

Alabama Baptist

MONTGOMERY, OCT. 13, 1898.

WE ARE DEEPLY IN EARNEST.

Dear Brethren: As your servant I come to you with some facts which we desire you to lay on your hearts. Regret it as much as we may, humiliating though it may be to us, candor and credit compel us to say to our subscribers that we are in great need of money to carry on our work. At this time there are thousands of dollars which belong to us in the hands of others. A little here and a little there make up a large amount. A brother says to himself, "It is only a small amount I owe; I will pay it soon." Two thousand may think and act the same way, and hence we are pressed.

A newspaper debt is just as legal and moral an obligation as a grocery bill or borrowed money. You don't get angry if the merchant calls on you for what you owe him, or if it may be the doctor, or the tax collector. Why, then, should any brother just because "get out of sorts" because the newspaper man, in a loving, brotherly spirit, tells him what he owes? If we are brethren, then we will love one another. If Bro. Brown owes you money, and you need it, and it is due, you want him to pay it; and if he can do it, and won't do it, you don't feel sweetly over it, do you? It is your right to have your dues. Don't you think it is the same with us? Why not?

Brethren: Within the next thirty days we entreat you earnestly to forward to us what you are due. If, however, it is out of your power to pay all you are due, do send us half. Even this will give us great relief. We know that conditions are depressing, and the people are pressed, but let us help each other as we are able; make sacrifice to do it. Don't lay this aside, thinking everybody else will pay up, "and mine won't be needed; I will delay longer." Don't do this, brethren. What we need is something from every one who owes us anything. Ask yourself the question, "How much do I owe?" Unless you come to our aid we cannot longer pay actual running expenses out of our income.

Some of our subscribers have paid up to 1897, and some still further ahead, for which we are profoundly grateful. Will not the remainder, like devoted brethren, come up gracefully and do the needed thing and help us? We earnestly entreat you not to put this matter off, but comply at once. Now is our time of need. "Make your wants known," is the Scriptural injunction, and we can only do this through our columns. If every one who owes us will in thirty days send us half the amount, it will relieve our present embarrassments. May God aid you in complying with this call just now.

Pastors, will you not give us your assistance? Fraternally yours.

ESPECIAL ATTENTION is called to the article by Dr. Roby on our first page. Read it; it has something in it. We have not had the time to follow the thread of his argument to its logical conclusion, but it leads, as we see it, to the co-operation of the churches all over the state with the convention in our work. That success in its fullness shall crown our organized work, there must be a bringing of all the churches into touch with each other. To do this they must in some way be visited officially. Let our brethren study the suggestions found in that article, and let us by the time the convention meets have some well digested plan by which to bring into close touch with the state work all our associations and churches.

One of the greatest lessons to teach children is, "Never give up" when attempting to do the right thing. One failure may bring another, and finally discouragement dwarfs the child-effort and works disaster. Some one has well said, "When you get into a tight place, and everything goes against you till it seems as if you could not hold on a minute longer, never give up then, for that's just the place and time that the tide will turn." Teach your child nerve, grit, grip, pluck. If the toe is "stumped" and the nail knocked off, encourage him to endure it with fortitude. Teach him courage, strengthen him in his weak points. Study your child's nature, his proclivities, his idiosyncracies, that you may the better know how to fortify him. It is a sad fact that some parents study the character of their chickens, cattle, sheep, and ignore the study of child nature. Every child is a new book for parental study. Look well to the traits of children, for soon their traits will be securely fixed.

MAN'S PLACE IN CREATION.

Man is the high priest of nature. Every mute thing, every dumb beast, every lifeless plant, the majestic heavens, the verdant earth, the rolling sea, mountains, cataclysms and plains—everything in which there was a trace of the Divine hand—was to find a voice in him, and through him were to pour into the ears of the Most High their ceaseless songs of praise. He stood at the head of a procession of an immense family of worshippers. Creation was his temple. The earth and all that pertained to it was his possession. It was a noble, a sublime position.

