

Alabama Baptist.

MONTGOMERY, MAY 26, 1898.

Directory for the Baptists of Alabama.

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BAPTIST YOUNG PEOPLE'S UNION OF ALABAMA.—Prof. F. H. McEll, Auburn, President; L. W. Terrell, Birmingham, Secretary and Treasurer.

OUR SCHOOLS.—Howard College, East Lake, Ala.—Prof. F. M. Roof, Chairman Faculty. Judson Female Institute, Marion, Ala. Rev. R. G. Patrick.

OUR PAPERS.—The ALA. BAPTIST, Montgomery, Ala.

REV. B. F. RILEY, D. D., now filling the chair of English in the University of Georgia, has been selected and invited to preach the commencement sermon of that institution on June 12. This is a distinguished honor, expressing the high appreciation of the officers of the University. It is more so, as Dr. Riley is a member of the faculty of that school. We extend congratulations.

HON. JONATHAN HARLSON, President of the Southern Baptist Convention for the past ten years, gave notice at the last session that his name would not come before that body again for that position. To this some of our papers demur. His services have been so satisfactory that unless he unconditionally declines re-election, he will again be called to the chair. As a presiding officer he has had no superior in the past. Just and impartial in his rulings; a dispatcher of business prompt and attentive to duty, he has won for himself a warm and affectionate place in the hearts of the brethren. Firm and decided in his convictions; conservative in the execution of his office; true to the principles of Baptist polity; orthodox in doctrine; he stands at this time one of the pillars and landmarks of the denomination. If the duties of his official trust as associate justice of the Supreme Court of Alabama do not demand his retirement as president of our convention we shall rejoice to see him re-elected at the next meeting in Louisville in 1899.

In an interview published in the Western Recorder, May 12, Prof. J. W. McGarvey, probably the leading scholar among the Disciples, answers the question, "Do you regard baptism as a prerequisite to the Lord's supper?" He takes the usual view, saying, "Yes, according to the Scriptures it is. That is my opinion. There is some variety of opinion among us on that point. In practice it is the usual custom of the Disciples in this country to permit unbaptized church members to participate on their own responsibility without either inviting or debaring. That is the most common practice. The Disciples in Great Britain and Australia practice close communion in the same sense the Baptists of this country do."

In regard to the open communion which is allowed on the responsibility of the communicant, Prof. McGarvey says, "I have always thought, and our most thoughtful men have always thought, that our practice was not logically consistent. But we reconcile ourselves to that inconsistency on the plea of charity."

The charity which Paul commands, however, rejoices in the truth; and Bro. McGarvey cheerfully admits that the natural interpretation of the Scriptures requires baptism before communion. That is Baptist close communion, and immersion on a profession of faith the only baptism.

A young lady who has had experience as music teacher desires a position for next season. Prefers the place of music teacher in a good school, but would consider other propositions. Has good testimonials. Teaches vocal and instrumental music (piano and organ). Write to this office.

WE ARE IN MUCH TROUBLE.

Not that we have been bereft of any of our loved ones; not that some great misfortune has befallen us; not that we have wronged any of our brethren. No, not that, but some of our good brethren have wronged and continue to wrong us. Not willfully and intentionally, we trust. Nay, verily—but neglectfully. At no time in our newspaper life have we been in such great need of money to carry on the publication of this paper. It seems that the war has closed the purses of many of our subscribers against us. Brethren! In the name of right and justice and the religion of our Lord and Master, do send us some money. If you can't send all of the small amount you owe, do please, for conscience sake, send us part of it. Many of our subscribers pay up promptly, but many others do not. It is to these we appeal. We cannot steer clear of debt unless you come to our aid. We are deeply in earnest. It costs us more now to publish the paper than it did two months ago. We would not make known to you our wants through this appeal, if our needs were not so pressing. Come to our rescue. You don't owe much, individually, but when you put say two thousand names together, and make each name stand for \$1.50, then you have a THREE THOUSAND DOLLAR debt borne by the paper, when you are due perhaps only \$1.50. See what a great hardship this works. If each of you will send us only the little pittance of \$1.50 within the next thirty or sixty days we will promise not to call again for a long time. Won't you do it? Try, please; make an earnest effort, and we feel sure you will succeed. Unless this is done by our subscribers we cannot tell what the result will be. We rely upon your faithfulness and upright integrity for a speedy response to this fraternal but earnest appeal—an appeal that is justified by the word of God.

