

Alabama Baptist.

SELMA, ALA., MAY 29, 1884.

JNO. L. WEST & CO., PUBLISHERS.

JNO. L. WEST, Editor and Proprietor.

Entered at the postoffice at Selma, Ala., for transmission by mail as second-class matter.

TERMS, CASH, IN ADVANCE.
One Copy, 3 months, \$1.00
One Copy, 6 months, \$1.50
One Copy, 12 months, \$2.00
Extra copy one year to the person sending 10 names, new or old, and \$2.00.
Write for specimen copies.

\$1.00.

We will send the ALABAMA BAPTIST to any one who is not now taking it, from the date the money is received until the 1st day of January next, for \$1.00. We cannot afford to enter any name on this offer without the money. We hope every one who reads this will see to it that every member of his church has an opportunity to subscribe for the ALABAMA BAPTIST under this proposition.

TO THE POINT.

With this issue of the ALABAMA BAPTIST, I again take entire charge of its columns. Those who have been constant readers of the paper in the past know what the character of my work will be. I shall make it the best paper possible with the means in hand.

I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to have a free and candid talk with the Baptists of the State, so far as I can reach them through this paper. It has been the policy of the ALABAMA BAPTIST in the past to allow brethren to think as they pleased with reference to its financial condition. They are pleased to think that I have been making quite a little fortune out of it. They will doubtless be surprised to know that during the seven years I have had it in charge it has not enriched me to the extent of a single dollar. On the contrary I have devoted to it seven years of the hardest work of my life without any compensation whatever.

Now, these are facts, but nobody need be alarmed at the statement of them. The paper is not in a shaky condition. Really, the number of paying subscribers is one-third larger now than it was seven years ago. The income, however, is very little larger than it was then, owing in some measure to the fact that the subscription price was reduced from \$2.50 to \$2.00 a year, but more largely to the fact that the brethren have come to look upon it as a paying institution, abundantly able to take care of itself, and have ceased to exert themselves in its behalf, as they did formerly, thus rendering the cost of keeping up the subscription list much larger.

I am aware that some will say that the proprietors themselves made the impression that the paper was paying them. That is easily explained. So long as the partnership between Dr. Cleveland and myself was in existence, the paper and the job printing and book-binding establishment of John L. West & Co. were run as one interest, under the name of the ALABAMA BAPTIST. But the profit came from the job printing department, and not from the paper. The ALABAMA BAPTIST has been segregated from everything else, and, with its own type, presses and material, is under my charge exclusively.

With life and health, I am determined to continue its publication; but I do insist that the denomination in Alabama owe it to me to extend such patronage to the paper, as will enable me to derive at least a reasonable support for myself and family from it.

Now, my dear brethren of Alabama—all of you,—what are you going to do about it? Our Baptist State Convention and nearly every Baptist Association in Alabama—and so far as I know every one—say the ALABAMA BAPTIST is a necessity to the progress and prosperity of our denomination. But, brethren, talking will not accomplish much. What are you going to do about it? You may rest assured that I shall do my full part toward making the paper all that can be desired. What are you going to do toward it? Brethren, it is asking too much of you to ask that every one of you will make it his business to press upon every Baptist family of his acquaintance the importance of subscribing for the ALABAMA BAPTIST, even though you should have to visit them at their homes for this purpose? I hope you will do it and do it at once. If they are not able to subscribe for a year, ask them to subscribe for six months; and if they are not able to subscribe for six months, then ask them to subscribe for three months, and to renew the subscription when the time expires. I hope the pastors especially will present the claims of the paper to their people and urge them to take it.

Now, brethren, I have told you candidly how the matter stands, and I feel that I have a right to ask you, in the Master's name, to do your best for the ALABAMA BAPTIST.

JNO. L. WEST.

THE CYCLONE IN WALL STREET.

The Stock Exchange in New York City is generally known as the centre of the money market in this country. It is a large building on the corner of Wall Street and Broadway, and is the place where stocks are bought and sold—thousands and millions of dollars, or their representatives, exchanging hands there in the shortest time. Always during business hours it is a place of great excitement, where scenes of the wildest confusion may be witnessed. It is often the case that scenes wilder or more crazed in appearance could not be found within the walls of an insane asylum. But on the 14th inst., "confusion was worse confounded."

