

# ALABAMA BAPTIST.

"SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE."

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## ALABAMA BAPTIST.

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In Memoriam, Dr. S. W. Averett.

Outline of Memorial Discourse.

BY REV. GEO. B. EAGER.

"That disciple whom Jesus loved."—John 21:7. "He being dead yet speaketh."—Heb. 11:4.

The honored past assigned me today is neither biographical, nor eulogistic, but memorial. I am here to speak of what I remember of your brother, and knew him to be during the ripper years of his life; and to recall to your minds some shining points of his character, under the conviction, which I venture to believe you share with me, that in him, as in the beloved disciple of old, we were privileged to behold a "disciple whom Jesus loved," that in him the grace of

power that he being dead yet speaketh.

If there are any here who think there is any necessary conflict between polite learning and religion, or any who doubt the truth of Christianity and its power on earth to transform and ennoble human character, I would point them to this strong, polished, unselfish, manly man, and challenge them to explain his life on any other view of it than the Christian, that it was lived under a divine impulse, and devoted to a divinely assigned task.

This thought will dominate and at once determine and define what I shall say to you. One word more preliminary: So modest, so sensitively averse to undue publicity and aggressiveness was Dr. Averett, that many of us were just beginning to appreciate him when we were startled into some recognition of his worth and some sense of our loss by the news of his death. So it is worth while, not only out of respect for his memory, but for our own sake, and for sweet learning's sake, that we should spend an hour here today, so near to the cherished scene of his latest and most arduous labors, in reminding ourselves and telling to all we can reach what a man he was and what a work he performed.

A brief sketch of his life may be helpful to this end.

Samuel Wooten Averett, the youngest son of Thomas H. and Martha C. Averett, was born of a sturdy old Virginia family, at Halifax Court House, Va., March 18, 1838. His father was a physician of eminence, but was also called to represent the people of his state in the Virginia legislature and in the United States congress. The son's home training was of the strictest and best, and in the highest sense Christian. He received thorough academic instruction in the schools of his own state, and then took a course in the Naval Academy, at Annapolis, graduating from that institution with distinction in 1859.

He was at once assigned to duty on the new sloop of war Wyoming, which joined the Pacific squadron at San Francisco. He served there until April, 1861, when, in response to the call of Governor Letcher, he resigned to cast his lot with the Southern Confederacy. On reporting at Richmond for duty, he was commissioned lieutenant in the Confederate navy and placed in command of the Watson at New Orleans. At a later date we find him in charge of the floating battery, "New Orleans," at Island No. 10, where he was made a prisoner and sent to Johnson's Island. On being exchanged he again reported

at Richmond for duty, and was assigned to command of the Confederate war ship Florida, and ordered to Mobile. He rendered varied and valiant service in that capacity until May, '64, when, on account of failing health, he was ordered home for rest and recreation. Thus closed his career of active military service. His health never allowing his return. When the war was over, like his great commander, he exchanged the arena of arms for the school-room. He recovered his health, went to Calpeper, Va., and there, with the late Prof. Nathan Penick, took charge of the Calpeper Female Institute. It was there he met and married Miss Janie Russell Miller, who, with two lovely daughters and a promising son, survives him. In 1872 he removed to Danville, Va., where, with his brother, Prof. John T. Averett, he had charge of the Roanoke Female College until 1887, when he was called to be the successor of Dr. Robert Frazer as president of the Judson. Of his faithful services in that honored position we are all informed.

His life, though not altogether uneventful, had, for the most part, a normal development. His student life, especially at Andover, chiefly of term of service as a soldier, chiefly in the Confederate navy during the war, and his life as a school president, form the three important epochs of a career that ended while he was yet in his prime. In each of these life periods he was a man of note, and all of them contributed toward the formation of his character and the broadening of his intellect. His military training tended to make his work as a teacher certainly more vigorous, possibly too military. But his matured life showed that he had so assimilated all the elements of his checkered experience that his character had become a harmonious whole, a ripened product of rare completeness and beauty.

In many of the shining traits of his character we may trace a resemblance to that of the older "disciple whom Jesus loved." His gentleness, like John's, was conspicuous in his ripper years, but, like John's also, was by no means the result of mere easy good nature. It was at once a grace and an achievement. He had been with Jesus in the fiery ordeal of temptation and in the blessed school of prayer.

