

MINUTES

OF THE

TWELFTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

Mount Vernon Baptist Association

COMMENCING ON

Thursday before first Sabbath in October, 1868,

HELD WITH THE

MOUNT VERNON CHURCH, ST. FRANCIS CO., ARK.

OFFICERS:

HON. H. P. SLAUGHTER, MODERATOR.
REV. W. H. BARKSDALE, CLERK.
MR. R. P. DAYANT, CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.
MR. E. L. BLACK, TREASURER.

MEMPHIS, TENN.:

SOUTHWESTERN PUBLISHING HOUSE.

1868.

PROCEEDINGS.

EVANS' SCHOOL HOUSE, ST. FRANCIS CO., ALA.,)
Thursday, October 1, 1863.)

The brethren and delegates from the various sister churches composing the Mount Vernon Association, met this day with the Mount Vernon Church—from which it derives its name—and were, according to previous appointment, addressed by brother J. T. Marshall, from Acts, xvi.: “What shall I do to be saved?”

After an intermission of some fifteen minutes, the Association re-assembled, by singing, the Moderator calling upon Elder J. M. Cox to lead in prayer.

Letters were then read from churches representing themselves in this body, and the names of delegates enrolled. (See statistical table.)

The enrolling being completed, the previous Moderator announced the Association ready to elect the officers for the ensuing year, which election resulted in the choice of H. C. Slaughter, Moderator, W. H. Barksdale, Clerk, E. L. Black, Treasurer.

To save time, Brother Barksdale moved, inasmuch as they had neglected to elect a Corresponding Secretary, that the rule of electing by ballot be suspended in this case, and that R. P. Davant be appointed by acclamation—which was carried.

Petitionary letters were then called for, and one read from Trenton, which was reinstated on petition. New Hope with her delegates were likewise received, and said delegates were welcomed to seats by our Moderator.

A Committee on Religious Exercise was then appointed, consisting of Elder B. F. Thomas, P. H. Ramsey, J. Harder and Jas. H. Thompson—which reported, after consultation: Elder T. S. N. King at early candle-light to-night; Elder J. M. Cox at eleven on Friday morning.

On motion, the resolution of Oak Grove Church in regard to the death of Elder H. F. Morrison, be spread upon the minutes, and a

committee, consisting of brethren J. M. Cox, B. F. Thomas and R. P. Davant to prepare additional resolutions on the death of Brother F. W. Thompson, likewise to be appended.

On motion, adjourned until 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Prayer by Elder B. F. Thomas.

FRIDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK.

The Association convened this morning at the appointed hour. Prayer by Elder W. H. Barksdale.

Visiting brethren were invited to seats with us. The invitation was accepted by Elder J. M. Cox, who came as a messenger to this body from the Caroline Association.

Report on Education was called for, read and adopted. (See appendix D.)

Report on Domestic Missions was then read, and after much discussion, was recommitted, with instructions that some plan should be proposed for the raising of the requisite amount necessary to support a traveling missionary within the bounds of this Association, Brother King being added to the committee.

The Moderator announced the Financial Committee, consisting of J. W. Crenshaw, S. W. Cooper and Wm. Sembler.

The hour for preaching having arrived, the Moderator announced an intermission for said service until 2 o'clock p.m.

EVENING SESSION.

The Association came together while singing the familiar hymn.

"Do not I love thee, O, my Lord?

Behold my heart, and see."

Prayer by Brother R. P. Davant.

Report on Temperance being called for, the Chairman was granted further time to prepare it.

The appointing of delegates to corresponding bodies was now in order, but no brother volunteering, it was thought advisable not to appoint.

Brethren Davant and Holland were appointed a committee to examine the letters, and bring up the queries there propounded.

The church at Rising Sun, seven miles west of Crockett's Bluff was selected as the next place for the setting of this body. Introductory by Elder J. M. Cox, Elder T. S. N. King, alternate.

Mr. J. L. Hodges, not a member of any church, but desiring a bundle of minutes for distribution, asked the Association to accept a dollar contributed by him for that purpose. The Clerk was instructed to send the package, when published to Alligator Bayou.

On motion, the Moderator was appointed Chairman of the Executive Board, which was composed of Brethren C. W. Hickey, R. P. Davant, John Taylor, A. E. Lockart.

Resolved, That we recommend THE BAPTIST, the SOUTHWESTERN PUBLISHING HOUSE, the SABBATH-SCHOOL BOARD, and the most excellent Sabbath-School paper, KIND WORDS, to the churches composing this body.

Report of the Committee on Queries submitted the following:

Are Pedobaptist and Campbellite church organizations scriptural, and is it in gospel order to receive persons immersed by their ministers?

Is feet-washing a church ordinance to be publicly observed?

Committee on Religious Exercises reported Elder E. Holland to preach to-night at early candle-light.

