

# MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTIETH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

MT. VERNON

# BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

**BRINKLEY CHURCH,**

MONROE COUNTY, ARKANSAS,

*October 15th, 16th & 17th, 1886.*

## OFFICERS:

S. H. KING: Moderator.

W. H. PASLAY. Treasurer.

G. A. GRAMMER. Clerk.

Next Session to be Held with the Marianna Baptist  
Church, Marianna, Lee County, Arkansas,  
Friday, before the Third Sun-  
day in October, 1887.

1886:

FORREST CITY TIMES PRINT.

FORREST CITY, ARK.

# PROCEEDINGS.

---

The Mt. Vernon Baptist Association met according to adjournment with the Brinkley Church, Monroe county, Ark., Friday, at 11 a.m., October 15, 1886.

In consequence of the death of the appointee, Elder J. H. Fitzgerald, the introductory sermon was preached by Elder W. H. Paslay, alternate, from Romans x: 12. The sermon was eminently scriptural and practical.

After an intermission of five minutes, the Association was called to order by S. H. King, the former Moderator.

Elder B. N. Huftsmann, the former clerk, being absent, the Moderator appointed Elder G. A. Grammer Clerk, for the permanent organization of the Association.

Elders R. A. Lee and L. K. Obenchain read the letters from the various churches, and delegates' names were enrolled.

On motion of G. A. Grammer, the Association proceeded to the election of officers of said body, which resulted in the election of S. H. King, as Moderator; Elder W. H. Paslay, Treasurer; G. A. Grammer, Clerk, and L. K. Obenchain, Corresponding Secretary.

On motion of G. A. Grammer, visiting brethren were invited to seats. Elder M. D. Early, Corresponding Secretary Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Field Editor of Arkansas Evangel, and representing Woman's Mission Work, responded.

On motion of G. A. Grammer, the order of business as adopted in 1871 was agreed upon.

On motion of G. A. Grammer, the hours of meeting of the Association were fixed as follows: Meet at 8:30 a.m.; spend a half hour in devotional services; adjourn at 12:30 p.m.; meet at 2 p.m., and adjourn at will.

The Moderator appointed the following committee on Divine Service: J. P. Farrer, Sr., Wm. Thompson, Andrew Flora, C. S. Belsha.

The committee on Divine Service reported that L. K. Obenchain preach to-night, and R. G. Hewlett preach to-morrow at 11 a.m.

After benediction, by G. A. Grammer, the body adjourned.

## AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 2:30 p.m. the Association met, and after singing "Rock of Ages," and prayer by P. C. Crow, proceeded to business.

The Moderator made changes in the standing committees, and they now stand as follows:

EDUCATION—L. K. Obenchain, Joseph Rogers, C. S. Belsha.

HOME MISSIONS—J. P. Farrar, Sr.

TEMPERANCE—B. F. Thomas, Wm. Thompson, J. C. Paslay.

FOREIGN MISSIONS—W. H. Paslay, John Langston, J. B. Hodges.

PUBLICATION—R. A. Lee, P. C. Crow, W. W. Jones.

OUTCARIES—W. H. Paslay, J. W. Graham, T. E. Knight.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS—A. Flora, J. H. Thompson, L. R. Luccado.

On motion of R. A. Lee, a committee of three were appointed by Moderator, on Home Missions, and three on Woman's Work.

Moderator appointed on State Missions, R. G. Hewlett, J. T. Paslay, L. J. Wilkes; on Woman's Work, J. W. Graham, J. D. Barnett, John Cooper.

L. K. Obenchain, having read a letter from Phillips Bayou Church, on motion Bro. Obenchain was requested to prepare a petitionary letter for said Church.

W. H. Paslay submitted report on Foreign Missions, and, after speeches by B. F. Thomas and G. A. Grammer, the further discussion of the report was postponed till after preaching to-night.

B. F. Thomas read the report on Temperance, and, after addresses by B. F. Thomas, M. D. Early, G. A. Grammer, was amended and adopted. (Appendix A.)

On motion of L. K. Obenchain, the Association adjourned till after preaching to-night.

