

THE BAPTIST.

MONTGOMERY, ALA.

FRIDAY, DEC. 16, 1853.

Our Foreign Mission Board.

In a recent interview with the Corresponding Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, Rev. J. B. TAYLOR, we learn that the present condition of that Board is quite embarrassing. The revolution now progressing in China has depreciated our currency about one half; so that, to maintain our positions in that country as they are, will require our expenditures to be double what they were the last year, unless a speedy change in the aspects of things there. To recall any of our Missionaries on the alleged ground of our inability to sustain them, would be unparalleled, so far as we know in the history of missions. That step is out of the question. To place them upon half allowance, while we are abounding in every species of wealth, would be not only a violation of our most solemnly pledged faith to them, but subversive of every principle of common justice. For only alternative, then, is promptly to place at the disposal of the Board an amount of funds adequate to the emergency. This can be done with all imaginable ease, if the pastors of our churches will only take the trouble to present the matter to the churches. In behalf of the Board, we do most earnestly request our ministering brethren to take this matter in hand, and relieve the mission of its embarrassment.

To meet this emergency, our recent Convention resolved to raise for Foreign Missions the coming year five thousand dollars.—Something over two thousand dollars were reported to the Convention as having been raised in Alabama during the past year, a portion of which amount had been forwarded to the Board through its agents. We believe it is also in contemplation to appoint an agent for this State. We trust it will be done promptly, and that our brethren will give him that prompt and efficient co-operation essential to his success. The above sum could be raised with ease, by the labors of an active agent. It is hoped, therefore, that the services of such an one can be secured, and that we shall have the pleasure of announcing the fact to our readers at an early day.

Scarcity of Ministers.—The Remedy.

Some time since we wrote an article under the above caption, to which an esteemed correspondent has taken some exceptions, whose communication we publish this week. We think our brother has misapprehended the drift of our article, and it affords us great pleasure to recur to the subject again, that we may correct such misapprehension. In the first place, "Enquirer" objects that our views are not only unsustained by the Scriptures, but are at variance with the cherished sentiments of Baptists. He thinks that the spirit of preaching and prayer cannot be restrained; and that to say that either can be restrained involves the doctrine of final apostasy. But surely our good brother has not carefully examined this subject. In Job 15: 4, we have this language:—"Yea, thou castest off fear, and restrainest prayer before God." Here, the possibility of restraining prayer is not only taught, but the very fact is alleged as a distinct charge. Other passages might be quoted asserting the same truth, but this is so distinct, that we deem it unnecessary to introduce them. And the experience of every Christian will sustain this view. Where is the saint who has not at times failed to deprecate his want of communion with God?

But says "Enquirer," the very fact that those Christians have succeeded in repressing their convictions of duty in reference to the ministry, is the best evidence that God has not called them to that work. If there be any force in this argument, it applies as much to one command as another. We might just as well say that because a sinner has resisted his convictions of duty to repent and believe the Gospel—quenched the Holy Spirit—and rejected the counsel of God and so never repents, that therefore it was not his duty to repent. Or that because a man has succeeded in stifling the impulses of benevolence, and stealing his heart against the cries of suffering humanity, that therefore it was not his duty to relieve that suffering. Every object for which we are authorized to pray, implies a corresponding course of action. For example, we are instructed to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." Now, unless this prayer be accompanied by a diligent use of those means which God has ordained to give "seed to the sower and bread to the eater" of what avail will such a prayer be? If the views we have suggested involve the doctrine of final apostasy, then to preach the Gospel is essential to salvation. But this, we are persuaded, our brother no more believes than we do.

Again: Our brother has entirely misconceived another point in the article we wrote. He seems to consider us as affirming that a College education is essential to qualify a man to preach the Gospel. We did not intend to teach any such doctrine. On the contrary, we expressly declared, that even if a score of young ministers were graduated at our College annually, even that would not supply the wants of our churches. We stated this by way of enforcing the importance of "praying the Lord of the harvest to send forth more laborers into his harvest." Our object was to turn the attention of the churches to some other source besides the College, to supply our lamentable destitution.

The importance of an educated ministry will not stop to argue. We mean an educated ministry, not in the technical, but in the proper acceptance of that term. No man can teach what he does not know.—We presume that "Enquirer" would not contend that the Holy Spirit, by direct inspiration, teaches the preacher the Hebrew and Greek languages in which the Bible was originally written—the ancient measures and customs of the Jews and surrounding nations—and such other like matters quite necessary for the exposition of a large portion of the sacred volume. And as to the various sciences, if our good brother will only point out those of them, of which God is not the

Associational Record.

The TUSCALOOSA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION held its twenty first Annual Session with the Hepzibah Church, Tuscaloosa County, Ala., Sept. 17-20, 1853.