On motion the Association adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Prayer by Elder B. F. Thomas, Benediction by Elder W. H. Barksdale.

SATURDAY MORNING.

Association met according to adjournment. Prayer by Elder T. S. N. King.

Reading of the minutes.

Queries were then taken up in due order, dividing them as follows:

Are Campbellite and Pedobaptist organizations scriptural?

After remarks by brethren, the decision was unanimously given in the negative.

Is it in gospel order to receive persons immersed by Pedobaptist and Campbellite ministers?

The answer to this was also given in the negative, suggesting to all who have doubts on the subject to procure from the Southwestern Publishing House, in Memphis, a small work written by A. C. Dayton, entitled "Pedobaptist and Campbellite Immersions."

The Association now adjourned until 2 o'clock, to hear Elder J. R. Graves, of Memphis, who filled the pulpit invitation of the Re-

ligious Committee. Said committee further announced Elder W. H. Barksdale to preach at early candle-light. J. R. Graves, Saturday at 11 a.m., W. H. Barksdale at 3 p.m.

EVENING SESSION.

Prayer by Brother Barksdale.

On motion, the third question, "Is feet washing a church ordinance to be publicly observed?"

While the sentiment of the Association is clearly that it is not, yet, for the want of time in discussing it, it was postponed until the next meeting.

Brother M. Owen, from Mount Zion Association, was received as a messenger from that body, and Brother Davant was appointed to write a letter of correspondence to said Association.

Report on Domestic Missions was read, and after many animated speeches, was adopted. (See appendix A.)

Report on Temperance read by its Chairman and adopted. (See appendix B.)

Standing Committee, to report next session :

On Education—T. S. N. King, J. T. Marshall and J. Taylor.

On Sabbath-Schools—W. D. Mayfield, W. H. Barksdale, C. W. Hickey.

On Temperance—J. M. Cox, J. Harder, A. E. Lockart.

On Domestic Missions—B. F. Thomas, R. P. Davant, P. H. Ramsey.

Resolved, That the thanks of this body be returned to the members of this church and community generally for the hospitable manner in which they have entertained this Association during its present session, and that this resolution be read at 11 o'clock service Sunday morning.

Sabbath-School report was called for. (See appendix C.)

On motion Brother Taylor was appointed to act as Treasurer *pro tem.*, and to receive and pay over to Clerk the minute fund.

Committee on Finance beg leave to report, received of delegates for minutes, \$51 50, which was paid over by Brother Taylor to the Clerk, as instructed.

The Clerk was instructed to have the minutes published at the Southwestern Publishing House, and distribute to the churches in proportion to the amount contributed.

Motion to adjourn until after sermon by Brother Barksdale to-night, immediately after which the Moderator shall deliver his parting address, and a farewell hymn be sung.

The Association adjourned according to the above, to meet on Thursday before the first Sabbath in October, 1869, with the Rising Sun Church, seven miles from Crockett's Bluff, on White river.

H. P. SLAUGHTER, *Moderator*,

W. H. BARKSDALE, *Clerk*.

APPENDIX.

(A.)

REPORT ON DOMESTIC MISSIONS.

Your Committee on Domestic Missions ask liberty to report that the gloomy mantle of barrenness and spiritual destitution hangs over our home fields at present. There are comparatively few of Zion's watchmen within the bounds of this Association. It has pleased God, in his unerring wisdom, to leave us destitute. He has called some of his faithful and true witnesses to their final inheritance above. There are many churches in our bounds, and many portions of this large field without a minister to break to them the bread of eternal life. Many of them are stretching out their hands to us for help, saying, Send us a preacher! Therefore,

Resolved, That it is the unmistakable duty of the several churches comprising this body to give a more liberal support to the few ministers now in our bounds, in order that they may devote their whole time and talents to the preaching of the gospel.

Resolved, That, in view of the fact that a large number of the churches in our bounds are wholly destitute of a living ministry; and that there are many neighborhoods calling on us for help, we affectionately, but importunately submit to our churches and individual members, if duty and allegiance to the Lord Jesus Christ does not demand at their hands a sacrifice to his cause, seeing souls are perishing for a lack of the knowledge of gospel truth? If we are Missionary Baptists, let it no longer be a mere profession, but let us show our faith by our works. Let us manifest by our conduct that we have faith in the promises of God. Giving only what is convenient, is no expression of faith in this respect—is no sacrifice to the cause of God.

Resolved, That it is the indispensable duty of this body and the churches that compose it, to unite in offering one continual petition to the Lord of the vineyard that he may send more laborers amongst us, who will make our souls rejoice, and make the barren land blossom as the rose, and enable us to say, "Come all ye that fear the Lord, and see what he has done for Zion!"