The ordinary excitement was intensified by white heat, and the bedlam forthwith appeared a pandemonium. During the previous week Grant and Ward had failed, with liabilities of \$10,000,000, and with them some smaller firms had gone under. But on this fatal day the Metropolitan Bank of New York, one of the largest banking establishments in the world, and supported by \$22,000,000, came down with a sudden and terrible crash that created the wildest excitement; and the wisest began to ask where the thing would end. Bankers and brokers announced in quick succession their inability to meet money obligations, until about a dozen failures were reported for the day. It was a financial crash that jarred the nation and was felt on other continents. A terrible cyclone had swept through Wall Street, and everywhere there were signs of disaster and apprehensive forebodings lest the end was not yet.

But the country is safe and the financial condition sound. There is no danger, so wise financiers have announced, of a general money panic, such as swept the nation in 1873; and the money interests of the country at large will, perhaps, not suffer great loss. But it is a fearful blow to the millionaires of Wall Street, not only in heavy losses, but in the startling revelations of their stupendous gambling schemes. They are not only the great moneyed men, but also the great gamblers of the country—their gambling gaining credit and glare and respectability and danger by its hugeness and success. If one gambles and loses, he is ruined; if one gambles and gains, he is crowned as prince and partner in our parlors. But gambling is gambling, on whatever scale and with whatever result, and should be so branded and stigmatized.

The recent occurrences on Wall Street have made an awful revelation to the public. When a firm with a working capital of \$500,000, or less, fails with liabilities of \$10,000,000, you may be sure of business recklessness, wild and unwarrantable speculation, and more than likely moral corruption and rottenness. But the day of judgment came—came on the gamblers—came upon them as a thief in the night. Retribution was meted out to them in their own measure, pressed down, heaped up, running over. What they had sown they gathered. The *Courier Journal*, a paper coldly indifferent to religion and religious principles, has nevertheless this to say in an editorial on "The Wall Street Furore": "Wall Street is reaping in this crisis the fruit of its own wicked avarice and artifice which were pushed to the extremes of fatuity. . . . They are in 'the mills of the gods' and are meeting a just fate."

He who piles immense fortunes, while disregarding the rights of his fellows, and making no provision for the life beyond, and ignoring God in all his calculations, is surely opening a highway to ruin. An immense fortune may be the surest badge of a sad and miserable failure in life. To be rich in this world's goods, and not rich to God, is to reach the summit of human folly. We look around and call this man rich and that one poor; but how little do we know, nay, how well nigh impossible to tell, who are really the rich men of the country! What uncertainty attaches to worldly wealth! Some who three or four weeks ago were counted among the millionaires of the country now hold rank among its paupers, with sin and disgrace and ruin added to their poverty. Yesterday a strong Wall Street firm could move with its nod the money market of the world; but today it is declared insolvent with liabilities of \$10,000,000, while the alter-ego is seizing their private homes and property, and detectives are watching their persons.

And yet the world is clamorous to have us believe that money is the chief thing, and getting money the chief end of man. Great fortunes are no guarantee against the ills of this world, and much less against the pressing necessities of the world to come. "How hard is it for them who trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!" There is no sin in making money, if there be honesty in the making; no sin in possessing money, if it be used rightly. He who honors the Lord with his possessions is laying up for himself treasures in Heaven, where there are no financial cyclones, and where the treasures continue to increase with the years, and redound to the glory of God and the everlasting joy of the possessor.

BACK DUES.

With the kindest feelings we have tried our best to please all our subscribers. We have found it simply impossible to do so. Here are some sample letters, such as we have received every week and almost every day:

—May 13th, 1884.
REV. JNO. L. WEST,
Selma, Ala.—

Dear Sir: I enclose you \$4.85 to pay my back dues and renew my subscription for another year. You need not be in such a terrible hurry about dropping my name. I am a Baptist and expect to keep up my subscription to the ALABAMA BAPTIST.

Yours truly,

—April 23rd, 1884.

