

# THE ALABAMA BAPTIST.

HARRIS & DAVIS, Editors and Proprietors.

"SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE."

TERMS CASH: \$2.00 A YEAR.

VOLUME 13.

MONTGOMERY, ALA., THURSDAY, JULY 8, 1886.

NUMBER 27.

## HOWARD COLLEGE.

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE,  
HOWARD COLLEGE,  
June 8, 1886.

Mr. President, and gentlemen of the  
honorable Board of Trustees of How-  
ard College—

In my last annual report, I discussed the aims, means, results, and future necessities of this college. These subjects were all elaborated at such length that but little need now be said on these topics. It is gratifying to note that this report was favorably received in the South and in the North. The views I therein set forth as to best methods of teaching, methods of discipline, and the feasibility of saving time to students, have been endorsed by leading educators, scientists, and publishers.

### Superiority of Select Schools.

In the North, where general education has advanced to a higher plane than in the South, and where there has been longer experience with free public schools than in the South, our claims for the superiority of select schools, forced to rely on an intrinsic merit for success, is cheerfully conceded. The advantages of such schools in superior moral training, select associates, greater personal attention, more rapid progress in studies, and more thorough training, are well attested by the high tuition which parents living in those free school communities cheerfully pay.

### True Science of Teaching.

The distinction which this college makes between the many so-called and much abused methods of teaching and the true science of pedagogics has been pronounced timely and just.

### General Demand for Howard College Methods.

During last Summer I spent much time in the North and East, and saw much of leading scientific men, publishing houses, book exchanges, and some of the great educational institutions there. I was greatly encouraged to find that a high premium is offered there for what we have been providing here for our patrons. In every department of study publishers say that the demand is for text books that will save time and give more thorough knowledge of the subjects. This demand for methods that are more simple and more thorough because more truly scientific is so great that they are willing to pay a high premium for any treatise which will give to pupils greater knowledge and in less time. I found that these publishers in considering their financial interest were but echoing the demand, coming from all parts of the country, and led by the great scientists of the age. The demand is for methods that will save time, and give more thorough and broader knowledge. Hence we are assured at this college that if we continue to supply for our State what the whole country is asking and offering a high premium for, the public appreciation of our work in our own State will continue to increase. If the thousands of dollars invested in the publishing business are offered for investment in books that will supplant those existing, by making the subjects more simple and more thorough, and if philosophers are proclaiming that the schools must progress in simplifying and shortening, it surely cannot now be said that our aims in these directions have not been timely and practical.

### The Cheapest Education.

To assert that time cannot be saved is to say that there is no such thing as science. For what is all scientific work but the labor to discover a simple principle that explains an entire subject? As to whether this college does save its students much time an appeal to the facts is sufficient. In the present graduating class of fourteen members every one has attained a most creditable degree of scholarship, and has saved much time and money. And in this class there are particular individuals who have put this question of relative economy of time and money to the test of experience. Students who come here from other places often find themselves behind our corresponding classes, and their minds undisciplined in study. We take them, discipline their thinking faculties, bring them up in their studies, and save them much time. Hence give them a cheap and thorough education. Young men in straitened financial circumstances, who make a thorough investigation and compare what is given here and the cost thereof with other institutions of same standing, give preference to the Howard. That the patrons of the college appreciate this feature of the institution is attested by the unusual proportion of old students who returned last fall, and by the large number who continue long enough to graduate. The present senior class is the largest for twenty-five years, and the

catalogues show only one class larger in the entire history of the college, the class of 1864, and that only by one member.

### Causes of Success.

The real economy practiced by patrons of this college, and the character of the training procured for their sons, have given to the institution its present popularity and high standing, and has enabled it to compete most successfully with endowed institutions for the past fifteen years, paying all expenses, furnishing almost entirely theological tuition of the State denomination, paying off much former indebtedness, and adding largely to its real estate and personal property. And all this has been done under circumstances much more unpropitious than the future promises.

### Permanency.

If it be said that this is the only denominational college that has been made more than self-sustaining and therefore it is not reasonable to expect an indefinite continuation, we reply that the reason here is due to the unique policy adopted by your Board of Trustees, and as long as this policy continues the same success may be expected. But a condition of our continued success is, that this college shall have the same fair field for securing public patronage as do similar secular schools.

### Object Tests.

With this object in view I recommend that the work of the institution be subjected to a rigid inspection at the period of every final examination by an impartial board of visitors, composed of three experienced men, experts in education, science, and business. Let the work and the results of each year be subjected to the severest scrutiny, and let the public have assurances that cannot be questioned.

### Endowment.

We claim that the college can be maintained unendowed, yet we shall now plead for an endowment; for having to carry so many free students and patronage being confined almost entirely to our denomination, we are cut off from many of the sources for making that colleges purely secular have. To equalize this difference we need an endowment, and the time has now come when the legal status is such as to make an endowment safe.

