

Space.	1 mo.	3 mos.	6 mo.	12 mo.
1 inch	\$ 2.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 7.00	\$12.00
2 "	3.00	6.00	10.50	19.50
3 "	4.00	8.00	14.00	26.00
4 "	5.00	10.00	17.50	32.50
1 col.	6.50	13.50	23.00	44.00
1/2 "	12.00	24.00	42.00	78.00
1/4 "	20.00	40.00	70.00	130.00

No. 22

No. 22

NO. 32

services every Sunday afternoon for the

ment of the boys, in a beautiful
glove just south of the buildings. We
arrived in time to see the procession
boys, 430 in number, march down

uniform, and a beautiful sight it was. The stand erected for the miner was also occupied by the choir and visitors. Eight boys composed the

led by an organ and corner
the Indian and African races are
presented here, enjoying equal
rights with the white. After a short
sermon, apples were distributed, to
the surprise and delight of all. Per-
haps if some of our evangelists would

Within the last two weeks, business has called many of the pleasure and health seekers home. We have had almost continuous rain during

last ten days, but the clouds are
 eeking away, and the rain is, over,
 hope. The Democratic mass-meet-
 ing was held here last night, but I
 did not attend the result. Politics are
 much discussed, and all things are
 better than they were last year. Ma-
 tions are going to the Delta, in the
 northern part of the State. If we visit
 them, I may tell you something of
 their wild, romantic beauty.

VISITOR.

What do you think of it?

—♦—

'For I am in a Strait betwixt'

Two."

Now and then I think of writing something for publication, but am restrained by the thought that the place which might be allotted me

could be more profitably filled by
 one else. However, this time,
 have a subject I would like to see
 used by others.

Three times this year I have failed to meet my appointments, and each

...I have been "in a strait betwixt," having a desire to go, and yet feeling that it would be better for me

remain at home. The third Sunday in May, our regular day for worship at Nanafalia, I expected a chill, less by careful management it

did be kept off. Consequently I remained at home and recovered from flu. But still it was a question in mind, Did I do right? Might I have realized the same result in

Should they not rely upon the special providence of God in doing it work?

again, on the second Sabbath in August I had occasion to write to brethren of the Hills' church, having had chills and fever last night. I feel that it would be imprudent for me to undergo the fatigue necessary to fill my appoint-

is to-day. I remained at home, experienced the same happy release, a riddance of chills. But what my charge? Did the Lord make absence a blessing? And who knows but that the same result would be attended the labors of that day?

How that ordinary business could have tempted me from home. Is ordinary business a preacher's errand?

The fourth Lord's day in August found me again "in a strait betwixt." I was more desirous this time to meet with my charge at Pisgah, 54 miles distant, on account of previous

yet, the demand for my presence at home was more urgent than before. Thursday night, before my departure for the above named point, a little girl of 3 years old took leave of me. Friday morning, when on the eve of starting, and bidding adieu to the family for a time, I found its fever raging, and so postponed the start until evening. But evening brought no

hopeful tokens, and Saturday morning was then set apart to begin the fast. Again I was disappointed. Any hope of seeing the fever give way, and evening was again selected, only to mete out a similar result. I was now driven to the wall: the start must be made by 2 o'clock Sabbath morning, or else abandoned altogether. So that hour was fixed upon, and I watched over the sick, hoping the fever would give evident tokens of abating, but we were doomed to

of my disappointment, and I again
stained at home. This time the re-
covery was not so happy. My presence
was not sufficient to stay the ravages
of disease, and, for eight days we
watched before the fever took its de-
cisive turn. Our situation was rendered
still more distressing. Our little boy of
four months, had a febrile attack, and
was threatened with convulsions.
Now I am not sure that I
sensed the proper course, though my
presence seemed indispensable at
home. I know it is safe to be where
I would have us. It is easy for
me to take care of our health or
of families, and equally so to take
care of our congregations.

have been told that Bro. John G. Hiams, of former years, never suffered anything to interfere with his teaching appointments, if able to do so.

Punctuality is undoubtedly an important feature in a preacher's work, especially when churches only have monthly meetings. The prosperity of a church, if not the salvation of souls, may hang upon a single appointment. But the question is, Unfavourable circumstances, where will you manifest faith or distrust? go to his appointments or remaining home? It invariably brings me into a strait between two. There is no middle ground to occupy. Going or staying manifests faith or distrust; staying or going either faith or distrust. There is duty? F. H. McGILL.