MESSRS JNO. L. WEST & CO.,
Selma, Ala.—

Gentlemen: I have received yours of the 1st inst, stating that I am due you \$2.00 for subscription to the ALABAMA BAPTIST. I subscribed for your paper for one year and paid the subscription price in advance. At the expiration of the time it was your duty to drop my name. I do not consider that I owe you anything and I will not pay the account.

Respectfully,

These are samples of letters that have been coming to us constantly for the last seven years. What are we to do? Several years ago we adopted the plan of dropping all as their subscriptions expired. This brought down upon us such an avalanche of complaints that we quickly abandoned it. We then adopted the plan of notifying through the mails on the first of each month all whose subscriptions would expire during that month. We stated to them explicitly that their papers would be continued unless they ordered them stopped, and we begged them to notify us if they did not wish them continued. By this plan we hoped to please all, but in this we have been sadly disappointed. The experiment has cost us about \$5,000.00. We have on our books nearly or quite 3,000 accounts for "back dues," ranging from 15 or 20 cents to six or eight dollars. We have tried our best to collect these accounts. Bills have been sent out several times and each time we have collected about enough to pay the expense of sending out the bills. We have no complaint to make, but we here make a proposition: We will accept for these accounts just any amount that those who are indebted to us have a mind to send us. If they are not willing to pay us anything, we hope they will at least inform us of the fact, and we will cancel the accounts and cease to worry them with bills. We have adopted the cash in advance system. Hereafter we shall be compelled to drop the names of all who do not give us a substantial invitation to continue the paper.

WE ARE REMINDED,—that is, we have just received a letter from a brother, who uses such language as no man could use in addressing his wife and save his scalp, and orders us to stop his paper, because of a mistake he supposes we have made. It turns out that we have made no mistake in this instance, but that he has made a most egregious blunder. But suppose we had made a mistake, what good would it do him or us to get mad with us about it? We make mistakes sometimes—not many,—and we are always more than glad to correct them. We do our best to keep things straight. Don't raise a row, brethren, if anything gets wrong with your name, or date, or account; just inform us of the error, and we will correct it.

REV. B. F. RILEY, who was in the field several months last year in the interest of the ALABAMA BAPTIST, and who for several months past has done efficient and acceptable work as office editor of the paper, is again in the field, looking after our interests: Much extra labor thus devolves upon us, but the good of the paper demands that he should take the field. We hope the brethren will receive him cordially and aid him in every possible way in his work. He is an excellent preacher, and if the churches on his way can induce him to give them a sermon in passing they will be amply repaid for every subscriber they may give him.

AMONG Baptist brethren who attended the Sunday School Convention at Selma last week were Rev. B. H. Crumpton, of Evergreen, Judge C. Orr, of Hartsville, Maj. J. G. Harris, of Livingston, and brethren H. G. Darby and G. S. Ham of Sylacauga. There were doubtless others who failed to pay their respects to this office. For that neglect we shall not forgive them until they make confession.

THE S. S. CONVENTION, which held its session in Selma last week, passed some strong resolutions in regard to the *Police Gazette*. That vile sheet has been the ruin of thousands of boys and young men. If there is one thing under the sun that we would mercifully stamp out of existence it is such literature as the *Police Gazette*.

Or the 510 Baptist churches in Indiana only 155 gave contributions last year, and only 68 gave anything to Home Missions. In five counties in Iowa, with a population of 20,000, there is no American Baptist church. In eight counties with a population of 61,000 there is but one church in each county. In 17 county-seat towns, in 37 towns of over 1000 inhabitants and in 76 towns of between 500 and 1000 people, there is no Baptist church. There is only one Baptist in the State to every 65 of the population. Of the 308 churches 141 gave nothing for State Missions and 259 nothing for Foreign Missions.

"RELIGION IN BUSINESS."—We have never read a poor article from the pen of Rev. J. M. Phillips. His article on our first page is no exception—unless indeed we say it is an exceptionally sensible production. It is commended especially to the thoughtful attention of business men.

HATRED OF THE TRUTH.—The excellent sermon which we give on the first page of this paper, by the gifted pastor of the Greenville Baptist church. If you have not read it, turn to it and read it now. It will do you good.

