

THE ALABAMA BAPTIST.

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Collegiate Training.

BY J. M. FROST, D. D.

In this article I wish to urge the importance of collegiate training, particularly with reference to those preparing for the ministry. A course at the Seminary, although of immense intrinsic value, and on many accounts, eminently desirable, is still an after thought as compared with the college course—second in importance, but especially in order. There is absolutely no ground for invincible distinction or competition, and indeed a comparison is hardly just. But young men, as stated in the preceding article, are universally misplacing these two great factors in ministerial education, and skipping the college are substituting the Seminary course for a collegiate course. This is a sad blunder, and being injurious to themselves, the cause and the schools, should be corrected. My only purpose in bringing the two into comparison is the earnest hope of contributing something to this correction. My aim is good, though my effort fails. In pressing the advantages of the college as the burden of these articles, I mean no disparagement to the Seminary. It must be prized and honored in its true relation to the whole system of education, particularly in its relation to collegiate training. The Theological Seminary surely holds a noble place in the educational system, and the college, with the advantages which it affords, may be more easily understood and more conspicuously exhibited, by stating and emphasizing its relation to the Seminary. The Seminary is for college-trained men, not exclusively, but chiefly and most advantageously. They only are prepared for the Seminary, and will get the most from its course, other things being equal, and often when other things are unequal. It is surely an excellent thing, and marks the wisdom of its founders, that our Seminary at Louisville has, as a feature peculiar to itself and nobly adapted to its purpose, a special course for young men whose circumstances render a college course almost impossible and altogether impracticable. Many of these have latterly attended the Seminary, and among them some choice men. I yield to none in my admiration or commendation, either of the class of students or of the Seminary management, for meeting their wants and giving them such instruction as renders splendid help in their work. But these very men, realizing their misfortune in having failed to secure a college course, are earnest advocates for a thorough collegiate training. And besides, I am writing, not with reference to an exceptional class for whom a special course is announced, but with reference to young men generally who are entering the ministry. For these, and as the statement of a general rule, with exceptions as rare as possible, the college course comes first and is of first importance. To reverse this rule must work disastrously to the young men, as well as to all the efforts and aims of higher education. In this there is hardly room for disagreement. Higher education, which is now the watchword of educational circles, contemplates a higher sphere of action, while a higher sphere of action demands a higher education. Allow me to say with distinctness and emphasis, I mean no reflection upon the noble men who, without collegiate training, yet trained themselves, without collegiate education, yet educated themselves, without college or Seminary, yet made men of themselves, and wrought so grandly for God. I am writing for the young men of to-day, who have royal advantages and are confronted with tremendous responsibilities; who in their grand possibilities which are to be used or despised, are to be crowned with a crown more to be desired than the crown which monarchs wear. Of that I could reach them and move them! No hindrance to higher education is here greater than this unconquerable hurry to get through. It has been to hundreds their educational and mental ruin. To get through is the chief thing, no matter how. And young ministers are fearfully under the influence of this wild spirit of the times. It is a haste that makes waste. Oh the bitter consciousness of being disqualified for higher work, and of having one's failure in preparatory training cast a shadow over all he undertakes! Young men, take warning from the failures, and the disappointments to be seen along the way you are now treading!

In the training of the schools, one lays the foundation for all his future work, and with painful recollection of the past, I say to every young man who reads, God calls to preach, take the Seminary, and the Seminary, if possible,

be, take the Seminary, and the thorough work in it. Lay a broad and foundation-deep, broad and strong, and then build as a wise master-builder. Owing to the time and labor, however, it will take all of these, and much more, but in the sum-total of the time, it is a splendid economy, and a wise saving.

Between the collegiate courses, successful with many of its learned professions, and the education requisite to efficient preaching, there is little difference. The young men of our education system, however, contention not because of the absence of its studies, but simply because he is preparing for the ministry. The cause of the existence of the two lies ministerial education, surely it is in certain stages. The law student, the medical student, and the ministerial student, pass over the same books, and the same reasons they need to study the same thing, and for the same purpose. After his collegiate training, each finds special instruction respectively in the law school, the medical college, the theological seminary, and each takes a special course preparatory to his special work. But think of a young man's rushing away to attend the law school, or the medical college, in entire disregard of a preparatory collegiate course! True, even this is done, and consequently the country is overrun with second-rate doctors, and the city is laid with third-rate lawyers.

