Minutes of the Fifth Annual Meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION,

FOR MISSIONARY PURPOSES.

HELD WITH THE

MINE CREEK CHURCH,

HEMPSTEAD COUNTY, ARK.

October 2d–5th, 1852,

ARKADELPHIA:

1853.
MINUTES

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ARKADELPHIA.

1853.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

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REV. E. HAYNES, President.
" JESSE HARTWELL, } Vice Presidents.
" WM. H. WYATT,

REV. SAMUEL STEVENSON, Cor. Secretary. T. A. HEARD, Treasurer.

MANAGERS.

| Rev. Wm. Hardage, | Rev. J. A. Lockwood, | J. Bird,         |
| R. J. Coleman    | T. J. Watts,       | I. Lewis,       |
| H. H. Coleman,   | S. Linsey,        | T. G. Parker,   |
| J. T. Craig,     | L. W. Marbury,    | P. W. Coulter,  |
| A. M. Scott,     | William C. Randle,| A. B. Clemens,  |
| F. Courtney,     | D. H. Ross,       | R. P. Thomas,   |
| John Aaron,      | E. M. Harris,     | B. F. Renfro,   |
| D. M. Cochran,   | William Daniel,   | B. Mathews,     |
| Miles Langley,   | N. G. Smith,      | R. M'Cargo,     |
| Wm. Spates,      | William M. Burns, | D. G. Stokes,   |
| T. H. Campers,   | P. Cole,          | P. Watts,       |
MINUTES

The Arkansas Baptist State Convention held its fifth anniversary with Mine Creek Church, Hempstead County, commencing Saturday, Oct. 2d 1852.

The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. Allen M. Scott, from II Kings X chapter and part of the 15th verse—"Is thine heart right?" An inquiry well suited to the times; and impressively presented to those who heard the discourse.

The Convention was organised with Rev. E. Haynes, Vice President in the Chair, and Rev. S. Stevenson Secretary pro tem.

The delegates then presented their credentials and were enrolled as follows.

**Associations.**


**Churches.**

- Mine Creek, - B. L. Wright, T. G. Parker, P. W. Coulter.

*Not present.*

**INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS.**


On motion the following were elected officers for the ensuing year.

- Rev. E. HAYNES, President.
- S. STEVENSON, Secretary.
On motion the following committees were appointed:

On Arrangement.—A. M. Scott, T. H. Compere.
On Ministerial Education.—D. M. Cochran, T. H. Compere, J. W. Holt
On Colored Population.—J. Bird, D. M. Cochran, B. L. Wright.
On Bible Revision.—A. M. Scott, S. Stevenson.
On Finance.—L. W. Marbury, J. W. Holt.

On motion the Convention adjourned to meet at 8 o'clock Monday morning—prayer by S. Stevenson.

MONDAY, 8 o'clock A. M.

Met pursuant to adjournment—prayer by the President.

Report of Committee on Arrangements was received and adopted.

On motion Corresponding Messengers were appointed as follows:

To the North Louisiana Baptist Convention.—Jesse Hartwell, F. Courtney, T. H. Compere

Texas Baptist Convention—B. L. Wright, S. Stevenson.
North Arkansas Convention.—S. Stevenson, John Aaron.

The reports which are appended were received and adopted.

The report on Ministerial Education was referred to the Education Society.

Adjourned to meet at 8 o'clock Tuesday morning.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

Resolved that our Cor. Secretary be requested to append to the minutes, a short address, setting forth the claims of the Convention.

Resolved that this Convention hold its next annual session, with the Camden Baptist Church, in the city of Camden.

Resolved that Rev. E. Haynes be appointed to preach the introductory sermon, and Rev. Wm. H Wyatt be his alternate.

Rev. F. Courtney be appointed to preach the Missionary Sermon, and Rev. S. Stevenson be his alternate.

Resolved that the minutes of the Education Society be appended to minutes of Convention.