Manassas, Ala.

Alabama Baptist.

SELMA ALABAMA, SEPT. 16, 1880.

JOHN L. WEST, PUBLISHER.

EDITORS:
E. T. WINKLER, - - - Marion, Ala.
J. J. D. RENFRO, - - - Talladega, Ala.

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GENIUS.

It is unfortunate that there has been so general a misapprehension of what is meant by genius. It has been regarded by many as a happy accident; a gift which comes by nature, inexplicable by its possessor and unattainable by others than those rare spirits upon whom it has been conferred at their birth. Hence educators have regarded the development and culture of genius as a task quite beyond their sphere. For they too have concluded, with that great Art Teacher, Sir Joshua Reynolds, that genius is a power of producing excellencies which are out of the reach of the rules of art; a power which no precepts can teach, and which no industry can acquire.

Hume regarded culture as having nothing more to do with genius than merely to prune its excrescences, and to keep its extravagances within bounds; for he remarks that the richest genius, like the most fertile soil, when uncultivated, shoots up into the rankest weeds; and, instead of vines and olives for the pleasure and the use of man, produces to its slothful owner the most abundant crop of poisons.

Now we cannot but regard representations of this kind as not only erroneous, but also as pernicious. Charles Dickens, to whom none will deny the attribute of genius, declared that all his power of inventive and creative imagination and of vivid conception and description, was due to the power of attention; of brooding over a subject until it warmed into life. "The same secret of creative genius David had learned long ages before. 'When I was musing,' he said, 'the fire burned; then spoke I with my tongue.'" Ps. 39:3.

Similar to the testimony of the English Novelist is that of an eminent artist to a college class. Dr. Bushnell said: "If I were required to define genius, I should call it the faculty of mental application." And this was eminently the characteristic of Dr. Bushnell's mind, which a recent critic distinguishes as one that did not hover above subjects or touch them here and there casually; but which fastened to them with a vital grasp, extorting from them what was in them and moulding them to its purposes; he threw his whole being into his theme.

This then being the character of genius, the faculty can be cultivated by the discipline of that faculty of attention, which is latent in all minds by nature, and which needs to be drawn forth by education. The difficulty with the uneducated mind is, not that it cannot think, or even invent and create; but that it has not been trained to patient and vigorous application. Its thoughts are involved; its products come forth helter-skelter, "like sweet bells jangled and out of tune." It has indeed from nature a bias to this or that pursuit; but it cannot proceed from the particular to the general or from the general to the particular. It cannot disentangle and master the materials of thinking and weave them into a beautiful and enduring fabric. Education is of little worth except as it corrects this defect of nature and confers upon the mind the power of intelligent, consecutive and independent investigation and productiveness.

The original experiments which have been made in Howard College, with the design of training the power of application, of analysis and of construction, have been attended with the happiest results. It is not, of course, in the power of any system to change the texture of the mind itself, so as to make a dull and stupid soul sublime and transcendent. But education can confer as large a measure of genius upon any mind as is consistent with its natural qualities. It can take an ordinary mind, and make it intelligent, useful and productive. And this is an advantage which every parent should desire and resolve to secure for his children. As Dr. Franklin shrewdly observes, "If a man empties his purse into his head, no one can take it away from him. An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest." A father can bequeath no heritage richer or more enduring.

E. T. W.

EDUCATION AND ITS COUNTERFEIT.

Report of Examinations of Schools in Norfolk Co., Mass. By George A. Walton, Agent of the State Board of Education. Boston: Lee & Shepard, 1880.

Under this unpretending title the most startling developments have been given in regard to the results of what has been regarded as the most thorough system of public school education maintained in the United States. The contributions of Massachusetts to this interest have been constant and uncalculatingly generous. Some of the ablest men of this country, among whom we may mention Hon. Horace Mann and Dr. Barnas Sears, have extended to it their general supervision, as Superintendents of Education, and labored diligently in the office for a series of years.

And yet, notwithstanding all the provisions made for the intellectual training of the young, the fact appears that a large majority of those who have enjoyed eight years of schooling in Massachusetts do not display a reasonable command of arithmetic and simple mathematics, or even the ability to read correctly or to write legibly or grammatically. And the Committee on Examination believe that these results are as good as can be obtained in any other country of Massachusetts, or indeed of any other State, where similar tests are applied in a similar manner.