His courage, too, like John's, was a noteworthy characteristic. Ah! how it shone out in the dark

private remarks thanking the delegates for past honors conferred upon him, very gracefully called his successor to the chair, promising to aid him in dispatching the business of the body.

Eld. Guthrie, after a few appropriate remarks, took the chair as moderator.

We had with us brethren J. M. Roberts and J. M. Sandlin of the Muscle Shoals association, and Bro. A. E. Burns, evangelist of the State Mission Board.

When the subject of education came up Bro. Roberts, in a very able and impressive way presented the claims of the Baptist institution at Danville; Bro. Sandlin delivered an able speech in the interest of ministerial education, and the association raised \$50 for the cause.

The report on missions received unusual attention; and oh! how thankful we were that we were afflicted with "Burns." God bless Bro. Burns. The cause of his Master is upon his heart, and wherever he goes the cause of missions is benefited beyond calculation. Our visiting brethren were a God-send to us, and we feel their visit to us has honored the cause of our Master, and aroused an interest in our association that can only be estimated at the dawning of the perfect day.

Our contributions were larger for all causes than last year, and we feel sure that the next year will show much greater advance.

On Sunday the cause of Sunday-schools was very impressively discussed, and we feel that the subject is being considered by our delegates in a more earnest way than heretofore.

Sunday morning a very large congregation assembled to hear Bro. Burns preach, and to say that the people were pleased is in no sense an expression of the good done by his sermon. We are sure that it is not too much to say that it was the ablest sermon ever delivered in Cullman county. After the sermon the association adjourned to meet with Duck River church on Thursday before the fourth Sunday in October, 1897.

May the Lord bless every work fostered by our association.

A. W. BRISCOE.

The man who sits down to wait for a golden opportunity to knock at his door, will need a thick cushion on his chair.

Many boys are saved when their fathers are wrong, but the child stands a poor chance when his mother is wrong.

It is better to have only a little honest meal in the barrel, than to sit down to smoked meat that should be returned to somebody's smoke house.—Ram's Horn.

checked, the grand process is retarded, creation halts.

No sublimer conception of the office and dignity of human character has ever been given to the world, and no more startling statement of the method of creation. Translated into our modern ways of speech, it is this: The forward movement of the universe goes its way from the beginning to a certain point under mechanical laws fit for material things. Cause and effects, attractions and repulsions, heat and light and the rest—these have their way for a while in moulding the elements of the evolution become changed; they become under God human, spiritual, personal. Then the problem is no longer to mould and harden a world, it is to unfold and quicken personality, to awaken and identify and adorn character. For this a new necessity appears, the help of man. Not God himself can develop human character except through the agency of human beings themselves. No higher tribute can be paid Dr. Averett than to say that he at once represented and illustrated in himself and in his teaching this divine estimate of character and this method of its development, and that he counted all else secondary and subsidiary to the human character, Christlike character, was the aim and goal of all true education.

For Alabama Baptist.

Prayer and Transfiguration.

Luke tells of Jesus that "as he prayed the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment became white and glistening." In those silent hours in the solitude and sacredness of that mountain scene, heaven streamed so steadily and strongly into his holy soul that the spiritual triumphed over the material, the soul gained the ascendancy over the body, and the tabernacle of flesh became suffused with supernal splendor.

Prayer is the power which elevates the believer above the toils and cares, the heart aches and the burdens, the doubts and the darkness of earth to those lofty and serene altitudes where he beholds "no man save Jesus only." In those sacred seasons, the spirit is strengthened, the heart is cheered and soothed, and even as the sorrowing child sinks to rest under the gentle caresses of a devoted mother. In those hours there come to the soul glimpses of heaven, forestays of the blessedness of the paradise of God, voices of heavenly messengers sent to cheer the weary pilgrim with tidings from the homeland, and greetings from the Father in heaven.

Under those holy influences the tumult of the soul subsides, and the "peace which passes all understanding" keeps heart and mind in the careworn face soften; and the mellow light of the soul which shines in the countenance indicates to all beholders the blessedness of dwelling "in the secret place of the Most High," "under the shadow of the Almighty."

Here the disciple is girded with new strength, and fitted for sterner trials and more exacting duties.

From such as these, in touch with the power almighty, the pitiable victims of demoniacal influence receive deliverance, and through such this poor world of humanity is brought into saving relations with heaven.