Resolved that our secretary be instructed to correspond with the Bible Board at Nashville, Tenn., on the subject of Bible distribution in Arkansas.

Resolved that a brief notice of each of the following Literary Institutions, be appended to the minutes.

"MINE CREEK MALE AND FEMALE SCHOOL,"
"CAMDEN FEMALE INSTITUTE,"
"ARKADELPHIA INSTITUTE,"
"ARKADELPHIA FEMALE INSTITUTE."
The Committee on Agencies, reported that the interests of the Convention demanding the labors of at least one efficient agent. Whereupon Rev. E. Haynes was appointed to that important work. It is therefore expected that he will visit as far as possible, all the Baptist Churches in South Arkansas, during the ensuing year.

Resolved that 1200 copies of the minutes be printed, and that the Secretary be allowed $15 for his services.

Resolved that the thanks of the Convention are justly due, and hereby tendered to the members of Mine Creek church and the citizens of its vicinity for the kind and very hospitable entertainment furnished during this meeting.

Resolved that the thanks of the Convention be tendered to the President for the kind, courteous, and christian manner in which he discharged the duties of his office, and above all that the most devout gratitude is due to our Heavenly Father for the general harmony; and christian "unity," which has characterized this meeting.

After appropriate remarks, singing and prayer by the President, the Convention adjourned to meet at Camden on Friday, before the first Lord's day in October, 1853.

Rev. E. HAYNES, President.

S. Stevenson, Secretary.

TREASURERS REPORT.

THE ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION IN ACT. WITH

N. S. GRAVES, Treasurer.

Cr 1851, Nov. 29, By cash from Wm. M. Burns, $2 50
    " " By cash from E. Haynes, 2 50
    " " By cash from T. J. Watts, 5 00
1852, Aug. 30 By, cash from A. Mathews, 2 00
    Sept. 13th, cash " T. T. Shepperd, 10 00
    " " cash " J. W. Crisp, 2 00
    " " cash " H. W. Simpson, 2 50
    " " cash " Rev. E. Haynes, 14 60—$41 00

Dr. 1851, Nov. 29, To cash paid Rev. E. Haynes, $10 00
    1852, Oct. 2d, 14 50—$24 50

Balance on hand, $16 75.

N. S. GRAVES, Treasurer.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

CASH RECEIVED.

From Rod River Association $5 00
    " Pleasant Hill Church 2 30
    " Arkadelphia 2 00
    " Joseph Bird, 2 00
    " William Daniel, 2 00
$13 50

Amount brought forward, 13 50
From Treasurer, 16 50
" S. Stevenson, 2 50
" Public Collection, 22 00
Total, $54 50

L. W. MARBURY,
Chairman of Committee.
AMOUNT COLLECTED BY S. STEVENSON.*

From James Ritchie.
  " A. G. Nevil.
  " John Seymore.
  " D. Barlow.
  " James Bentou.
  " S. Stevenson.

Amount paid William Hardage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S. Stevenson</td>
<td>$16.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. G. Nevil</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Seymore</td>
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<tr>
<td>D. Barlow</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Bentou</td>
<td>2.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>William Hardage</td>
<td>2.50</td>
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*Explanation.—Unfortunately, the list of contributors from whom E. M. Harris Esq., and S. Stevenson, collected for the year ending October, 1851, did not appear in last year's minutes. They have been misled or lost, and cannot be found.

REPORT ON THE WANTS OF OUR COLORED POPULATION.

After duly considering this important subject, your committee would most respectfully, and most earnestly urge upon masters, the duty of permitting and encouraging their servants to attend public worship. "Give to your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in Heaven." Col. 4, 1. We would also recommend that each church appoint a monthly meeting for the benefit of servants, and that brethren be appointed to attend said meeting, and give instruction, in the absence of a minister. "As a means of arousing a proper feeling on this subject we recommend the distribution, and perusal of the prize essays written by Rev. J. S. Sturgis and Rev. Mr. Neate." J. BIRD, Chairman.

REPORT ON BIBLE REVISION.

