

THE ALABAMA BAPTIST.

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Alabama Baptist Convention Forty Years Ago.

As sketched by a Gifted Pen.

The readers of the ALABAMA BAPTIST will no doubt be interested, as I have been, in an account of our State Convention held in Marion just forty years ago, next November, that is, in 1843. It was written by the late Rev. Rufus Babcock, D.D., one of the editors of the old BAPTIST MEMORIAL, published in the city of New York. Dr. Babcock was assisted in his editorial work by Rev. J. O. Choules and Rev. J. M. Peck, and I believe for a while by the late Dr. R. B. C. Howell, of Nashville, Tenn. The sketch I extract appeared in the MEMORIAL in April, 1844. I will remember the occasion of that meeting, and what a pleasant thrill passed through the body as Dr. Babcock, Dr. Manly, then President of State University, and Dr. Dagg, then at the head of the Athens, a female institute in Tuscaloosa, entered the house together. It was a meeting, one is not likely to forget. Dr. Babcock was then the Corresponding Sec'y of the "American and Foreign Bible Society," then in the tide of its usefulness and prosperity, and preached the Bible Sermon of the occasion, from 1 Thess. 1:3—

"For from you sounded out the word of the Lord," &c. A fine collection for Bible work followed the sermon. On Sabbath afternoon at 3 o'clock, Dr. Manly preached one of the best sermons I ever heard from him on the text, "I am crucified with Christ," &c., Gal. 2:20, at the conclusion of which the Lord's Supper was administered by Dr. Dagg and some other brother. I do not think I ever witnessed a more melting season than we had that Sabbath evening at the old Baptist meeting house in Marion.

The reader may well imagine the character of a meeting when I say that in addition to the illustrious trio above mentioned, there were also present D. P. Bestor, A. G. McCraw, M. P. Jewett, H. Talbird, H. E. Curtis, Jesse Hartwell, J. H. DeVotie, then pastor at Marion, and I know not how many more scarcely less distinguished, to say nothing of such laymen as Gen. King, N. L. Wyatt, L. B. Lane, W. B. Haralson, S. S. Sherman, &c. With the exceptions of Dr. DeVotie, A. W. Chambliss, Dr. Dagg, Dr. Talbird and Prof. Sherman, all these men have passed away. Alas, when shall we see their like again!

I am sure the reader will accept the enclosed sketch in lieu of my usual contribution to "Our Worthy Dead," and volume of the MEMORIAL in my library.

S. HENDERSON.

From the Baptist Memorial, of 1844.

FIRST SABBATH IN ALABAMA.

How grateful is the hallowed rest of the Lord's day, even in a land of strangers, and at a great hotel. At sunrise, when all was hushed to silence, and the night's rest had prepared us to half with gratitude the ennobling privileges and duties of the Sabbath, we sallied forth, hoping to find the early prayer meeting. And though we failed in this, the opportunity of communing with the great Author of nature, in contemplating both his work and word, was not lost. Soon after breakfast a pious colored servant led us to the pastor of the Baptist church—a native of the South, but a recent graduate of our own Hamilton Institute, with whom the order of the day was soon arranged. In their pleasant and commodious sanctuary, fitted up with good taste and inviting neatness, we found a thronged audience, who seemed to listen to the Word of Life with deep interest. The afternoon of the Lord's day is uniformly devoted to the benefit of the colored congregation; we attended with interest and pleasure, and listened to a sermon by one of their own race. Caesar, the speaker on this occasion, is a middle-aged man of ordinary height, spare, and somewhat bent in form, with pleasant countenance, voice and manner, and some times really eloquent. On this occasion he delivered a plain, instructive discourse, apparently well adapted to the occasion. At the close of the day we passed in a very pleasant manner, with the Baptist church in which, as well as with its esteemed pastor, we formed a pleasant acquaintance. Next morning, at an early hour, we were on our way, and passed some of the noblest and most extensive cotton plantations, which we had yet seen. Stretching away in the distance, far as the eye could reach, their brilliant whiteness contrasted and relieved by the golden rays of the morning sun, presented a picture to be garnered up in the chambers of imagery, and never forgotten.

STATE CONVENTION AT MARION.