SEMINARY APPEAL.—Dr. Boyce appeals to those who have made promises to the Seminary to redeem their pledges. Read his article on our first page.

FOUR ministerial students of Howard College have been appointed by the State Mission Board to fields of labor, during vacation. A good idea. It is a good thing to add practice to theory.

A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE.—In his article on our first page "Vox" gives us a bit of significant testimony in regard to the improved style of the preaching of the young men from our theological Seminaries.

CRITERIA OF POPULAR JUDGMENT.—Rev. E. J. Forrester gives us a thoughtful and truthful article on this subject. It will be found on the first page, and is well worth a second reading.

AN UNANSWERABLE ARGUMENT.—Those who think prohibition does no good are respectfully invited to read Rev. J. M. Fortune's article on the first page of this paper.

REV. LANSING BURROWS, of Augusta, Ga., will preach the Commencement sermon for the A. and M. College of Alabama this year.

FIELD NOTES.

"The Trustees of Mercer University, in their report to the Georgia Baptist State Convention last month, show that the attendance at the University has been greatly increased in consequence of the Theological Department under the direction of Rev. J. G. Ryals, D. D."—*Reflector*.

"The largest individual contribution received for our benevolent work during the conventional year has come from Prof. A. K. Yancey, of Tuscaloosa."—*T. M. Bailey*.

"G. Skipper, of the Theological Seminary, has been appointed by the State Mission Board to work in the Tallahasatchie and Ten Islands Association during his vacation."

"The ALABAMA BAPTIST continues to be more readable and up with the times in dealing with subjects new before the people. Prohibition is rapidly gaining ground in our country. Continue to agitate the question and stir up the ministry to their duty in the premises."—*C. S. Rabb, Evergreen*.

"I will call attention to the ALABAMA BAPTIST and ask for renewals and subscriptions."—*W. E. Lloyd, Auburn*.

Bro. Lloyd always tries to comply with any reasonable request we make of him and always does what he promises. We shall confidently expect a list of subscribers from him right away—there, we have already received a cash letter from him.—*We have in hand for publication the sermon preached by Rev. Lansing Burrows before the last meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. We have also a sermon preached by Rev. J. C. Wright, in the Oxford Baptist church, after the late storms and floods in that section.*

"Call on me, my brother, for such aid as I can render."—*W. E. Lloyd*.

"We thank you cordially, and we mean even more so when we say we mean that. We shall not fail to call on you."—*Bro. Dill, the pastor of our church at Tuscaloosa, will expect a large delegation to attend the meeting of the State Convention in July. He requests that those expecting to attend will forward their names to Prof. A. K. Yancey, Chairman of the Committee of Entertainment, at our name down now, Bro. Yancey.*

Some complain of the scarcity of denominational news in the ALABAMA BAPTIST, especially from the State. The ALABAMA BAPTIST must tell the brethren more about Alabama Baptists."—*W. E. Lloyd, Auburn*. We publish every item of denominational news that we can get hold of—good news, we mean. How can we publish such news unless the brethren in various sections of the State furnish it to us? Say, Bro. Lloyd, how long has it been since you gave us a news letter? "The people of Benson Beat, Chilton county, have rid themselves of their worst enemy by voting in favor of prohibition. They have stopped a retail grocery store in their midst. I had to pass this place once a month on my way to an appointment. While passing my heart was pained and shame came upon me as I thought of its dark deeds. The hearts it has broken and the souls it has blighted, and the many innocent ones who have suffered by it. But thank God, who giveth us the

