

9-21-1848

# Proceedings of the First Annual Meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/abscannuals>



Part of the [Christian Denominations and Sects Commons](#), and the [Organizational Communication Commons](#)

---

## Recommended Citation

Arkansas Baptist State Convention, "Proceedings of the First Annual Meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention" (1848).  
*Arkansas Baptist State Convention Annuals*. 21.  
<https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/abscannuals/21>

This Conference Proceeding is brought to you for free and open access by the Arkansas Baptist History at Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. It has been accepted for inclusion in Arkansas Baptist State Convention Annuals by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. For more information, please contact [mortensona@obu.edu](mailto:mortensona@obu.edu).

**PROCEEDINGS**

**OF THE**

**FIRST ANNUAL MEETING.**

**OF THE**

**ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION,**

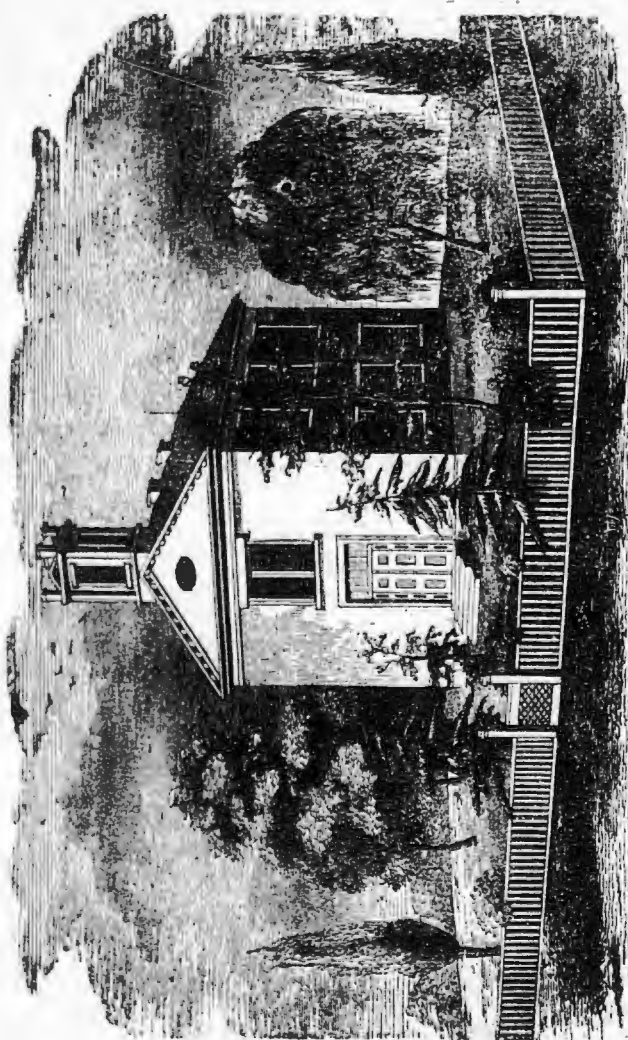
**HELD WITH THE**

**BROWNSVILLE CHURCH,**

**DALLAS COUNTY, ARKANSAS,**

**September 21st, & 22d, 1848.**

---



A B R A M S O N S A T T O R N E Y A T L A W

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONVENTION.

---

ACCORDING to the appointment of the Saline Baptist Association, the Delegates and Messengers having convened with the Brownsville Baptist church, at the Mt. Spring Camp Ground, Dallas county, Arkansas, on Thursday before the 4th Sabbath in September, 1848. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder E. Haynes, from the 3d Epistle of John, and 11th verse, "*Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good.*"

Elder Wm. H. Bayliss was then called to the chair, and A. Daniel requested to act as secretary.

Letters were then called for and read, which reported the following Delegates to this body:

### ASSOCIATION.

*Saline*—Elder E. Haynes, J. L. McClenden, A. Bolt, D. W. Browning, and J. E. Paxton.

### CHURCHES.

*Manchester*—R. McCargo, J. T. Craig and Wm. B. Parker.

*Union* (Jefferson)—P. Alexander, J. Randolph, Wm. Gillespie.

*Brownsville*—Elder Wm. H. Bayliss, N. G. Smith, A. Daniel.

*Princeton*—A. C. Hall, R. J. Coleman, W. L. Estes.

*Camden*—Elder M. M. Wallace.

*Shiloh*—Elder J. Reaves, T. B. Finley.

