

PROCEEDINGS.

PHILLIPS COUNTY, ARKANSAS, }
September 6th, 1856. }

THE Mount Vernon Baptist Association met this day, with the New Hope Church, according to its adjournment.

Elder P. S. G. Watson, appointed for that purpose at the last meeting, preached the introductory sermon, from Eph. 5th, 14th verse: "Awake, thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light."

After which an intermission of one hour was announced.

2 O'CLOCK P. M.

The delegates to compose the Association assembled for business—the former Moderator in the chair. Prayer by the chairman.

The letters from the churches which are constituent members of this body, were called for and read; and names of delegates enrolled, to wit:

Helena Church.—Spence Hall, F. M. Freeman, T. S. N. King.

Ash Grove Church.—B. J. Johnson, P. P. Hill,* J. P. Hobbs.

Bible Union.

New Hope.—F. J. Sullivan, J. C. McCrary, P. S. G. Watson.

Sterling.—Peter Burrous, A. B. Young.

Liberty, Phillips Co.—R. J. Koonce, J. O. Bowden, J. M. Shepard.

Salem.—Richard Brown, James Durden.

Hickory R dge.—E. Holland, Lewis Mooney.*

Liberty, Monroe Co.—W. J. Hood, E. T. Mitchell.

* Absent.

Harmony.—W. M. Harrod, J. R. Walker, J. P. Vann.

Ruhamah.—T. J. McAdams, W. M. Youngblood,* A. B. Turner.*

Oak Grove.—W. T. Breeding, John D. Vann, W. W. Rutledge.

The Association then proceeded to the election of its officers, for the present year, which resulted in the choice of SPENCE HALL, for Moderator—T. S. N. King for Clerk, John C. McCrary for Treasurer and P. S. G. Watson for Corresponding Secretary.

The moderator extended an invitation to Ministers of our order to take seats with us, and aid us by their counsel: accepted by Elders T. P. Boone, H. F. Tewksbury, J. M. Cox, and Andrew White. Received correspondence from the Union Association, by brother Robert Anthony their messenger.

On motion the moderator appointed a committee on religious exercises, consisting of brethren A. H. Hopkins, John H. Hicks, and John C. McCrary.

Committees were appointed as follows, to wit:

On Arrangement of Business: Brethren Holland, Mitchell and Young.

On Domestic Missions: Brethren Watson, Hood and McCrary.

On Education: Brethren Freeman, Holland, Bowden.

On Sabbath Schools: Brethren Johnson, Koonce and Sheppard.

On Colportage: Brethren Hood, J. P. Vann, and Burrous.

On Temperance: Brethren, Mitchell, Breeding, and Young.

On the Religious Instruction of our Colored Population: Brethren Freeman, McAdams, and Sullivan.

On Finance: Brethren Sullivan and Bowden.

Appointed: Brother P. S. G. Watson, to write a letter of correspondence to the Caroline Association, and Brethren Cox and B. J. Johnson as messengers.

Brother Freeman to write to the Union Association, and brethren Cox, Watson, and Johnson as messengers.

Brother Freeman to write to the Cold Water Association, in Mississippi, and brethren Freeman, Koonce, and Krickle, as messengers.

The committee on religious exercises reported as follows, to wit: Brother Hood to preach to-night; Brother Freeman on to-morrow, at 11 o'clock A. M.; Brother King at 3 P. M., and Brother Boone at candle-lighting.

On motion, adjourned until Monday morning next, 9 o'clock. Benediction by Bro. Watson.

[On Lord's day (7th) Brother Freeman preached, at 11 o'clock A. M., to a large congregation of attentive hearers. The subsequent exercises of the day, according to appointment, were prevented by the inclemency of the weather. At the close of the business of the Association, it was evident that the minds of many were deeply exercised on the subject of religion, and it was deemed best to continue the meeting. There was preaching six days and nights, which resulted in the conversion of about fifteen persons.]

MONDAY MORNING, Sept 8th.