A principal object at which we had aimed in coming to this State was the meeting of the Annual Convention of Baptist churches and associations. Fortunately for our interests, the place of their assembling the present year was central and attractive. The pleasant village of Marion, Perry county, is already the seat of important literary institutions, male and female; and there, too, an infant Theological Seminary is just starting into life, intending to adapt itself as perfectly as possible to the rapidly increasing demand in our numerous churches for more thoroughly instructed pastors. To Marion, therefore, the tribes of our Israel were now repairing, for a solemn convention before the Lord. We reached the appointed place just as the last notes of the sacred song were dying away upon the ear. When we entered the pleasant and inviting chapel of the Baptist church, the man of God ap-

pointed to this service, had already arisen and taken his text to deliver the Introductory Convention Sermon. Late as we were there was no mistaking the man or his subject. It was brief but conclusive upon baptism, and who is now demonstrating his adaptability to train the future mothers of the State. The princely liberality of brethren in the endowment of this institution, and especially of one whose name will live when other Kings will die, deserves a grateful and fragrant remembrance. A noble, extensive brick edifice, with lofty Gothic portico, richly and variously furnished with all needful apparatus and other appliances, evinces how justly its patrons prize the intellectual, moral and religious training of women. This entire property, costing, I believe, \$50,000 to \$60,000 dollars, has been conveyed to its donors by the State Convention; to be by them improved for its legitimate and designated objects. We were glad to learn that an arrangement is made by which the poor may here, to a considerable extent, be educated gratuitously. May future generations have occasion to bless the liberality of this early provision for their highest wants. How surpassingly beautiful is the appearance of more than one hundred young ladies here gathered as pupils from all parts of the State, and from many of its best families, as with their devoted and excellent teachers, they engage in their morning worship, and then apply themselves to the usual duties of the day!

The Howard Institute, for young men, is not yet in, as full maturity, but it is the child of the same parents, and will, one day, we trust, not fall behind its sister school. May the patrons and managers of both realize their most sanguine hopes.

These important seminaries, and the projected theological school before mentioned, of which our friend Hartwell is Professor, will give a peculiar charm to Marion. Its inhabitants, too, seemed of the right character—well adapted to cluster around such institutions, and give as well as receive benefit from the connexion. Their hospitalities on this occasion were of the most perfect and appropriate character. May it prove that the Convention has left a blessing behind it.

The time has now come when we must say adieu; and for the last time probably on earth, receive the warm fraternal pressure of the hand from many of these excellent brethren. Our own emotions were not easily repressed, and the brethren sang a parting hymn, and each bade us an affectionate farewell.

To a late hour that night we rode, lodged in Selma, and the next day reached Montgomery, where, for a little while, we enjoyed the society of the excellent friends before alluded to in these sketches. Soon after midnight we again set forth, and some twelve or fourteen hours afterward reached Columbus in Georgia.

On the whole we have been greatly gratified and encouraged by the aspect of our affairs in Alabama. The Baptists are nearly as numerous as all the other religious denominations. Generally they are in union and peace, and seem more fully imbued than some of their neighbors with a spirit of liberal enterprise. The fact that they are all *new men* in this State, prevents anything like proscription or prejudice, and allays all jealousy of innovators. May they become each year more homogeneous, and find their efforts crowned with the richest of God's blessings.

Let me add by way of note that Howard College was then in its infancy, and the interest that gathered around it brought an unusually large attendance to that meeting. It was presided over by Prof. Sherman, and about that time Rev. Jesse Hartwell, D.D., became its first Professor of Theology. The Wetumpka pastor referred to is Dr. A. W. Chambliss.

For the Alabama Baptist.

Rev. Leroy R. Sims.

Address of Dr. Sims at the Baptist Convention at Selma, Ala., Nov. 1843. A great man has fallen. He was born in Georgia, July 27th, 1826, and was baptized in early life. He entered the ministry when but a youth, and at the age of about twenty was ordained and started out more fully upon his great life-work.

When but a boy preacher, we might term him large congregations gathered to hear him preach the Gospel of salvation. Preaching being his talent, his calling, his life-work, his marriage at the age of twenty-one did not impose a barrier in the way of his great and high calling.