victory, it is numbered with the things that were and there is no hope of its resurrection."—*S. M. Adams, Oakmulgee, May 12th*. "Would it not be well to secure a reporter in each association to give at least a monthly batch of denominational news—some brother who can put a column in a paragraph?"—*W. E. Lloyd*. That is one sensible suggestion, Bro. Lloyd, if you never make another one. We shall adopt it forthwith. You are hereby appointed to give us a monthly news letter from the Tuskegee Association. You can appoint Roby and Hart and Benton and as many more assistants as you want.—*I have not told you what a prize the Baptists here have secured in Rev. J. S. Dill. If there was ever a 'born preacher' he is one. In every sermon, from beginning to end, he holds his audience in profound sympathy with his theme. It is all ways so, and the same is true in prayer meeting talks. You hear nothing of a sensational nature, but the conviction is constantly forced upon you that you are in presence of 'a man full of the Holy Ghost,' who feels as the apostle, 'wrote to me if I preach not the Gospel' and he preaches it with all his might, as if his soul were fired with love for Christ and his fellow men. Socially, he is charming, and his whole life is a living illustration of the definition some one has given of religion—sanctified common sense. I will not tell you about his most estimable wife. Suffice it to say that, without any effort, she has a way of getting right into the hearts of the people, and of making everybody love her. Before she had fairly set her household furniture 'to rights,' she put herself in the hands of the Sunday-school superintendent. She has never been absent from her post, and such is her pious zeal that some suppose that Bro. Dill draws no small amount of inspiration from her noble example—but what else could he expect from a daughter of Dr. Tichenor?"—*A. K. Yancey, Tuscaloosa*.*

"Your system of stopping the paper when the time expires exactly suits me, and I hope you will adhere strictly to this rule with me in the future. I will renew my subscription."—*J. M. D., Cedar Bluff, Ala.* We are really glad that we pleased Bro. D. instead of offending him by dropping his name. But listen to this: "I enclose \$2.00 to renew my subscription for another year. I expected to continue my subscription to your paper. I think the fact that I am a Baptist and a subscriber to your paper should have been sufficient guarantee to you that I would pay you when convenient. I hope another time you will not be in such haste."—*Harpersville*. There it is again. On the 1st of March we notified this brother that his subscription would expire during the month of March. We waited on him until April, and he had heard a word from him, we dropped his name. We have not printed the sharpest part of his letter.

Rev. J. A. Glenn, of Asheville, sends us a list of subscribers and says: "I am doing all I can for you. I have a hard field and I hope to be able to work it up to a better point. It will take a long, steady, hard pull to get the denomination up to that point of duty that it should occupy in our country. I meet with some encouragement. The work is mine, the success belongs to God."

We regret to learn that Rev. Joseph Nelson, an aged Baptist minister of Baldwin county, has met with the misfortune to have his right knee joint knocked out of place. In writing us about it he says: "I have no hope that it will ever get well in the present life, but I shall not have long to suffer, and the blessed Lord is my comforter."—*Bro. Felix T. Hudson, of Nottulsa, is doing some good work for the ALABAMA BAPTIST.*

What he has done shows what can be done even at this time of year, and among country churches, when the pastor determines to do it.—*Rev. M. N. Eley, of Union Springs, looks at things in a proper light. Here is what he says: 'Your book-keeper did right when he dropped my name from the list. My motto is, 'Owe no man anything.' How strange to me that brethren will ask the editor to credit them and then wait for a dun, which costs the editor a small amount, and these small sums put together take off a handsome profit. Bro. Editor, run your paper on a cash basis. I send you a two dollar postal note. Sepd on the paper, and when my time expires stop the paper, and I will renew again.'—'I have occasionally spoken of the ALABAMA BAPTIST to one and another of my people and tried to get them to subscribe for it for six months. But at our last meeting on Saturday I took religious literature as my theme; whereupon I obtained five subscribers.'—*F. T. Hudson, Nottulsa*.*

On the next day after these five names were sent Bro. Hudson sent us three additional names with the money. How many pastors will follow his example?—*Rev. W. G. Curry, of Snow Hill, is a first-rate man to call on. When he was in Selma a few days ago, we asked him to send us some subscribers to the ALABAMA BAPTIST. He went home and sent us four forthwith, and promised that every member of his churches shall have an opportunity to subscribe for the paper.*