The association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by brother E. Holland.

The Moderator read the Rules of Decorum.

The committee of arrangements was called on to report; which it submitted—and being read, was received and adopted.

The committee on the religious instruction of our colored population submitted a report. Received and adopted; see appendix, A.

The committee on domestic missions reported. Received and adopted. See appendix, B.

The committee on Sabbath schools reported. Received and adopted. See appendix, C.

The committee on temperance reported. Received and adopted. See appendix, D.

The committee on colportage reported. Received and adopted. See appendix, E.

Resolved, That this association recommend to the Tennessee Baptist Publication Society, our brother W. J. Hood, of Aberdeen, Monroe county, as a suitable bookseller, within the bounds of the Mount Vernon Association; and we promise, as delegates, to afford such aid in recommending and selling the books as may be in our power.

The committee on education reported. Received and adopted. See appendix, F.

Brother Freeman, appointed to prepare a letter of correspondence to the Cold Water Association, in Mississippi, presented a letter, which was received and adopted.

Appointed the next session of this body to be held with the Harmony church, in Monroe county, five miles northwest of Lawrenceville.

Appointed brother F. M. Freeman to preach an introductory discourse at the next annual meeting, and brother T. S. N. King, alternate.

Resolved, That the clerk superintend the printing of the minutes of this meeting; that he have six hundred copies printed, and after retaining fifty copies for the use of the association, distribute the remainder amongst the churches;—that the clerk be allowed ten dollars for his services.

The association then took a recess until 2 1-2 o'clock.

2 1-2 O'CLOCK P. M., Sept. 8th.

The association met.

REPORT OF THE BOARD.—The Board of the Association for the past year submitted their report. Received and adopted. See appendix, G.

Brother Watson, appointed to prepare a letter of correspondence to the Union Association, submitted a letter. Received and adopted.

Agreed that brother Watson should copy the corresponding letter addressed to the Union Association, as one for the Caroline, with such alterations as may be necessary.

The committee on finance reported. Received and adopted.—See appendix, H.

Brother Watson, as clerk of the last association, made a report, which was received, and after explanation adopted. See ap., I.

Resolved, That brother Watson's explanation, in reference to the loss of the minutes of the last session, is satisfactory to this body.

Resolved, That brethren Mooney and King be appointed a committee, with brother Watson, to endeavor to recover the money paid by brother Watson to Hull & Brother, of Louisville, Ky., for printing the minutes of last year, but which have never been received by us.

Elected a Board for the present year, to wit:

A. H. HOPKINS,
S. B. CARPENTER,

H. F. MOONEY,
JOHN H. HICKS,

C. HICKY.

The following resolutions were offered by brother King, and adopted, to wit:

Resolved, 1. That we regard associations of Baptist churches, not as ecclesiastical bodies authorized by the New Testament, but as prudential organizations, to combine the contributions and efforts of the churches to extend the Redeemer's kingdom at home and abroad.

2. This being the only sufficient reason for the existence of associations, if churches are unable or unwilling to do anything to ad-

vance the cause of Christ, associations composed of such churches had better disband.

3. But we regard it the duty of every church—and every individual member—to contribute, according to her or his ability, to extend the knowledge of salvation to our lost race; and, therefore, resolved,

4. That we request, and earnestly urge it upon the churches composing this body, to send up a contribution annually, at least for domestic missions (and for any other benevolent purpose they may think proper).

5. That in accordance with the foregoing, this body urge the churches of which it is composed, to raise, during the coming associational year, for domestic missions, the sum of one thousand dollars, to be expended in our own bounds.

6. That it is recommended to our churches to appoint a committee, for the purpose of devising some system by which to raise, each, its proportionate part of the above sum.

The above resolutions having been unanimously adopted, a motion was made and carried, to ascertain how many present would voluntarily pledge themselves to pay a certain amount, as a commencement of a subscription in their respective churches, to raise the above sum; when the following persons agreed to pay the sums annexed to their names, to wit:

Ash Grove Church.—B. J. Johnson, \$20 (paid).