## FRIDAY NIGHT.

After preaching by L. K. Obenchain, from Romans xii:1, the order of business was taken up. Letters from Prairie and Cypress Churches being read, delegates were enrolled.

The special order being the report on Foreign Missions, after remarks by brethren Lee, Early, Paslay and Grammer, the following collection was taken:

W. H. Paslay,	\$1 00	Sister Ligon,	\$1 50
S. H. King,	1 00	Sister Russell,	50
Wm. Thompson,	1 00	L. K. Obenchain,	50
Mrs. Tomlinson,	1 00	E. L. Long,	25
R. G. Hewlett,	1 00	Alma and Ettie Paslay,	50
F. M. Hill,	50	T. J. Luccado,	25
J. B. Hodges,	1 00	Sister Katie Rogers,	50

R. A. Lee,	-	-	50	Sister Burgess,	-	-	50
Mrs A. Williford,	-	-	25	Dr. Robert Scaife,	-	-	50
B. F. Thomas,	-	-	25	Cash,	-	-	7 45
Laura Farrar,	-	-	50				
Lilly Hinton,	-	-	50	Total,	-	-	\$20 45
P. C. Crow,	-	-	50				

(See Appendix B.)

On Saturday, at 9 a.m., after devotional exercises, the minutes of yesterday were read and approved. Letter from Lone Chapel Church being read, delegates were enrolled. J. B. Sanders, Corresponding Messenger from Grand Prairie Association, was received. L. K. Obenchain submitted report on Education, which was recommitted to committee, and G. A. Grammer added to the committee.

On motion of B. F. Thomas, the report on Sunday Schools was made the special order for Sunday morning at 9 o'clock.

On motion of G. A. Grammer, the Order of Business was amended, and Committee on Nominations substituted for Nos. 15, 17, 18.

The Committee on Divine Service reported that R. A. Lee will preach to-night. G. A. Grammer, Sunday at 11 a.m. at Baptist Church; M. D. Early at night. M. D. Early at 11 a.m., and R. A. Lee at 7:15 p.m., at Methodist Church.

On motion, the Association took up the report on Associational Missions.

The Moderator appointed as Committee on Nominations, J. H. Thompson, W. A. Bobbitt, J. T. Paslay. Remarks on the report made by Brethren Early, W. H. Paslay, Lee, Grammer, King; when hour of preaching having arrived, R. G. Hewlett preached a unique, pointed and practical discourse from Phil. i: 21.

Letters were read from Oak Grove, Center Grove, Pleasant Grove and Mt. Gilead Churches, and messengers enrolled.

A letter from Elder R. G. Thomas was then read, asking for books to help him in his studies.

Adjourned for dinner.

### AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 2 p.m. the Association met. Song No. 48, Gospel Hymns. Prayer by R. A. Lee.

On motion of G. A. Grammer, the report of Committee on Home Missions was laid on the table till the Committee on State Missions reported.

Under suspension of order of business, L. K. Obenchain presented petitionary letter from Oakland Church, Phillips county. The Church being received, the Moderator extended to Brother Obenchain, representative, by proxy, of the Church, the hand of fellowship.

Remarks on State Missions report made by Brethren Lee, J. H. and Wm. Thompson, Grammer, Jones, Thomas, Gustavus, Morris, Early, W. H. Paslay, and said report was laid on the table.

The report on Home Missions was discussed and amended and adopted. (Appendix C.)

The report on State Missions was then recommitted to the committee.

R. A. Lee submitted the report on Publications, and, after discussion by Brethren Early, Grammer, W. H. Paslay and Thomas, was adopted. (Appendix D.)

L. K. Obenchain read report on Education.

Remarks by Brethren King, Bobbitt and Obenchain, when, on motion, the body took a recess.

Moderator appointed John P. Farrar, Sr., A. Flora, W. S. Heustess as Finance Committee.

### SATURDAY NIGHT.

After preaching by R. A. Lee, from 1 Corinthians iii: 9, the Association was called to order, and the report on Education was discussed by Brethren Early, Barnett and Grammer, and adopted. (Appendix E.)

On motion, the letter of R. G. Thomas was referred to Executive Board.