Though man has the stamp of the curse upon him, he is the ruler of creation still. His mission is to multiply and replenish the earth and subdue it. The ages have witnessed his triumphs in the gradual subjugation of the earth. Its occult forces have been evoked, its secret treasures have been uncovered, its hidden wonders have been unfolded, and the world is being gradually transformed into a temple of the achievements of the race. But the chief glory of the race, yet the provision on the ground, was man. We could write many interesting things concerning this gathering of God's hosts, but we close by saying that the session was a delightful and successful one. We would be glad to mention the name of every preacher and tell about his work, but it would make our report too long. Take it all in all, it was a grand and glorious success.

The brethren did the handsome thing for the ALABAMA BAPTIST, as they always do at their association. WM. M. EVARTS, one of the nation's most distinguished lawyers and statesmen, gave expression to the sublime thought, "As there is nothing in the world great but man, there is nothing truly great in man but character." If this be true, how encouraging the thought! Character, pure character, is within the reach of all alike. No monopoly or corporation can "tank up" character and deal it out to the highest bidder, as the Standard Oil Company tanks up its oil and retails it to purchasers. There is no such thing as one man or set of men getting a "corner" on character as the great wheat cornered wheat. Glorious thought! A spotless name belongs to every man who will merit it. The day laborer, toiling for a living at the plough, the forge, the loom, the

work-bench, can rank in character with the purest statesman, the most profound scholar, or the most saintly divine. Character is the diamond that tests all other virtues. Who will possess it? PERSISTENT effort is assured of its reward. Every noble work may at first seem impossible, but this seeming is only superficial. To comprehend our strength, we must bring into play all our forces. That which is well to do should be done well. No right aim or purpose is insignificant. The smallest tap or screw in the most powerful and intricate machinery that holds any needful part in place, is as important as any other part. Hence the little things in life, rightly adjusted and performed, bring out the beautiful side of our nature and beautify and adorn it. This is a cheering thought—that God watches the little things we do, and if done in His name, and for His glory and the good of men, a rich reward remaineth for the doer. A noted jurist and statesman says, The nerve that never relaxes, the eye that never blanches, the thought that never wanders, these are the masters of victory. He that is not weary in well doing shall triumph. Ye shall reap if ye faint not. To your work, brother, and God will bless and comfort you.

LESS than thirty days' and the Baptist State Convention will meet at Opelika. Within this period, if every pastor who has not already done so, will make an earnest call on his people for a contribution for State missions, we will go up to the convention out of debt. Now, pastors, won't you lay this matter on your hearts, and then on the hearts of your churches, and plead earnestly with them for help just now? A united effort will insure success. Let no pastor neglect this. You may not get much, but if every church will send something, the debt will be wiped out. Why not do it? One dollar from this church, two dollars from that, five from the other, in proportion to financial strength, will bring the needed amount. There is not a Missionary Baptist church in Alabama that will not give something if called on. If the money is not raised the fault will rest largely on the pastors of churches. Let them give their congregations an opportunity to contribute; if they get

nothing, no charge of neglect of duty can fall on them. Only four more Sundays in which to bring the matter before the churches. A strong, earnest, vigorous effort will bring every dollar needed to extinguish the debt and start us joyfully on another year, with hopes and prospects bright and cheering. Don't forget it, brethren; don't fail to present the matter to all your churches.

THE PEOPLE of Bethel church, near Welch, at which the association met, were boundless in their hospitality. Although the crowd on the second day was immense, yet the provisions on the ground were ample. We could write many interesting things concerning this gathering of God's hosts, but we close by saying that the session was a delightful and successful one. We would be glad to mention the name of every preacher and tell about his work, but it would make our report too long. Take it all in all, it was a grand and glorious success.

Every enterprise of the democ-

nation was discussed. The interest in the Orphan's Home was deeply manifested, and we are sure when the brethren have opportunity they will urge this object in their churches. All the pastors in the association were present excepting Bro. Shaffer, together with several who reside out of the bounds. As well as we remember, there were twenty-three ministers in attendance. We missed Bro. Stodghill, who since the last association has moved to Lineville, Clay county, where he is doing fine work. Such a good preacher and sweet-spirited man as Bro. Stodghill will succeed anywhere.