New Hope Church.—J. C. McCrary, \$5; F. Sullivan, \$6; P. S. G. Watson, \$10.

Sterling Ch.—A. B. Young, \$5; Peter Burrous, \$5.

Liberty Ch., Phillips Co.—J. M. Cox, \$5; J. O. Bowden, \$5; J. M. Sheppard, \$5; R. J. Koonce, \$5.

Salem Ch.—Richard Brown, 5; James Durden, \$5.

Hickory Ridge Ch.—E. Holland, \$12.

Liberty Ch., Monroe Co.—E. T. Mitchell, \$50; W. J. Hood, \$6.

Harmony Ch.—J. P. Vann, \$5; W. M. Harrod, do.; J. R. Walkér, do.

Ruhama Ch.—T. J. McAdams, \$5.

Oak Grove Ch.—W. J. Breeden, \$10; John Vann, \$2.

Helena Ch.—Spence Hall, \$10.

Resolved, That each minister in this association be requested to preach a sermon on domestic missions, on the first Lord's day meeting of each church respectively, in the month of October.

Brother King gave notice of the following amendment to the Constitution, to wit:

"Committees on any subject or subjects the association may direct, may be appointed at one annual meeting to report at the next; and the members of such committee, or committees, shall be ex-officio members of the association to which they are to report, for the purpose of presenting, and with the privilege of advocating the same; but not of voting, unless they should be regular delegates."

Resolved, That a sermon be preached at the next session of this body, on each of the following subjects, to wit:

On Saturday evening, at candle lighting—a sermon on education;

On Lord's day, at 11 o'clock, A. M.—a sermon on domestic missions;

On same day, at 2 o'clock P. M.—a sermon on foreign missions;

And at candle-lighting, same day, a sermon on the religious instruction of our colored population.

Resolved, That the Board make the appointment of ministers to preach as above.

Resolved, That the thanks of this body are due, and are hereby tendered, to the brethren of the New Hope Church, and friends in the neighborhood, for the kind and liberal manner in which the members of this body have been entertained during the present session.

Resolved, That the thanks of this association are tendered to the moderator and clerk, for the faithful discharge of their respective duties, during the sitting of this body.

Adjourned, to meet with the Harmony church, in Monroe county, on Saturday before the first Lord's day in September, 1857.

Prayer by brother Hood.

SPENCE HALL, Mod'r.

T. S. N. KING, Clerk.

APPENDIX.

[A.]

Report on Colored Population.

Your committee on the destitution of the colored population beg leave to report as follows:

The condition and destitution of this race is alarmingly great, and while we feel a deep interest for the heathen in foreign lands, we do feel that some immediate steps should be taken for the amelioration of the colored population at home. They are here among us; they are our servants, under our control and jurisdiction; and of course we are in duty bound to take some step, or devise some means, by which this destitution can be supplied. Our first duty is at home, and then should run out to earth's remotest bounds.

Brethren, what is to be done? Your committee is compelled to report, that notwithstanding the destitution is so great among the colored race in our midst, that not one dime has been sent up by the churches for their benefit. Your committee is of the opinion that the best and most successful way of meeting the emergency of the case will be to employ a missionary, or missionaries, whose business it shall be to preach the Gospel to them.

We therefore recommend that some step be taken by the association to raise means to employ a missionary or missionaries, to supply this destitution. Respectfully submitted.

F. M. FREEMAN, Chairman.

[B.]

Report on Domestic Missions.

The committee on domestic missions ask leave to report:

That the destitution within our associational limits is very great, and the calls upon our ministers to "*come over and help us*" very frequent and urgent: but while this is the case, we are compelled to report, that we do not see how ministers are to be sustained in those destitute places, unless through the means recommended at our last association, but which has failed, in consequence of not

having been carried into effect by a single church; and we think it wholly unnecessary to devise ways and means of action, to lie upon our minutes as *dead* matter. We would therefore recommend the passing and *carrying out* of the following plan:

1. *Resolved*, That one or more churches (as their ability will justify) employ the whole time of their ministers, compensating them therefor, and that those ministers perform what missionary labor they can, and report the amount of missionary labor to the next association.