Every argument for collegiate training is increased in force when applied to a young man who, in answer to God's call, expects to preach the gospel. Here the cultured brain, the developed faculties of the mind, the capacity for thinking great thoughts with accuracy, and expressing them with precision, are most needed, and find ample scope for their noblest and highest exercise. If there must needs be dwarfed intellects, narrow and shrivelled minds, let us have them anywhere else—ever in the court room, where property and justice are antagonized, or in the sick room, where health and life are at stake—but not in the pulpit. The vast importance of a well-graded college curriculum, although not the chief thing, is of immense value, and if a young preacher does not get it in that way, and at that period of life, the probabilities are altogether against his ever getting it. The want of it will greatly hinder his work, will again and again put him at a disadvantage, and be a source of frequent and painful mortification. But of much greater value than even this, is the mental training which such a course gives. This, indeed, is the specific end of education—is education itself, and needed for any work in which ability to think is required. To train the mind is the first and essential thing, and then its faculties may be exercised in any particular line. The crying need of the hour in every department of life, is for men with trained minds. To have the mind thoroughly drilled, all the mental forces at perfect and easy command, is the highest end of education. Special equipment for a special work, comes afterward and education, as one's whole life, is only a means to a higher end. And in these special callings, trained men, men trained in the schools, are needed, and are in demand. The ministry is no exception. Preaching is largely intellectual, and sermons are specimens of intellectual workmanship. So there is great need in every ministerial school, that minds have been trained by broad, liberal, sound education. The demand must be met by the schools, and then by the Seminary, this preparation for the ministry, first by collegiate training, second by Seminary training. Let each be held in its own sphere and do its work well, and the result will surely be an eminent ministry, able ministers of the Word, and able leaders of the hosts of God. Nothing can have more weight, and least incompatibility with the possession of large endowments, of learned knowledge, or with the fullest dependence upon the Holy Spirit, for guidance in preparing our sermons and especially in preaching them. This indeed is the preacher's absolute need. Thorough education and great scholarship are compatible with great purity and thorough spiritual-mindedness. As with the Apostle Paul, the fire may shine in brilliant conjunction with the happiest results. We would not, in any sense, undervalue this nor make it secondary to anything, while presenting the claims of collegiate training. Wishing to say some other thing, which cannot be said now for want of space, I respectfully ask permission for one more article to complete this series.—*Western Recorder.*

MONTGOMERY, ALA., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1885.

NUMBER 45.

Many Things.

Dear Baptist: I am glad to see you looking so well in your new home. I hope you are extending your acquaintance with the families of our grand state. Your smiling face and wise and loving counsels should win for you a weekly visit to every Baptist home in Alabama. But I am sorry to find that many such homes have not been open to you. I think I can, in a few days more, open the way for you to meet several of my friends and brethren whom you have never seen.

They are good people, but some of them are a little bashful. How strange it is that some of our people are so timid in meeting the printed papers as to go out and hunt them up and feel as much at home in their presence as in the presence of their own wives, and yet evade you as if you were not as easy, pleasant and agreeable as any other paper in the land. But I took up my pen to give you some news.

My business has thrown me this year in the midst of a very pleasant people. I am one those creatures, you know, called a country preacher. I spend all of my time visiting, preaching, and studying—well, yes, I eat and sleep, too, now and then.

I have witnessed very many precious meetings this year. Bro. Foster, at Grant's Creek, had a good meeting. He also had a splendid meeting at his other church, and Forest church, too, had an excellent meeting. Many hearts were made soft and many eyes wet as the people thought on the goodness and mercy of God. Four more received for baptism and two by letter. This church knows how to make a worn out preacher feel good.

Here comes Sister Upchurch with a little round box in her hand. I wonder what is in it! "Bro. —— here is a little thank-offering which we want to give." How sweet to labor when such tokens of sympathy are offered!

I next fell in with the brethren and sisters of Bethel church, where we enjoyed a gracious outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Bro. J. E. White preached five fine good sermons as I ever listened

to, and two were restored. During the week a nice pool convenient to the church was put in. The meeting closed on Sunday with a handsome collection for missions.

Here again my heart was melted down as the ladies came forward with a handsome coat for "the preacher."

And then the next day Bro. Taylor comes in with a pair of fine shoes. Well, the heart swells with feelings too big for utterance.

My letter is now too long, but I must say a few words about the Union Association. The rain poured down in torrents each day but the attendance was good. Everything was pleasant and agreeable except the mud and rain. Colonels Stone and Stansel said many things about you which you would have appreciated very highly indeed if you had heard them.

By the by, such men as the above named will fill the chair of Governor, or with great credit to themselves and the State. They are Christian gentlemen of the highest type, and thoroughly posted in those things that fit men for such positions.