We were delighted to meet Bro. Z. D. Roby, the old war-horse of East Alabama. We were so glad to see him looking well. His only trouble is nervousness, superinduced by constant hard labor for many years. But he is regaining his former strength and usefulness.

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NEWS NOTES AFTER THE WAR.

CUBA.

October 7 there was almost a fight between Ray's Georgia regiment and the Spaniards at Manzanillo. Col. Ray had received orders to go there and take possession, but the Spanish colonel had received none to vacate. Both sides prepared for battle, when Col. Ray reported the situation by cable, and received orders to wait three days for the Spaniards to receive orders. The Cubans are still suffering much for food, but they are relieved as rapidly as food can be carried to them. Where there are no American troops the Spaniards will do what they can to starve the Cubans to suffer for food. The Spaniards are gradually leaving the island, and a large part of the southern coast is now clear of them.

Yellow fever has been stopped at Santiago by the cleaning up of the city, which, however, is not yet completed, and there is not much sickness of any kind. Gen. Wood says it would be a good investment for our people to start a few small provision stores and bakeries at reasonable prices, but he advises against the purchase of land at present, as the Spaniards got the land records in "shocking disorder."

Prominent officers of the Cuban army, including Gen. Gomez, recently held a meeting to consider what kind of government they will try to organize in the future.

All quiet at Havana. The evacuation commissioners meet and discuss matters, but no reports are given out as to what is said or done. The United States will take possession of the island Dec. 1st.

THE SPANIARDS have left the island with exception of the capital, San Juan, and perhaps one or two smaller places. Soon the American flag will wave over all that land.

THE PHILIPPINES.

Everything appears to be awaiting the decision of the peace commissioners at Paris. Aguinaldo's agent, who came to Washington for some time, One received baptism, one baptized. Organized an afternoon Sunday school in the church. The church came together Wednesday night and rejected my resignation by such an overwhelming majority that I decided to stay a while longer. The opposition, except a few, asked for their letters. There was such a sweet spirit manifested by the church that I think some of them will soon return to us. Six votes were cast against me. The yellow fever I have visited is very mild. Pray for us.

Hiram Hawkins, Hawkinsville, Oct. 9: Rev. J. W. Dossett, who has served our church at this place so acceptably as pastor for the past two years, is now pleasantly located in the Theological Seminary at Louisville, preparing for the bright future before him. He preached his farewell sermon and took leave of our church last Sunday, 2d inst. Today Bro. J. A. Jenkins, of Mt. Hilliard, filled our pulpit as pastor for the ensuing year. Our little church is prospering and growing. Our community is blessed with a good school, presided over by the accomplished Miss Sue Moon, daughter of Dr. Moon, of Goodwater. [The resolutions in regard to Bro. Dossett will be printed next week.]

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Washington County News, Sta. Stephens: Rev. P. M. Callaway, Jr., in charge of the Baptist church at this place and at Frankville for the past seven months, passed through town last Tuesday, with his family, en route to Newton, Dale county, their former home. Rev. Callaway and family carry with them our good wishes for their future well being.

Rev. W. M. Murray's two years' work as pastor at Georgiana will come to an end on the second Sunday in November. Rev. A. J. Thames will then enter upon his duties as successor to the retiring pastor. Great things are expected of him. Bro. Murray has made no engagement, but would prefer to begin work as soon as he is released. Churches looking for a pastor may address him as above.

Bro. Quisenberry returned from the meeting of Unity association in a state of enthusiasm. The brethren and sisters treated him with great hospitality, and the association gave him all the work he wanted—and he is fond of work of that kind. The people made a liberal free-will offering to missions, a number of them subscribed for the Foreign Mission Journal, and some of them placed in his hands several dollars for the ALABAMA BAPTIST. He would like to go again.

W. A. Parker, Linden, Oct. 6: Bethel association, now in session here, has had a profitable meeting thus far. Some good work has been done during the last year, and much has been devised for the ensuing year. We looked for your traveling man here, but he came not, so I did what I could for you. My hands were so full of my own work I did not have time to canvass thoroughly. Hope to send you some new subscribers from Antioch association.