### How to Estimate a College.

But when the institution becomes rich, let it not be forgotten that the chief excellency of a college is due to the character of the professors, and the attention they give to the students. Let the institution not be estimated by the number of the professors without regard to their skill and labors. But let it be valued in proportion to the genius displayed in the class rooms, and the attention given to students. Let the work continue here as it has been. Let it be a college as it now is, whose professors are in the rooms of the students before early breakfast for purposes of assistance and supervision—whose professors are five or six hours in class rooms, hearing recitations or making explanations, whose professors visit dormitories during night study hours and until bed time, and whose students recite one very subject every day. Where is there such a system of discipline—so favoring study and promoting good habits? In what other college is it that a student is not allowed to neglect with impunity a single recitation? And is it not reasonable to suppose, as the scholarship and conduct of our students show, that these labors, these motives, and this discipline, have led to the adoption, discovery, and application of advantageous methods of instruction? We reply:

### The Work of the Present Session.

has progressed in the same line as hitherto, aiming as we always do to prepare ministers and laymen for their life work, to train the hand and eye to skillfulness, the character to nobility and Christ-likeness, the intellect to acuteness and power. In this work we have had the advantages of superior buildings, sufficient apparatus, and library. We have made every possible use of professors and students. Have adhered closely to the rational curriculum, have continued the same methods of teaching, and have maintained a kind but strict system of class and police discipline. We close the session with a superior moral tone and with a grade of scholarship and discipline that has not been surpassed here, if anywhere.

### Present Condition.

The present status of the college internally and externally is encouraging. There is a very high "esprit de corps." The institution is not only free from the baneful influences of secret societies, but there is on the part of the students a disapproval of every form of cliqueism and partizanship; duty is their watchword. Partizanship and self-seeking constitute disqualifications

for office and trust. This freedom from all forms of combinations is the best evidence of the extraordinary state of discipline and moral status of the college, and makes the institution the most desirable place for all those who wish to enjoy the benefits of the highest culture. The reliance for success in life that our students are now placing on their own literary, scientific and moral character is shown most conspicuously by the excellence of the two literary societies.

### The Philomatheic and the Franklin.

During the present session they have done more than ever before in the same length of time. They have papered, carpeted, painted, and decorated their halls at private expense in a most beautiful manner. And they have elevated the character of their literary work to a very high degree, and have formed plans for still greater improvement for the future. If these societies continue to work as they have been doing, the supplementary training which they give to their members will soon show itself in the augmented reputation of our students and graduates. These societies deserve the respect, confidence and encouragement of your Board. The work in the class rooms and in these halls acts and reacts. Students having to apply logical thoughts expressed in forceful and chaste language in their society work when on exhibition before their audiences, are disposed to give more attention in class rooms to mathematics, sciences, and languages, with a view to gaining mental power, to be used on the floors in debate and oratory. They read more deeply and broadly to acquire the information for which they have such immediate and pressing need.

Another most encouraging internal feature of the college is the state and power of the discipline. Those who are without experience in matters of this sort cannot fully appreciate the absolute importance of this. I suppose it may be said that most of the failures in schools is due to inefficient and unwise discipline. Each year's experience here shows us that our success is due (in a degree that is not generally appreciated) to the character and to the administration of our discipline. And the popularity of our graduates and their patrons largely to their skill in this difficult subject. This discipline gives us the power to develop moral character, to command labor of professors and students, and to have performed that large amount of work which makes the best scholarship in the time given.

### Condition of the College Property.

is about as it was at close of last session, adding the improvements on society halls, which has been mentioned. I think that the resources of the institution for another year will enable us to make some additions to the apparatus. Whatever may be the internal condition as just outlined, yet

### The External Condition.

of the college is, in many respects, now such as should bring joy to the hearts of the friends who have so long contended against difficulties almost insurmountable. A brief outline of these embarrassments continuing through nearly a quarter of a century contrasted with the present status, will show how much cause we have for present congratulation, and for future encouragement.

At close of the war, vested endowment gone, heavy claims outstanding against the college on old scholars, the State Committee took direct charge of the college; employed Dr. Curry, salary \$10,000 for three years. He resigned at the end of the second year with \$1,000 of salary unpaid. Obligation was transferred to the Trustees for payment. Debt at this time on salaries to all parties was about \$14,000. Dr. Freeman, employed as President, salary not being paid, an appeal to the Convention was made and his salary paid out of special Convention fund. Outpost gloomy; college could not be supported; an endowment could not be secured; annual contributions for most popular presidents could not be gotten; property of college insufficient for the needs of the institution, and State colleges, with free tuition just opening to public favor. Hope for aid from external sources having fled, your board resolved to rely upon internal power. The members of this board gave their time, their money, and their financial credit. A new system of college organization was adopted; new features in discipline, in methods of instruction, in moral culture, and special training for theologians.

### Results of Present Plans.

From this new and self-reliant organization have come results greater than could have been reasonably expected—results probably unprecedented

in the history of denominational colleges. Foreign patronage has been greater than ever before, both of secular students and of young men preparing for the ministry. Graduates have gone out to introduce the Howard system of pedagogics to all parts of the State, and into some others. Their success has been so marked as to create a demand greater than our ability to supply. Other States called for these men to take chairs in some of the largest colleges and universities in America. Our own State became rapidly filled with our young preachers and other States approved their ministry so highly that many have been drawn away from Alabama. The professions of medicine and law are indebted to this college for some of their most successful and accomplished scholars. Church and society circles throughout the land are being filled with choice specimens of manhood and Christian worth.

The college now freed from all liabilities on account of old scholarship in a condition to be placed where it can never again be encumbered by indebtedness; practically free from debt, for first time since the war ready for endowment—now ready because money given for this purpose would have resulted in nothing but loss of the funds and the demoralization of the denomination; the financial management of the Board of Trustees so pure and so masterly for so many years, and the scholarship and moral character of students of such a grade as to command public respect, our people are thus provisionally prepared to endow the college, seeing that its management is such that every dollar given will be used economically, and that the work which it is doing results in accomplishing so much good for society, for the church, and for humanity.