S. H. King submitted the report of Executive Board, which was adopted. (Appendix F.)

On motion, \$19.50 was donated to the Brinkley Church, to help defray the funeral expenses of the lamented J. H. Fitzgerald, a former missionary of the Association.

Committee on Woman's Work was submitted by J. D. Barnett, and adopted. (Appendix G.)

On motion of S. H. King, R. A. Lee in the chair, the report on State Missions was reconsidered, and, after being amended, was adopted. (Appendix H.)

The following pledges were then taken :

Marvell.....	\$ 25 00
Oak Grove.....	15 00
Salem.....	15 00
Center Grove.....	15 00
Helena.....	10 00
Philadelphia.....	5 00
Forrest City.....	52 00
Brinkley.....	10 00
Mars Hill.....	6 00
Poplar Grove.....	10 00

Oak Hill.....	5 00
J. F. Langston.....	5 00
C. S. Belsha.....	5 00
Clarendon.....	2 50
Marianna (by J. P. Farrar, Sr.).....	5 00
Lone Chapel (by R. E. Morris).....	5 00
Oak Grove Sunday School.....	5 00
Forest Chapel.....	10 00
Total .....	\$205 50

On motion, the sermons of R. A. Lee and R. G. Hewlett were requested for publication in the Arkansas Evangel.

On motion, the clerk was instructed to have printed five hundred copies of Minutes, and be allowed \$10 for his services, and that he personally supervise the printing.

R. A. Lee, W. H. Paslay, L. K. Obenchain, R. G. Hewlett and A. Flora were appointed messengers to Baptist State Convention.

On motion, the Clerk was instructed to purchase four dozen blank Associational letters, and send one to the Clerk of each Church.

L. K. Obenchain offered the following resolution :

Resolved, That the thanks of this body be extended to the Church and community for the kind and hospitable manner in which they have entertained this body during its session, and to the Methodists for the use of their house of worship on Sabbath. Adopted.

On motion, the Association adjourned.

### SUNDAY.

At 9:30 a.m. the Association met. Prayer by B. F. Thomas: J. P. Eagle, president of State Convention, and messenger from Caroline Association, accepted a seat with the body.

A. Flora submitted a report on Sunday Schools. Remarks by Brethren Flora, J. P. Eagle, Early, Obenchain and Hewlett, when report was adopted. (Appendix I.)

On motion, a mass meeting was appointed for 3 o'clock, in the interest of Woman's Work. Adjourned.

At 11 a.m., at the Methodist Church, Mr. D. Early preached from Psalms lxxxiv: 11, and took a collection of \$7.75 for Home Missions.

At 11 a.m., at Baptist Church, G. A. Grammer preached from Acts xxviii: 22.

At 3 p.m. the exercises began by singing "There is a Fountain." Prayer by L. K. Obenchain.

On motion, Brethren Thomas and Grammer were appointed to write a historical sketch of the Association.

On motion, the Clerk was ordered to purchase a record book, and

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE

transcribe all the records of this body from date of organization to present time.

Woman's Work then being the order for the hour, after singing, and remarks by Brethren Early, Paslay, Grammer and Obenchain, a society was organized of the ladies of Forrest Chapel. Adjourned.

### SUNDAY NIGHT.

After sermon by J. P. Eagle, from Ephesians v: 16. M. D. Early took up a collection for Home Missions, which amounted to \$25.

W. H. Paslay presented his report as Treasurer. Adopted. (Appendix K.)

W. H. Paslay submitted report on Obituaries. Adopted. (Appendix J.) Remarks by Brethren Grammer and Barnett.

The report on Finance was then submitted and adopted. (Appendix L.)

The Committee on Nominations presented their report. Adopted. (Appendix M.)

J. L. Wilson and Q. A. Mize appointed corresponding messengers to Grand Prairie Association; W. H. Paslay, G. A. Grammer and L. K. Obenchain to Caroline Association; to Mt. Zion, R. G. Hewlett, G. A. Grammer and B. F. Thomas.