We wished to fill a page or two with some notice of the Judson Female Institute in this place, under the care of Prof. Jewett, widely and favorably known as the author of a brief but conclusive work on baptism, and who is now demonstrating his adaptability to train the future mothers of the State. The princely liberality of brethren in the endowment of this institution, and especially of one whose name will live when other Kings will die, deserves a grateful and fragrant remembrance. A noble, extensive brick edifice, with lofty Gothic portico, richly and variously furnished with all needful apparatus and other appliances, evinces how justly its patrons prize the intellectual, moral and religious training of women. This entire property, costing, I believe, \$50,000 to \$60,000 dollars, has been conveyed to its donors by the State Convention; to be by them improved for its legitimate and designated objects. We were glad to learn that an arrangement is made by which the poor may here, to a considerable extent, be educated gratuitously. May future generations have occasion to bless the liberality of this early provision for their highest wants. How surpassingly beautiful is the appearance of more than one hundred young ladies here gathered as pupils from all parts of the State, and from many of its best families, as with their devoted and excellent teachers, they engage in their morning worship, and then apply themselves to the usual duties of the day!

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Tangles.

Two children were trying to wind a skein of yarn into a ball. The yarn was kinky. The children were careless. Soon there was a little tangle. Then the child who was holding the skein gave a fretful jerk and the tangle was made worse. And thereupon the other child cried, "O dear, how awkward you are!" and caught at the skein to get it out of snarl. But the other child, not wanting any interference, gave another jerk, and between the two the skein was all twisted and knotted, so that it was useless to try to wind any longer. The children looked at each other. Then both began to cry. Then mother came—the patient, gentle mother. She took the tangled skein. She gave each of them an end to hold, and slowly she disentangled that knotted and kinky yarn. Kissing the tears from the children's faces, she said, "My dears, when you get into a tangle don't jerk."

How often have I been reminded of that event in my childhood. O how many tangles there are in this world of kinky people, and how often do we make them worse by our efforts to disentangle them! Again and again have I seen troubles in homes and in churches that might have been easily healed at the beginning, but which, by injudicious meddling, were so aggravated that they became like the Gordian knot. They had to be cut, and left many hearts bleeding. Thinking of these things, I have felt like sending out to all my readers the pithy exhortation of that patient mother—"When you get into a tangle don't jerk."

Is there a little misunderstanding, or difference of opinion, or collision of interest in the home circle? Does the young husband think that the young wife has been slightly careless of his comforts or oblivious of his preferences? Does he feel vexed? Is he tempted to say something ugly? Let him stop and think before he speaks or acts. Perhaps there was a reason, or at least an excuse for what was done that would satisfy him if he knew it. Perhaps it was done inadvertently and without any thought of grieving him. It is not wise to begin with a jerk. Be patient, say kindly and gently what you think you ought to say, and you will find in ninety cases out of a hundred that all will be smooth again. But if you are hasty and fretful you irritate instead of soothing. There is a perverse element in the most amiable hearts. And if this is aroused by what seems to be unkind and uncharitable treatment, bitterness is sown, and bitterness, and the end may be a life long alienation. Many a separation, blighting two lives, many a divorce suit, feeding the world's morbid appetite for scandal, has grown out of a little snarl that patience and gentleness could have disentangled in an hour.

But the church tangles—as for them! There is nothing that Satan loves so well as to get God's people into a snarl. And there are few snarls so hard to unravel. Often the whole trouble starts with one middle-aged man or woman. The pastor or the elders have done something that does not please a member of the congregation, perhaps because he does not understand it. That disaffected member begins to jerk. He gets all whom he can influence into a nervous and irritable state. They talk the matter over, and it grows, and their excitement increases. They are ready now for a fuss. Criticisms and complaints are bandied about until the whole congregation is drawn into the controversy. Old differences and jealousies that had been buried are resurrected, and the ghosts of the past add their ghastliness to the scene. How fearful the effect of such discord and strife in a church! And the only way to prevent it is to be very patient and charitable at the beginning. As soon as the yarn begins to be kinky a realer ought to move slowly and with great caution. He ought to notice the first inclination to tangle; and if he can not prevent it, he should stop as soon as it occurs, and attend to it.