My visit to the late Southern Baptist Convention where I talked with prominent men who are acquainted with all the other Southern Baptist colleges, set before me in a clearer light the

### Vantage Ground which Howard College Occupies.

One of the most successful agents known in the South said he could raise an endowment for Howard College more easily than for any other he knew, because it had shown its ability to sustain itself, had thus proven itself pre-eminently worthy of endowment. I could learn of no other college that had been self-sustaining. Those which had secured an endowment since the war failed to procure money till they gave assurances that the funds would be safely and permanently invested. Some of them are kept open only by taking annual collections to pay current expenses; and these are not successfully gathering endowments, because there is no assurance of accumulation. In every case the denomination of the States recognize the duty of aiding by money their colleges annually. Howard College presents the only case of ability to sustain itself, and to be mainly instrumental in paying off previous indebtedness.

From the history of all the Southern Baptist colleges, I think we may draw the following conclusions:

1. That the great prerequisite for securing an endowment is the giving of a guarantee to the people that the money donated will never be expended, only the interest used.
2. That the people must be impressed with the value of the work which the college is doing, and the success with which this can be done depends largely upon the number and character of the men who were trained at the College many years before it was established.
3. That Howard College can show a record of financial management by its Trustees of a superior character.
4. That Howard College can show that it is doing for the denomination an educational work which is indispensable, and such as no other college has done without greater means.

These conclusions justify the belief that the college has now arrived at a point in its history when it can urge greater claims on the denomination than ever before, and should be able to appeal for endowment with confidence and success.

At the approaching meeting of the Alabama Baptist Convention this remarkable epoch in the history of the college will doubtless be discussed, and the question of endowment be duly considered. If the Convention confides to this Board of Trustees the management of the entire matter, your proven financial skill is a guarantee that a wise course will be followed.

Revival of Religion.

In conclusion, I rejoice to state that the college has been greatly blessed by an outpouring of the Holy Spirit

during the session. A great revival has pervaded the institution, and Christians have been revived, and sinners have been converted. Nothing better illustrates the blessings of religion than the change which has taken place in the college since this awakening of the Holy Spirit. The students now return home with a religious impression which we pray will never be removed or diminished.

### Valuable Services of Faculty and Trustees.

To the Faculty I am indebted for faithful work in their respective departments. To these and to you, gentlemen of the Board of Trustees, I am indebted for well nigh all that has been accomplished. Without your wisdom to guide, the success we have attained could not have been reached.

The college and the denomination are greatly indebted to Rev. A. C. Davidson for the valuable services he has rendered during the past session, meeting the theological class regularly, teaching them systematically and faithfully, and exerting over all the students an influence most potential for discipline, scholarship, and high-toned piety.

Respectfully submitted,  
J. T. MURFEE,  
Pres't. Howard College.

### Good News! Good News!

Here is the quarterly report of our Bro. Alberto J. Diaz, the missionary of the Home Mission Board, in Havana, Cuba, which ought to send a thrill of joy through the hearts of our entire Baptist brotherhood; weeks of labor, 13 churches, 1 station, 5—6; sermons 33; addresses 80—13; prayer and other religious meetings, 102; baptized 50; received by letter, 2—3; total membership in Havana, 102; number of Sunday-schools, 2; number of pupils, 250; number of teachers, 17; number of pupils converted during the quarter, 10; young men preparing for the ministry, 4.

About six months ago Bro. Diaz was ordained to the work of the ministry, and the Gethsemane Baptist church, of Havana, was constituted. It now numbers 102 members, and five preaching stations in the city of Havana, besides its regular place of meeting, has two Sunday-schools numbering 250 pupils and 17 teachers and four young men preparing for the ministry. The work is growing, and we need the means to enable us to follow up the opening lines of God's gracious providence. If ever there was a Christian work that could make stronger claims upon us for our prayers and our alms where was it? The Christian heart that will not respond to this appeal need be plied with no other.

We have but another word to say to our brethren. Help the Home Mission Board so that we may help Cuba, and all other places that need help.

The marvellous work of God in Cuba, is the outgrowth of our work in Florida. Had there been no Florida Missions there, would have been no Cuban Missions. We sowed the seed in Florida, and now Cuba is white unto harvest. We sowed in Texas and the breadth of God's Spirit wafted the living seed into Mexico. We are sowing to-day in Louisiana, in Arkansas, in the Indian Territory, in Texas, "beside all waters," and the growing harvest gives promise of the bread of life for all the world.

Help us so that to the full measure of the opportunity that God is giving us we may give the means of eternal life to those who are perishing.

Read Bro. Diaz's letter and then make your grateful offering to the Lord. L. T. FLETCHER.

My sister Minnie's school needs to rent another house, she has 70 girls now and with 251 more every month, she can get another hall larger than she has. Our churches improve every day, and several letters from the interior since I am here, asking for a pastor. I have baptized 100 since I was appointed by the Board (January) in answer of prayers, my father has been received for baptism. My mother bought a good number of Testaments and Bibles, and gave us to distribute free. The weather is very warm but nevertheless, last Sunday was in Gethsemane more than 350, and outside of the hall was crowded, almost to suffocation. The brethren here have not words how to thank the "Southern Baptist Convention." They are anxious to signify their gratitude to the Secretary of the Board; they will look for you next winter. (Lord willing.)

On the interior of the island there are two large cities that the pastor of one of them pay the half of the salary and the other one needs \$400, to attend the mission so we can have these our churches and several stations; (this is my plan to work for 900.) If the Board could take this work I advise to try for a year and they will pay their own pastor in the future.

## The Million Dollars--Where is It, and How is It?

We beg that every one whose subscription to the Seminary has not been paid will, as soon as possible, pay what is due. Southern Baptists owe it to themselves as well as to the Seminary to look after this matter. And another thing, let every paper which has published that the Seminary had a million, do the fair thing and copy from the *Religious Herald* the following correspondence.—Ed.