Here I met Dr. Thomas, of the Central. He made a favorable impression, and the friends of the Central are well pleased with its new president.

The marriage bells are ringing on every hand. Happy hearts are growing happier as two after two stand at the marriage altar.

On the 14th inst. at the residence of the bride's father, in Jefferson county, Mr. Charles Knokey and Miss E. L. Wood, were united in marriage by the writer.

M. M. W.

Oakdale Association.

This body met on the 14th and adjourned on the 16th inst. Judge Settle was moderator, and M. Harris clerk. The number of baptisms and the amount of money contributed were a hundred per cent above the report of last year. Most of the churches were represented by intelligent communicants. The various subjects embodied in our plans of benevolence were reported upon, and all of them intelligently, and some of them enthusiastically discussed. The interest manifested was deep and commended throughout the meeting. Dr. Bailey's address on missions and Dr. Davidson's sermon on the same subject elicited much commendation and won friends to the cause. The Alabama Barbers was not forgotten among the many good causes represented. The Judson was represented by its accomplished President and the Howard by its numerous friends. Col-

Murice being detained in college by pressing duties. The hospitality was magnificent. The next meeting will be held with the Friendship church in Bibb county. G. S. A.

Newbern, Oct. 25th.

Speak Evil of no Man.

BY A. S. WORRELL.

Says a Persian writer, "Having in my youth notions of severe piety, I used to rise in the night to watch and pray, and read the Koran. One night as I was thus engaged my father awoke. 'Behold,' said I to him, 'thy other children are lost in irreligious slumber while I alone abide in the truth.' God said, 'Son of my soul, said he, it is better to sleep than to wake to note the faults of thy brethren.'

The habit of evil speaking seems to be well nigh universal. The few who obey the injunction, "Speak evil of no man," stand out in bold relief, and are to be prized especially because so few. There is perhaps no sin more interwoven with human existence, more deeply imbedded in Christian character (of average type), than evil-speaking.

Is it a sin to steal, kill, or covet? It is as much a sin to speak evil of any man, because either is a violation of the law of God. This habit of evil speaking seems to glide naturally into the ordinary intercourse of life, entwining itself into the most sacred friendships, and pouring its venom into the sacred precincts of home. Even Christian people, those who show many signs of spiritual life, find this habit so ingrained into their very being that they need to exercise the greatest caution against it; yea, they need the clear light of the Holy Spirit to reveal to them the hideousness of this monster vice.

"For habuus liger in the soul; More grace, O Lord! more grace; More sweetness from thy loving heart; More sunshine from thy face."

It should be inscribed over the door of every family room on every occasion of social gathering, over every pulpit, and over the entrance of every place of convocation, in letters of light, "Speak evil of no man." And

JNO. W. JONES.

Demopolis, Oct. 26.

The Bible Colporteur.

The importance of Bible colportage is well illustrated by an incident reported by Rev. Francisco Penzotti, a colporteur of the American Bible Society, in Bolivia. At Oruro, he began a systematic visiting from house to house and was very successful. He says: "When my books were all but gone, there still remained to be canvassed a few houses on one side of the town. Passing a store, I asked the owner if he wished to purchase a Bible, when he told me that he had bought some a year and a half ago, but had not been able to dispose of one. He was quite pleased to sell them to me, and I disposed of them to advantage.

The lot consisted of only eight Bibles and nine New Testaments, but they were sufficient for me to complete the canvas. The storekeeper had kept these Bibles and Testaments on his shelf for eighteen months, and sold not one copy. The colporteur very quickly sold all that he had brought with him, and also all of the storekeeper's stock. Let us learn the lesson here taught, and send out colporteurs to put the Bible in every house, and to do that good work speedily. The returns expected from "Bible Day," to be observed by Baptist churches and schools on the second Sunday of November next, it is hoped will furnish the necessary means for this purpose.

Ordination of Rev. Robert Allen.

Dear Baptist: A presbytery, consisting of brethren Worthy, J. C. Motley, Walker, and myself, met with the Baptist church at Mt. Calvary, in the northern part of Tallapoosa county, for the purpose of ordaining to the gospel ministry Bro. Robert Allen. R. A. J. Cumbee preached the ordination sermon, Bro. Worthy, the pastor of the church, acted as moderator, and examined the candidate's Christian experience and call to the ministry; Bro. J. C. Motley examined the candidate on the articles of faith; the charge was given by R. A. J. Cumbee, and the ordination prayer was made by Bro. Walker. The presbytery then extended the hand, followed by the church, when it seemed indeed that the work of the day was approved of God. The early bird catches the worm, and lovers of early morning walks will find this a true maxim. If we were permitted to make a suggestion, we should whisper: "Use Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup."