Your committee are deeply impressed with the importance of the task devolving on them. We regard the struggle which the advocates of Biblical truth are now making, to give the pure, and unadulterated word of God to the world by a new and faithful revision of our common version of the sacred scriptures, as one fraught with interests to the church of Christ, of no common magnitude. We regret to find many professors of Christianity, and many intelligent Baptists, too, who are opposed to the measure.

Your committee beg leave to say, that as individuals, as members of the church of Christ, as Ministers of the Gospel, as lovers of the truth, we have for many years, felt the need of a faithful translation of the Sacred Scriptures. We have viewed the subject with due seriousness: we have examined it in all its attributes, we have weighed the arguments aduced both for and against it, and we are more than ever convinced, that the cause of truth requires it.

The scriptures were written by various writers, at various times, and in different languages. Those languages have fallen into disuse, or rather, have long since ceased to be used as spoken languages. The Bible has been translated several times into the English language, but such have ever been the circumstances attending the translations, and those engaged in it, that no faithful English version has ever yet, been given to the world. Various words have been left untranslated, the meaning of which the more English scholar can have no just conception. To know what they mean, he must consult commentators, and Bible dictionaries, or refer to professed of Divinity. As regards many persons none of those aids are attainable.

Your committee regret, that, restricted as we are to the limits of a short report, we cannot, for the want of space, more than hint at the prominent fea-
Report of the Executive Committee.

During the year nothing has been done by the Board. By decision of the Convention last year, it was determined to be inexpedient to appoint an agent. In which decision the Board heartily concurred. Power was granted to the Board to employ an agent during the latter part of the year if they should think it expedient. As the Board could find no suitable person, they have made no such appointment.

ALLEN M. SCOTT, Chairman.
At the meeting in November, nothing was done except to agree to pay Bro. Edward Haynes seventy-six dollars, whenever the Treasurer should have the funds. Only one member of the Board out of Camden attended.

The meeting in February proved a failure on account of high waters.

At the meetings in May and August, only Bro's. Gomperz and Aaron attended, and as no money had been received, nothing could be done. A few dollars have been received since, which the Treasurer will report.

As a Board, we have adhered rigidly to the principle of creating no debt.—We believe that debt would be the destruction of our Convention. We regret that we have not been able to affect any thing, but as we have no means, it could not be reasonably expected of us. We hope that the next year will be more prosperous than the last, and that something may be done to advance the cause of our Redeemer on earth.

Respectfully,

WILLIAM M. BURNS, Secretary.

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ADDRESS.

PROV. I, 23. "Turn you at my reproof."

Dear Brethren: It becomes my duty in behalf of this Convention, to present once more for your prayerful consideration, the claims of Domestic Missions; or rather, the claims of the Gospel at home.

It is gratifying to know that the time is past, when intelligent Christians deny that "they that preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel," (I Cor. 9, 14.)—that those who "sow unto your spiritual things" should "reap your carnal things." Yet while it is most heartily admitted that the minister should be supported and the bread of eternal life should be sent to those who are perishing; too many professed followers of him who "though he was rich yet for your sakes became poor," do practically say to their minister—pastor—shepherd, be ye clothed and be ye fed. Instead of enabling the man of God to give himself "continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word," complaints, objections and criticisms, come thick and fast, if they are not interested and edified by monthly sermons prepared at the plow-handle, in the school room, or on an ox cart.

Burdens grievous to be borne are thus laid upon the servants of the church.

And what are the consequences? The heart of every truly pious Christian sickens at the contemplation. For who among the followers of the blessed Saviour can see churches languishing and dying for want of a pastor—flocks being scattered abroad for want of a shepherd, almost whole counties in a destitute condition, and devoted ministers seeking other fields of labor, where they may give themselves wholly to the work; without exclaiming in the language of the Prophet, "Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughters of my people."