To Dr. James P. Boyce.—My dear Brother: I have noticed at least two statements, recently, in the public prints, that our Seminary in Louisville is worth one million of dollars in money, real estate, &c. Some of us feel that it is an erroneous estimate. But you know, I hope the mistake is with us, and not the papers that have published the statement in question. We shall rejoice if it is true. Will you tell us in the *Religious Herald* how it is in fact?  
R. W. SANDERS.

Chester, S. C.

R. W. SANDERS, Chester, S. C.—Dear Brother.—In response to your inquiry, I reply that the Seminary is not worth one million of dollars, nor anything like that sum. The real estate, at a fair valuation, including also the value of our lots for location in Louisville, is not worth more than one hundred thousand dollars. The securities in the hands of the Financial Board, which constitute its invested endowment, amount at par value to \$200,000, but their market value is not quite so large. The Seminary has, also, available for a building, a recent subscription of \$60,000—most of which is to be paid in as the building progresses. This makes, including the library and the furniture, which together are worth about \$70,000, the actual assets of the Seminary about \$390,000, from which income is derived only on the \$220,000 in the hands of the Financial Board, and amounts to about \$11,000 each year. There has also been left the Seminary the legacy of \$15,000, not yet paid in but from which all the income will go to the support of our men studying for the ministry.

### Report of President Frazer.

### To the Board of Trustees.

Gentlemen.—During the session of 1885-1886, the Judson has enrolled 178 pupils. There are 120 boarders, of whom 707 are in the Judson, and 13 in families near by. Fifteen teachers have been employed.

The work of the session in all departments, and almost without individual exception, has been carried on with commendable industry and faithfulness, by both teachers and pupils; and gratifying results have ensued. In no year of the present administration have the pupils, as a whole, seemed to make such genuine progress. In the way of application, and in the power of systematic and independent thought they have shown marked improvement.

With a senior class of nineteen members, there are only seven graduates, five in the Baccalaureate course, and two in Full course. This disproportion is unusual, but it is believed that the character of the graduates will quite make up for their fewness.

Good order has prevailed throughout the session. The discipline has been easy and excellent, and the pupils have appeared to be singularly contented and happy in their school life.

Some changes in the curriculum have been devised, looking to simplification and increased educational power. The system of half hour recitations which seems to have prevailed in the school for years, has given objections growing out of the loss of time incident to frequent moving from place to place, and the evil tendency of many subjects claiming the attention in rapid succession. A remedy is sought in diminishing the number of recitations, and extending their time, in the collegiate department, to one hour.

Much has been done to increase the scope and thoroughness of the work in music. The Director has taken pains to classify the department with nice discrimination; so that, for the future, a better adjustment of grade and cost may be attainable.

The experience of another session only adds to my estimate of the value of Bible study in the school. Such is my sense of its importance that I should contemplate the discontinuance of any other department of our work with less sorrow and apprehension. Put the Bible out of American schools and the last hope of the American people goes out with it.

The school has been blessed with excellent health. There has been one death among the teachers. Mrs. Courtney, who came in the fall, in apparently good health, but with the hold of a fatal disease already upon her frame, died in February. The school thus lost the faithful work of a gifted teacher, and the sweet influence of a devout Christian. With this exception there has been little serious sickness. We have had another year of the right hand of the Most High. The rich blessings of his providence, and the richer mercies of his grace, have abounded to us. The spiritual revival which we have lately enjoyed, leaves among our boarding pupils only three without hope in Christ. Of the day pupils, likewise, nearly all, within the age of accountability, are Christians.

The whole course of the year has been radiant with the soft, sweet light of blessing. With thankful hearts, we recognize God's gracious hand, in all these mercies, and offer Him the tribute of our most grateful praise.

There are already unusual indications that all our room will soon be

forty thousand dollars given, and said that they were almost all upon men well able to pay—that eighty-five per cent of these is of this kind. And the same is about equally true of the other States. With some one would tell me how to collect them without suing for them. I would send around collectors, but paid agencies of that kind cost almost as much as they collect. I have been urged to sue the bonds, but the expenses of suit will be very heavy. Yet I fear I shall have to risk them. Is there any brother or sister who will relieve my trouble in his or her case by sending me the money he or she owes? If any one is led to feel like doing this, upon reading what I say, I beg that the money be sent at once, within the hour, if possible. If it be postponed, the money will not come. Procrastination is not only the thief of time, but of good intentions. It is the thief that has stolen away from us thousands of dollars, especially in small sums, which annual payment has not exceeded five or twenty dollars each time.

JAMES P. BOYCE,  
Louisville, Ky.

### Judson Institute.

### Report of President Frazer.

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There are already unusual indications that all our room will soon be

engaged for next session. The number of applications for admission is largely in excess of former years.

Brethren of the Board, God is laying larger and larger responsibilities upon the Faculty you have placed in the Judson. We cannot bear them without Divine help. Pray, therefore, I beg you, that our strength may grow with the growth of the charge, and that the trend of all our work, and the whole force of our example, may be for the highest good of the children who come under our care, and for the glory of the Master's name.

Very respectfully submitted,  
ROBERT FRAZER,  
Marion, June 11th.