PASTORS—won't you urge your flock who are taking the paper, and who are in arrears to send us some money? Please do us this small favor.

WAR NEWS during the past week has been very meager. Many rumors have circulated in the daily papers, but very few of them have been confirmed. No news from Dewey. It is not known by any except the government officials where Sampson or Schley are with their fleets. Of course the Navy Department has been very reticent.

do in discounting the influence of the Recorder and its editor. The other point which was noticeable was the disposition to strive for those things which make for peace. Men of all shades of opinion concerning the Whittitt matter joined hands and hearts in making the Norfolk meeting a great missionary convention. The commission of our Lord Jesus Christ to evangelize the world was the thought uppermost in the minds of nine-tenths of those who were so fortunate as to attend this great meeting. As to what will be the result of the action of the convention, I do not essay to forecast. In my heart of hearts I indulge the hope that Dr. Whittitt may see his way clear to quietly resign, and thus remove the last and only obstacle to the entire unity of the constructive forces among Southern Baptists. I have no sympathy whatever with some of the methods of warfare that have been used against him, and the Southern Baptist Convention has nothing in common with the personal attacks of which Dr. Whittitt was the victim. With the board of trustees twice assembling and twice sustaining Dr. Whittitt, and with two conventions remaining eloquently silent concerning the matter, it seems to me that he could not resign, and if matters remain as they are, no one can foretell what may happen at Louisville next year. One thing is certain to me as that the stars shine at night, and that is, that Dr. Whittitt can never reunite the Baptists of the South on the Seminary grounds. Outside all the discussions of all the issues leading up to the present status of affairs, I do not believe that the Baptists of the Southwest will ever co-operate with Dr. Whittitt as president of our Seminary. I say this in great love and kindness to all of the brethren, but I know whereof I speak. The silence of the anti-Whittitt forces at Norfolk must not be construed as an endorsement of Dr. Whittitt. The reason for that silence must be sought for in the wide-spread desire of our mission-loving people to preserve intact the unity of our great convention. As to what their view will be a year hence, with Dr. Whittitt still president of the Seminary, no man can foretell; because there is no prospect that a single opponent of Dr. Whittitt will ever become his advocate.—J. A. C.

So far as the Religious Herald is concerned, the "Whittitt controversy," as it has been called, though Dr. Whittitt since it began has contributed little or nothing to it—has come to an end. We do not pretend to have been as gentle and considerate in the part which we have taken in it as we might

WHAT OUR BAPTIST PAPERS SAY ABOUT THE ACTION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE WHITTITT MATTER.

Western Recorder, Louisville.

The notice given by Dr. B. H. Carroll that he will next year move to dissolve all organic connection between the convention and the Seminary, leaving each to stand on its respective merits, brought before the body a matter of intense practical interest. It was well that a committee of one from each state should be appointed to consider during the year the whole subject of the relations of the Seminary to the Convention, and to report at the meeting next May. We think it is manifest that the present relations are unsatisfactory, and we hope the wisest solution of the problem will be reached. Dr. J. S. Coleman represents Kentucky on this committee.

We feel much better about the denominational situation than before the convention. We think the trend of events is in the right direction. Let us all rally with new faith and new hope and new love to the great work God has committed to our convention, and by his blessing let us make this the best year in all its history.

Right spirit, to which we say Amen and Amen! See Phil. 3:13-14.

The Baptist Standard, Texas.

The Whittitt matter did not come up for action. The board, composed of some of the wisest men of the denomination, had learned wisdom since last year. It will be remembered that at Wilmington they made a report "for information," which was severely criticised. This year the trustees wisely took the position that the members of the convention were able to read, and they contented themselves with publishing their action in the local papers. They gave no official "information" concerning their action to the convention. True, President Levering reported some vacancies in the board of trustees, but this matter, together with the resolution introduced by B. H. Carroll, of Texas, looking to an investigation of the relations between the Seminary and the convention, was referred to a special committee, which is to report next year at Louisville. Two things were especially evident at Norfolk concerning the Whittitt matter. One was that the John T. Christian incident, and the connection therewith of the Western Recorder, had greatly helped Dr. Whittitt's cause. With one accord, there was a disposition evident to frown down the reflection on Dr. Whittitt's veracity. I do not believe that there were ten men at the convention who believed that Dr. Whittitt had told a falsehood when he said that he only wrote four articles for the Independent. Dr. Eaton and the Western Recorder were not dominant at Norfolk, and the later phases of the Recorder's attitude toward Dr. Whittitt had much to