In order that there might be no mistake as to the facts, an examiner of distinguished character and position as an educator was selected for the investigation. And, in order that the public might have an opportunity for forming its own judgment as to his conclusions, the principles on which the examinations were conducted are here explained; the results of the examinations are tabulated, and facsimile specimens of written exercises by pupils in the highest class of the primary and of the grammar schools are appended. These queer documents cover nearly one hundred pages of the report.

The people of Massachusetts are finding out the startling and, we may add, terrible fact that what for the most part goes by the name of education does not educate. A boy or girl may grow up in ignorance, although domiciled in an elegant, commodious school house, under the care of accomplished teachers, and with

tend associations this fall. Such has been our condition that we have greatly neglected our church for more than two years. We must redeem the time.

We think that the typo left out a sentence of what we meant to quote from Dr. Montgomery last week, and what was published, did him a slight injustice, which we regret. It seems that we have given dissatisfaction in this matter, and we do not wish to make the affair worse.

Brethren Smyth, Griffin, and McGaha, have just closed a thirteen days' meeting at Winterboro, an arm of Tallaschatchee church, which was attended with fine success. We understand that more than fifty persons were converted. Bro. McGaha did most of the preaching and has great power with the people for one so young.

Dr. Tichenor assisted last week in a protracted meeting at Harpersville, and did some of the best preaching that we have heard lately. Bro. Kidd also assisted us, and he is always eminently useful there. Dr. Tichenor was with us one day. We enjoyed the meeting. The people enjoyed it also, and it was attended with some gratifying results.

It is to be hoped that the churches and associations in raising funds for ministerial students will in each case, try to obtain enough to pay part or all of the tuition. Howard College is not endowed, and therefore the Faculty without any assistance are educating our young preachers. Let us help them some next session. And one of the ways to help is for Baptists to send their sons to Howard College.

At the Cedar Bluff Association, some weeks ago we saw a new association official; they had a good moderator, a good clerk, and good preachers and delegates, and fine women, but this new officer was the most important personage that we saw—he was the most essential; he was the best looking man on the ground, a man of distinction in the medical profession, and in every way a capital gentleman. And he discharged the duties of his office with efficiency, promptness, and courage. Well now what was this new officer? It was the office of *dog pelter*. Seated near the doors—for he seemed to have the capacity to be at every door at the same time, with a rod about four feet in length, he limbered up every dog, and all animals of that species. And we left there with the opinion that many churches and associations that we wot of ought to appoint a "dog pelter," and be certain to get the most efficient man that can be found. The necessities of the case are very great at many places. (Dr. George Lawrence need not read the above.)

"In Geography, answers to thousands of useless map questions are required to be committed to memory, as well as numerous definitions, while the children are kept in blessed ignorance of the facts, as they appear to the observer; so that while the recitation may be perfect, the pupils often fail to recognize a valley or even an island in nature; and the course and the flow of a river are a still greater mystery."

"The rules and exceptions in Grammar are faithfully committed to memory, and most intricate sentences can be successfully analyzed, the phrases separated, and the modifiers named, in true grammatical style; while the pupils who have undergone such severe training in this respect, are unable to present their own thoughts concisely, clearly, or even correctly upon paper. The memory is cultivated and the reason allowed to slumber."

"In Arithmetic the pupils show a readiness to solve a problem, when they are able to fit it to some rule that they have learned; but, when they are given a simple question out of the regular course, they are like a ship at sea, without rudder or compass."

The criticisms made by the committee upon the results of public school education would, no doubt, apply to a great many private schools also. For, in truth, the whole educational system needs reform, and our best minds should address themselves to this vital subject. He who teaches the young to observe, to think and to reason, should have mastered these arts himself, and be familiar with the best methods of instruction. And the teacher needs encouragement, both such as is afforded by adequate remuneration for the time, labor and intelligence expended upon his work, and such as Institutes for mutual counsel would give.