W. A. Hobson, East Lake: The Board of Ministerial education is still due a balance of \$400 on the note given at close of last session of Howard College for the purpose of settling in full with the college for the board of ministerial students. We prayerfully hope to be able to pay this deficit before the meeting of the State Convention. Will the brethren over the state enable us to do this? Dear brother or sister, if your eye falls upon this appeal, please present the matter to your church, and send us a contribution at once.

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We got off the train at Searcy station at noon on Saturday last, in company with Bro. Stewart, of the Orphan's Home, bound for the Alabama association, in session at Indian Creek church, Butler county. The brethren had sent conveyance for us until they became discouraged, and very reasonably, too. But we had started to the association, and proposed to go on. After a good dinner with young Bro. Harrison at the home of Bro. and Sister Hawkins, who had gone to the association, we set out afoot, the old apostolic way. Bro. Stewart expected to return in a few hours, so he left his baggage and kindly took part of ours. The young brother told us of a "near cut" by which the distance would be reduced to two and a half miles. The clouds were friendly, and now and then one floated in between us and the hot sun; but still there was much heat. After awhile we left the plain road and took to the woods, just as we had sometimes done in our preaching; but in the woods we were more fortunate than we had been in the pulpit, for we found a path that led us to the desired point. The body was organized the day before. Rev. T. T. Dobbs was in the chair, the former moderator, Bro. J. C. Fonville, having remained away so as to compel the brethren to release him from the duties of moderator. Bro. Jo. Kierce was made clerk. We were told that some of the friends of the former clerk, Rev. C. C. Lloyd, gave him their votes for moderator, and thus he fell between the two offices. But the new clerk was watchful and faithful, and we suppose everybody was satisfied. The burden of carrying the money bags for the association had been laid upon Bro. J. W. Holloway. The belated visitors were given the floor to speak on the reports that remained to be disposed of, and they did what they could to help along. Judging from the fact that the large house was pretty well filled, we suppose the churches were well represented. There were a number of visitors. On Sunday morning Pastor Porter, of Fort Deposit, preached in the church, and the writer of this was given all out of doors and preached to the overflow in the grove, where seats had been prepared. It was a pleasant service to the preacher, and the mission collection was very good. The association completed its work in the afternoon. It will meet next year with Spring Creek church, Butler county. Bro. Dobbs is a good moderator, and showed his friendship for the ALABAMA BAPTIST by talking for it himself and giving it the floor as long as desired. We renewed some pleasant friendships of the years gone by. Bro. Dan. Harrison, a member of Indian Creek church, and Bro. Andy Barganier, of Fort Deposit, (he now lives in town) have our thanks for kind hospitality.—R. F. B.

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Dr. L. G. Broughton, of Atlanta, the famous Baptist evangelist, was expected to assist Dr. Gray in a meeting to begin at the First Baptist church, Birmingham, last Monday evening.

In last week's paper, in the denial of an evil report about the Orphanage, the types said that the report is doing injury to the Orphanage "and perhaps, also, to four orphan children in the community." It was written, "poor orphan children," and should have so been printed.

W. J. Elliott, Montgomery. We had good congregations at both services in Wetumpka Sunday. Bro. A. F. Goldsmith, who lives in Wetumpka for the present, assisted us in our communion services. Our B. Y. P. U., under the leadership of Bro. W. E. Lacy, is moving along encouragingly.

Addie The Baptist, Oct. 7: As my helpers and co-workers in the gospel have written to know what has become of me, must say, "Outside of Heaven yet." Yes, for two weeks I have been very ill. (My work, of course, stood still.) But through the daily and nightly tender watch-care of my faithful, loving mother, God gave me back to earthly burdens. All is well that works well; and this morning a large pile of "stored away" mail was handed me. "When! how much," was all I could say at first. But the Lord be praised, so filled my soul. [We will begin again the publication of Miss Addie's articles so soon as we can.—Ed.]

A Response to "Earnest Inquirer."