"Here is your money, Bro. West, for the BAPTIST. As the Master has not seen proper to stop my breath, you will please continue to send me the good old ALABAMA BAPTIST. I have never seen you, Bro. West, but your God is my God, and I do love all good Baptists."—*G. M. Jones, Sr., Fairfield, Ala.*—There is no paper I prize so highly as the ALABAMA BAPTIST, and I intend to work for it as long as I am able to talk. It pains me to know that the paper sent them have not paid for it. I thought I was the only man to read Bro. Crumpton's letter, when I found he had been thus treated until I found he had also experienced the same direction as well as I. You have my sympathy in your great loss. Bro. West, in trying to please and accommodate the people, but sympathy does not run a paper nor feed a man's family. I will try to help you bear your loss by working for the paper. I am teaching

a large school and preaching to four churches. May the blessings of a kind Providence attend you, my brother, and assist you in all your labors of love."—*F. K. Ryan, Yantley Creek*.

"Sister M. is a poor widow in our church. I called to see her the other day and asked her about the ALABAMA BAPTIST. She told me it had stopped. Two or three of us had been sending it to her and had neglected to renew in time. Do not stop it again, but let me know when the time is about to expire. She would almost as soon do without her daily bread as do without her Bible and the ALABAMA BAPTIST."—*We are sorry we dropped her name, and should certainly not have done so if we had known the circumstances. We send the paper at our own expense to a number of widows and have many calls to send it to them. Are there not some Baptists in Alabama who would be willing to invest a little money to help us in this good work?*

"I have always felt a strong interest in the ALABAMA BAPTIST, but more than ever now. It is of great benefit to our people. It is not difficult to work up an enterprise that looks to the advancement of the cause of Christ in those churches where it is read."—*J. H. Curry, Chickenville*.

To the Baptists of Alabama.

After reading the appeal of Bro. West to his brethren, in behalf of his paper, I have supposed it would not be improper in me to add my own solicitudes in reference to the matter, without suggestion from him.

It has been disclosed by Bro. West that up to this time he has not made anything out of his paper. He has deemed it due himself to make this statement—which will astonish many people,—because he believes he is being prejudiced among those who are circulating his paper, by a current idea among them that he is making money and doing well in its publication and is not needing their assistance. I can be readily seen how an impression of this kind, if it exists, may seriously cripple a paper which must depend largely, at all times, on the individual efforts of the brethren in different parts of the State to circulate it; for people are not disposed to trouble themselves to aid enterprises of public utility, which do not need their aid to make them successful.

It cannot be denied that the paper has heretofore had many friends who have done much for it. Indeed, without such assistance it could not have gone along. Those of us who have had opportunity to know, can testify to the untiring efforts of Bro. West, and his rare business qualifications, expended to make the enterprise a success. He engaged in it from motives of personal gain, such as are laudable; and to be useful to his denomination; and but for the pride, as a Baptist, he has had in it, he must long ago have given it up as a profligate undertaking. If I am correctly informed, his failure to make it profitable, is due mainly to the fact that subscribers will not pay him. It is a difficult matter, in the beginning, to get up a subscription list to a paying point; and when it is remembered that subscribers to a religious paper are slow to renew, and, as a general thing, must be canvassed for renewals as industriously as they were for the original subscriptions; that most of these expect and request credit, and, for some reason or other, many never pay, it will be seen how difficult a thing it is to publish such a paper with profit. The truth is, it can't be done at this time, in this State, without the co-operation of the brotherhood. If the man and his paper are to be turned loose to make their own way, as some secular enterprise, I think we are not authorized to believe that success is attainable. Nor can the Editor depend alone on his brethren. They can and will help him, when he does all he reasonably can to help himself, and gives them a good paper. People will not read, much less pay for a trifling newspaper. There are too many good ones for that.

So far, it may be said of Bro. West, that he has done well in his effort to give us a good paper. He has had Drs. Winkler and Cleveland respectively, for editors, until recently; for the last year he had the services of Bro. Riley, a gifted and promising man, and besides, he engaged contributions from other distinguished sources. He has been liberal and enterprising in this direction.

With these facts before us, and the astonishing statement by Bro. West, that he has given seven years of his labor on this paper without pecuniary profit to himself, what ought we not to do for him?

He has the courage and the pecuniary ability to publish this paper for an indefinite time, but he needs, and ought to have, the aid and sympathy of his brethren, to make it reasonably remunerative to him.