*Mine Creek*—Elder I. C. Perkins, W. J. Wright.

*Mt. Zion*—D. C. Paxton, J. C. Holt.

*Spring Creek*—D. Dodd, S. Pelton.

*Union* (Saline)—E. N. Chinnault.

*Mt. Bethell*—Elder S. Stevenson, Wm. C. Randle, D. H. Ross.

*Red River*—G. W. Whitfield.

*Bethany*—D. Flower, J. Thetford, J. Minick.

*Pleasant Hill*—Elder E. Haynes,

*Bethesda*—Elder Wm. H. Wyatt, J. V. McColloch.

*Friendship* (Washita)—J. W. Tindall.

*New Harmony*—M. Yager.

Invited ministering brethren to seats with us, when Elders Franklin Courtney and S. D. Worthington, (of Eldorado), J. Y. Lindsey, (of Saline), Wm. L. Anderson, (of Clark), Obadiah Dodson, (of Tennessee), and G. W. Baines, of Mt. Lebanon, La., came forward and took seats in the Convention.

Elected Elder Wm. H. Bayliss, President, and Asbury Daniel, Recording Secretary.

On motion,

*Resolved*, That we request the President, to arrange preaching during the session of this body.

On motion of N. G. Smith, appointed the following committees:

To draft a Constitution—N. G. Smith, E. Haynes, S. D. Worthington, I. C. Perkins, and M. M. Wallace.

On arrangement of business—S. Stevenson, Wm. L. Anderson, J. Reaves, Wm. H. Bayliss, and A. Daniel.

On Finance—Wm. C. Randle, and G. W. Whitfield.

On Nominations—N. G. Smith, I. C. Perkins, and J. T. Craig.

On Agencies—F. Courtney, D. C. Paxton and W. J. Wright.

On Destitution—M. M. Wallace, J. Y. Lindsey and W. B. Parker.

On Foreign Missions—S. D. Worthington, G. W. Whitfield and D. Dodd.

On Education—S. Stevenson, Wm. L. Estes and J. P. Alexander.

On Sabbath Schools—I. C. Perkins, W. C. Randle and R. McCargo.

On the moral and religious condition of the colored population—J. Reaves, D. Ross and J. Thetford.

On the Bible Cause—E. Haynes, W. H. Wyatt, and J. J. Randolph.

On Circulation of Books—W. L. Anderson, W. L. Estes and J. Minick.

To draft Rules of Decorum—N. G. Smith, S. Stevenson and F. Courtney.

Then adjourned, with usual devotional exercise, until to-morrow morning, 8 o'clock A. M.

FRIDAY MORNING, *Sept. 22d.*

Met pursuant to adjournment, and, after prayer by the President, received the report of the committee on the Constitution, which was read and unanimously adopted.

Appointed the next session of this body to be with the Eldorado Church, Union county, to convene on Thursday before the 3d Sabbath in October, 1849; Elder I. C. Perkins to preach the introductory sermon, and F. Courtney to preach on Sabbath, on Missions.

The committee on Nominations presented the following report, which was unanimously adopted:

President of the Board, Elder Wm. H. Bayliss,

Vice Presidents, I. C. Perkins,

“ “ S. D. Worthington,

Treasurer, N. G. Smith,

Corresponding Sec., G. W. Baines,

Managers, J. T. Craig,

D. Dodd,

Asbury Daniel, Elder J. Y. Lindsey,

R. McCargo,  
W. B. Parker,  
Elder E. Haynes,  
Elder J. Reaves,  
Elder W. H. Wyatt,  
Elder M. M. Wallace,  
Elder S. Stevenson,

W. L. Estes,  
D. C. Paxton,  
J. Minick,  
P. Alexander,  
E. N. Chinnault,  
G. W. Whitfield.  
M. Yeager,

and Elder Franklin Courtney.

Received and adopted the report of the committee on Agencies, (*see Appendix A.*)

The report of the committee on Sabbath Schools, (*see B.*)

The report of the committee on the religious instruction of the colored population, (*see C.*)

The report of the committee on the Bible cause, (*see D.*)

The report of the committee on circulation of Books, (*see E.*)

The report of the committee on Finance, (*see F.*)

Read and unanimously adopted the Rules of Decorum, as presented by the committee.

In view of the great destitution of our state;

On motion of S. Stevenson, took up a subscription for the use of the convention; whereupon the sum of eight hundred and thirty dollars was subscribed, to be in five annual installments.