Only want of space prevents us printing entire the response of Bro. Gable to the two questions to which he refers, which were published in this paper of Sept. 22. He writes:

"The first question is stated about thus: 'Is it in harmony with Baptist discipline for removed and negligent members to be left out of the count when a church reports statistics to the associations?' &c. I think it would be difficult to find an unquestionable authority on this point, as it seems in such matters our churches are each a law unto itself; but I beg to submit the opinion that it is not and ought not to be in harmony with Baptist discipline. My reason for saying this is based upon our conception of what a New Testament church is. Every member is supposed to be a regenerate soul, a 'living stone,' with his place in the 'spiritual house' of God. The fact that some of the stones are removed from their places and have left great gaps in the walls of Zion as represented by the local church in a visible organization, does not change their standing as such parts of the wall, nor remove their obligations to the church; and above all, it should not and does not absolve the church as a whole from duties and responsibilities toward its individual members. Suppose the report were being made to God in heaven instead of to an earthly association, would any church care to omit from its statistics any one, no matter how careless and apparently unworthy, who confessed Christ before the world and put Him on in baptism?"

Brethren, both ministry and laity, does the "body" of which you are a member look after the highest interests of its "members," as it ought? We may be faithful to the congregation as a whole, especially as it meets in the house of worship from time to time; but are we as much concerned about the individual whose name is on the church roll, and professedly a child of God, as we should be? Above all, do we do our duty by that member when he removes from the neighborhood and makes his home among strangers?

I venture to lay it down as a rule with hardly an exception that members who are out of direct touch with their home churches will backslide to a greater or less degree, no matter how many sister churches are close at hand, nor however zealous they may have been in Christian work where their membership is held.

Where all means fail and members will neither keep up a vital connection with the home church (and I never yet knew one to do it for any length of time), or identify themselves with Christ's people in their new home, then comes the consideration of the second question of "Earnest Inquirer" viz, "Should their names be erased from the church book?" The answer under these circumstances seems simple enough. Undoubtedly, yes. Because they refuse to confess Christ before the world then just as they would by refusing to be baptized.

Shall be glad to learn what other "Baptist usage" there may be. J. F. GABLE, Pastor Second Church, Chattanooga.

For the Alabama Baptist. Good Meeting—Central Association.

Our Ashland meeting of eight days and nights in September increased in interest from beginning to end. The pastor preached from Thursday night till Monday night, when old Bro. Scarboro, of Albertville, came and Tuesday he took the pulpit and held on with interest and zeal till the close.

Bro. Scarboro lived many years in Clay county, where he practiced medicine and preached the gospel. After eight years absence he returned to tell the people of Jesus and his love, and from several parts of the county the old brethren of former years came to hear once more this servant of God proclaim the gospel.

Bro. Scarboro is seventy years of age, but preaches yet with power. His grand-daughter, Miss Ollie Walker, a fine Christian girl, lent interest to the meeting and brought up memories of old to her many young friends whom she returned to visit with grandpa.

We had a good meeting. The church almost entire was revived. Eight girls and women were buried in baptism with Christ on Sunday in the presence of many witnesses.

Two members were received by letter, and backsliders were made again to have the joy of salvation restored.

Two of those baptized were wives and mothers. The other six were girls and young ladies of whom I am very proud.

At the close of the meeting I went down to Providence church in Coosa county to the Central association. The roads in old Coosa are as rough as ever, not near as good as our roads in hilly Clay, but my relatives and friends down there hardly believe me when I tell them so.

The Central was largely attended by friends and folks, but not so large a body of messengers was present as is sometimes the case. Rev. O. P. Bentley of Goodwater was the introductory preacher. The same officers were re-elected.

The letters reported an average condition of church life. Some good meetings, a fair showing for Sunday school work, some church building, several prayer meetings, and the financial report was somewhere about five hundred dollars,

cash and vouchers, distributed pretty well among all of our enterprises except institute work, which received maybe a little less than the state work report, recommending fewer boards, eliminating institute work from board supervision. Bro. J. L. Thompson was present to say some things, and the writer spoke for institute work.

This association has never had an institute, but some of the preachers are studying the Course, and some are interested in it very much. The meeting in the main was a good one.

The mission discussions this time were not so much all one way as is common, for it has been developing for a year that there is some Crawfordite sentiment (otherwise called "Gospel missionaries") in the Central. But with little exception those opposed to the "Board plan" are, as they have ever been, as I am informed and as I know, practically opposed to much mission work on any "plan."