do in discounting the influence of the Recorder and its editor. The other point which was noticeable was the disposition to strive for those things which make for peace. Men of all shades of opinion concerning the Whittitt matter joined hands and hearts in making the Norfolk meeting a great missionary convention. The commission of our Lord Jesus Christ to evangelize the world was the thought uppermost in the minds of nine-tenths of those who were so fortunate as to attend this great meeting. As to what will be the result of the action of the convention, I do not essay to forecast. In my heart of hearts I indulge the hope that Dr. Whittitt may see his way clear to quietly resign, and thus remove the last and only obstacle to the entire unity of the constructive forces among Southern Baptists. I have no sympathy whatever with some of the methods of warfare that have been used against him, and the Southern Baptist Convention has nothing in common with the personal attacks of which Dr. Whittitt was the victim. With the board of trustees twice assembling and twice sustaining Dr. Whittitt, and with two conventions remaining eloquently silent concerning the matter, it seems to me that he could not resign, and if matters remain as they are, no one can foretell what may happen at Louisville next year. One thing is certain to me as that the stars shine at night, and that is, that Dr. Whittitt can never reunite the Baptists of the South on the Seminary grounds. Outside all the discussions of all the issues leading up to the present status of affairs, I do not believe that the Baptists of the Southwest will ever co-operate with Dr. Whittitt as president of our Seminary. I say this in great love and kindness to all of the brethren, but I know whereof I speak. The silence of the anti-Whittitt forces at Norfolk must not be construed as an endorsement of Dr. Whittitt. The reason for that silence must be sought for in the wide-spread desire of our mission-loving people to preserve intact the unity of our great convention. As to what their view will be a year hence, with Dr. Whittitt still president of the Seminary, no man can foretell; because there is no prospect that a single opponent of Dr. Whittitt will ever become his advocate.—J. A. C.

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have been. Our conviction was strong, and we have free to express them. If we have inadvertently hurt any of our brethren, we sincerely regret it.

One thing rejoices us: the policy for which we have stood the beginning is overhauled, endorsed—endorsed because wise and right, and not a means because we advocate our co-operative bodies were destroyed, if we take into discussion and decision our national differences. When we began to set this forth, it was make any impression on our ears; but at the last they see it. We mention with honor those brethren who thought the convention had a review this case, and who Dr. Whittitt ought to see if he loved the mission work body, and who were unwisely injured. The spirit they showed in this was noble. Nor must we forget to terms of sincere praise of the work on the Whittitt side, though sure of a good majority, refused to thrust the question of the real work of the convention should be injured. The body spirit exhibited at Norfolk, a binger of better days, is a voice of that body that is a sign of things to come. Extracts from other Baptists will be printed next week.

WILLIAM EWART GLADSTONE.

The most remarkable of the illustrious man of the nineteenth century died at his home in Hawkeston, on the 19th inst. Gladstone was born December 1809, at Liverpool. In 1829, at Oxford; 1832, entered parliament; was married in 1836 to a daughter of the Duke of Devonshire, and in 1839 he became prime minister. He resigned the premiership in 1868, and was again chosen to that position in 1880, and resigned in 1886. He was recalled to membership, and in 1893 resigned. There was one marked characteristic and ruling spirit in his life and eventual life—sincerity. He possessed firmness, persistence, wisdom. As a statesman, diplomat, patriot, Christian, he was a success. His earnest advocacy of rule for Ireland—opening up for greater liberty—was one of his noblest efforts of his life. Sixty-two years of his life he was a participant in the affairs of England. His loyalty to his government, his unadorned frankness, his courtly manners, his deep and unobtrusive piety, his political

dom, his great knowledge of law, his great knowledge of government and of international coupled with other accomplishments, marked him as a man, as a leader in a great life, when the cares and responsibilities of the leadership of the world rested upon him, he never neglected his duty to his God and his country. Mr. Gladstone's life demonstrated the fact that a great man can be a great Christian. The of scandal never touched him. Amid the whirl of excitement, the allurement and fascination of personal and political temptations, he was always the prudent conservative Christian statesman. His career, taken as a whole, is the most eminent and consistent in this century's history.