So far as our public institutions are concerned, the Massachusetts experiment shows how needful, for the discovery of defects and the application of remedies, is an intelligent, impartial and thorough supervision, which is provided for by the public law, but scarcely ever takes place. In the appointment of superintendents and trustees, familiarity with the literature and the practice of education is rarely recognized as a necessary qualification for such officers. And yet the eminent author of the Dutch System, accounted the best in Europe, regarded the Inspector or Supervisor of the schools as the most important of educational functionaries. "Take care," he said, "how you choose your inspectors; they are men whom you ought to look for, lantern in hand."

E. T. W.

BRIEF MENTIONS.

Rev. W. W. Kidd recently had a successful protracted meeting at his Spring Creek church.

B. F. Giles is teaching school near Harpersville to make money to get him on his way during the next session at Howard College.

Now is the time to begin to try to get subscribers for the paper and students for the colleges. Girls, boys, do not go to other States—go to the colleges of our own State. You will not do better.

tend associations this fall. Such has been our condition that we have greatly neglected our church for more than two years. We must redeem the time.

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PREDESTINATION A COMFORTING DOCTRINE.

We have for some time had on hand a query to this effect:—"I have often noticed that writers and preachers speak of Predestination, and kindred dogmas, as 'full of comfort for Christians.' I have not been able to take that view of these subjects. Will you do me the favor to show how to get comfort out of the doctrine of predestination?"

Predestination, like the whole range of evangelical truths, is not palatable to the unregenerate. The reverse doctrine is precisely in harmony with man's fallen nature just as it is. Man feels honored and pleased at the idea that God has no purpose with reference to him personally, and that his salvation is in his own hands, so that at his leisure he can rise up and attend to that matter. But one who is a child of God "by faith in Christ Jesus," may find the sweetest comfort in an intelligent belief, that the whole matter of his personal salvation is but the working out of God's design concerning him. That the true Christian should resist a doctrine that carries with it so much light, and breathes into life so much significance, and bestows on it so much value, can only be accounted for in the prejudice of education and a nature that hates the sovereignty of God,—some of which nature still clings to the said Christian; or it is founded in ignorance of the real sense and spirit of this truth. If our lives are left to mere chance, or simply to our own blind and feeble efforts, we may well be discouraged, nay, we are without ground for hope, for we are too short-sighted and weak and unholy to carry our plans and efforts to any good end. "Salvation is of the Lord," and it is of the Lord throughout from its alpha to its omega. Its purposes, its plans, its working out, its life, are all of the Lord. And the belief of this doctrine brings comfort, not merely because the believer finds it to be a Bible truth, but furthermore because he finds it to involve his own salvation. One will not find comfort in a Bible truth until he can take that truth to his own heart. Believing that he is a Christian and that he is predestinated to eternal life, and finding that all this is according to the teaching of God's word concerning his saints, and that there is no uncertainty about it, he rejoices in exceeding comfort. To the believer in this doctrine, the path of duty, his own personal faith in Christ, if certainly established as a genuine believer in Christ his salvation is fixed. Nor does this give license to sin, but the reverse; he is chosen that he shall be holy and without blame before God in love. The doctrine may be and often has been perverted by half-hearted Christians, as an apology for an unholy life, but an honest belief of this truth leads to self mortification and devout living.

The sincere believer in predestination believes that it affects the whole history of Providence as touching his life, and in this he is comforted. Think of it as affecting the sorrows of a Christian's life. If these sorrows come by mere accident, and not according to the wise and predetermined purpose of God, they are tenfold more crushing, because they are aimless burdens of agony. But if they come by the foreordained will of our heavenly Father, are part of his eternal plan, and all ordained for gracious ends, we are able to bear the stroke, for though we see it not, it is designed in mercy and love. It is God's way with us; not a plan which he has just now fallen upon, but the working out of a purpose with us; and then our faith joyfully realizes that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