The secret of a pentecost, of a triumphant church, and of a transfigured life is that which is so largely neglected in this busy, worldly age, and which is vital to any spiritual power and progress—prayer. It is prayer, also, which elevating the believer to transfiguration heights, enables him to see the harmony of life. It is said that there is a point in the upper air where the discords of our world are hushed, and the

of joy and sorrow together, as I seemed to love them and know them, and I love them better now than I ever did. I know them so well. The power of duty impelled me to make the decision that bore me from them.

I am sure the convention will do for the community and church blessing, and the brethren will carry away an imperishable savor of precious memories. May the grace of all grace gently lead his people, and command his benediction to rest upon them.

The honor of being pastor of the most honored of the very strongest churches in this state. Besides the fifty per cent more than any other pastor in the South, I have had the honor of being pastor of the most honored of the very strongest churches in this state. Besides the fifty per cent more than any other pastor in the South, I have had the honor of being pastor of the most honored of the very strongest churches in this state.

OSCAR HAYGOOD.

For Alabama Baptist.

South Carolina Dispensary Law.

Many religious bodies are recommending the South Carolina dispensary law in their reports on temperance. To my mind this seems a strange procedure for people claiming to be Christians. It seems to me that it is bad enough for the state at large to grant a license to sell a poison to the citizens, and then enact a law to punish the man who drinks the poison and kills his neighbor. The state is engaged in the business of selling insane men while under the influence of drink. The state would honor itself by repealing all license laws and throwing responsibility on the man who gains to poison his neighbors for the sake of the sale of the poison. The state ought to be too honorable to want to raise revenues from the money wrung from the widow, the orphan and the starving children.

Next, I discovered that when missionary pastors or evangelists were furnished a church, the church sat down in absolute inertness and irresponsibility. Whenever I have started a Sunday-school or revived one I have thrust this arrow into their minds, that they must do the work, however "imperfect" it might be done, that they were wholly responsible, and if they did not get up to self-help and self-reliance, they would be in the hands of the state's pocket revenues.

For the Alabama Baptist.

Mission Work in the State.

Editor Ala. Baptist: In the discussion and "suggestions" of the various brethren concerning the "best" methods for evangelizing our State, may I speak a word?

I have only a few words to say, and they are based solely on my personal experience and labors in my own city, and the area of our own Association.

Up to five years ago I knew nothing about the condition of our denomination in our Association. I had applied my time and thought exclusively to city interests. Our Central Committee of the State appointed me Vice President of Women's Work in our Association five years ago. At that time I discovered "no Sunday-schools" in most of the churches, and in consequence very "dead" churches. Instead of a child being trained up in the way he should go, he was left to "go" until some chance shot from "once a month" "missionary pastor," might overtake him and convert him. The examination of back numbers of our Association's Minutes will testify as to the "result" without any word from me.

Without calling on our State Mission Board for one dollar, Sunday-schools have been dotted here and there, and kept alive by pouring our Sunday-school literature from Nashville into them gratis until they become self-supporting. Through my connection with the series they have donated thousands of copies of our Sunday-school literature to the new schools started. And, in unvarnished truth, I have found a weekly visit of Kind Words and our other literature into the homes, to be read and pondered upon, was worth more than all the spasmodic preaching of evangelists or missionary pastors for keeping up a live gospel interest in a community.

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For Alabama Baptist.

Tallahassee River Association.

This body closed today one of the most profitable and pleasant sessions it has had for many years.

Only seven small churches constitute the body, some of them doing nothing for the cause of missions, and yet the report shows nearly one hundred dollars given to the cause of benevolence. In addition to that a voluntary contribution of five or six dollars was put into the hands of the executive committee to begin the new year's work.

All the interests of the denomination were discussed with interest and enthusiasm, and the brethren returned home more determined to do for Christ's cause than ever before. I feel sure you will hear good news from the Tallapoosa River association in the near future.

The following preachers were present: Rev. J. I. Newman, Wm. Rob. Taylor, J. S. Foster, J. R. Stodghill, J. R. S.

For Alabama Baptist.

About the Orphanage.

1. Don't send packages to children. When letters are sent to children, send in care of the Orphanage.

2. Mark plainly on package the address of sender. If you simply write us saying you have sent goods, it is impossible for us to tell which package came from you.

3. We would prefer that all donors give value of package.

4. Notify us if receipts do not come. JNO. W. STEWART, Financial Secretary, Evergreen.

Insufficient Vision.