I have thought that under these circumstances, I might be indulged, without being misunderstood, in appealing to the brethren throughout the State to aid Bro. West in the way of getting new cash subscribers, and to such as are indebted to him to pay their dues. A good man and a useful and indispensable enterprise in our State and denominational affairs, need and deserve such encouragement at your hands.

JON. HARALSON.

Appointments.

Rev. L. G. Skipper, who has been appointed by the State Board of Evangelists in the Tallahasatchie and Ten Islands Association for the summer, will fill the following appointments:
Sunday, June 8, 9
Monday, " 10
Tuesday, " 11
Wednesday, " 12
Thursday, " 13
Friday, " 14
Saturday, " 15
Sunday, " 16
Monday, " 17
Tuesday, " 18
Wednesday, " 19
Thursday, " 20
Friday, " 21
Saturday, " 22
Sunday, " 23
The brethren will please arrange further appointments.
H. A. WILLIAMS.
Cross Plains.

For the Alabama Baptist.
Convention at Tuscaloosa.
Like all others, the meeting of the Convention in July will be important. Many subjects of the greatest interest will demand the most serious consideration, and the wisest discussion of the best men. Every year brings a crisis in our work. This year makes no exception.
The pastors' meeting to be held the day just preceding the Convention ought to be pressed on the attention of pastors all over the State. A large attendance of earnest preachers, spending an entire day in fraternal communion and wisely directed discussion, can but result in much good. The meeting last year was very pleasant and profitable. The effects of it were felt in every session of the Convention at Marion, and much of the cordial, fraternal feeling that prevailed and the good work done grew out of it. May we not expect a larger attendance this year?
Among the subjects demanding consideration, none will be more interesting and of graver concern than that of Ministerial Education. This is a subject of vital importance, demanding immediate and most practical consideration. The education of our coming ministry must be provided for. And if the agencies and institutions now operating do not furnish the requisite facilities, others must be instituted.
Two mistakes were made at the last Convention. Brethren who favored the establishment of a theological chair in connection with Howard College waited too long before bringing the matter to the attention of the Convention. The other mistake was in connecting the Board of Ministerial Education in any way with the State Mission Board.
It seems to me that the first thing to be done is to create a Board of Ministerial Education entirely separate and distinct from all other Boards. Then make it the province of this Board, to the exclusion of any other, to look after the education of our young ministers. Make it the duty of the Board to hunt up young men contemplating the ministry and by examination determine who among them deserve the assistance of the churches, and then provide for their education. The education of young men entering the ministry is a necessity the denomination can no afford to ignore. The Convention at Tuscaloosa must do something, something definite and practical. The plans suggested and pressed last year have failed in large measure. This failure has followed the opposition of good and wise brethren. It now devolves upon these brethren to present and press to success better and wiser plans. I hope this communication will lead them to think of what is expected of them.
Letters from brethren in different parts of the State indicate a growing desire for some changes in the methods of State Mission work. Brethren will act wisely if they bring these contemplated changes to the attention of the Board during its meeting in July, or before the Convention during the discussion of the report of the Board. No important changes should be made until free conference and full discussion has been had. The methods now obtaining have accomplished too much to be changed or abandoned without good reason being given and made manifest. The Board is nothing more than the agent of the Convention holding itself ready and obligated to obey, to the letter, all instructions given it.
These subjects, Ministerial Education and State Mission work, will claim pre-eminently the consideration of brethren at Tuscaloosa in July.
I have been looking for the report of Committee on Programme. I think the Convention ordered its publication to be made three months previous to the meeting in July.
W. C. CLEVELAND.

Facts to be Considered.