Faithfulness becomes the people of God. Indeed we must not suffer sin upon a brother. I am therefore disposed to speak with plainness and candor. Our christian obligations must be met here or hereafter. That day is near at hand which will try mens souls. "But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeaseth? for he is like a refiner's fire." (Mal. III, 2.)

When the great enemy of the Gospel Mission fails in arousing direct opposition to the plan of redemption his object is secured with equal certainty.
by raising objections to the means used or even by quieting conscience into practical indifference. Conscience may be quieted, excuses may be multiplied, objections may be raised, and the herald of the cross may seek a competent support elsewhere; but how shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation,"—(Heb. 2, 3) if we neglect in our prayers and most hearty co-operation, to support and spread abroad to earth's remotest bounds, the gladsome news of redeeming love.

And now dear reader, does the inquiry begin to rise in thy heart by grace renewed, "Lord what wilt thou have me to do?"

If so, we would invite your prayerful consideration to the claims of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention; the legitimate offspring of the Baptist denomination in South Arkansas. It was brought forth with prayers and tears—with joy and gladness. It was truly a child of promise. Fond anticipations were cherished by many a pious heart, in its future usefulness. But alas! its mother has almost forsaken it, even in infancy, and it is left to droop and pine away for want of necessary support. But there are still some who feel a deep interest in our infant Convention. Whose prayers and tears ascend to a throne of grace in its behalf. The ardent and increasing interest manifested by those who were present at the last anniversary, inspires the heart with fresh hopes for the future. God has not forgotten his people.

"For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea,"(Hab. II, 14.) Arkansas will be supplied with the Gospel. All things are now ready. No seas to cross—no native land to forsake—no hostile despot to interdict—no foreign language to encounter—no heathen prejudices to remove; but the Macedonian cry is heard in every county in the State. A voice from Heaven is heard—"Go, work today in my vineyard." May I not again ask, how shall we escape if we neglect such a plain and pressing duty. What we do must be done quickly. The writer and the reader of these lines will soon meet at the judgment seat of Christ. If faithful, God himself shall wipe all tears from our eyes. My dear fellow pilgrim, whoever you are, wherever you may sojourn, be faithful to your obligation. "Go preach the Gospel to every creature." Go by your prayers—go by your contributions; and if your Saviour calleth, go in person. Go labor until you hear the voice, "well done thou good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

SAMUEL STEVENSON.
MINUTES

Of the Red River Regular Baptist Education Society.

Pursuant to adjournment, the "Education Society" held its first anniversary with the Mine Creek church, Saturday, October 2d, 1852.

Rev. E. Haynes was chosen president, Rev. D. M. Cochran Vice President, and Rev. S. Stevenson Secretary.


On motion Rev. A. M. Scott and L. W. Marbury were appointed a committee of ways and means.

Adjourned to meet at 11 o'clock on Monday.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

Report of committee on ways and means was adopted.

Orders amounting to $36 were granted in favor of Bro. Cheek, to aid him in pursuing his studies preparatory to the Gospel Ministry.

The Treasurer reported $18 on hand.

The report on Ministerial Education was referred to the Education Board.

The society adjourned to meet with Pleasant Hill church, Ouachita county in conjunction with Red River Association.

REV. E. HAYNES, President.

REV. S. STEVENSON, Secretary.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS.

Your committee beg leave to report, that they are of opinion that the people of this country, as well as the members of the church, would come to the aid of this society in its benevolent designs, if the subject was presented to them in its true light. We would therefore suggest that the society appoint several agents, and request them to propose the subject to the different congregations, in the bounds of this association, and beg the co-operations of the people. All of which is respectfully submitted.

A. M. SCOTT, Chairman.
CONSTITUTION.

Art. 1. This society shall be styled the Red River Regular Baptist Education Society.

Art. 2. The object of this society shall be the education of ministers of the Gospel of the Regular Baptist church.

Art. 3. In order to become a beneficiary of this society, the candidate must be a regular licensed or ordained minister of the Gospel, in good standing in some Baptist church. He must be also approved by a board of managers or a committee hereafter to be named.