In his book, "Gladstone," written in 1891, Dr. J. L. M. Curry says of him: "The greatest champion of justice and right, of honor and freedom, of peace and good will, the greatest of the century, the Grand Old Man does not owe his reputation, popularity and influence to adventitious circumstances. His is a unique personality, which makes his mightiest force in English history." In 1885 Mr. Chamberlain said: "But standing here at the turning of the ways, I venture to assert that the history of the last five years will be written, neither the honor to which I have the honor to be a member, nor the parliament which was returned to power with such tremendous enthusiasm years ago, will have any cause to fear its verdict. When the story comes to be written, you whose will be the central and prominent figure. You know Mr. Gladstone will stand of his time—remarkable not only for his extraordinary eloquence, his great ability, for his steadiness of purpose, for his consistency, but more, perhaps, than all these, for the high tone that he introduced into our political and public life. I am certain that justice will be done to him in the future, and I am not less certain that there will be a signal demonstration of the men who, moved by motives of party spite, in eagerness for office, have not dared to load with insult and

nity the greatest statesman of our time."

The politicians of our time and our country might greatly improve their records by learning the great lessons taught by the pure and incorruptible life of this eminent patriot, and with scrupulous integrity shape and mould their conduct.

We gladly correct an error of figures made in the quarterly report of the Woman's Central Committee. The Y. L. S. of the First Baptist church of Montgomery is reported as sending a mission box worth \$1.25, when it should have been one hundred and twenty-five dollars. The types made the mistake. We take off our hat to our sisters, and ask forgiveness. We are always glad to correct any error, and regret that our attention was not called to this one at once.

FIELD NOTES.

Rev. J. R. Keyton's address is changed from Daleville to Dothan.

Rev. T. J. Davis has removed from Winter Park to Astor Park, Georgia.

A conference of State Mission secretaries has been called to meet in Atlanta on Wednesday, June 1.

Some notes and other articles have been crowded out for a week or two, but they are printed this week, and are not quite stale.

Rev. J. W. Hamner has removed from Hatchechubbee to Grand, where he is pastor. He says he has fallen among a most excellent people.

The Calera Sentinel reports that the ladies of the Baptist church there gave a delightful and successful ice cream and strawberry supper one night last week.

Judson commencement begins on next Sunday. Rev. Carter Helm Jones, D. D., of Louisville, will preach the commencement sermon. The college exercises will continue until Wednesday.

If Bro. W. G. Robertson, one of our most intelligent Sunday school men, needs Dr. Taylor's assistance in unravelling a puzzle, there may be others just like him. See the puzzle on the first page, Doctor.

Rev. T. T. Dobbs asks us to change the address of his paper from one postoffice to another, and the names may be significant. He has been at Cook's Stand a long time, but now he has changed to Effort.

The report from the Birmingham churches reached us last week after the paper had gone to press (Wednesday). But we excused the brethren because they had attended the convention, and their mind had not returned to the ordinary channel.

Rev. J. A. Glenn, of Asheville, has been kept from his work for sometime by sickness, and he writes that he is still unable for duty. We regret to hear this. Bro. Glenn fills a large and important place in his territory, and cannot well be spared for even one week.

Thanks to Col. Murfee for an invitation to the commencement exercises of Marion Military Institute, to begin May 26. The Institute receives its share of public patronage and of the honors attained by its graduates along with the other schools of high grade in the state.

Attalla Mirror: Rev. J. A. Howard, representing the ALABAMA BAPTIST, was a pleasant caller at this office yesterday. The BAPTIST has so improved recently that all Baptists can refer to their state organ with pride. It should be a weekly visitor to every Baptist home in Etowah association. [Thanks, many times.]

Dr. T. J. Prim, of Saltpa, Clarke county, gives kindly attention to the interests of the ALABAMA BAPTIST in his community, and he has our thanks. He writes, "I can't see why a Baptist refuses to take his paper"—which shows that even a physician of experience will now and then meet a case which he is unable to diagnose.

The time of the Howard commencement, and the order of the exercises, are printed in another column. Those who have had opportunity to know the facts report that the teachers and the students have done good work this year, and it is reasonably expected that the coming commencement will be quite satisfactory to critical visitors.

Abner Williams, Oxford: After several weeks of great physical suffering, Mrs. Geo. M. Taylor, (granddaughter of the late Rev. T. P. Gwin) died here yesterday evening, leaving a devoted husband, five small children, a mother, sister, three brothers and numerous relatives and friends to mourn their loss; but they mourn not as those without hope of a happy immortality.

ity. Mrs. Taylor has been a consistent member of Oxford Baptist church for many years.