J. D. Barnett presented the following resolutions, which were adopted:

Resolved, That we request the various Sabbath Schools in this Association to observe the Children's Day for Foreign Missions, the first Sunday in November. Send for programmes to T. P. Bell, Richmond, Virginia, and forward collections of that day to him. Also, recommend the schools to set apart a Sabbath in the year to make collections for State and Associational Missions.

On motion of L. K. Obenchain, after singing "Sweet By and By," and extending the parting hand, the Association adjourned, to meet with the Church at Marianna, Lee county, on Friday before the third Sunday in October, 1887.

Prayer and benediction by B. F. Thomas.

G. A. GRAMMER, Clerk,  
Forrest City, Ark.

S. H. KING, Moderator.

Poplar Grove, Phillips county, Ark.



## MINISTERS

AND THEIR POSTOFFICES.



- J. D. Barnett, Forrest City, Arkansas.  
P. C. Crow, Brinkley, Arkansas.  
J. M. Davis, Cotton Plant, Arkansas.  
J. W. Graham, Marvell, Arkansas.  
G. A. Grammer, Forrest City, Arkansas.  
R. G. Hewlett, Colt, Arkansas.  
J. M. Hunt, Forrest City, Arkansas.  
T. E. Knight, Clarendon, Arkansas.  
M. K. McCarty, Moro, Arkansas.  
L. K. Obenchain, Marvell, Arkansas.  
W. H. Paslay, Brinkley, Arkansas.  
B. F. Thomas, Forrest City, Arkansas.  
R. G. Thomas, Dunn, Arkansas.  
M. A. Thompson, Brinkley, Arkansas.  
J. L. Wilson, Clarendon, Arkansas.  
N. L. Wilson, Spring Creek, Arkansas.  
Licentiate : William Kelso, Colt, Arkansas.





# APPENDIX.

## A.

### TEMPERANCE.

We hail with gratitude to God the extraordinary success the cause of temperance has attained. Four States, by large majorities, have adopted a constitutional amendment prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicants as a beverage. Some seventeen States have passed a law providing that the nature of alcoholic drinks and narcotics, and their effects upon the human system, shall be taught in all the public schools. The congress of the United States, by a majority almost amounting to unanimity, passed a similar law for the District of Columbia and the Territories. The plan of prohibition by local option is doing a vast amount of good in a large number of States, among which our beloved Arkansas stands prominent. Hence every friend of the cause should thank God, and take courage. The drink traffic assails the most sacred rights and interests of humanity. It has been appropriately denounced on the floor of the United States congress as the "gigantic crime of crimes"—"the dynamite of civilization." Every philanthropist ought to throw the full weight of his influence against it. Therefore we advise the brotherhood to use all proper means to establish the rule of total abstinence for the individual and total prohibition for the State. Let preachers proclaim it in the pulpit, teachers teach it in the school-room, doctors prescribe it in the sick-room, judges, juries and attorneys enforce it in their daily life, and this brazen-faced monster, this greatest curse to human kind, shall be banished from enlightened nations, and assigned a place in the world's history, to be read of in after ages with profound astonishment that man submitted so long to its dreadful ravages.

B. F. THOMAS, Chairman.

## B.

## FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Your Committee on Foreign Missions would respectfully submit the following: Having the divine injunction "Freely ye received, freely give;" and regarding the Bible as the inestimable gift of God to man, it becomes our imperative duty to send the Word of God to the benighted nations of the earth. If we are the light of the world, let us hold the light so high that the heavenly rays may penetrate every nation. David says "The entrance of Thy Word giveth light." And we find wherever God's Word is read and its tenets practiced, or where its truths are preached and believed that darkness disappears, morality is practiced and civilization advanced. These would be sufficient reasons for still greater effort in our missionary work, but when we look at the salvation of human beings from eternal misery who can withhold his or her aid? While all of God's creatures are equal in His eyes, yet we feel especially interested in our neighbors, the Mexicans, where Catholicism—which we regard as the worst species of idolatry—is so fast giving way to the saving efficacy of the Gospel of Christ. Also, do we feel deeply interested in sustaining Bro. C. E. Smith, who is a missionary from our State to Africa. Perhaps the day is dawning when the Scriptures will be fulfilled which says "Ethiopia shall soon stretch forth her hands to God." Let us then help those who are making such great sacrifices to rescue the perishing and are calling on us for aid. "God loveth a cheerful giver." He has given Himself for us. What have we done for him?

