperity crown his efforts here, and may his reward in the life to come be proportionate to his benefactions on earth!

The delivery of Diplomas was followed by the impressive ceremony of attaching the badges of the Alumnae Society to the left shoulder of the newly graduated pupils, thus giving them a formal welcome and initiation into the fellowship of the Association. This was a new feature and was both interesting and appropriate.

The Valdeictory, a chaste and interesting composition, was touchingly pronounced by the talented Miss Fox, and after the benediction the audience dispersed well pleased with the successful close of the Thirty-Ninth annual session of the Judson Female Institute.

In closing this long and hastily written article I would beg leave to mention that in the notice of the Juvenile Exhibition the name of Miss Sue Daniel was inadvertently omitted. She has been too long and too deservedly a favorite in this community to have one leaf plucked from the wreath of reputation which crowns her a very queen among teachers. I therefore take pleasure in stating that the success of the Juvenile Exhibition was largely due to her efforts.

Let me call attention to one of the numerous typographical errors in your issue of last week. In the quotation from the Rhyming Prologue, *skies should read skill*.

"Had I been the child of Byron &c."

And now, Mr. Editor, begging pardon for having thus encroached on your valuable space, I bid you adieu till another Commencement shall force me to take up my pen.

OSWEL.

## Thoughts by the Way.

DEATH.

"Oh! that I less could fear to lose this being Which like a snow ball in my coward hand, The more tis grasped the faster melts away!"

The shadows are gradually lengthening on the wall; the light is slowly fading away; already the twilight is upon us, and the cold clammy air of night is settling about our habitations and a melancholy stillness is brooding over the face of nature, and the sable mantle of night will envelop the world and hide from mortal vision all its loveliness and beauty; but soon those little sentinels that are set so far above our reach, and who seem to "beck us with their approachable glory," will peep out, one by one from their azure bed, and gradually the firmament becomes one grand conflagration of mellow light and glory; and the sadness which had overcast our souls gives way to brighter hopes and happier reflections.

The allotted period of human life is "three score years and ten, and if by reason of strength they be four score years; yet there is strength, labor and sorrow; for it is soon out off and we fly away." Here, we find a limit to human existence, and yet how both in the human mind to accept the fact. With what dread do we view the approaching inevitable doom; an involuntary shudder passes over us, as we look into the portals of the narrow house the sure heritage of mortal man. An icy chilliness gathers around the heart as the thought occurs "though after my skin worms destroy this body, and as the fatal hour draws near, and as our feet are already pressing the damp clouds of the valley of death and the cold stream is about to be entered, oh! what will not man give for a few more days of warning existence; even if undefinable agonies rack and torture the suffering body. Why is it, we thus cling so tenaciously to this life, which we know must have an end, some where, some how, at some time.

"Why shake at death's alarms?" In the grand economy of nature, the days and nights succeed each other with unvaried regularity; the dawning day floods the world with mellow light and the sun gilds the morn with his life giving beams, and gradually and gradually careers the heavens, until he reaches his meridian splendor; and then quietly begins his descent, until in the far distant west sinks majestically away in his own effulgence.

In vegetable life, "first is the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear," and then follows the golden harvest; and again, there is the bud, the leaf, the blossom and the beautiful fruit, and finally the "sere and yellow leaf." In the lower forms of nature, and also in the grander exhibitions of the works of God, we find the same order of development, progress and decay, but we find a yet grander principle in man. The body though sown in weakness shall be raised in power, this corruption shall put on incorruption, the mortal shall put on immortality. There is implanted in every human soul the sentiment, "It is not the whole of life to live Nor all of death to die."

Here then, is the secret spring of the hopes and fears that agitate the soul, when about to "shuffle off this mortal coil." The irresistible consciousness of the imperishable nature of some part of our existence. Something shall outlive the fleeting breath. Some infinite state of consciousness. Where and how are we to exist, is a question which comes over our souls, and demands a reply and brooks no delay.

Human philosophy and science have vexed the human race with theories, but where is the satisfactory solution ever attained by man's wisdom, which has given the spirit rest in the trying hour, and permitted it to exclaim "all is well!"

There is but one, and only one true source of comfort and safe retreat for the soul about to descend into the darkening shadows of the valley of death. He that has said, "I am the Resurrection and the Life," "he that believeth in me though he die, yet shall he live," has, by this declaration, furnished the only great, and efficacious panacea, to the fears that agitate the soul when standing on the confines that divide time from eternity. This is the sheet anchor, which holds the tempest tossed bark safe to her moorings until the storm is past, and the shores of the land of Rest are safely reached, and the day of life is passed, and the night of death has given place to an eternal day of joy and peace. Then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Oh! death where is thy sting? Oh! grave where is thy victory? Thanks be to God who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Eufrasia. J. A. B. H.

The Alabama Baptist State Convention.

MEETS AT GADSDEN, JULY 12, 1877.

Ample preparations have been made to accommodate delegates to the State Convention during their stay in Gadsden. Delegates from Southern, South and Western Alabama, will reach Gadsden by rail, via Birmingham. Trains leave Birmingham on A. & C. R. R. at 11:40 P. M. only, and arrive at Gadsden at 4:40 P. M. Delegates from along the line of S. R. & D. R. R., will find hacks at Jacksonville to carry them to Gadsden. Steep boats leave Rome for Gadsden on Tuesday, 10th of July, and also on Thursday, 12th of July, arriving at Gadsden the same evening--turning on Thursday 17th.

Daily trains to and from Chattanooga to Gadsden. Delegates who expect to attend the Convention are requested to notify the Committee of Arrangement at least five days before the day of meeting, in order that quarters may be assigned them.

Delegates, on arrival at Gadsden, will report at the Baptist church.

J. R. FOSTER,  
J. R. NOWLIN,  
J. H. WISNOM,  
J. N. T. RICHARDSON,  
R. B. KYLE,  
Committee.

## A Silent Concert.

This impressive scene of a religious service is described by Dr. Gallaudet in his article in the *Sunday-School Times*, on "The Epiphany Sunday School."

"In a pleasant suburb of the city of Washington, on the second Sabbath afternoon of each month, a Sunday-school concert is held, of a character altogether unique. No signal bell is struck at the opening, for there is never a hint of busy tongues to be hushed. No voice is raised in prayer. No organ note calls to the joyous praise of God in singing, for those who have come before his presence with thanksgiving, have no power to show themselves 'glad in him with psalms.' Silence reigns throughout all the exercises, not from choice, but from necessity, for the scholars in this school dwell at all times in suchness scarcely less profound than that of death itself."

At the last February concert, comprising the usual repeating of hymns and short addresses by the pupils, in the silent finger-speech, the exercises began with the recitation of the following verses in the language of signs, by one of the younger pupils: "Dear Father, ever at my side, How loving thou must be, To learn thy home in heaven to guard, A little child like me. Thy beautiful and shining face I see not, though so near; The sweetness of thy soft, low voice I am too deaf to hear."

In the rendering of this hymn the absence of music was a great loss, but the silent finger-speech, the pupils, in the silent finger-speech, the exercises began with the recitation of the following verses in the language of signs, by one of the younger pupils: "Dear Father, ever at my side, How loving thou must be, To learn thy home in heaven to guard, A little child like me. Thy beautiful and shining face I see not, though so near; The sweetness of thy soft, low voice I am too deaf to hear."