REBEEN DOBSON, Moderator, and M. SLADE, Clerk. 33 Churches; Baptized 196. Total number of members 2339. Collection on the Sabbath for Home Missions \$40.85. Total contributions for different objects \$343.64.—The Introductory Sermon was delivered by Rev. J. R. Arnold, and the Missionary Sermon by Rev. B. Manley. The Circular letter is upon the subject of "Fasting and Prayer."

In the report of the Committee on Documents, we find among other important resolutions, the following:—"The Brethren at Sardis, desire instructions from this body in regard to those members of Baptist Churches who drink ardent spirits in public places. To this query we recommend the following answer:—Who ever so acts reproaches the cause of Christ, and injures others by the influence of his example and so violates a rule adopted and recommended by the Apostle Paul, in which he declares, 'if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh, while the world standeth.'"

THE SALEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION held its fifteenth Annual Session with the Church at Troy, Pike County, Ala., October 1-4th, 1853. G. G. McLENDON, Moderator, and J. T. S. PARK, Clerk.

Benevolence Church in Pike County, newly constituted, was received into membership. 40 Churches; Baptized 322. Total number of members 3,269. Contributions sent up \$455.94. The Introductory Sermon was delivered by Rev. W. H. McIntosh.

Resolutions were adopted in favor of Indian, Domestic and Foreign Missions, Education, &c., and subscriptions were raised in support of various objects. We find in the minutes also, the fact stated that about forty new subscribers were obtained for the South Western Baptist.

A subscription was raised also to support a daughter of some indigent Baptist Minister, in the College at Tuskegee during one Session. A Committee was appointed to report the name of some young Lady as a suitable recipient of that favor. After a few minutes consideration the Committee reported the name of Miss Lucinda E. Sims. (Miss Sims is now at Tuskegee enjoying the benefits of this liberal donation. We believe the tuition in such cases is gratis.)

THE CABALA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION held its thirty-sixth Annual Session with the Newbern Church, Green County, Ala., October 15-17th, 1853. Rev. J. H. Devotte, Moderator, and J. E. SWANSON, Clerk. 33 Churches; Baptized 328. Total number of members 4182. Contributions for benevolent objects \$429.50. The Anniversary Sermon was delivered by Elder John Sausing \$1000 were subscribed by two brethren to raise a permanent fund, the interest of which is to be divided between Foreign and Domestic Missions. Rev. J. H. Devotte was appointed to edit a tract on a suitable person to sell Alcoholic drinks, instead of six as now required by law.

The following resolution appears in the report of the Committee on Indian Missions:—"Resolved, That this Association support annually one native Missionary in the field."

The Committee on Temperance reported the following resolution:—"Resolved, That the Cabala Association petition the next State Legislature to enact a law with suitable penalties, requiring a majority of the voters in each county, city, town, village or election precinct, to recommend a suitable person to sell Alcoholic drinks, instead of six as now required by law."

Cexas Department.

THOMAS CHILTON, COR. EDITOR.

HOUSTON, November 30th, 1853. General Items.

In a letter just received from brother J. V. WRIGHT, he says—"I have had a serious and afflictive time since I last wrote you. I started to the Colorado Association, and with my family to my father's in the west. But we were detained for a great length of time on the road with a sick child, and had the misfortune at length to lose it. It died after an illness of about two months, at the residence of my father in Guadalupe county, on the San Marcos, aged one year, nine months and eighteen days.—This was of course to us a painful and affecting providence, but rendered doubly so on account of our absence from home. We are endeavoring to say, the Lord's will be done."

Be comforted, my brother and sister; for however mysterious his ways to us may appear, the Lord always does right. It is beautifully and truly said, "He is too wise to err, and too good to be unkind." We should never repine when God takes our children from us, ere actual transgression has stained their garments, for then we know they ascend to the bosom of a kind Saviour, through the merits of his blood. There, the afflictions of this world can reach them no more.

Bro. Wright adds—"It was my privilege, at the last meeting at Montgomery, (including the 3d Sabbath inst.) to administer the ordinance of Baptism to five candidates, all of them whites. We also received two by letter."

Another correspondent furnishes the following sketch, which will doubtless be interesting to many:—"A meeting was held with the Shiloh Baptist Church, Caldwell county, on the 9th day of July last, that held 9 days, and resulted in an addition of 17 to the church—5 by baptism."

Bro. E. Stringer, W. T. and S. J. Wright labored through the meeting. Bro. J. H. Stribbling, S. I. Caldwell and A. Wright were with them, and labored acceptably, part of the time.

Pursuant to a request of the church, a presbytery, composed of Elders J. H. Stribbling, S. I. Caldwell, E. Stringer, and A. Wright, proceeded, on the 10th July (Lord's day), to set apart and ordain S. J. Wright to the work of the ministry.