The same is true of the blessings of life. If they come without plan—without any previous intention of God, it is not easy to see how they can demand our gratitude. But coming, as all our blessings do, by the will and purpose of God, we see that our life is invested with a high significance, because of the high purpose which constantly attends it. If joys are mingled in our lot, we are grateful that our Father works all things after the counsel of his own will. If dark clouds hang on the horizon of the future, we can go forward with unflinching courage, for we know that the future, equally with the past, is embraced in his eternal plan, and that not a hair of our heads shall fall without our Father's notice. The future of our history, however dark to our vision, is all open before the eyes of our God, and therefore we can go forward under a predestination infinitely more protecting than a panoply of steel. Herein is comfort. But how shall we get this comfort? This is what our friend wants to know. We answer that two things as regards himself are essential. 1st. He must in reality be a child of God. He must have been converted. Old things must have passed away and all things must have become new with him. He must be a new creature so truly that he can be willing for God to speak

and he himself be silent. 2nd. He must believe the doctrine; finding it in God's word, he must receive it; whether he understands it or not, he must embrace it. No doctrine can edify any man who has serious doubts as to the truth of it. It is worthy of remark that when men do reject the doctrine of election and predestination they do it with a most cruel hatred, with a manifestation of spite and hate equal to that of the opposition to any cause; and those who believe these doctrines believe them as firmly as they believe in the being of God, and love and enjoy them as much and as sincerely as they do any other article of their faith; they feel that without these doctrines they would be undone; with these principles in their faith, they are provided against all the ills of life and the hour of death. They are happy in the belief that whom God did predestinate, he also called, justified, glorified, that he will conform them to the image of his Son; and so they draw honey from this hard rock.

FIELD NOTES.

—The list of names appended to the Ministers' Pledge continues to grow.

—That is right, Bro. Winkler. Give it to him again—I mean Henry Ward Beecher.—C. C. B.

—Dr. A. B. Woodfin, pastor of the First Baptist church of Montgomery, has returned to his post.

—Rev. S. A. Goodwin has had a meeting of considerable interest in his church at Union Springs.

—Rev. T. M. Bailey, Cor. Sect. S. M. B., has been absent for some time in attendance on associational meetings.

—The Baptists of Seale, Russell county, are rejoicing over the addition of a new bell and steeple to their house of worship.

—C. C. B., Cooper's Station:—We know of no United States Baptist Convention. That brother gets things a little confused.

—Please add my name to the list of names pledged to support the causes fostered by the State Mission Board.—G. D. Benton.

—Rev. J. P. Shaffer, the present pastor of the Baptist church at Lafayette, has been called to that church for another year.

—Dr. Cleveland filled his pulpit in Selma last Sunday for the first time in several weeks. He is absent this week in attendance at the session of Pine Barren Association.

—Col. J. W. Bishop, of Talladega, recently showed his appreciation of the editors of this paper, by presenting to him a fine, new top-buggy.

—I am not capable of writing an article for your paper, but I want to say Amen to Bro. Purfoy's protest and to Bro. Bishop's article on intercommunion.—J. T. Abbotson, Barretts, Texas.

—We want to double your subscription list this fall and winter.—W. O. Fitzpatrick. It can be easily done, not only in your section, but throughout the State. And it ought to be done.

—We are pleased to learn that Prof. Fonville's friends in Tuscaloosa are increasing in number, and that his prospects for next session are very flattering. His school will re-open on the 20th inst.

—In the programme for the Sunday-school Convention of the third district of the Alabama Association, B. H. Crumpton's name was printed, where it ought to have been W. B. Crumpton.—Jesse H. Dickson.

—I am authorized to say that Hopewell church, Perry county, Ala., will do their part towards making up the amount apportioned to the Cahaba Association for missionary and educational purposes.—W. H. McIntosh, Marion, Sept. 10th.

—Our young friend John Moore, an alumnus of the Howard and a son of Judge John Moore, of Marion, will again have charge of the school at Monterey next session. The *Greenville Advocate* speaks of him in the highest terms, and he merits it all.

—Please oblige the church and many others by announcing in the A. B. BAPTIST that Dr. J. R. Graves will be with us for four days at Blue-eye Baptist church, from Friday, 11 o'clock, before the third Sunday in October.—S. G. Jenkins, Silver Run, Talladega county.

—Mr. J. T. Greene, a gentleman forty-seven years' old, died near Bloomingdale on last Friday morning. He was a consistent member of the Baptist church, and a gentleman much respected and esteemed in his neighborhood. He leaves a large family.—La Fayette Leader.

—Rev. J. C. White's meeting at Bethel, four miles west of Dadeville, resulted in twenty-two accessions. The ordination of Rev. A. O. Tucker, the Methodist minister who was baptized on the last day of the meeting, has been called for by the church and will take place on the 22nd inst.