W. H. PASLAY, Chairman.

## C.

## HOME MISSIONS.

Your Committee on Home Missions beg leave to report. The question of Home Missions, in our judgment, is one paramount to all others that may come before this body, and the one which, according to its importance and merit, we do less for. Glowing reports and eloquent speeches are made on other subjects, but on this we seem to think, as we have the poor always with us, we can help them any time. Brethren, while not neglecting the towns, let us give the subject of supplying our destitute country the consideration due it; and let our means be equally distributed between town, city and country Churches, as the necessity may demand; and let us

strive to occupy the whole ground within the bounds of our Association, for indeed are the fields white for harvest; and let us pray that God will send forth more laborers into this part of His vineyard, and as they come let us open our hearts and receive them, peculiarly as well as otherwise; and let us arouse ourselves to a better support of those already with us, that they may be enabled to give their time more wholly to the work.

We would earnestly recommend to your body that you request every Church to make a pledge every year for Home Missions, the amount to be stated in their letter, and sent up to the next Association.

We would also recommend that the plan pursued by the Executive Board for the last two years, of employing missionaries during the summer and fall months, be continued.

We would recommend to the Executive Board the Hopewell Church as deserving special consideration.

JOHN F. FARRAR, SR.

## D.

### PUBLICATIONS.

Your Committee on Publications would submit the following report:

• As has so often, and by so many, been truthfully said, the press is a great power for good—or else for evil. The extent to which the literature of any people forms the character and settles the destiny of that people is great indeed. And the fact that the country so dear to us all is so flooded with superficial literature, and with publications so pernicious in their tendencies, calls the more urgently for the greatest care among our people in the selection of what they read. The Bible is the great standard by which all current publications should be determined, and their conformity to its teaching should be the measure of their acceptability to our people. We therefore recommend the more frequent and earnest study of the Bible among all our people.

We would also recommend, as the medium of fraternal communication among Baptists of our State, and as a means of unifying and building up our people, the Arkansas Evangel, published at Little Rock, Ark., by Bro. W. A. Forbes; and we recommend that earnest efforts be made to put the Evangel into every Baptist family throughout the State.

We recommend Kind Words, and the other lesson helps for Sabbath schools, published at Atlanta, Ga., by the Southern Baptist

Convention; those published by the American Baptist Publication Society, Baptist Book House of Graves & Mahaffy, Memphis; and recommend the many standard works on our denominational views published by different able authors of our persuasion, and which may be procured from almost any book concern dealing in our denominational literature.

R. A. LEE, Chairman

---

E.

## EDUCATION.

We, your committee, beg leave to make the following report :

It is an established fact that education is a necessity. For the intellectual training of the children of our State, we are fortunate to have a system of free common schools, in which all may obtain sufficient knowledge to qualify them for the business pursuits of life. In many places we have private schools of still higher grade, which are excellent feeders or tributaries to just such an institution of learning as the Baptists of the State have, by the providence of God, established, and located at Arkadelphia, Ark. This College, opened September 6, 1886, with one hundred pupils, now has one hundred and sixty-two pupils, with fifty boarders, and is under the judicious management of Prof. J. W. Conger, A. M., and an able corps of assistants. This is a child of the Arkansas Baptist Convention, and has for its object not only the intellectual, but the moral and religious training of its pupils. We have long since felt the need of such an institution of learning, and now, that it is established and opened with flattering prospects, yet in its infancy, we would recommend, yea urge, that every Baptist put forth every effort, by his or her prayers, means and patronage, to support the College, and thereby make it efficient in accomplishing the great object of the brotherhood of the State.

It is an imperative duty that our people owe to themselves, their neighbors and their Creator to educate and assist in the intellectual training of our rising ministry. Knowing that our young ministers are usually from the poorer ranks of life, and without means with which to prosecute their ministerial studies, it becomes our duty to aid them; and, in view of this fact, the Ouachita College proposes to do its share in this noble and laudable cause by training those studying for the ministry free of charge for tuition, and we should do our utmost to aid this army of young Christian soldiers to prepare for preaching the Gospel, by giving all we can to help this work to be a success.