Ordered the Recording Sec'y to write a letter to the Home Mission Board, recommending Elder M. M. Wallace to their patronage, as a Missionary among us, to be assigned by the President and Secretary of this body.

Appointed Elder F. Courtney, M. M. Wallace, and S. D. Worthington, messengers to the next session of the Saline Association, and F. Courtney to write; and Elder E. Haynes, S. T. Cobb and J. Reaves, to the Liberty, and E. Haynes to write; and W. H. Bayliss, N. G. Smith and Asbury Daniel to the next Triennial Convention.

On motion,

*Resolved*, That this Convention recommend to the denomination throughout the State, the Southern Baptist Missionary Journal, published at Richmond Virginia; the South Western Baptist Chronicle, published at New Orleans; and the Tennessee Baptist, published at Nashville.

Received and adopted the report of the committee on Education, (*see G.*)

The report of the committee on Foreign Missions, (*see H.*)

The report of the committee on Destitution, (*see I.*)

Appointed Elder M. M. Wallace, F. Courtney, E. Haynes, and S. D. Worthington, Messengers to Saline Association, to convene in 1849; F. Courtney to write.

On motion,

*Resolved*, That the Recording Sec'y be instructed to prepare the Minutes of the Convention for the press, and have 1000 copies printed, that he superintend the distribution of the same among the churches of the State, and also send copies to the editors of the Southern

[D.]

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE BIBLE CAUSE.

Your committee, to whom was referred the subject of the Bible Cause, would respectfully submit the following:

We cordially recommend this subject to the favorable consideration of the denomination. It is peculiarly the cause of the church, because it is through the inspired word, as God's appointed means, that the kingdoms of this world are to become the kingdoms of our Lord and his Christ. We know of no Association in this State, auxilliary to the Bible Society, and consequently have no facts to present, and but little ground on which to base a report. But we hope that the time is not far distant, when the Baptists of Arkansas will come up heartily to the help of the Lord in this great and good work.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

E. HAYNES, *Chairman.*

[E.]

## THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON BOOK ARRANGEMENTS.

We, your committee on Book Arrangements, beg leave to offer the following report: That the board obtain an agency for books, and employ a Colporteur, whose duty it shall be to act under the instruction of the board; and farther recommend, that he shall be a minister of the Gospel, who shall keep a correct account of all his expenditures and his sales, making his quarterly or annual report, and that he be remunerated accordingly. And thus, while he acts as Colporteur, he will go forth as an Ambassador of Christ.

And we furthermore recommend, that each church get up a library, which shall be the property of the church.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WM. L. ANDERSON, *Chair'n.*

Baptist Missionary Journal, the Tennessee Baptist, South Western Baptist Chronicle, the Religious Herald, the Rev. W. M. Wycoff, Spencer H. Cone, T. S. Malcom, and Jesse Hartwell, and others as he may deem advisable; that he draw on the Treasurer for the amount of money necessary to defray the expenses of printing, and that he receive fifteen dollars for his services.

On motion,

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Convention be respectfully tendered to the citizens of this vicinity, for their very hospitable entertainment of the Convention during its session.

On motion, adjourned, to meet at the time and place specified.  
Prayer by Elder I. C. Perkins.

WM. H. BAYLISS, *Pres't.*

ASBURY DANIEL, *Rec. Sec'y.*

## S A B B A T H.

The services of the Sabbath were of a peculiarly interesting character.

A sermon was preached by Elder Obadiah Dodson, of Tennessee, at 9 o'clock, A. M., which seemed deeply to affect the large assembly then present.

At eleven o'clock, in pursuance of a resolution passed at the last session of Saline Association, Br. Bayliss preached the Missionary sermon, in a very lucid, feeling, and impressive manner; at the close of which, a collection of \$36 75 was taken up, and a subscription of \$1685 raised, to be paid in five annual installments, all for Missionary purposes.

By the special request of the Mt. Bethel Church, the afternoon was occupied in the ordination services of Br. Samuel Stevenson, who was solemnly set apart to the work of the Gospel Ministry.

Bishop Geo. W. Baines preached the ordination sermon.

Bishop F. Courtney conducted the examination.

Bishop E. Haines offered the ordination prayer.

Bishop I. C. Perkins delivered the charge.

Elder M. M. Wallace presented the Bible, and gave the right hand of fellowship.