Some good people are constitutionally jerky. They never can let well enough alone. They are always imagining that if they could get hold of the skein they could manage it better than those who are attending to it. So they come with suggestions. They bring a pressure to bear upon the pastor, elders or trustees, to do things in their way. And if they can't accomplish this they do all they can to hinder and embarrass. If they succeed in getting the church into a tangle, then they say: Now you see what comes of not taking our advice. Church officers need great grace in dealing with jerky people. Don't snub them. That makes them desperate. Be patient and gentle with them. Listen to their suggestions. Explain to them the difficulties. Ask them to wait. Show them the necessity for harmony and co-operation in church work—that we can't all have our way, even if it is the best, but must be willing to help in any way that seems good to the majority.

And now, if any reader feels that he is strongly tempted to be a critic and a fault finder, I entreat him to resist that temptation—to labor and pray against it. If yielded to it may put you in the most undesirable of all positions, that of a troubler of Israel. He who is in a hammy with a box of matches in his pocket should be very careful that he don't ignite them.—Selected.

Honor is like the eye which cannot suffer the least impurity without damage; it is a precious stone, the price of which is measured by the least flaw.—Hosnet.

A lie is a desperate cowardice; it is to fear man and brave God.—Goodman.

We are glad that the subject of ministerial supply and ministerial education is attracting general attention. The lack of ministers is the felt want of the churches. Many pulpits are vacant, some ministers now filling prominent places are growing old, and must in the course of nature pass away before very long. We hear of many young men entering the ministry—good young men, strong young men. The churches are praying the Lord of the harvest to send more laborers into the vineyard. The prayers of the people are being answered. Shall these young men be prepared for the work upon which they are entering is the question now demanding an answer. Shall they go on laboring to meet the demands upon them without advantages, without opportunities of securing the culture and education needed to meet the requirements that will be made of them? The world never before needed as many ministers as now. There were never so many places to fill, and they are increasing every year at least 10 per cent.

The world has never before needed more of its ministers. We Baptists need to consider the subjects of ministerial supply and ministerial education now and most earnestly. It is the vital question of the time. It will not bear postponement. Many men without education, without advantages, have made themselves felt as powers in the denomination in all its various enterprises and interests. They have been men of unusual native talent, of deepest devotion, and of indomitable force of will, and of imperturbable fixedness of purpose. These men have succeeded and have made places for themselves of commanding influence in despite of adverse circumstances and lack of advantages. All the men called into the ministry are not made of such stuff. These men would have succeeded in broader spheres and with much less difficulty if they had been prepared in the beginning. They are among the noblest men among us, and deserve all honor. They are among the foremost, leading God's people on to grand achievements. And they are among the most earnest advocates of giving our coming ministers every advantage and opportunity.

Many of the young men whom God has called and whom the churches have commissioned to preach the gospel are poor, too poor to secure the education that they feel they need and that they so much desire. They must have help if they educate themselves. We do not sympathize with the thought sometimes expressed that it destroys the manhood of any young man who receives the benefactions of any denomination to which he belongs. If he is worthy of them he pays back what he receives with large interest. We have never heard that the manhood of the young men educated for the army and for the navy at the institutions established by the government for the purpose has been injuriously affected, that they have on that account been rendered less efficient as soldiers and sailors.

The thing to be done is to devise ways and means by which our best young men may be most thoroughly prepared for the work upon which they are entering. A young man who determines to become a lawyer or a physician, a merchant or a mechanic, improves every opportunity and takes advantage of every offered help in fitting himself to become useful and efficient in his chosen avocation of life. Given equal talent and like opportunities, he who is best prepared succeeds best, and is most useful and most efficient.

With a college well established, offering first rate facilities for acquiring as good education as can be furnished elsewhere, cannot the Baptists of Alabama provide for the education of all worthy young men entering the ministry? We think that the creation of a Board of Trustees of ministerial education is the first step to be taken in that direction. It seems to us that a Board composed of three earnest, zealous Christian men can draw out many worthy young men and provide for their support without burdening the college.