A great work has been wrought when a sinner's soul eyes have been opened by God, or rather when new eyes have been given him. He now sees God and himself as he never did before, and yet his vision is imperfect. Even after the process of spiritual clarification has been going on for years his vision is insufficient to enable him to see himself very accurately. Yet there are those who say that they can see that there is no sin in their hearts! This necessarily implies that they believe that their spiritual vision is perfectly sufficient to accurately discern the real state of their hearts. This is not a question of feeling, but one of competence to see and judge the heart with correctness. Has any Christian such ability?—Zion's Herald.

One of the missionary mothers of Turkey brought up her children with the proverb: "Look on the bright side, and if there isn't any bright side polish up the dark." Ex.

Selfishness is a hard snake to kill.

CHILD LIFE.

The average Brazilian household increases rapidly. The couple boast so many pairs of children, counting them by twos—a boy and a girl respectively. These little folk often rule both parents and servants. They indulge in sweet-meats (which abound in this sugar and fruit-growing country) freely, in highly seasoned meats, and in strong coffee, which is used almost as freely as water.

Thirty-one years ago J. Hudson Taylor, of England, dedicated himself to the Lord's work in China, and prayed that twenty-four men could be raised up within one year to enter that great empire for missionary service. The prayer was answered, and thus was founded the China Inland Mission. God has wonderfully blessed this organization, which today has 620 missionaries and has distributed over \$2,000,000 for missions among the Chinese.

What we need today for our mission work, both home and foreign, is more praying on the part of God's people. If we could only get every church member to pray as regularly for missions as he prays for himself, we should witness a great revival of mission interest. There would be no lack of money or men for service. Let every reader determine to pray daily for missions, and pray earnestly and believingly, and thus help to begin the revival of missions.—Evangelist.

Since the Christian era began, Africa has been the servant of the world. Ages ago, many of her sons and daughters were leaders in the world's best thought and civilization, but by process little understood Egypt by its sons and daughters lost their proud estate. For centuries the whole Christian world united in their enslavement, and today they are scattered among all nations, but are everywhere practically the servants of other people. The millions of slaves brought to America helped to make our country what it is.—Bishop Hartzell, in the Treasury.

As a fountain finds its expression in overflowing, as a river in rushing to the infinite main, as trees bursting into life and blossom in the springtime, so God feels it his joy to give liberally, and to give above all we can ask or think or desire, for Christ's sake.—Cummings.

The setting of a great hope is like the setting of the sun. The brightness of our life is gone, shadows of the evening fall around us, and the world seems but a broader shadow.—Longfellow.

For Alabama Baptist.

A Text Explained.

Here is the text: "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place, and it shall remove, and nothing shall be impossible unto you." A very able preacher explains the text thus: "As there was never an instance in the life of our Lord where, on man's order, a tree standing on the shore, in an instant transferred itself to the bottom of the sea, and as there is no instance where our Lord or any of his disciples commanded a mountain to be moved over into the sea, and as these literal things are found only in the Arabian Nights, what did our Lord mean? What did he mean to teach? What was it harder to do than to move a tree from land to sea? What was it

harder to do than, by speaking a word, to move a mountain into the ocean? There were obstacles in the way of right doing, obstacles that to unassisted human nature were insuperable as the moving of a mountain by a simple diction. You are commended as a Christian, every day of your life, to do things that are impossible. You are commanded to do things that no fallen human nature can do. Let us look at some of them. First, never use your liberty as to put an occasion of stumbling in the path of a weak brother; never fail to rebuke a brother when he sins; never fail to convince him that he has sinned, and lead him back to penitence; never fail to forgive him fully and freely as God forgives; never fail to be patient with those who are slow to believe; never fail to be kind to those who are angry; never fail to be gentle to those who are contentious; never fail to be lowly to those who are proud; never fail to be meek to those who are angry; never fail to be patient with those who are slow to believe; never fail to be kind to those who are angry; never fail to be gentle to those who are contentious; never fail to be lowly to those who are proud; never fail to be meek to those who are angry; never fail to be patient with those who are slow to believe; never fail to be kind to those who are angry; never fail to be gentle to those who are contentious; never fail to be lowly to those who are proud; never fail to be meek to those who are angry; 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Save The Children.

When children are attacked with cough, cold and croup, Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup will prove a quick and sure cure.

Hog Cholera and Swine Plague Cured.

Rev. L. E. HALL'S Hog Cholera Cure is an infallible remedy for Hog Cholera and Swine Plague.