An appropriate hymn was then sung, during which the right hand of fellowship was extended by the Presbytery, other ministers present, and the brethren and sisters generally, which added a peculiar interest to the solemn services of the occasion.

The closing benediction was pronounced by Br. Stevenson.

At night, a sermon was preached by Elder Franklin Courtney, followed by Elder I. C. Perkins, in exhortation, when the Spirit of God was profusely poured out upon both saint and sinner in the congregation. Sinners bowed and cried out "What shall we do to be saved;" mourners were translated from the kingdom of satan into the marvellous light of the glorious gospel of the Son of God; while the Saints of the living God broke forth into praises unto his name for his wonderful works towards the children of men.



# CONSTITUTION

OF THE

## ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION.

---

*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, and churches to 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 public 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 the 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 to such officers, during its 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 annual meeting. Each member of the convention shall be, ex-officio, a member of the convention.

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

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

The committee to whom was referred the subject of drafting a constitution for the convention, having examined and compared several of a similar character, have agreed upon the above; all of which is most respectfully submitted.

---

## RULES OF DECORUM.

- 1st. The convention shall be opened and closed by prayer.
- 2d. The President shall preserve order, and decide in all cases relating to decorum.
- 3d. Any member not satisfied with his decision, may appeal to the convention on the same day, but at no other time.
- 4th. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his feet, and respectfully address the chair.
- 5th. The President, when addressed by a member for permission to speak, shall signify the same by naming the person or otherwise.
- 6th. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject, or use words of personal reflection.
- 7th. Every motion made and seconded shall be considered, unless withdrawn by the mover.
- 8th. No member shall retire without leave of the President.
- 9th. No member shall speak more than twice on the same proposition, without permission of the convention.
- 10th. The President shall be entitled to the same privileges of speaking as other members, provided he first fill the chair with some other member; but shall not vote only in case of a tie.

---

[A.]

## REPORT ON AGENCIES.

The committee to whom was referred the subject of Agencies, have taken the subject into consideration, and would most respectfully submit the following report:

That a General Agent, in the infancy of the convention, to make known to the denomination throughout the State, the objects of the convention, collect funds, and otherwise advance the interest of the convention, is indispensably necessary. They therefore recommend the employment of a General Agent.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

F. COURTNEY, *Chairman.*

[B.]

## ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

The committee on Sabbath Schools, beg leave to make the following report:

That Sabbath Schools are important means, which the Church, in the providence of God, can bring into requisition for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

Your committee are of opinion, that, in view of the magnitude of the subject, its controlling influence upon the rising generation, and the Church, would recommend to all the Ministers, Deacons, and Churches, energetic action and untiring efforts in forming schools in every town and neighborhood where circumstances will allow.

We further recommend, that our Ministers present the importance of the subject, by delivering Sabbath School addresses to their respective congregations and churches, as often as they may deem practicable.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

I. C. PERKINS, *Chairman.*

---

[C.]

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INSTRUCTION OF THE COLORED POPULATION.

We, your committee on the Moral and Religious instruction of the Colored Population of our country, beg leave to present the following report:

In view of the great responsibility resting on all that love our blessed Saviour, and particularly the owners of slaves, we would recommend, first, the importance of family instruction by the heads of families, or other persons qualified to impart religious instruction to their servants, and to require them, as much as possible, to attend their family worship. And, we further recommend our churches, to prepare some apartment for them to hear the preaching of the Gospel, and we recommend our ministering brethren to preach to them when an opportunity offers. And, we would further recommend each church, when they have colored members, to have a committee on instruction, and to have a day in each month, for the purpose of reading the Scriptures to them. All of which is respectfully submitted.

JESSE REAVES, *Chairman.*

[F.]

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

The committee on Finance beg leave to make the following report:

	<i>For Minutes.</i>	<i>Gen'l Purposes.</i>	<i>D. Missions.</i>
Manchester Church,			\$ 4 30
Brownsville,		\$23 00	11 50
Princeton, (to be paid,)	\$ 2 00	13 00	
Camden,	2 00		
Shiloh,			1 00
Mine Creek,	1 00		
Mount Zion,	2 00		1 50
Spring Creek,		5 00	
Mount Bethel,		2 70	
Bethany,	55		3 00
Friendship,	1 00		
E. W. Chinnault,		1 00	
General Contribution,	3 00		
	<hr/> \$11 55	<hr/> \$44 70	<hr/> \$21 30
			44 70
			11 55

Total paid over to Treasurer,  
Remaining in hands of Treasurer,

\$77 55  
81 35

Cash on hand,  
All of which is respectfully submitted.