Art. 4. Any person may become a member of this society by contributing one dollar annually to its funds.

Art. 5. The officers of this society shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and five managers, who shall be ex-officio members of the board, any three of whom shall constitute a quorum for business. They shall meet as often as circumstances may require, and transact all such business generally entrusted to such boards. They shall make an annual report to the society of all their proceedings in writing. The President shall be elected annually by the members present, in such way as they may think proper. He shall preside over the deliberations of the society at its annual meeting, and in his absence the Vice President, and in the absence of either, such person as the society shall think proper. The Secretary shall keep a just account of the proceedings of the society in a book kept for the purpose, free from the inspection of any of the members at any time. The Treasurer shall hold the funds of the society subject to the order of the board or the society. He shall give bond and security for all moneys coming into his hands (if required) by either a majority of the board or society.

Art. 6. The society shall hold annual meetings at the time and place of the meeting of the Red River Association of regular Baptist, or at such other times and places as the society may deem proper.

This constitution may be amended or altered by a two-thirds vote, at any annual meeting.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. This body shall be styled the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Art. 2. The Convention shall be composed of delegates from Baptist Associations, churches, and individual contributors, who are members of the Baptist Church in good standing.

Art. 3. Associations shall be entitled to five, churches three delegates to the convention.

Art. 4. It is distinctly understood, that this convention shall have no ecclesiastical jurisdiction, nor even act as an advisory council, nor in any way interfere with the constitution of any Church, or Association.

Art. 5. The primary objects of this convention shall be: to supply the destitute regions within its bounds, with the unadulterated Word of Life, and a living ministry, and to aid by appropriate and scriptural means, all destitute and feeble churches; and also supply the community with such books as may be approved by this body, and as may be thought best calculated to communicate information as to distinctive doctrines and ordinances of the Gospel of Christ, as received by our denomination. The convention may whenever consistent with the condition of the treasury, adopt means for the
advancement of education, and also for the cause of Foreign Missions.

Art. 6. The convention shall, at its annual meetings, elect a President and Recording Secretary, who shall perform the duties usually assigned such officers, during the session.

Art. 7. The convention shall annually elect a President, two Vice Presidents, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and ten or more Managers, who, together, shall compose the Executive Committee; five of whom shall constitute a quorum. The Executive Committee shall transact all business during the recess of the convention, and disburse the funds; shall fill all vacancies in its own body, and submit a report of their proceedings at each regular meeting. Each member of the board shall be, ex-officio, a member of the convention.

Art. 8. The annual session of this convention shall commence on Friday before the first Sabbath in October, of each year.

Art. 9. This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the convention, two-thirds of the members present concurring therein, except the fourth article, which shall ever remain untouched.

CAMDEN FEMALE INSTITUTE.

This Institute is in successful operation under the superintendence of Rev. Jesse Hartwell, D. D. Such assistants as the number of pupils may require will be engaged. The attention of the Instructors will be carefully devoted to the duties of the Institute, and to the improvement of the young ladies committed to their charge.

There will be but one vacation next year, including the months of August and September.

TUITION PER TERM OF FIVE MONTHS.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT.—Spelling, Reading, &c., $10 00
JUNIOR DEPARTMENT.—Writing, Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography, Natural Philosophy, Moral and Mental Science, and History, 15 00
SENIOR DEPARTMENT.—Algebra, Astronomy, Botany, Physiology, Rhetoric, Logic, Geometry, Chemistry, and ancient and modern Languages, 20 00
Music on the Piano, 25 00
Ornamental Needle work, 10 00
Drawing and Painting in water colors, 10 00
Board with the Principal, including Lodging, Washing Fuel, and Lights, per month, 10 00

The same rates for a shorter time than a whole year. No deduction for absence except for protracted illness, or special contract. Bills payable one half in July, and the balance at the end of the year.

December, 1852.
ARKADELPHIA FEMALE INSTITUTE.