L. K. OBENCHAIN, Chairman.

## F.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD.

Your Executive Board would respectfully submit the following: We employed Bro. Fitzgerald for two months, but our Heavenly Father saw proper to call him home before he had finished the work assigned him by us. He worked for us 21 days; preached 27 sermons. No. of baptisms, 9; conversions, 10; letters, 3. Assisted in organizing a Church at Phillip's Bayou; collected on field, \$22.60—leaving the Board due him \$12.40.

We also employed Bro. Wilson to work one month, but, owing to his feeble health, he failed to work.

We also employed Bro. Paslay to visit the destitute places in the northern bounds of the Association. He has visited Gray's station three times, occupying twelve days; kept up an appointment at Spring Creek and Oak Forest until the middle of July; visited Hopewell Church, spending five days; good interest manifested. Amount due him, \$26.

S. H. KING, Chairman.

## G.

## REPORT ON WOMAN'S WORK.

We, your committee on the work accomplished through the channel of the Arkansas State Woman's Central Committee and its auxiliaries, beg leave to report as follows:

So far as we can gather, this is a new duty assigned the different Associations of the State, and, therefore, at this time, your committee has but little or no data from which to make a report. But, notwithstanding this, we find that the women of our State have done their part, and most nobly, too. Organized in 1882, they have fought womanly for victory, and, like the women who went first to seek our risen Lord, they seem to be fast taking the lead in this grand movement of raising means with which to promote the Master's cause. May we aid them with our sympathy, prayers, tears and means? They raised about \$1,000 the past year. They have their Central Committee, with headquarters at Little Rock, and some forty-five or fifty branch organizations, which are doing their glorious work as only women can do—a noble and blessed work; and we long to see the day when every church in our Association—yea, our whole State—shall have a local organization of this kind to further the Master's blessed kingdom. And we do urge the women of all our Churches to band themselves together and work unitedly to promote

Christ's kingdom, for women can do a work man cannot do. May we all add our mite towards helping and encouraging this noble army of Christian women in their work, and discourage all efforts that would hinder their accomplishing their most laudable desires to extend our Lord's kingdom till it covers the earth as the waters cover the sea. Woman is first in all good works and words.

"They talk about a woman's sphere  
As though it had a limit :

There's not a place in earth or heaven,  
There's not a task of mankind given,  
There's not a blessing or a woe,  
There's not a whisper, yes or no,  
There's not a life, or death or birth,  
There's not a feather's weight of worth,  
Without a woman in it."

J. W. GRAHAM,  
J. D. BARNETT,  
J. NO. M. COOPER,  
Committee.

## H.

### STATE MISSIONS.

Your Committee on State Missions would submit the following report :

We are pleased to be able to say that this department of our denominational work is in advance of former years—for which we thank God and take courage. During the past year the State Board has had in its employ fourteen missionaries, at a cost of about \$700 per quarter. Another year we hope to be able to put at least twenty-five in the field. To do this, it will require more men and money. The men we can get, if we could but secure the money. The latter can be gotten if we will but adopt a little system and a good deal of personal work. We therefore recommend that the pastors and Churches in this Association do all in their power to secure, during the next year, the small sum of fifty cents per member, for State and Associational Missions—twenty-five per cent. of said amount. to be set apart for State Missions.

We further recommend that the Executive Board shall take the supervision of the work, and into their hands all the funds thus raised shall be paid or reported, and by them paid out to the objects for which contributed.

And, further, we recommend that said Board do what it can to

have the missionaries of this Association become missionaries of the State Board, thus affecting such an arrangement as will give us connections with the Home Board of the Southern Baptist Convention to secure representation in that body on the money contributed for the above work.