2. *Resolved*, That if any contributions be made to these missionary pastors, they shall have it over and above their regular salary (if any) as pastors; and, if for such service nothing be received, no person or persons shall be responsible.

Respectfully, P. S. G. WATSON, Ch'mn.

[C.]

Report on Sabbath Schools.

Your committee to whom was referred the subject of Sunday schools, submit the following report:

That among the churches of our association exists a lamentable indifference in respect to this one important thing, and that, with a few creditable exceptions, our brethren have not taken any interest at all in their establishment; consequently, the youth of our land have been deprived of one great source of social, moral and religious improvement. Where Sunday schools are regularly kept up in a community, the general character of the youth is strictly moral. It is also a great source of instruction to the old and middle-aged, as well as the youth. The Lord's day is thus devoted to the reading of his blessed word, and in prayer and praise to the Lord of the Sabbath. Believing it to be the means of much good being accomplished, your committee would conclude their report by recommending to each of the churches composing this association, the establishment of a Sunday school library within its bounds.

B. J. JOHNSON, Chairman.

[D.]

Report on Temperance.

The subject of our report is one of vital interest to the peace, happiness and prosperity of individuals, families, communities and churches; but we blush for the weakness of poor humanity, when we state that even the professed servants of Jesus are not always

examples and patterns of *sobriety!* Oh, shame! that a servant of Jesus, instead of being filled with the *Holy Spirit*, should be filled with *ardent spirits!* We lament that it should be necessary to recommend the passage of the following resolution, but we think it needful, both for the cause of Christianity and good morals:

Resolved, That we recommend the pastors of our churches to preach a sermon on the subject of Temperance, at their respective churches, on their first Sabbath meeting in October next, or, if unable to do so on that day, then on their first opportunity afterward.

Respectfully,

E. T. MITCHELL, Chairman.

[E.]

Report on Colportage.

Your committee on Colportage beg leave to report as follows, viz.:

That there is very little doing in this way, and the need of Baptist books is very great; that much and lasting good could be done through this instrumentality. We therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That we use some means to supply our ministers with Baptist books; and that they sell them to the best advantage, and report to the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

W. J. HOOD, Chairman.

[F.]

Report on Education.

Your committee on Education would ask leave to submit the following for your consideration:

They are glad to say, that the Baptists, as a denomination, are waking from their dreamy slumbers upon the subject of education. Already the bright morning star of hope has arisen above the horizon, and before its mild and radiant beams, the last vestiges of the darkness and superstition of former ages are giving way to the light of science and the more stern matters of fact.—Colleges and high schools have been and are now being erected all over our happy country, so that none need remain in ignorance. Are you poor? God has given you hands to labor; and how better could you spend your hard earnings, than in acquiring an education? Especially, should we have an educated ministry. The minister, occupying the high position that he does, having the care of souls, ought above all others to have a well-cultivated mind—a knowledge of the languages, the study of which not only contri-

butes to the early culture of the mind, but it enables the theologian to read and understand the Sacred Scriptures in their original tongue, to analyze words and phrases, and to explain to others the true meaning of the inspired writers.

Next to the languages, theology demands an intimate acquaintance with *logic*. This science teaches man the nature of his own powers, and the only mode of sound reasoning. By a knowledge of this science, men can detect their own errors, unintentional mistakes, and the designed fallacies of others. In a word, it is a successful weapon against error. How necessary for the minister to be armed with it, together with all other science at his command, in his strict adherence to truth and exposure of error? We are not of those that believe ministers should not preach unless educated; nor of those that think an education unnecessary for a minister. It is true we have some uneducated ministers that have done, and are now doing, a great deal of good; still, with the advantage of an education, how much more they would have accomplished is unknown.