The sixth session of the Arkadelphia Female Seminary will commence on Monday the fourteenth of February 1853.

TERMS PER SESSION OF TWENTY-ONE WEEKS.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT.—Including Writing, Reading; and first lesson in Arithmetic, $10.00
SECOND DEPARTMENT.—Including Writing, Arithmetic, Geography, English Grammar, American History, Natural Philosophy, and Composition, 12.00
THIRD DEPARTMENT.—Including ancient and Modern History, Natural Philosophy, the higher branches of Arithmetic, Botany, Composition, Rhetoric, Chemistry, Astronomy, &c., 15.00
Music on the Piano, 20.00
French, 10.00
Drawing and Painting, 10.00
Embroidery and Needlework, 20.00
Pupils will be charged from the time of entering to the close of the session.
No deduction will be made for less time except in cases of protracted sickness.
Board can be obtained in respectable families at from $7.00 to $8.00 per month.

January 1st, 1853.

AGNES I. BROWN, Principal.

ARKADELPHIA INSTITUTE.

This Institution is an individual enterprise under the entire control of Rev. SAMUEL STEVENSON, Principal and proprietor. It has now fairly entered upon a career of prosperity; having been in successful operation during three sessions.
Archadelpia is DELIGHTFULLY and HEALTHFULLY situated on the western bank of the Ouachita River, at the head of Steamboat navigation.
The remarkable health of its inhabitants, its singula, beauty, and future prospects, render it peculiarly adapted to the wants of our State, as a seat of education.
The new building is constructed with rooms especially fitted and furnished for instruction, and ample in size for the accommodation of one hundred pupils.
The Bible is read in school, daily, accompanied with instruction in natural and revealed religion; and without spiritual morality no one can continue in the Institute.
In the language of Rev. G. D. Abbott, "we regard all education that does not have IMMORTALITY in view, as ESSENTIALLY DEFECTIVE."
Young men wishing to prepare for the ministry, will be received free of charge, provided they possess qualifications essential to the Gospel Ministry.
Competent Assistants will be employed according to the patronage received.
In short, all the rules and regulations of the Institute are framed solely with a view to the good of the pupils, and the unaided energies of the principal and assistant, will be engaged to develop and strengthen their INTELLECTUAL, MORAL and PHYSICAL abilities. The scholastic year is divided into two sessions of twenty-one weeks each, the next to commence January the 24th, 1853.
RATES OF TUITION PER SESSION.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT.—Including Alphabetical lessons, Spelling, Reading, and First lessons in Arithmetic and Geography, $10.00

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT.—Including Arithmetic, Geography, and First lessons in Grammar, History and Natural Philosophy, $12.00

MIDDLE DEPARTMENT.—Including Grammar, History, Natural, Mental and Moral Philosophy, Botany, Logic, Rhetoric, Algebra, and plain Geometry, $15.00

SENIOR DEPARTMENT.—Including the higher branches of English Literature, with the ancient and modern Languages, $18.00

Penmanship, Composition, Declamation, and Vocal Music will receive due attention in each department, without extra charge.

Payment or satisfactory settlement will be required at the close of each session.

Books and stationery will be furnished (to those who require it) by the Principal.

Boarding can be obtained at from $6 to $8 per month.

Pupils will be charged from the time of entering until the close of the session except in cases of protracted sickness, or special contract.

Arkadelphia, January 1st, 1853.

MINE CREEK ACADEMY FOR BOTH SEXES.

Rev, ALLEN M. SCOTT, Principal.

The undersigned beg leave to say, this school has been in successful operation for about the space of two years. We have engaged Mr. Scott's services for the ensuing year. The next session will not open until the first of May—; a longer vacation than usual being given to afford time for certain contemplated improvements. The principal will associate with himself, a competent male, and also, a female assistant.

We have thoroughly tried Mr. Scott. He has taught here two years, and in justice to him, we must say, that he is certainly one of the best teachers, that this, or any other country has ever produced.


Mine Creek, Arkansas, January 5, 1853.