Respectfully,

R. G. HEWLETT;  
J. T. PASLAY,  
L. J. WILKES,  
Committee.

## I. SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

We, your Committee on Sabbath Schools, would beg leave to report as follows :

Rehoboth has a membership of 74, with an average attendance of 18. Mars Hill, membership, 24 ; average attendance not given. Forrest City, membership, 68 ; total collections, \$65 ; take 50 copies of Kind Words ; 30 copies of Child's Gem, 12 copies quarterly. Forest Chapel, membership, 93 ; average attendance, 45. Marianna, membership, 44 ; average attendance, 20. Salem, membership, 60 ; average attendance, 40 ; average collection, 25 cents. Oak Hill, membership, 70. Brinkley, average attendance, 53 ; average collections, 75 cents ; total collections, \$39. This school observed Children's Bible Day, and raised \$6.30. Oak Grove, membership, 71 ; average attendance, 34. Helena, membership, 84 ; average attendance, 61 ; average collection, \$2.24 ; collections for school purposes, \$116.40 ; for State Mission, \$13.00 ; Total, \$129.40 ; take 100 Kind Words, 22 Baptist Teachers, and a collection on the first Sabbath in each month for State Missions.

Your Committee view with astonishment and regret the seeming lack of interest upon the part of many of the churches in this department of Christian work ; one whose interest is so closely interwoven with the success of the Church itself. From the meagre reports given in the letters, the Sunday school work is held in a very low estimation, while some of the letters even fail to mention the name of Sunday school. From the best information we have there are some thirty-two churches composing the Mt. Vernon Baptist Association, and out of this number we are enabled to make statistical reports of ten schools. Isn't this a severe reflection on those who claim to be disciples of Christ ? Who of us can in the face of these facts say that we are living in the discharge of our Christian duties ? Brethren, let us look well to this matter.

We, your Committee, would most earnestly urge that every Church in this Association put forth more strenuous efforts to establish Sunday schools and make full reports to this body when it shall have convened again.

ANDREW FLORA,  
L. J. WILKS,  
THOS. LUCCADO,  
Committee.

## J. OBITUARIES.

Your Committee on Obituaries submit the following:

We are pained to report the death of our dearly beloved brother, J. H. Fitzgerald. He had been the missionary of our Association for portions of the last three years, and, by his zeal for the Master, his love for the brotherhood, his consecration to the cause of Christ, his Christian walk and godly conversation had greatly endeared himself to us all. He was a young minister of fine promise, and, no doubt, had his life been spared, would have been a great blessing to the world. But our Heavenly Father, for purposes wise, and only known by Himself, has called him from earth to Glory, translated him from the Church militant to the Church Triumphant. May the great Head of the Church sanctify this dispensation of his inscrutable providence to the glory of His name.

The deceased was born in Gibson county, near Trenton, Tenn., educated at Southwestern Baptist University, at Jackson, Tenn., and was about twenty-seven years of age at his death, which occurred at Brinkley, where he was pastor, September, 1886, and his remains were carried to Tennessee for interment. Let us prepare to meet him in that land of light and love.

W. H. PASLAY, Chairman.

## K.

### TREASURER'S REPORT.

Your Treasurer submits this report for 1885:

Received from Finance Committee .....	\$203 05
" " Mrs. Ligon .....	1 00
" " Miss Carrie Seafe .....	5 00
Total.....	\$209 05



Paid W. H. Paslay for missionary work, 1885.....	\$ 25 00
" J. H. Fitzgerald " " " .....	23 20
" for Minutes.....	28 00
" Clerk.....	10 00
" Foreign Missions. ....	7 30
" W. H. Paslay for Missionary Work, 1886.....	26 00
" J. H. Fitzgerald " " " .....	12 60
" Brinkley Church, burial expenses J. H. Fitzgerald. ....	19 50
Balance on hand.....	59 45

Total.....\$209 05

W. H. PASLAY, Treasurer.

## L.

## FINANCE.

Your Committee on Finance would report that we have collected a fund as follows :