### Letter from Mont Eagle.

Eds. *Alabama Baptist*: A week up here in the pure, cool air of the mountains, with complete change of fare, scenery and associations, and alternations of exercise and rest, taken at will, has proved both delightful and helpful to me. Situated as Mont Eagle is on the summit of the great Cumberland plateau, 2200 feet above the level of the sea, and 1,000 above the surrounding country midway between the Gulf and the Ohio river, it affords a combination of advantages rarely found elsewhere, and is a matchless summer resort for the denizens of our malarious districts.

It is no wonder that the Trustees of the "University of the South," after visiting various States in search of a site, settled upon Sewanee, which is only six miles west of Mont Eagle, on this plateau, as having superior advantages to all of the many points brought to their attention; nor that the Executive Committee of the "Southern S. S. Assembly," in search for a site for their enterprise likewise located it here; nor that the friends of female education have established and built up here the "Fairmount Female College," about half a mile east of Mont Eagle; nor that all these institutions have made such marked progress and achieved such success as to attest most fully the wisdom of their founders.

The late distinguished Dr. Bowling, of Nashville, testified repeatedly that this plateau possessed unrivalled advantages of air and water for persons whose constitutions were broken and digestive apparatus impaired by chill poisons; as well as for those suffering with lung troubles. Dr. Wright who practiced medicine in this region for many years testified that he never knew of a case of consumption originating on the mountain, and he is supported by the testimony of a score of other physicians. The plateau, here is about four miles wide, and the Assembly Grounds are within easy walking distance of the precipitous cliffs on the northern side, from which can be had some of the most magnificent views I have ever beheld. The mountain abounds in fruits, vegetables, milk, butter, chickens, &c., and all these can be had fresh and pure at reasonable rates. The hotel, under the management of John D. Anderson, a Nashville Baptist, offers ample accommodations and good fare, and makes special rates with families and with ministers. The restaurant offers still easier terms to those who wish to live on the grounds. Both of these are now open and receiving patronage. Over fifty guests in all are here already, and others are coming up daily. Everything is busy with preparations for the "opening day," June 30th. The general manager and Dr. Warren, chairman of the Executive Committee, tell me this season will eclipse all others in interest and attendance.

O that more of the tired and broken down teachers and preachers of Alabama could avail themselves of these advantages! Already lots have been secured for an "Alabama Teachers' Home," and over \$300 have been raised for building the home. Will not every teacher in Alabama, and every friend of the teachers, do something at once to help, on this worthy enterprise? At least \$5,000 are needed. Then our hard worked and poorly paid teachers will have place to live on the grounds free of rent, and in the midst of the rich privileges and manifold advantages offered here. Who will give or raise \$10 or \$5 for the cause? Any gifts may be sent to Rev. J. H. Warren, Mont Eagle, or to F. H. Peebles, Esq., Greenbrier, Ala. For terms &c., write to John D. Anderson, Mont Eagle, Tenn. He will send also the Mont Eagle Manual, a valuable and beautifully gotten up pamphlet.

Geo. B. EAGER,  
Mont Eagle, Tenn.

We ought not to acquiesce in the shadows which are only around us because we do not hear, or hearing do not heed, God's call into the sunshine.—[F. R. Haverlag.]

# Alabama Baptist

MONTGOMERY, ALA., JULY 8, 1886.  
J. G. HARRIS, Editors and Proprietors.  
W. A. DAVIS, Business Manager.  
S. HENDERSON, D. D., Associate Editor.

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Remittances should be made in money or by order on Montgomery, or by check on Montgomery or New York. When neither of these can be procured, send the money in a registered letter.

The date against your name on the margin of the paper shows when your subscription expires. It serves as a receipt and a reminder for payment. If proper credit has not been given within two weeks, notify us at once. All subscribers who do not send express notice to the contrary, will be regarded as wishing to continue their subscriptions. Notice to discontinue should be given at least a week before and not after the subscription has expired. Both the new and old office should be given when your address is changed.

Obituary notices of one hundred words will be inserted free. For each word over one hundred, two cents will be charged. Remit in advance for publication. Count the words and see that the bill will be also, include money for extra copies at five cents each if more than ten are wanted, otherwise six cents each. If money is not enclosed, we reserve the right to condense to one hundred words.

Advertising rates quoted on application. You will confer a favor by mentioning this paper when you answer an advertisement. Write only on one side of the paper, and address your post office. Anonymous communications do not come to the waste basket.

We are not responsible for the return of rejected manuscripts nor for the opinions expressed by correspondents. All communications on business or for publication should be addressed, and all checks and money orders made payable to THE ALABAMA BAPTIST, Montgomery, Ala.

The secretary has issued a sufficient number of certificates to guarantee a large convention. If all the delegates will be there on time and remain throughout, what a grand meeting it will be! Brethren arrange to give five full days to the Master's work.

We hope that in every church some delegate, either pastor or layman, will volunteer to receive subscriptions for the paper, new or old, and bring the money to Birmingham. Both editors expect to attend the Convention.

Do not forget to take with you to Birmingham a good list of renewals and new subscriptions for your own ALABAMA BAPTIST. As a means of communication regarding denominational affairs, we think the paper has been a success. Your support will make it better.

COMMENCEMENT week of our State University, now in progress as we write, has drawn a large number of visitors to the city. We shall give an account of the occasion in our next issue, only remarking now that the institution has never enjoyed a more prosperous collegiate year than the one now closing. A President is to be elected this week. S. H.

We make a modest request of our brethren who propose attending the Convention at Birmingham. Please, brethren, each of you, try and get one new subscriber for the ALABAMA BAPTIST, and such renewals as you can in your several localities. It is claiming nothing more than any candid man will concede, that the religious press of this country is the most potent agency now employed for all the great enterprises in charge of the Conventions of the States as well as the general Convention, and that it is the right arm of every intelligent pastor's success. So that in increasing the circulation of our paper you are infusing fresh life into every noble work. S. H.