Last conventional year Alabama Baptists gave for benevolent purposes \$20,268.97, a larger sum than had been given by our people in any one year since the close of the war. We rejoiced over the increased spirit of liberality, and resolved to attempt still greater things for the Master's cause during the present conventional year. We asked the churches to give for all our benevolent work \$28,000. This amount was distributed among our associations and by them among their churches. A great number of the associations were visited by the writer and by other good brethren at his request, and stirring addresses were delivered, encouraging the brethren to come up to the full measure of their duty. The brethren at every point visited seemed determined to take hold of the Master's work as never before. During the winter and spring months a vast amount of work was done in the circulation of the State of papers, circulars and tracts, together with an extensive correspondence, giving facts concerning the work of our State, Home and Foreign Boards and encouraging enlarged and regular contributions to each. And now as our conventional year draws near to its close brethren are beginning to ask, "Will the goal be reached?" We answer, both yes and no—yes, if the legacies left to our Home and Foreign Boards be included, but no, if they are not included. We fondly hoped to have received \$28,000 apart from these legacies and we labored oftentimes beyond our strength to accomplish it, but our hopes grow faint.

Up to the close of the tenth month we have received for all objects about \$17,000.
If we include the legacies the amounts asked for Home and Foreign Missions are more than covered.
For our State Mission work, we are \$4,000 below the amount asked for.
For Ministerial education nearly \$300 is needed to enable us to meet our obligations.
For work among the colored people, I have received but a small sum.
For the relief of indigent ministers, one-half the amount asked for has been realized.

NOTICE.

Alabama Baptist State Convention.

All delegates and visitors proposing to attend the meeting of the Baptist State Convention, to be held with the Tuscaloosa Baptist church, beginning the 18th day of July, will confer a favor upon the committee by promptly forwarding their names to Prof. A. K. Yancey, Chairman of Committee.

Address,
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

The churches in a goodly number of our associations have done nobly. Others are far below the amounts asked of them. A number of associations which contributed nothing last year, will have something to their credit this year. I hope none will be read out "blank."
Eight weeks of the conventional year yet remain, and with loving hearts and willing minds much may yet be done to enable us to reach the coveted mark.
We have 46 men in the employ of our State Board and are doing more to meet the destitution in our State than ever before. We need every dollar of the \$12,000 asked for to enable us to do our full duty to these men.
I affectionately ask the pastors of our churches and the superintendents of our Sunday schools to call the attention of their churches and schools to our pressing need and to take up collections for our work and forward the amounts to me during the next six weeks.
Will those who made pledges for ministerial education and have not yet redeemed them, please remember that \$300 more is needed for this work.
Let it be seen also by our contributions that our resolutions and speeches about work among the colored people mean something.
My brethren, I have given you facts. Consider them prayerfully and act promptly. Your response to this appeal will prove your faith and devotion to the Master and his cause.
T. M. BAILEY,
Cor. Sec. & Treas.

Marion, Ala.

An Explanation.

Mr. Editor: I see from your issue of May 15th that your correspondent, E. B. T., understands me to say, in my article in the *Central Baptist*, that the doctrine of the Trinity is not taught in the Pentateuch. I simply said that commentators were anxious to find this doctrine in the Old Testament that they claimed it was taught by the plural word for God, in the use of 'we' by Jehovah and in the three men who appeared to Abraham at Mamre. Such exegesis, I said, was entirely allowable and would never have been adopted except for a failure to appreciate the fact that this and other doctrines God revealed gradually to man, as he was able to bear it.

Whether or not there are unmistakable allusions to the Trinity in the Pentateuch is a question into which I did not enter. It is perfectly possible that there are allusions to persons of the Godhead which we recognize now by the light of subsequent revelations and that, at the same time, the metaphysical doctrine of the Trinity should not have been among the articles of Abraham's belief.

I fully agree with E. B. T. as to the importance of keeping theological science in close contact with the practical wants of the people.

G. W. RIGGAN.

Louisville, Ky.

A State Evangelist.

Ed. Ala. Baptist: Many churches in the rural districts are without pastors and some of the church buildings are tumbling down. Few, very few churches have services more than once a month. The members in many localities are demoralized, and utterly worthless to the denomination. They take no interest in church enterprises. They do not read our denominational organ, the ALABAMA BAPTIST, hardly know that the Howard and Judson are Baptist schools, are ignorant of the operations of our missionaries, and therefore never contribute a nickel to missions. Now this is not because these people are big game and incapable of knowing, but because their attention has not been directed to these objects. Could we energize this sleeping force, what glorious results would follow!

Is it impossible to arouse our brethren to a sense