\$158 90

WM. C. RANDLE, *Chair'n.*

[G.]

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The committee on Education beg leave to make the following report:

The present being an age peculiarly distinguished for intellectual and scientific improvement, we deem it of the utmost importance for the universal spread of the glorious Gospel against all error, that we have, as far as possible, an educated Ministry. Without entering into any argument upon this subject, we would merely refer those who do not feel as we do, to the vast amount of talent and education, with all their incalculable influence, brought into requisition in sustaining and promulgating the almost infinite variety of error in our land. We most heartily agree with those who believe that God calls and

qualifies his Ministers for the solemn and responsible work of proclaiming salvation to perishing sinners; yet we do not believe that ignorance of His word and works, constitute any part of that qualification. The Apostles took a three years' course of instruction, under the Great Teacher, and were endowed with wisdom from on high, before entering fully into the great work.

In vindication of our views on this subject, we might refer you to the success of our brethren in other States, or to the recent glorious victories of the Cross in a benighted Burmah, effected through the instrumentality of an educated ministry. Dear brethren, seeing that the harvest truly is great, that the laborers are few; let us pray the Lord of the harvest that he send more laborers into his harvest. And while we pray, let us do all we can to direct the attention of pious young men to the whitening fields, remembering "that faith without works is dead."

We most cordially recommend to the convention, that, as early as practicable, measures be adopted for the promotion of ministerial education in our own State.

All of which is most respectfully submitted.

SAML. STEVENSON, *Chairman.*

---

[H.]

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The committee on Foreign Missions doth respectfully represent, that the facility and greatly extended plans of benevolence in advancing the Gospel in heathen lands, at the present age, together with the great and effectual door that is opened in different stations, to receive the word of life, and the number of our brethren, that have left their native shores to preach the Gospel to the heathen, all calling upon us to contribute our aid in the salvation of the heathen world.

Your committee recommended to the attention of the convention, Associations and Churches, the consideration of the claims which heathen lands hold upon us, and that plans may be devised, at as early a day as possible, to come up to the aid of our brethren in the Foreign Missionary enterprise, and in deed and in truth, participate with those who are now standing on foreign shores, proclaiming

In the desert let me labor,  
On the mountain let me tell;  
He died, the blessed Jesus,  
To redeem a world from hell.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

S. D. WORTHINGTON, *Chairman.*

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DESTITUTION.

Your committee beg leave to present the following report:

It would be impossible, in a brief report like this, to fully set forth the claims of the Home Mission cause, and the great destitution in our State. We have but to look around us, and see multitudes, who are perishing for lack of knowledge, and even a great part of the flock of Christ is wandering in the mountains, without an under Shepherd to go in and out before them. A few facts may be proper here, in order to lay this most important subject before this convention. We have in our State 150,000 souls. The entire number of Baptists within the same bounds does not probably exceed 5000, and about one-half of that number opposed to all Missionary operations. The number of ministers who are ready to co-operate with us, in our efforts to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature, we do not believe exceeds fifty. Within the bounds of the Saline Association, there are ten Baptist Churches, entirely destitute of Pastors, and several more within the bounds of the Liberty Association. In the eastern part of the State, where there was once a Baptist Association, there are nine Churches, without one ordained Minister within their bounds. We have neither time nor space to speak particularly of other Churches in different parts of our State, which are being scattered and wandering from the fold like sheep without a shepherd, or of the great number of brethren who are living out of the Church of Christ, because there is no one to organize them, or preach the gospel to them if organized. In addition to this most deplorable state of things in our own denomination, there are hundreds, and even thousands, who seldom, if ever, hear the glad tidings of salvation. For encouragement, we would refer the convention to the remarkable success of Home Missionary operations amongst our brethren in other States, and, above all, to the glorious promises of our blessed Saviour, who said, And lo! I am with you always, even until the end of the world.