A pleasant and profitable day at Castleberry and Evergreen last Sunday. Responses are coming to the current appeal. The first individual to respond was Bro. Stewart, of the Orphanage; the first church, Adams Street, of this city; the first Sunday school, the Castleberry; the first Ladies' Mission society, the Evergreen. Where are the first Sunbeams? I beg to call attention to the words of Dr. Cleveland in this issue of this paper. Let every one join in this rally.—W. C. A.

Dr. Cleveland has resigned the pastorate of Columbia church, which he has so successfully held for some years past. The church has prospered under his charge, and the Baptist position in the community, and indeed in that section of country, is stronger than it was before the Doctor went there. He will remove with his family to Verbena by the first of July, if not before, and we in Central Alabama will have the pleasure and privilege of seeing him again, and with us. Columbia church is one of the best, and it must have a pastor of the same grade.

Geo. E. Brewer, Opelika: There was a pleasant service at Pike Road, Mathews and Fitzpatrick on my last trip. There is some probability of establishing a church in the future in the neighborhood of Mathews or Pike Road. We expect a pleasant time at Mathews on the 5th Sunday in May. The Fitzpatrick church, though recently constituted, and without a pastor because it wanted a house of worship first, yet seems from the devotion and earnestness of its small membership to be outstripping with past pastors. It has had five or six additions recently by experience, and about as many by letter.

Greenville: The pastor's homecoming, after nearly two weeks absence at the great convention, caused mutual greeting Sunday, the 15th. He was given a cordial hearing at the morning service, which proved toward the end to be a real evangelistic service, as a young man and three young ladies in a calm, decided manner, presented themselves for baptism. At a previous service two members were received by letter. Evening service, convention notes and baptism. On Sunday, the 22d, the pastor's morning sermon was on the subject of the earnest Christian life. Two

members received. Baptism in the evening.

T. J. Henderson, Mountain Creek, May 23: We have just closed a week's meeting at Bozeman. God has blessed us very much. Seven were added to the church by experience and one by letter, and all the members are greatly revived in the work. Nearly every unconverted person in the house came forward for prayer at the last services. Our beloved pastor has labored with us hard for the Master, and his work has been abundantly blessed. I am satisfied there will be many conversions that will date from this meeting. All but one of the new converts are Sunday school scholars. We have a fine Sunday school, nearly a hundred in regular attendance, and the church is getting stronger every day. Bro. Bell is a good pastor and everybody loves him.

H. H. Shell, Mobile: I want to add a few words to what Bro. Thompson has written about our meeting at Palmetto Street. It was a great meeting—I suppose one of the best in the history of the church. Every service was good from the beginning to the last. But Sunday was the best day of all. That was a great day. Preacher and people were filled with the Spirit; saint and sinner wept and rejoiced together. That was one of the happiest days of my life. I will never forget it. Bro. Thompson is excellent help in a meeting. He preaches the gospel "in demonstration of the Spirit and of power." His motto is, Keep close to God. That's a good one. That's power. My people love him. I love him, too. There were 35 additions to the church during the meeting. Our church is greatly revived. We are all happy, and feel very grateful to the Lord.

A. E. Burns, Wilsonville: Fine services at Columbia last Saturday and Sunday. Two valuable accessions by letter. The church has contributed \$87 already this year to missions, etc.; pastor's salary is paid up to date, and an active committee is at work raising money to repairst and otherwise improve our house of worship. The work will be done right away. We will hold a series of meetings, D. V., commencing the 3d Sunday in July. All our hearts throb in sympathy and our prayers go up for our

beloved Bro. C. W. O'Hara, whose health has broken down and he has been forced to give up his work for the present—in fact, he is confined to his room. He feels that his life's work is done, but he is as perfectly resigned and cheerful as it is possible for one to be, and the peace of God, which passes understanding, fills his heart and mind through Christ Jesus. He is happy in suffering his Master's will.

W. A. Hobson, East Lake: Those wishing to attend the commencement exercises at Howard College will find free entertainment and a cordial welcome in any of our Baptist homes from East Lake to Bessemer. See the program as published by President Roof. The sermon by Dr. Broughton will be a rare treat. Dr. Broughton is possibly the most effective pulpit orator among the younger ministry of the South. He is a man of striking personal appearance, with deep, rich voice, and a delivery that is always interesting, and at times highly dramatic and supremely eloquent. Dr. Broughton will preach both morning and night at East Lake, every body is interested in making the commencement at East Lake a great occasion. The entire city is justly proud of its classic suburb, and especially of Howard College. Our door-latches are on the outside to all the friends of Howard who wish to attend the commencement.