Your committee would recommend that every possible means be used to educate the young, and especially those preparing for the high and responsible station of the ministry. Give us an educated ministry, and error must fall before the power of truth. —

Respectfully submitted, F. M. FREEMAN, Chm'n.

[G.]

Annual Report of the Missionary Board.

To the Mount Vernon Association—

DEAR BRETHREN) Immediately after the adjournment of the last Association, the Board met, and organized by electing Eld. T. S. N. KING, President; SPENCE HALL, Corresponding Secretary, J. C. McCRARY, Treasurer; and P. S. G. WATSON, Recording Secretary.

At a subsequent meeting, Bro. S. B. CARPENTER was chosen to fill the vacancy occasioned by the removal from the county of Bro. H. F. TEWKSBURY.

The Board heard the case of Bro. A. J. MERRILL; and after due consideration, thought it right and proper that he should be paid \$50, with interest at the rate of ten per cent. per annum until paid, as a part of his salary as our missionary, for the first three months from January 1st, 1854. There being no funds on hand, a special effort was made to collect the amount for this particular purpose, and resulted in \$12 00 from New Hope, and \$4 50 at

Helena: total, \$16 50. The rest was ordered to be paid out of the fund, \$72, subscribed at the last Association. Of this sum, \$35 have been collected, and \$20 of the amount paid Eld. Merrill: \$15 having been paid to-day, is on hand.

Bro. J. M. Cox, appointed at the last Association, is the only missionary of the Board. His report accompanies this. No other missionary has been appointed because of the lack of funds.

We have no suggestions to present, but leave the matter to the wisdom of the committee on Domestic Missions.

Respectfully, SPENCE HALL, Cor. Sec'y.

Report of Elder J. M. Cox.

To the Board of the Mount Vernon Association—

DEAR BRETHREN: I have, so far, since my appointment as your missionary, made no report to this Board, though I have reported quarterly to the Marion Board, Alabama; therefore, I transmit to you the result of my entire year's labor, as follows:

Sermons,	33	Exhortations,	19
Baptisms,	15	Received by letter,	10
Ord. ministers,	—	Ord. deacons,	—
Miles traveled,	950	Cash collected,	\$21 85
Families visited,	87		

REMARKS.—I would wish to state, in conclusion, that in consequence of the severity of the winter, and of illness of myself and family, I have been prevented from doing as much as I otherwise would have done.

Desiring an interest in your prayers, I am

Your fellow-laborer in the Gospel,

Sept. 8th, '56.

J. M. Cox, Missionary.

[H.]

Report of Committee on Finance.

TREASURER'S REPORT TO THE ASSOCIATION,

For the year ending Sept. 8th, 1856.

DR.—To amount paid me by the Association,	\$68 30
CR.—By amount paid for printing minutes, as per receipt,	\$25 00
Amount paid Bro. Watson as Clerk, by order of Association,	10 00
Amount paid for printing sermon,	33 30
	<hr/> \$68 30

Sept. 8th, 1856.—Received at present session from churches, \$51 15

JNO. C. McCRARY, Treasurer.

We have examined the above account, and find it correct.

Sept. 8th, 1856.

F. J. SULLIVAN, } Com. on
JNO. O. BOWDEN, } Finance.

[1.]

Clerk's Report.

Brethren: As you received no minutes of the last Association, please permit me to offer you the following statement and explanation, in relation thereto:

Received from J. C. McCrary, Treasurer, \$50 30, associational fund, and \$18 00, a special contribution for aiding in publishing the Introductory Sermon.