—I have just dropped Bro. Bailey a card, authorizing him to add my name to the list in your paper, and saying that I will do all in my power for the cause of my Master. I am making an effort to get every member of all my churches to give something, if but a nickel, and I hope to succeed.—E. Y. VanHoose.

—Dear Bro. Renfro:—I arrived at home safely this morning. All are well, except that the boys have sore eyes. Wife has a barrel of Kial-forga water that acts like a charm and is curing all. Mattie improved rapidly after leaving Nashville. I will write you soon. Have not had time to rest yet.—H. F. Buckner, Jr., T. S. Sept. 8th.

—Bro. J. L. Stockton, district evangelist in North Alabama, writes, September 6th: "My work is prospering. I baptized four yesterday and two the day before. Baptists are looking up in North Alabama."

—Rev. E. Y. VanHoose, Rev. Willis Burns, Stoneval, Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory, is the missionary who asked for Sunday-school papers to distribute among the Indians. Send them to him by mail. Rev. H. F. Buckner's address is Eufaula, Creek Nation, Indian Territory. It may be that he also would be glad to receive Sunday-school papers to distribute.

—For subscribers and members of their families, we insert obituaries of 100 words free of charge. For each word over 100 words we charge one cent. Do not ask us to send bills. Count the words and send the money with the obituary. We furnish copies of the paper to be sent to friends or relatives at 5 cts. each. Send the money with the order for the papers.

—I have just closed a most precious meeting at Liberty, Bullock county, which stationed six deacons. Nineteen were received into the church—seventeen by experience and two by letter. The Lord has done great things for us, for which we are thankful. We have not only been blessed at this time, but all through the year baptisms have occurred at frequent intervals.—E. Y. VanHoose, Auburn, Sept. 8th.

—Our beloved Bro. White is one of the best workers in a revival I ever saw. His untiring in his efforts for the soul, strength and mind, a man to be engaged for the mission, who is to the word as a lion and a lioness, with sincerity and love. He has a strong hold upon the people round about. During the recent meetings there the congregations were very large day and night.—Jas G. Thornton.

—A protracted meeting commenced at Horeb church on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in August, which continued until the following Wednesday. There were nine accessions to the church. The day the meeting closed almost every non-professor in the congregation offered for prayer. There was no excitement during the meeting. Bro's. Wm. Hill and J. W. Dickinson, who are serving the church jointly, did all the preaching.—J. H. Creighton, Grove Hill.

—There have been very pleasant meetings at County Line, Rock Spring, Antioch, and Bethlehem. The district meeting of the first district of the Liberty Association was held with the latter, embracing the fifth Sunday in August. It was quite interesting. At Antioch there was one addition; at County Line, six; at Bethlehem, nine. Will you not attend our meeting at La Fayette? We will be glad to have you. You will not find many Dudleys here, Sept. 8th.

—I have just closed the most interesting meeting with my church at Sepulga that it was ever my privilege to conduct. I baptized seven, received three by letter and restored one, making eleven accessions. The whole community is fully aroused and many are deeply convicted by God's Spirit. Bread has been cast upon the waters, that will, I hope, be gathered up not many days hence. To God be all the glory. I began my meeting with Olive Branch church last night. Will report results.—W. M. Rabb, Evergreen, Sept. 15th.

—A young man by the name of J. B. Lewis has been visiting points along the M. & O. R. R., claiming to be an agent sent out by the Young Men's Missionary Association of Jackson, Miss. Said J. B. Lewis carries a forged document of recommendation, and is an unmitigated fraud. When last heard from he was in Mobile, Alabama. It might be well for you to publish him in the next issue of the A. B. BAPTIST. You will see an account of him on the third page of the last Baptist Record.—J. E. Thielen, Whistler, Ala., Sept. 10th.

—Please tell Bro. Bailey that I am not in favor of signing pledges; that I have always done, and am still doing, and will continue to do, all I can for the spread of the Gospel of peace. And especially will I do all I can for State Missions as long as such a man as Bro. W. B. Crumpton is in my district. But if my name will do Bro. Bailey any good he can add it to the list. To show you that I am doing something, my church at Concord, instead of sending up only the amount pledged, proposes to send half as much more.—W. N. Huckabee, Randolph, Ala.