	HOME MISSIONS.	MINUTES.
Hopewell ..	\$ 5 00	\$—
Helena ....	20 00	2 50
Marvell.....	22 35	2 50
Rehoboth.....	5 00	2 00
Poplar Grove.....	10 00	2 00
Forest Chapel.....	10 00	3 00
Cypress .....	7 50	1 50
Forrest City. ....	9 75	2 50
Center Grove.....	7 00	2 00
Brinkley .....	—	2 00
Salem Church.....	16 25	2 00
Prairie .....	—	2 00
Philadelphia.....	—	1 55
Clarendon .....	—	1 00
Lone Chapel .....	—	1 00
Bethlehem.....	—	1 50
Oak Hill.....	—	1 00
Marianna .....	—	2 00
Oak Grove.....	—	3 00
Pleasant Grove.....	—	1 00
Oakland.....	—	1 00
Mrs. Fred Sapp.....	5 00	—
Andrew Flora.....	5 00	—

John P. Farrar, Sr.....	5 00	_____
Ladies' Aid Society of Oak Grove.....	5 00	_____
		_____
Total.....	\$132 85	\$ 37 05
Foreign Mission, by collection.....		\$20 45
State Mission, ".....		25 00

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN P. FARRAR, SR., Chairman.

## M.

### NOMINATIONS.

We, your Committee on Nominations, recommend the following :  
 As members of the Executive Board L. K. Obenchain, J. P. Farrar, Sr., C. W. Hickey, L. J. Wilkes and W. A. Bobbitt ; to preach the introductory sermon, G. A. Grammer ; alternate, L. K. Obenchain ; place of next meeting, Marianna Baptist Church, Lee county, Arkansas.

J. T. PASLAY, Chairman.



CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	MESSENGERS.
<b>FIRST DISTRICT.</b>		
Helena.....	R. A. Lee.....	R. A. Lee, L. J. Wilkes, John J. Porter.....
Barton.....	L. K. Obenchain	By Letter .....
Marvell.....	L. K. Obenchain	L. K. Obenchain, S. H. King, T. J. Lucead
Bethlehem.....	J. L. Wilson ...	S. H. Hurst .....
Salem.....	J. L. Wilson.....	J. W. Graham, Wm. Thompson.....
Mt. Gilead.....		By Letter .....
Cypress*.....	J. L. Wilson ...	C. S. Belsha .....
Clarendon .....	M. A. Thompson	George Clark .....
Philadelphia..	M. A. Thompson	J. W. Dicus, A. W. Parry .....
Trenton.....		Not Represented .....
New Hope....		Not Represented .....

### SECOND DISTRICT.

Rehoboth ....	W. H. Paslay....	J. F. Langston .....
Center Grove.	W. H. Paslay....	W. J. Adams, H. W. Wambie, R. A. Butts, Robt Roane .....
Lone Chapel..	P. C. Crow .....	P. C. Crow, John Jacobs, R. M. O'Neal....
Ash Grove..		Not Represented .....
Refuge.....		Not Represented .....
Pleasant Grove	J. M. Davis.....	R. E. Morris, G. W. Hill .....
Brinkley.....		Andrew Flora, J. C. Paslay, John M. Cooper
Pine Fork....	T. E. Knight ...	J. W. Grimes, J. R. Whitted, C. J. McQueen

### THIRD DISTRICT.

New Hope....		Not Represented .....
Marianna....	W. H. Darksdale	J. P. Farrar, Sr., W. A. Bobbitt, .....
Forest Chapel		J. H. Thompson, J. W. Williams, J. W. Rogers
Forrest City..	G. A. Grammer	G. A. Grammer, J. D. Barnett .....
Zion .....	B. F. Thomas ..	B. F. Thomas.....
Oak Grove.....	W. H. Paslay..	W. H. Paslay, J. T. Paslay, F. L. Gustavus.
Oak Hill.....	R. G. Hewlett ..	R. G. Hewlett, .....
Mars Hill.....	M. K. McCarty	W. W. Jones, E. B. Shafer .....
Prairie.....		F. M. Hill, .....
Poplar Grove.	W. H. Paslay..	J. B. Hodges, W. S. Henstess.....
Hopewell.....		C. L. Long, .....
Shiloh .....		Not Represented .....
Oakland ....	L. K. Obenchain	By Letter .....

\*This Church consolidated with Linn Grove.

**FIRST DISTRICT.**

## SECOND DISTRICT.

**THIRD DISTRICT.**

‡\$60 of This amount paid to M. D. Early.