Health of Houston. Houston is now, I believe, perfectly healthy. I do not know of a remaining case of yellow fever, nor indeed of any serious affliction from any disease. All is activity again; and on the last Lord's day, a large congregation at church, and apparently well impressed, would indicate a disposition not to forget God amid the bustle of the times—which I trust may prove true of a people so recently and so sadly afflicted.

Correspondence. For the South-Western Baptist, Another Letter from Sister Crawford. SHANGHAI, Aug. 6th, 1853. Dear Brother Paschal: The weather for more than a week past has been stormy, a continual gale blowing with occasional rain. This is much better than the hot weather we would otherwise have. We have been spending several days in the city with entire comfort, and will remain until it becomes too hot again.

with which they sustain the cause of education. The male and female academies at this place are in a flourishing condition.

The Baptists have also a church at this place, but unfortunately have been nearly or quite destitute of Baptist preaching this year. The brethren, however, are now laboring to procure the services of some efficient minister. We heartily wish them success. This is an important point for Baptists. The members of the church are erecting a large and neat house of worship. The last session of the "Colorado Baptist Association" was held here.

SAN MARCOS, the county site of Hays county, is also a flourishing village, situated at the head of the San Marcos river—in the midst of a large valley of rich and fertile land—and possessing an industrious, thriving and intelligent population. There is no Baptist Church here, and the place is destitute of Baptist preaching.

PRAIRIE LEA, situated on the San Marcos river, 15 miles below San Marcos, is a beautiful place for a village, though at present there are not many houses there. There is, however, a flourishing male and female Academy in progress there, an interesting Baptist church (Shiloh), a Masonic Lodge and Chapter, a hotel, and a dry-goods Store. Eld. E. Stringer pastor of the church there.

Seven miles below Prairie Lea the citizens of San Marcos and Plum Creek valleys have erected a comfortable house of worship, and invite all denominations to preach in it. They have a school taught there. There is some prospect of organizing a Baptist church there ere a great while.

There is a flourishing Baptist Church, (New Providence), situated on Mule creek in the San Marcos valley, 15 miles below Prairie Lea, and 10 miles above Gonzales. This Church has the labors of Eld. E. Stringer as pastor.

GONZALES, county site of Gonzales county, situated at the junction of the San Marcos and Guadalupe rivers, is an old, yet flourishing and beautiful village. There is an Academy taught here also. There is likewise an interesting Baptist Church here, under the pastoral care of the indefatigable Eld. J. H. Stribbling.

A NEW CHURCH was recently organized on Peach creek, 15 miles east of Gonzales, by Elders J. H. Stribbling, S. I. Caldwell, and J. T. Powell.

NOTICE.

THE undersigned committee beg leave hereby to notify all the Baptist Churches in the State, that a Convention will be held on the Cowidge Baptist Church in Barbour county, commencing Friday before the fifth Sabbath in January next, for the purpose of consulting on the propriety of organizing a new Association of delegates to which shall be entitled the Association. All Baptist Ministers are cordially invited to meet with us.

ROBERT WITHERINGTON, W. J. IRBY, A. J. WALKER, T. T. ADAMS, L. FAULK, J. E. DENARD, P. M. CALLAWAY.

Poetry

An Ingenious Production.

The following graphic description of the cells produced by the Lyda headed monster...

Oh, then invisible spirit of air! if thou hast no name by which to know thee...

ODE TO RUM.

BY WM. C. BROWN.

Let thy devotee extol thee, And thy wondrous virtues name; But the word of names I'll call thee...

Memory-drowner, humor-wrecker, Judgment-warper, blue-faced quack...

THE CONCEALED LOADSTONE. Foster relates a story of certain mariners who steered their course for a particular port...

A Greek Funeral. I remember when they buried that bright-eyed Greek maiden...

A STOPPER TO THE BOTTLE. The Legislature of New Jersey, as we have already stated, at its late session, passed an act...

to ascertain a fact which elsewhere would be insured by a doctor's certificate...

EXPANDING THE CHEST. Those in easy circumstances, or those who pursue sedentary employment within doors...

Mother.

Round the idea of one's mother the mid things with fond affection. It is the first deep thought stamped upon our infant hearts...

Personal Intelligence.

Dr. JENKINS. He gave thirty-eight years of manly toil for the redemption of a people who robbed him...

Tuskegee Classical and Scientific INSTITUTE. THE Sixth Annual Session of this Institute will be opened on Monday...

THE ORION INSTITUTE. THE Scholastic year of this Institution will open on Monday, the 10th of January...

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A Keen Rebuke. At a late anniversary of the Am. Missionary Union Hon. Geo. N. Briggs said: "At the meeting in Buffalo, three years since, our brother Kinard described a scene in which he was an actor...

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