Resolved, That the appointment of agents to collect funds, and the appointment of and paying missionaries to preach in our bounds be committed in every respect into the hands of our Executive Board for the time being; that said Board be instructed, with all

convenient dispatch, to appoint at least one agent in every county embraced within this Association, whose duty it shall be to visit every church, and urge upon them, as also upon individuals, the duty of thus coming up to the help of the Lord against the mighty. The agents so to be appointed, to be allowed for their services 25 per cent. on all cash collections, and 15 per cent. on subscriptions, to be paid when collected; and to report, as directed by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

W. S. COOPER, *Chairman.*

(B.)

Resolved, That we recommend to the churches composing this Association promptness and faithfulness in exercising the discipline of the church in all cases of intemperate use of ardent spirits.

B. F. THOMAS.

(C.)

Your Committee on Sabbath-Schools beg leave to report, that in our bounds we find only one Baptist Sabbath-school, yet there are several mixed or union Sabbath-schools. We regret that this very important institution is so much neglected by our denomination, and, therefore, so much loss to the minds of the tender youth of the knowledge of the truth of the scriptures, as the instruction that should be received in the Sabbath-school would be a stronghold to bring the souls of the rising generation to salvation. We would recommend to the messengers of this body the importance of establishing Sabbath-schools in their churches, also to purchase a library for each school from Rev. T. B. Kingsbury, Agent of the Sabbath-school Board, at Memphis, Tenn.

A. E. LOCKART, *Chairman.*

(D.)

Your Committee on Education beg leave to submit the following: Last year, on account of the impoverished condition of the country, the Committee on Education could only recommend institutions of learning already established, not one of which is in this State. Our pecuniary difficulties, instead of being removed, have been increased. Your committee, therefore, instead of recommending schools abroad, and out of the reach of a large majority of those for whom this report is intended, would recommend to parents to spare no pains, but make every reasonable sacrifice to establish good country schools. Select the very best teacher your circumstances will permit. By all means let the teacher be a man of good moral character, and, if possible select a consistent professor of religion.

Your committee would avail themselves through the minutes of this body of the opportunity of urging upon mothers the duties and responsibilities resting upon them. We would say to them, "Upon you, to a great extent, depends the mental, moral and religious training of your children." 'Tis true, the father, among other duties, is under obligation to maintain discipline in his family; but, owing to the circumstances by which we are surrounded, it requires all the energies of the body and mind of the father to supply his family with the necessaries and a few of the comforts of life. He is, therefore, permitted to spend but little of his time with his family. This increases the responsibilities and duties of mothers. Neglect these duties, and your children will grow up in ignorance; superstition will resume her sway, vice will follow in her train, the Sabbath will be disregarded, and infidelity and heathenism will come down upon us with all their horrors. We would again say, Mothers, be faithful in the discharge of your duties to the children whom God hath given you, and whom you love so tenderly, and, perhaps, they will one day say, with one who has recently died, "All the success I have ever enjoyed I owe to my mother."

ORDER OF BUSINESS,

AS OBSERVED BY THIS BODY.

1. Called together by the Moderator for the purpose of hearing the Introductory Sermon.
An intermission.
Delegates re-assembled, Moderator and Clerk at their seats.
2. Letters read and Delegates enrolled.
3. Election of officers for ensuing year.
4. Petitionary Letters.
5. Call for Correspondence.
6. Invite visiting brethren to seats with us.
7. Committees appointed—Domestic Missions:
 8. “ Education.
 9. “ Sabbath-Schools.
 10. “ Colportage.
 11. “ Temperance.
 12. “ Colored Population.
 13. “ Finance.
 14. “ Religious Exercises.
 15. “ Correspondence and messengers to sister Associations.
 16. “ Contributions from Churches received.
 17. “ Determine place of next annual meeting.
 18. “ Resolutions and propositions in order.
19. Appoint a brother to preach the Introductory.
20. Executive Board nominated.
21. Report of Committees.
22. Report of Board.
23. Printing of minutes and number determined.
24. Reading of minutes before adjournment.
25. A parting address by the Moderator.

OBITUARIES.

An all-wise and merciful God has seen fit to deprive us of our beloved pastor, Brother H. F. Morrison, who died at his residence, near Moro in Monroe county, Arkansas, on the 20th of August, in the forty-ninth year of his age.

Brother Morrison moved from Mississippi to this section in the winter of 1866. Since the spring of 1867 he has been faithfully serving us as pastor. His labors were marked with so much Christian charity, that he gained the admiration and esteem of all denominations.

Brother Morrison left a large and dependent family. May God incline the hearts of Christians everywhere to prevent want and suffering entering the families of those who labored so faithfully in the great cause which we all profess to have at heart.