Here is an extract from the *Religious Herald*. How many are just like this good woman, living in known disobedience? And how many do worse than this by denying and fighting against their own convictions? "Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you." "I expect to die in a state of disobedience. If I know immersion is baptism, but I were to go to the Baptists, I would bring into my family an amount of trouble which I do not care to take upon myself. I have deliberately concluded to let my husband and children have their way about it, and will remain where I am, although I admit that my convictions are with the Baptists." That is just what a Pedobaptist lady said.

A communication elsewhere signed "Regular" reminds us that if the Birmingham convention is like former ones there will be two classes of attendants, regulars and stragglers. The regulars having been sent by their churches as delegates (mark the word) will arrive in time for the organization and remain till final adjournment. The stragglers will arrive a day late and start home about Monday morning. A regular will not go home till all the work is done unless compelled to leave. The straggler cannot be persuaded to remain over but after "seeing the town" will pack his satchel and be gone. The Ministers' Meeting will commence at 10 a. m., Thursday, July 15th. The Convention will be called to order at 9 a. m., Friday, July 16th, and unless a change is made will adjourn on Tuesday, July 20th, at 1 p. m. If you forget dates easily, paste this in your hat.

## CHILDREN'S DAY

Our Northport Baptist church did not observe "Children's Day" until the fourth Lord's day in June, for sundry good and sufficient reasons. But its observance on the fourth Sunday was a most enjoyable occasion. A large crowd assembled in the meeting house at five o'clock in the evening, and the children all acquitted themselves most creditably, and the collection was gratifying.

Our Sunday-school at Sylacauga church observed it on the second Sabbath, in the presence of a large assemblage, and everything passed off satisfactorily. The school there is doing well. Their collection, too, was creditable. S. H.

## PRAYER FOR THE CONVENTION.

With the Lord's blessing, brethren, we shall have the finest convention in Birmingham which Alabama Baptists have ever held; without it, we shall fail. Then let special prayer be offered in every church next Sabbath that the blessing of the Lord may rest upon the meeting. We believe that the work of the denomination is in better condition than it has ever been, the organization nearer, perfect, the workers better equipped and more zealous. But our plans can be pushed with more energy, our field can be enlarged. Alabama for Christ should be our motto; nothing short of a Baptist church and a Baptist Sunday-school in every neighborhood should satisfy us.

As we work to accomplish this end in our own State, just in that degree will Alabama send up money for the Home and Foreign Boards and for our Theological Seminary. Those who work and give for local work are most alive to other fields.

We look for a glorious Convention, one fruitful of results. Let us be earnest in prayer.

## IS IT CONSCIOUS WEAKNESS?

We recently heard a sermon, in which the preacher undertook to show that baptism was not worth discussing; that "any one of three ways would do," that it is "not necessary to salvation," a thing that nobody doubts but some pedo-baptists; that if the time spent in "wrangling about it," as he called it, were spent in preaching Christ, it would be infinitely better, nay, that there were "multitudes of sinners now in hell that would have been saved, if the time thus spent had been devoted to preaching Christ; and then closed by putting it in the same category with politics, and all such questions of temporary interest, thus degrading an ordinance solemnly enjoined by Jesus Christ to the status of the merest temporal questions, and closed by warning the people against concerning themselves with Christian baptism. The speaker belonged to a denomination whose ministers are often hurried to the dying beds of sick people to baptize (sprinkle) them before they die. Now all this style of preaching is nothing more than a confession of weakness—a simple consciousness that the agitation of that subject is not to the interest of pedo-baptism. Whether a minister of Christ can safely thus degrade a solemn ordinance of the New Testament is a question worthy of consideration. Perhaps ten books and sermons have been printed and preached in defence of pedo-baptism to one on believers' baptism. And yet we must hold our tongues "for the sake of peace." Much of this kind of twaddle we have been hearing for a third of a century, but within the last few years it is becoming quite furious, we suppose for the reason that the best scholarship of the age, both in Europe and America, has settled the controversy, so far at least as fact and logic can settle anything. It will require a new school of logic, however, to meet and foil the old argumental obstructions; (beg pardon, reader, for coining a name for a species of logic not laid down in any of the books,) since the plainer you make the converse the more obstinate and vexed the party becomes. When they can do nothing more, they attempt to degrade the subject in hand, and sink it beneath the dignity of discussion. Well, that may take its quarters, but the mischief is it does not erase the subject from the word of God. There it stands, calmly confronting us just as it came from the Holy Spirit, bearing on its forehead the stamp of the Trine God, and there it will stand after criticism shall have done its worst in throwing it upon the rack to extort a favorite answer. It is a bootless task to get that out of a thing that God never put into it. S. H.

## OBLIGATIONS OF CHURCH MEMBERS ON SABBATH SCHOOL.

A brother whom we have long known and loved writes to know whether a member of one Baptist church can absent himself from the Sabbath-school of his own church, and give his time and energies to a Sabbath-school in another Baptist church consistently with his obligation to his own church. Our response is found in a principle that we have always thought ought to govern the conduct of church members. It is this—wherever it is wise and prudent to keep up a church and Sabbath-school,

## OUR FOREIGN MISSION BOARD.

Some two or three weeks ago we wrote an article on the work of our Foreign Board that seems to be somewhat misunderstood, and we proceed at once to indicate what we did mean. As dear a friend as we have in the State, the pastor of one of our best churches, addresses us a kindly letter, requesting us to explain; and as we can better do this by publishing an extract from the letter, we are sure he will excuse us for the liberty we take with it, as we suppress his name. The extract is as follows: "In the ALABAMA BAPTIST OF June 10th, did you not say more than you intended, when you said of the Board, 'They are the captain of this vessel, we are nothing more than a kind of engineer, and when they ring the bell we shall endeavor to change its direction, or even reverse the engine as they direct?' And before this you say, 'as a principle we shall stand by the Foreign Board in whatever line of policy they pursue.' Now it seems to me that there is something not quite scriptural, hence not quite Baptist in these statements. Perhaps you can explain them to me, and perhaps upon re-reading you may see that you can change some of these statements or explain them so that some of us can agree with you; for at present I do not agree with you," &c.