J. L. Hand, Rollins: We had a large congregation and a good meeting at Chestnut Creek church (Coopers) last Sunday. One was baptized, making thirty-seven received by baptism during the nearly three years in which I have been pastor there.—At Goodhope church, on the first Sunday, we had a large congregation and one baptism. I have baptized quite a number since I have been pastor of that church. I have the assistance there of our beloved brother W. E. Holley, whom the church "liberated" three or four months ago. He is making a good start. That is an active little church.—The second Sunday was a delightful day at New Prospect church. We had singing and Sunday school, and then preaching. Two were received by letter. We had singing in the afternoon also. Bro. H. Evans is superintendent of the Sunday school—I also have charge of Liberty church, of which Rev. S. L. Loudermilk was formerly pastor, and whom the church regretted to give up. The church is

pastoral labors of a man of his ability? Many of our churches have pastors of far less ability. But we are taught in G. d's word that "the time will come when men will not endure sound doctrine; but will heap to themselves teachers having itching ears." It would seem that the fulfillment of this prophecy is more nearly at hand with the city churches than with the country churches; nevertheless, it may be found very largely with some of the country churches. Bro. Dix is preaching to two churches in Lowndes county. We congratulate those churches on their good fortune in being able to secure his pastoral services.

For the Alabama Baptist.

Earnest Words from Dr. Cleveland.

The urgent necessities of the State Board of Missions in Alabama make the earnest appeal of our Secretary appropriate and timely. It is true the Board is in debt. It is the only Board that is in debt. It is burdened with a debt that is crippling it in every department of its work. Our concern for other Boards has made us neglect our State Board. We cannot afford to continue this neglect. Our work in the state needs prompt relief. The faithful servants of God who have been sent out by the Board are feeling our neglect—they are suffering—they are dependent upon us—upon our voluntary contributions. The continued progress of work in every department is dependent upon the successful prosecution of our work in this department. Interest in our Master's cause, a sense of Christian obligation to brethren who have accepted work at the call of the denomination, the success of all our enterprises, command our prayerful, careful, helpful consideration of the appeal of Bro. Bledsoe which makes us to know of the necessities of the case. We cannot afford to disregard it.

Brethren, Sisters: I send these few words to give what force they may to the appeal our Secretary makes. Contribute now, if you would save the work further depression and our brethren further discomfort and discouragement. In their behalf I appeal to you.

W. C. CLEVELAND.

Columbia, Ala., May 24.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT.

EDITED BY W. A. HOBSON, East Lake, Ala.

Our young people should begin to get in readiness for the State

We hope to have a good meeting, and if we do, we must get about it. Will not some one in each church and union take the matter in hand and work up interest in the Montgomery meeting? Speak out in the ALABAMA BAPTIST, if you have any suggestion to make. We can easily make it a great meeting. Will not the pastors and you people in Montgomery move off in an effort to make our July meeting in the capital city one of power? Birmingham proposes to be on hand. We want to see how much progress Montgomery has made since we attended the first State Convention in that city. Let some one whose duty it is see to railroad rates, and notify us as early as possible. Much will depend upon this. We would suggest, too, that the program be published just as early as possible.

Rev. W. D. Hubbard, of Greenville, has agreed to assist in treating the prayer meeting topics. We are under obligation to Brethren Dickinson, of Pratt City, and Willis, of Gadsden, for valuable service.

Questions.

1. Is baptism essential to salvation?

2. Have the elders of the churches the same power of healing and performing other miracles as the Apostles had?

Please answer these questions for the benefit of one who is seeking light. J. D. H.

Ans.—1. Baptists have not found it so taught in the Scriptures, and therefore do not believe it. Only those who are already converted and saved are proper subjects of baptism. If you will read carefully the first and second verses of the 6th chapter of Romans, so that you may see what is the subject under discussion, and then read the ten verses following, you will get a clear idea of the meaning of baptism.

2. Miraculous gifts ceased when the necessity for miracles no longer existed; that is, when God had given sufficient evidence of his power, and had attested the divine origin of the gospel and the authority of the ministers by whom it was preached. When there came to be many believers who could testify that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation, they were living personal witnesses to the truth, and miracles were no longer necessary. And "the elders" have no more supernatural power or gifts than any one else.