At the request of the pastor and church, we went to Decatur July 1st, to assist in the dedication of their house of worship. Our visit was pleasant in every way. For a number of years the little church in Decatur has been striving to build. In various ways they have been hindered. At last they have completed a neat comfortable house of worship which will seat comfortably three hundred and fifty people. The chandeliers are beautiful and light the room well. The pews are comfortable and add to the beauty of the room. Sunday morning a large, attentive and respectful congregation assembled to witness the services. Quite a number of brethren and sisters from the neighboring churches were present and manifested joyous sympathy with the church entering its new home, erected on the lot occupied by the old one. At the conclusion of the sermon a collection of a little more than one hundred dollars was taken, relieving the church of all indebtedness. Al-

though the church is small, it is a credit to the community. The services were well conducted, and the congregation was well represented. The pastor, Bro. W. D. Woodfin, delivered an excellent sermon, and the church was edified. The collection was a great help to the church, and we trust that it will be a blessing to the community. The church is a credit to the community, and we trust that it will be a blessing to the community.

Our esteemed friend and brother, Prof. W. D. Fonville, late of Tusculoo, has purchased the Park High School of Tusculoo, where he will open a school in the fall. Prof. Fonville is an accomplished gentleman and thorough scholar. As a teacher he has never known his superior. His influence over boys and young men is really wonderful. The people of Tusculoo are to be congratulated.

The Baptist State Convention of Alabama is to be held at Marion. We hope to give out next a full report next week.

Dr. Battle, of the University of Alabama, has been elected to the position of President of the Southern Baptist Convention. He is a distinguished scholar and a devoted Christian. His election is a great honor to the denomination.

The Woman's Missionary Society of Alabama has held its annual convention in Birmingham. The convention was a great success, and the society is well prepared for the coming year.

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Cincinnati, Selma and Mobile Railway Company.

Table with train routes and schedules for Cincinnati, Selma and Mobile Railway Company, listing destinations like Selma, N. O. Junction, and various times.

Table with train routes and schedules for Selma, Alabama, listing destinations like Akron, Evansville, and various times.

Important Change of Schedule E. T. Va. & Ga. R.R.

Table with train routes and schedules for E. T. Va. & Ga. R.R., listing destinations like Northward Daily, Accom. Mail, and various times.

Table with train routes and schedules for Selma, Alabama, listing destinations like Lv Selma, Lv Dalton, and various times.

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Advertisement for SAMARITA NERVE, THE GREAT NERVE CONQUEROR, listing symptoms like Epilepsy, Spasms, Convulsions, etc.

Advertisement for PURE DELIGHT, a new Sunday School Song Book, listing features like 'There is a land of pure delight'.

Advertisement for JOHN CHURCH & CO., listing products like Pure Delight and other goods.

Alabama Baptist THE FAMILY CIRCLE

My Friend. When first I looked upon the face of Pain I shrank repelled, as one shrinks from a foe.

How To Be A Man. Not long since a boy of some seventeen years of age called on a merchant doing a large business in New York.

Working in a machine shop in Brooklyn. I have been fireman, and have often worked the engine.

Give it to your mother, sir. "Give it to your mother, sir. Humph! What does your mother do with it?"

Do you ever drink liquor? He looked up with an air of astonishment on his face that such a question should be asked, but answered firmly, "No, sir."

Business Is Business. "O well," said Dickie, looking injured, "if you're a mind to be so mean as that, why you'll have to be; only I know I wouldn't do it to you, not for a far."

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It's queer to me that a fellow can't understand," said Jack, with an impatient look on his face.

That's not the question," he said earnestly. "I never heard that being honest was not taking a great many of other folks' things."

That's easy to say! Much you care about my sick sister? Stepping softly up behind them came a customer, a pretty girl not more than fourteen, who bought ten cents' worth of nuts.

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millions of dollars more than they are now. The investigations of intelligent ornithologists and other students of nature have of late years disclosed many valuable and interesting facts in regard to this branch of rural economy.

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It is often difficult to dispose of the odds and ends left over from dinner or breakfast, especially if one has neither cats nor chickens.

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FINE BOOTS AND SHOES. LATEST STYLES OF SHOES, SLIPPERS, AND TIES. Full Line of Edwin C. Burt's Fine Shoes.

W. B. GILL, Corner Washington and Selma Streets, DEALER IN Carriages, Wagons and Carts. Furniture of every Description.

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WORTH SENDING FOR! Dr. J. B. ROBERTS has just published a book on DISEASES OF THE LUNGS AND HOW TO CURE THEM.

MUSICAL FAVORITE. A Grand Book of War Songs, For Camp, Fireside, and A. R. meetings.

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