In view of the heavy calamity we have sustained in the loss of our beloved pastor, we, the Baptist Church of Christ, at Oak Grove, do pass the following:

Resolved, That while we mourn our loss, we mourn not as those who are without hope and without God in the world, but bow in humble submission to him who doeth all things well, with the full assurance that our loss is the eternal gain of our beloved pastor.

Resolved, That while we tender to the distressed family our heartfelt sympathy, and promise to render them all the assistance in our power, we recommend them to look for comfort and assistance to him who hath promised to be a husband to the widow and a father to the fatherless.

Resolved, That these resolutions be spread upon our minutes; that a copy be sent to the Mount Vernon Association, with the request that they be entered upon the minutes of the Association; that a copy be presented to the distressed family, and that they be published in THE BAPTIST.

Done by act of Conference, September 5, 1868.

SPENCE HALL, *Moderator*.

R. P. DAVANT, *Clerk*.

"Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust him for his grace;
Behind a frowning providence,
He hides a smiling face."

Departed this life, in St. Francis county, on the 7th day of Sep-

tember, Elder F. W. Thompson, in the fifty-seventh year of his age.

In view of the death of our beloved brother, we, the Mount Vernon Association, adopt the following:

Resolved, That by the death of Brother Thompson, we have lost an earnest and zealous brother; one who was willing to spend and be spent in the service of our blessed Lord and Master.

Resolved, That we tender to the bereaved family our heartfelt sympathy, and agree to bear their case upon our prayers to the throne of him who has said, "that the very hairs of your head are numbered."

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the bereaved family, and that they be entered upon our minutes.

J. M. COX, *Chairman*.

STATISTICS OF THE CHURCHES 1867-8.

CHURCHES.	DELEGATES.	POST OFFICES.	PASTORS 1868.	Baptized.	Received by letter.	Restored.	Dismissed by letter.	Excluded.	Died.	Wh'ts in fellow's p.	Bl'ks in fellow's p.	Total in fellow's p.	Associatn'l Fund.	Day of meeting.
Helena.....	W. H. Barksdale.....	Helena.....	W. D. Mayfield.....	5	12	...	1	...	...	81	...	81	\$ 2 50	1
New Hope.....	Not represented.....		W. H. Barksdale.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Liberty.....	A. E. Lockart, J. W. Crenshaw, C. A. Wilson.....		".....	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	4 50	...
Salem.....	Letter.....		James Wyatt.....	5	...	...	8	...	2	31	...	31	...	...
Trenton.....	T. S. N. King.....	Trenton.....	T. S. N. King.....	6	12	...	1	1	10	...	...	22	4 00	2&4
Mount Zion.....	H. P. Slaughter, R. P. Bailey, Jno. Taylor...		W. H. Barksdale.....	5	9	...	10	2	1	...	3	40	5 00	2
Bethel.....	E. Holland.....		E. Holland.....	...	...	...	1	1	...	9	...	9	1 50	4
Hopewell.....	W. S. Cooper, M. R. James.....			2	4	...	5	...	2	...	...	19	2 00	...
Bible Union.....	Peter Parker, Johnson.....			1	2	...	...	3	2	54	1	55	1 00	3
Mount Vernon.....	B. F. Thomas, J. McDaniel, J. Harder.....		B. F. Thomas.....	...	...	...	2	1	2	56	4	60	6 00	...
Oak Grove.....	Spence Hall, R. P. Davant, R. J. Bickerstaff.....	Moro.....		...	7	1	1	...	2	14	1	15	2 50	1
Ash Grove.....	Jas. M. Cox, R. J. Johnson, W. J. Brown.....	Cotton Plant.....	J. M. Cox.....	9	10	1	...	...	...	...	...	45	3 00	2
Liberty No. 2.....	E. T. Mitchell, J. S. Mayberry, V. C. Golding.....		James Wyatt.....	14	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	2 00	...
Point DeLuce.....	J. T. Marshall, W. W. Hammett, W. D. Bolt.....	DeWitt.....	J. T. Marshall.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	1 00	...
DeWitt.....	A. H. Reynolds, E. Ireland, Jas. Gibson.....	DeWitt.....	".....	...	2	...	9	2	...	...	...	45	5 00	...
Rising Sun.....	W. B. Marshall, H. W. Keaton, A. B. McDowell.....		".....	2	2	...	4	1	3	45	...	45	5 00	1
New Hope No. 2.....	J. C. Bell, P. A. Caffra, F. L. Bunyard.....		".....	15	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	3 50	...
Oak Hill.....	Wm. Sembler, Milton Wilson, Jas. Roy.....		B. F. Thomas.....	2	2	...	...	1	1	69	2	71	3 50	...
Totals.....				84	74	2	45	12	25	359	11	614	\$51 00	

Sterling, Blackfoot, Linn Grove, Mount Moriah, Shiloh, Philadelphia, Shady Grove, Big Creek, not represented.