—From our meeting at Bethlehem, of which I have given you an account, we went to Linden and labored Saturday night, Sunday and Monday with the church at that point. The Lord met us then and that to "own" (as we trust), and to bless. Linden church has been in a state of disorganization for several years. We succeeded in getting a sufficient number of the membership together to hold a church conference, the first in six years; appointed a working committee, who pledged to labor amongst delinquents, and a building committee, of which you shall hear more.—Wm. A. Parker.

—To the pastors and deacons of Union Association:—Please remember the action of the association in regard to collections for ministerial education and for the Home, Foreign and State Mission Boards. To each church in our association was apportioned a certain amount for each of these objects. The time agreed upon for collections was as follows: For the education of Brethren Taylor and Barnett, the first Lord's day in October; for the State Mission Board, the first Lord's day in December; for the Home Mission Board, the first Lord's day in February; for the Foreign Mission Board, the first Lord's day in April. Please remember and be prompt, especially in regard to the first collection, as the session at Howard College begins Oct. 18th.—Jas. C. Foster, Moderator.

—Our protracted meeting at Shiloh church, Dallas county, which began on the fifth Sabbath in August, was attended with so much rain, after the second day, that we were unable to establish a congregation. Dr. Buckner, the Indian Missionary, made an interesting talk on Sunday morning in regard to his work, after which a cash collection of \$17, and a number of pledges were taken. In the afternoon Dr. Gwainey preached an excellent sermon. Bro. Bailey was present, but was too unwell to take part. Bro. Forrester remained with me until Tuesday afternoon. There was very little preaching during the week. Received one by baptism.—E. F. Bailey.

—On Saturday before the fourth Sabbath in August, at the regular appointment, I commenced a series of meetings at Bethlehem church, which continued until the following Thursday. I was joined on the first day of the meeting by our associational evangelist, W. H. DeWitt, and my brother, G. M. Parker, who both remained with me to the close of the meeting and both rendered efficient and acceptable service for the Master, as results evidenced, for on Thursday I baptized into the fellowship of the church eight willing converts. The church was greatly revived, and the presence of the Holy Spirit was manifest in every service; for which we praise the Lord.—Wm. A. Parker, Octagon, Ala., Sept. 8th.

I closed a meeting at Old Friendship church on the fifth Sunday in August, which resulted in six accessions by baptism and one by letter. It was a very powerful meeting, and the church was greatly revived. The church had no pastor this year and no protracted meeting for the last three years. We left twenty or thirty anxious inquirers. I was assisted by Bro. W. B. Carter, who is an earnest worker for the Master. I assisted Bro. Yeager the week before at New Friendship. I was there three days and witnessed eight conversions and eight accessions by experience. To God be all the praise. Our cause is looking up in this section. Our people need to hear the whole truth.—S. R. C. Adams, Danville, Sept. 8th.

—I am glad to see that there is a spirit manifested on the part of some in favor of a theological chair at Howard College. I hope to hear before long that the talk about it has been reduced to practice. I heard some of the theological students speak last year of going to the Seminary before they graduate. I don't like that plan. It is my purpose to graduate at the Howard if I never see the Seminary. Young ministers who have no prospect of going to the Seminary should be able to complete their course at Howard College. Can't the Baptists of Alabama endow that institution? The little church to which I belong has about twenty members, and I will give as many more as I can. I give each Sabbath.

—J. W. Stewart, Arkadelphia, Ala. I think Bro. L. has some splendid material in his church at Salem. After having spent the night with Dr. F. in company with brethren Solomon and Braswell, I visited the house of Bro. Dr. Cooper, who after one or two severe efforts succeeded in separating that aching member from my head. Now I am at home with a sore mouth. Much success to our paper.—G. B. Benton, Vicksburg, Sept. 15th.

—I returned on Saturday last from a meeting of days at Siloam church, in this county.—Bro. Vaughn, pastor. The meeting began on Saturday evening, the 28th ult., and closed Friday evening, the 3rd inst. On account of sickness in his family the pastor was with us but little. Brethren Pond and B. F. Hendon assisted in the meeting part of the time. Notwithstanding exceedingly inclement weather, the services were kept up through the week, and could have been protracted further with profit, had it been practicable. The manifest results of the meeting were, the church revived, the accession of seven members,—three by letter and four by experience, and four or five professions made by others who failed to unite with the church. It was my privilege, also, to spend two or three days during the week preceding at Bro. Ryan's church, at Colts Station, Ala. (Gt. So. R. R.). At this meeting most excellent work was done by Bro. Gordon of Meridian, who, I was free to admit and to love. Some twenty-four or five were gathered as the fruits of this meeting, eleven by baptism, and the rest by letter, restoration, &c.—N. B. Williams, Livingston, Sept. 7th.