Our Association.

The body of Baptists convened in the 31st session of the State Mission Board, at Linden, Marion County, on Friday, October 10th. Our officers were re-elected: Bro. Jno. W. Jones, moderator; Bro. T. M. Seeler, treasurer; and Eld. W. A. Parker, clerk.

Of the eighteen churches composing the body seventeen were represented, showing generally increased activity. Only the State Mission Board and the Higher Association, of corresponding bodies, were with us. The valuable assistance of their correspondents we cannot sound too highly. Dr. T. M. Bailey, with others, did noble service in the discussion of ministerial and general education.

Rev. Mr. Dunaway, who is now at the Howard, was made the beneficiary with a sufficient fund pledged. The report on temperance showed continued activity on this subject. Much was said, and to the point, indicating a growing sentiment among the masses that will, at no distant period, control king alcohol.

The mission cause, the great feature of Baptist convocations, was forcibly presented, including State, Home and Foreign, charitably and (surroundings considered) liberally provided for. The claims of the ALABAMA BAPTIST, the recognized organ of this association, were presented, together with those of the Foreign Mission Journal.

Owing to the scarcity of ministers we had but little preaching. Elder L. T. Daniel preached the introductory, and Dr. T. M. Bailey the missionary sermon. Though many of the churches are weak financially, this meeting was characterized by a spirit of liberality that speaks well for its success in the future. After disposing of funds and appointing committees the association adjourned, to meet with the church at Canaan, Wilcox County, on Friday before the fourth Sabbath in September, 1886.

I cannot close this report without expressing my gratitude to the church and citizens of Linden and vicinity for their bountiful hospitality during my stay with them, and to mine host, Mr. W. H. Patterson, a man personally indebted for favors. That our presence with you all was as pleasant to you as to us is the lasting wish of Bethel Association.

JNO. W. JONES.

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For all Lands.

The appeal of the Baptist Publication Society, last November, for Bible Work, was to the Sunday-schools of our denomination, and for home distribution only. Now the appeal comes for a general and liberal offering from Baptist churches and schools everywhere in our land; not for the home field only, but for the foreign field as well. China, Japan, India, Spain, Sweden, Mexico, and other lands in darkness, appeal with outstretched hands. The wide-spread needs should awaken wide-spread participation in giving, that the Lord's treasury may be filled, and the needs met. Special services should be held in every church and school on "Bible Day." The second Sunday in November, and a strong and mighty tide of offerings should be sent up to the Society for this most benedictive work. C. C. Birting, D. D., 120 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, will furnish all needed information.

A continual dropping on a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike. No wonder men shun them; they are such slaves to bad habits. One twenty-five cent spent in a bottle of Salvation Oil will remove harmony in the household. Honor can be at stake only where justice and benevolence are at stake. —[Charles Sumner.]

The Enfield Association.

BY

Temperance Column.

The Enfield Association held its 32nd session with trusteeship church October 22nd—23rd. The introductory sermon was preached by Z. T. Weaver, and it was one of his happiest efforts.

The business of the body was transacted most harmoniously and with more than usual enthusiasm. Some very fine speeches were made.

Among our visitors were A. Van Hoose of Georgia, E. Y. Van Hoose, of Troy, and J. E. Chambliss, of Union Springs; Brother Chambliss preached a superb sermon on Friday night. This acrite had heard four sermons which he regarded as peerless and now he has heard a fifth one. T. M. Bailey preached Saturday night a most excellent sermon, which was most highly complimented by all.

Bro. G. A. Nunnally preached the missionary sermon on Sunday. Competent judges who have long attended the sessions of this association pronounced his sermon the best missionary sermon they had ever heard. One brother who had hitherto opposed foreign missions says he was completely converted, and as a fruit of his new faith he emptied his pocket-book into the hat. Dr. Nunnally is a new man among us, but he has already won all hearts to himself. Brethren W. H. Patterson, A. Van Hoose, and E. Y. Van Hoose also preached on Sunday, and their sermons elicited much favorable comment.

All of our churches in the country

were reported as on the decline numerically. The contributions were a little larger than last year.

Some young men are coming to the front and sharing the duties of the associations with the older toilers. God be thanked.

Hartsboro gave the association princely entertainment, but all knew

that would be so before going.

The association generously and wisely relieved Bro. H. R. Schumann from all financial obligation to itself.

This season had its origin in a resolution adopted by the International Convention of the American Associations held at Albany, N. Y., in 1866, and has been observed every year since at the recommendation of the Foreign Mission Journal.