READ THIS LIBERAL OFFER.

To any person, whether an old subscriber or new, who will send us \$2.50, we will send the ALABAMA BAPTIST for 12 months, and also a copy of Dr. Riley's "History of the Baptists of Alabama."

PLANS OF Churches, Houses, Schools, etc.

FOR OVER FIFTY YEARS Mrs. WINGOLD'S SOOTHING SYRUP has been used for children's teething.

Seashore and Mountains.

The Plant System will sell low rate summer excursion tickets to all resorts commencing June 1st, and continuing until September, 1900.

THE BEST PLACE.

To have your shoes made to fit the foot is at FRED JANSEN'S.

Gold Fountain Pen.

The Lincoln fountain pen is a regular fountain pen, and will work superior to most \$2.50 pens now on sale.

\$200.00 IN GOLD Given

The International News and Book Co., Baltimore, Md., makes no more than one of \$200.00 in any one year.

HOW TO GET GOOD TEACHERS.

Write J. M. Dewberry, Manager of "The School Agency," Birmingham, Ala., and what you will say.

HEISKELL'S Ointment

doesn't merely benefit, but cures all diseases of the skin, eczema, tetter, scald-head, etc.

Can't Eat

This is the complaint of thousands at this season. They have no appetite; food does not retain.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

It is the best blood-purifier, and does not irritate the bowels.

BLOOD IS LIFE

It is the medium which carries to every muscle, organ and fibre its strength and vigor.

WANTED

To help a young minister prepare for college. Address Rev. J. B. Boyan, Kingsport, Tenn., or Willsboro Institute, Willsboro, Ala.

"Macbeth" means toughness

of glass, when applied to lamp-chimneys; perfection of draft besides, if you get the Number made for your lamp.

Let us send you the Index.

Geo A Macbeth Co

Birmingham Conference.

First Church—Bro. Gray was absent in the interest of Howard College. Bro. John D. Jordan preached in the morning, and presided at the regular musical service at night.

Second Church—Had a good day. Congregation in the morning was full and the service was deeply spiritual.

Southside.—19 additions; 13 for baptism; 6 by letter, two baptized.

Woodlawn—Pastor preached at both hours to good congregations. Sunday-school well attended.

East Lake—Pastor Hobson preached at 11; subject, "Glimpses of Heaven"; Gen. 28:17. Large congregation.

Compton—Two deacons ordained; Rev. J. E. Barnard preached the sermon; also at night, from 1 Cor. 11:28. Brethren McCain and Jenkins are doing a good work at Compton.

New Prospect—Pastor Hutto preached Saturday morning from Acts 2:47; at night from Mat. 4:23; Sunday morning from Num. 13:30. Three joined by letter.

Adams St.—We have had splendid congregations since our last report. Overflowed once or twice into the Sunday-school room.

Clayton St.—Sunday-school well attended. Rev. W. M. Burr preached at 11 a. m. a most excellent sermon on "growing in grace." Text, 2 Peter 3:18.

Some are, in regard to ridicule,

like tin-roofed buildings in regard to hail; all that hits them bounds rattling off; not a stone goes through.—H. W. Beecher.

OBITUARY.

On the evening of July 14th, 1896, near New Market, Ala., at the home of her son-in-law, Rev. H. E. Rice, Mrs. Ann Spelce fell sweetly asleep in Jesus.

Mrs. Spelce was formerly Miss Scott, of East Tenn., and came to Ala. in 1846, in company with Rev. R. H. Tallaferrero and family.

She was born May 24th, 1838. Having lost her parents in youth, she was left to battle with life for herself. But she fought it bravely and won a glorious victory.

Deceased professed faith in Christ in early life, and was baptized by R. H. Tallaferrero into the fellowship of New Market Baptist church, and lived a consistent member of that church until a few weeks before her death.

She moved her membership to Rice church, and was a member of that church only a short while before she died.

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Incalculable Benefit from Treatment with Electropoise.

The value of the Electropoise in curing diseases in my family and among my neighbors is incalculable. My wife has used it to great advantage in cases of neuralgia, heart trouble caused from La Grippe, acute La Grippe and severe attacks of neuritis.

With the Electropoise I have cured cough, night-sweats, rheumatism, chills, fever and worms. Other neighbors are using it with beneficial results.

For a short time the \$25 Electropoise will be sold for \$10; or rented for two months for \$5.

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