—The brethren at Forest agreed to begin a meeting of days on Saturday, Aug. 14th. We continued the services nine days, holding services every day except Sunday, with regular appointment on Saturday when a good interest was manifested. I might say, Bro. V. Barnett, a young, licensed preacher, filled my appointment. On the Lord's day, Eld. J. E. White, of Clinton, came to my assistance, and preached at 11 a. m. Bro. J. Taylor preached at night. Bro. White then preached day and night, except the 11 a. m. sermon on the last Saturday. Brethren Taylor, Lofton and others rendered efficient service in the prayer meetings, praying, exhorting, and talking with the anxious. The preaching of Bro. White was not of enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power. Many hearts were quickened, and the people made to cry, "Lord, have, or I perish!" The prayer of God's people, saying, Men and brethren, what can I do to be saved? And a goodly number rejoiced in the forgiveness of sins through faith in the Lord Jesus our dear Savior. The result of the meeting was as follows: Seventeen were baptized; two were received by letter; one was restored; their church being extinct—making an addition of twenty-two. There were twenty-six conversions, and many seemed to be anxiously seeking their souls' salvation. The church was greatly revived. All had their faith increased, their hopes confirmed and their prospects brightened. In unison we all exclaimed, "It is good."

I have mailed copies of the minutes of the State Convention to every delegate whose address was given me, besides to very many other brethren; to every association and to every church represented in all over 1000 copies. I regret very much that they do not present a more promising appearance and that they were not issued more promptly. The contract was to have them 1000 in a fortnight like style, and within 30 days. I did what I could to have the contract literally complied with, but after many annoyances from false representations of the printers, strikes among them and other causes, it reached the point when I was glad to receive anything at all from them. You will notice that there is much more matter than in any previous issue, but the cost of printing on account of the delay was much less. I hope the brethren who might otherwise be tempted to complain, will have charity towards the Secretary, for I assure you I endeavored to do my part well.—Benj. B. Davis, Eufaula, Sept. 13th.

—Our meeting at Brooklyn, of which you have already heard, closed on the 28th ult., with most successful results to the church, all of whom were people. The church was thoroughly aroused, and we trust a brighter day is before us. Bro. B. H. Crumpton of Greenville did all the preaching, except two sermons, and did it so well that all were delighted with him and will ever remember him with the greatest of pleasure. As a revivalist, we think he has not few if any equals in Alabama. We could be induced to take the field as a revivalist, and could be liberally supported, we think a grand work would be accomplished. Our church for some years has been in a lingering condition, but we now feel encouraged, for we believe the brethren have a mind to work for the Master. I shall endeavor to get all to take the A. B. BAPTIST, and to co-operate with us in our State Mission work. We have preaching two Sundays in the month, a good Sabbath school, and a weekly prayer meeting. "The Lord has done great things for us, whereof we are glad."—P. L. Mosley.

—Yesterday I returned from a ministers and deacons' meeting, held with County Line church, five miles north of Salem in Lee county. At this place we had a meeting of some interest. Considering my worn down condition, in connection with the toothache, I had a very agreeable time indeed. Mrs. Benoy was with me, and, Oh, how many kind and urgent invitations we had to visit the homes of our dear friends, relations, brethren and sisters in Christ! We will long remember so many demonstrations of fraternal feeling. On our return home, I preached for Bro. Lloyd's church at Salem. A good audience was present and we had a fight good little meeting. I will say good music anyway. We were the guests of Bro. Dr. Floyd during our stay at Salem. What a good, social place we can find a good home in.

—J. W. Stewart, Arkadelphia, Ala. I think Bro. L. has some splendid material in his church at Salem. After having spent the night with Dr. F. in company with brethren Solomon and Braswell, I visited the house of Bro. Dr. Cooper, who after one or two severe efforts succeeded in separating that aching member from my head. Now I am at home with a sore mouth. Much success to our paper.—G. B. Benton, Vicksburg, Sept. 15th.

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