I immediately prepared the manuscript minutes, and applied to the Helena offices to have the printing done. One of the offices, for lack of hands, could not do the work at any price; the other asked \$60 for the minutes alone, without the sermon: so I did not make an engagement. Late in the fall, going to Kentucky, I took the minutes, and engaged the work in the Baptist publishing house of HULL & BRO., at that time, and for a long time previous, publishers of the "*Western Recorder*." They agreed to print 500 copies for \$25 00, and have the work ready by my return, in two weeks. Believing the house to be responsible, *I paid the cash and took a receipt.* Upon my return, the boat but touched at Louisville, at 9 o'clock at night. I hastened to the office, but the door was closed, and I could gain no admittance. I wrote back from Evansville, Indiana, requesting the minutes to be sent to me at Helena, but I have never received them. I have written often about them, but have got only one letter from the printers, *Hull & Bro.*, and that in August—after having written many private letters, and one through the *Tennessee Baptist*. Another letter I also have, from Louisville, touching this matter, which, with the receipt and letter from *Hull & Bro.*, I herewith present you. I exceedingly regret the loss of the minutes; but you can, from my explanation and the accompanying letters, draw your own conclusions, and place the blame wherever you think it belongs.

DISPOSITION OF THE MONEY.

Paid for Minutes, at Louisville, - - - -	\$25 00
Allowed me for services, - - - -	10 00
Appropriated to publishing Sermon, - - - -	15 30
Special funds for Sermon, - - - -	18 00
Total, - - - -	\$68 30

I herewith present the \$15 worth of sermons to the Association—being 150 copies. They were published by special contract, at the “*South-Western Baptist Publishing House*,” Nashville, Tenn.
Affectionately, P. S. G. WATSON.

Names of Ministers in the Mount Vernon Association.

<i>Ministers.</i>	<i>Post-Offices.</i>
P. S. G. WATSON, - - -	Lagrange,
J. M. COX, - - - - -	Cotton Plant.
E. HOLLAND, - - - - -	Spring Creek.
F. M. FREEMAN, - - - - -	Helena.
T. S. N. KING, - - - - -	Helena.

Corresponding Secretary.

P. S. G. WATSON, - - - - - Lagrange.

STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES.	COUNTIES.	PASTORS OR SUP'Y.	CLERKS & Post-OFFICES.	BAPTIZED.	REC'D BY LETTER.	RESTORED,	DISMISSED,	EXCLUDED,	DEAD,	WHITES,	BLACKS.	TOTAL.	CONTRIBUTIONS.
Helena,	Phillips,	F. M. Freeman,	J. Q. Taylor, Helena.	0	2		6	2	0			53	\$ 10 00
Ash Grove,	St. Francis,	J. M. Cox,	Josiah Simpson, Cotton Plant.	13	4	0	0	0	3	71	12	83	5 00
Mt. Vernon,	St. Francis,		(1854)									40	
Bible Union,	St. Francis,											23	
New Hope,	Phillips,	P. S. G. Watson,	E. S. Martin, Lagrange.	6	8	0	1	0	1	70	18	88	8 00
Liberty,	Phillips,	P. S. G. Watson,	H. L. Cordell, Beech Grove.	7	11	0	4	1	0	47	3	50	5 00
Sterling,	Phillips,	P. S. G. Watson,	A. B. Young, Sterling.	8	1	1	4			22	9	31	3 00
Salem,	Phillips,	E. Holland,	E. Holland, Big Creek.	0	0	0	0		1	11	1	12	3 65
Hickory Ridge,	Phillips,	E. Holland,	E. Holland, Big Creek.	0		0	1	0				6	1 50
Oak Grove,	Monroe,	J. M. Cox,	J. W. Sullivan, Moro.	2	1	0	1	1	0			40	3 00
Ruhama,	Arkansas,	W. J. Hood,	J. M. McAdams, De Witt.	0	12	0	0	0	2			21	2 00
Harmony,	Monroe,	W. J. Hood,	L. S. Lee, Lawrenceville.	26	3	0	0	0	2	49	2	51	5 00
Liberty,	Monroe,	W. J. Hood,	Ben. Walker, Aberdeen.	0	3	0	0	0	0	11	6	17	5 00

TOTAL,

515 | \$51 15