We cordially thank our dear brother for his candor in calling our attention to this matter, and giving us the opportunity of saying just what we meant. For, let us say, in passing, that we wrote in great haste, and under a pressure for "short articles," so that we did not have either the time or the space to place the subject just where it would have passed current. And first, let us say, that the Boards of the Southern Baptist Convention are the creatures of the Convention, and therefore subject to its control and direction. Indeed, they are the Convention in miniature in the interim between the meetings of the body. So that in saying what we did we simply meant to say that we would cordially co-operate with the Southern Baptist Convention as to its work and methods. These Boards were selected, both as to location and men, from the eligibility of the location, and the piety, wisdom, and efficiency of the members who compose them. We have opinions of our own, and when our opinions differ from those of these Boards, we shall innocently meet them before the only competent tribunal to try them—the Southern Baptist Convention; and the decision of that body shall be law to us. In few words, we are a Baptist, and hence on all questions of mere policy—questions where no vital principle is involved—we shall go with our brethren. On no other principle can co-operation be maintained.

In the next place, in the interim between the meetings of the Convention, questions will arise as to which there is no opportunity to consult the denomination, and on such questions a margin of discretion must be given to these Boards, home as well as foreign, to exercise their own best judgment, reporting the whole matter to the next meeting for approval or disapproval. On this principle all Boards are created and run. It is not assuming too much to say they have the facts, and are therefore better qualified to decide upon the corresponding line of duty than we can be. And we are willing to trust them, at least until they betray some folly that will justify their removal. Hence the application of our illustration of "captain" and "engineer" on a vessel.

Once more: The administration of the work committed to the foreign Board may be modified as occasion demands, as time and circumstances may dictate. For it is claiming nothing more for the Board than any pious man will concede, that the brethren who compose it are men of piety, of prayer, of sound judgment and practical sense; and that they are as likely to perceive the "more excellent way" whenever presented from any quarter as any of us. Thirty-one years ago they had to grapple with the most perplexing question they have ever had before them, and although it created quite a sensation, and some decided differences in opinion, every succeeding year has vindicated the wisdom of their final action. The Convention itself endorsed it with flattering unanimity. It is not to be presumed that sensible, good men, are indifferent to the lessons of wisdom and experience.

Finally, we must either co-operate with the Foreign Board in its work or practically do nothing. A story is told of that great and good man, Jesse Mercer, of Georgia, to this effect: When the Georgia Convention resolved to move Mercer University from Washington, Ga., where he lived, to Penfield, he opposed it with all his might, and he had done more for it up to that time than all others. But when the vote was taken he found himself in a hopeless minority. He meekly rose and said, "Brethren, I must go with you. I cannot stay by myself." This is the true spirit.

S. H.

## THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE WORD.

It is a common saying that matter is inert and that words are but wind, mere sound. But we all know that all nature is instinct with life, and that words have something more in them than mere syllables. In creation God impregnated all nature with the principle of life; and all that is required to bring out this principle of life is to place these objects of nature in proper relations to each other. Thus a grain of corn appears to be a dead substance, and it is so "if it abideth alone," but place it in good soil, and it will produce in its kind an hundred fold. Put in other combinations, as in fire, on a rock, by the way side, and it would be dead—the conditions of vegetation and growth would be wanting. These adaptations run through the whole kingdom of nature. That subtle something in the load stone would never manifest itself by placing it in contact with wood, rock, and the like, but place it in proper relations with iron, and you will see its latent principle developed at once. So of words in our dictionaries; they are mere sounds, but put in certain combinations with each other, and they stir the human heart, to its deepest depths. They become the vehicle of something that transfuses itself from the speaker to the hearer that may either inflame the latter with anger or inspire the most pleasing emotions. Put in certain combinations, they can touch every chord in the whole gamut of the human soul.

Now is it not somewhat in this way, but vastly more impressively, that the Holy Spirit is in the word? Is it not that which makes this divine word "quick and powerful, sharper than a two-edged sword?" Did not our Lord mean this when he said, "My words are spirit and they are life?" When the Holy Spirit indited these words, or when Christ spoke them, a fullness of meaning and power were given to them which make them today as potent as when they were first written or spoken. They are as much "the power of God unto salvation" now as they were eighteen centuries ago. The word of God is the vehicle through which the Holy Spirit operates to effect all the purposes of redemption.

But then it must be brought in certain relations with the word and Spirit of God before we can conciliate their influence. Has the Spirit anything to do with this? We answer, yes, much to do so—much that unless he shall sweetly influence us to "receive with meekness the engrafted word," no saving power will ever come to our hearts. As the farmer must prepare the soil before he sows the seed, so this divine Agent must "break up the fallow ground of our hearts" before he can make any permanent lodgment of gospel truth in these hearts. The truth is, sin entailed upon our fallen race a double moral incapacity—it brought both darkness and blindness. This darkness is removed by Jesus "the light of the world." This blindness must be removed by the "anointing of the eyes of our understanding" by the Holy Spirit. These two influences combining create the very conditions under which we are made partakers of salvation. For no matter how brilliantly the light may shine, if the god of this world blind our eyes, we will never see it, or be benefited by it.

This view of our subject furnishes the highest encouragement to preach the gospel as a divine guarantee that the "word shall not return to him void, but that it shall accomplish the thing whereto it is sent." The Spirit lives in the word as the sun lives in the flowers and plants of nature, giving them life, vigor, and beauty. The Spirit is enshrined in every doctrine, every precept, every prophecy, every promise, every threatening, every sentence of his divine dictation. We know what the promise of Jesus was in the days of his incarnation. What Jesus was in the words he uttered, the Spirit is in these "wonderful words of life." For he declared to his disciples before he left them, that the divine Comforter would more than supply his place, since he declared that "greater works" should mark his presence among them than he wrought himself. So that it was "expedient" for them that he should go away. For what else can he mean, by promising them, when he sent them forth to "all the world and every creature" to preach his gospel, that he would be "with them always even to the end of the world." S. H.

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We congratulate Alabama that Bro. T. G. Bush of Mobile will probably be a member of the next Legislature. We are glad to note that the commercial class which has lacked a proper representation heretofore is to have among others so strong a man as Mr. Bush.

Rev. J. H. Foster, Jr., will preach at the Baptist church next Sunday, at 11 o'clock. Mr. Foster has spent a most profitable and creditable session at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and is now at his father's for the summer vacation. —Tuscaloosa Times.

The "Little Mission Band" was organized at the Baptist church last Sunday afternoon by the pastor of the church, Mrs. Jno. Chandelier was appointed president of the society and Master Claude McRee Secretary. Miss Ella Gartman Treasurer. The object of the society is to train children in mission work. About 35 members were enrolled. —Clanton News.

Brethren make your arrangements to reach Birmingham in time to see the Convention called to order and vote for its officers and to remain until final adjournment. See the programme and you can learn exact hour and day of meeting and adjournment. Tell your wife and children that you will not leave Birmingham to return until after 1 p. m., Tuesday, July 20th.

The Sunday-school Celebration at the Baptist church Sunday night the 20th inst., was a decided success and proved highly entertaining to those present. The church was filled with citizens of our town and surrounding country. The exercises consisted of devotional exercises, songs, responsive reading of scripture, recitations, confined principally to the smaller children, and an address by the superintendent. —Springville Mail.

Rev. I. P. Trotter, a graduate of Mississippi College, and of our Seminary (1886) will fill our pulpit during his absence. He made a fine record in both College and Seminary, and did excellent work in the pastorate during his last two years in the Seminary. He comes upon the recommendation of Dr. Broadus and others. Our churches will both keep open and have services during the entire heated term. —G. B. Eager, Mobile.

The sermon Sunday by Rev. Geo. E. Brewer, was a fine one in many respects. He is a man of striking appearance in the pulpit and carries much weight with his discourse. His sermon was appropriate and eloquent, simple yet grand, chaste in sentiment, in diction pure, and pleased the very large congregation. Mr. Brewer preached again Sunday night, to a congregation largely composed of young people, and at the close several responded to the call for seekers of religion. —Bibb Blade.

In response to the call of Elm church, Clarke county, Ala., I met with her pastor, Eld. J. H. Fendley, and E. J. Hudson as a presbytery to set apart one of her members, W. T. Jarvis, to the deacon's office. Bro. Fendley led in the examination of the brother on his Christian experience, and the writer in reference to his soundness in our faith. This being satisfactory, prayer was offered by the writer, and the church extended the right hand, and thus closed the services. —C. A. Miles, Chairman, Nichollsville.

## REV. M. M. WAMBOLDT.

We clip the following deserved compliment of Rev. M. M. Wamboldt from the *Montgomery Advertiser*. As will be observed, Bro. Wamboldt delivered the literary address before the societies of the A. & M. College at Auburn, at their recent commencement. From information gathered from other sources, besides the article below, we are assured that the address was full of solid thought, rich in diction, well delivered, and enthusiastically received by the large and intelligent audience. Bro. Wamboldt is now pastor of the First Baptist church, Chattanooga, Tenn., where he is preaching to a crowded house at every service. The *Advertiser's* correspondent says of the address: "The boldest and most venturesome reporter will shrink from attempting a synopsis of such an address as that delivered by Rev. M. M. Wamboldt last night. Your reporter was present, with sharpened pencil, and ready note book, but his courage and his presence of mind forsook him when he had written the words, 'Wamboldt's subject.' This life is what we make it." Pencil and note book fell from his grasp; his body insensibly inclined forward, and his lower jaw fell. By the same electric shock the entire audience felt willing subjects to irresistible eloquence, and sat agape with eager attention, rapt, transported out of themselves, scarcely daring to applaud. The distinguished orator's fame had preceded him, and expectation was on tiptoe, but he failed to catch so much as a glimpse of the lofty heights to which his eloquence soared. Old Georgians who remember Toombs in his palmist days, thought he had come again; some said it was Booth; but ere the oration was done it was decided that it was neither of these illustrious men. It was Wamboldt, without peer among contemporaneous orators.

The address was adorned with the most charming imagery, the most brilliant conceptions of wit, the profoundest thought. Its diction was of the purest, its flow without pause or hesitation, like that of a rippling stream barred by no obstruction, but leaping over them all. All Auburn was carried into willing captivity.

FIELD NOTES.

Rev. Geo.