Dear brethren, we must earnestly recommend the speedy adoption of such measures as may, in your wisdom, seem best calculated to supply at least our own brethren as soon as possible, with those who shall break to them the bread of life. And may God bless your efforts to the entire demolition of the power of darkness, and the upbuilding of the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

M. M. WALLACE, *Chairman.*

## CIRCULAR LETTER.

DEAR BRETHREN—In compliance with your request, we present you with a short circular, setting forth the designs and objects of a State Convention. It is a fact, of which you need not be reminded, that, according to New Testament and Baptist theocracy, every church is independent and distinct from every other, and amenable, only, to Christ, the great head and law-giver, for its rules of action. And, as every visible church has the same head, and is the representative of the Kingdom which is “not of this world,” it is desirable that there should be with all, a oneness in sentiment and feeling; and thus, like the different strings of the well-tuned harp, sweetly accord in sound, and harmonize in the same tune. The State Convention designs to effect this. Not, however, by any ecclesiastical coercion, but by fraternal association, mutual instruction, and good example. And thus, in the language of the great Apostle to the Hebrews, to “consider one another, to provoke unto love, and to good works; not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another.”

You need not be reminded, either, that it is the duty of the Kingdom on earth, “to enlarge the place of her tent; to stretch forth the curtains of her habitations; to lengthen her cords, and strengthen her stakes, and to let her light shine in the world, by good works and the dissemination of evangelical truth. But, in order that many scattered and independent bodies, like our churches, may operate successfully,” it is necessary that there shall be a concert of action, and a concentration of effort! This the convention designs to effect, by becoming a common channel, through which the different churches may pour forth their united treasures and labors, upon a sin-stricken world: And as the many mountain and valley rivulets which unite their waters in the common channel of the Mississippi, form a volume of power, that bears away all obstacles, waters the thirsty plains in its passage, and with might and magnificence, rolls onward to the great reservoir in the south; so may the Baptist churches of Arkansas, meet in convention, and pour forth such a flood of Gospel truth, as shall not only water the parched and destitute portions of our own State, but throw their quota into the ocean of love, which shall cover the earth “as the waters cover the sea.”

The first and leading object of the convention will be, to supply the destitute portions of our own State, with a preached gospel. This object may be effected, by aiding small and weak churches in supplying themselves with ministers; and employing and sending out missionaries, to ride and preach in destitute neighborhoods, where there

are no churches. And when we reflect, dear brethren, that there are so many of our churches, who are like sheep without a shepherd, and are too weak and poor to provide for themselves, shall we not be willing to unite in any enterprise, which will be successful in giving the bread of life to our suffering brethren? Again, when we look over the vast area of our State, and behold so many dark spots, so many neighborhoods and whole counties, where the candle of the Gospel has never been lighted; and where if even a Gospel sermon has been heard, it has been delivered by some transient herald, in his speedy passages, and like the spark smitten from the steel, is soon lost, and leaves all again in darkness. We ask, where is the heart so void of the milk of human kindness, so wanting in the love that filled the divine bosom of the great Missionary from Heaven, as to hold back from an enterprise which promises to send that aid, which shall "turn thee from darkness to light, and from the power of satan unto God?"

Another object of the convention is, through the labors of its agents and missionaries, to gather together scattered Baptists, and form new churches. This, when we remember that hundreds of such are living without the pale of the church, will be admitted to be a good work. Other objects are to circulate the word of God, religious tracts, and useful books, and to promote ministerial education. And when we reflect, that there are so many errors in the christian world; so many marks of "the man of sin," and so great lack of the proper information and instruction, necessary successfully to combat error, and enable us "earnestly to contend for the faith once delivered to the saints," we are forced to feel the importance of these great objects. Another, though remote, object of the convention is, to contribute our mite in sending the Gospel to the benighted nations of the world. And when we listen to those words of divine authority, which dropped from the ascending cloud in Mt. Olivet—that last commission, which emanated from the unlimited benevolence of the divine nature, towards a fallen world! "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations"—who does not feel the solemn obligation resting upon him, to obey the divine behest?

And now, dear brethren, we have, in a few words, presented you with what *we* understand to be the designs and principal objects of Baptist State Conventions.

They have been tried, we know, in twenty-two other States of our Union, and perhaps in more; and have proven a successful mode of operating. And by an examination of the foregoing Minutes, you will see (we doubt not with pleasure) the promising beginning which has been made in Arkansas. We have formed another link in the great chain of operations, which is to unite us in love, strengthen us in usefulness, and make us efficient as a denomination: We have added another luminary to the bright constellation, which has gathered over this western hemisphere; and which is destined, we hope and believe, to cast the light of Heavenly truth over the whole land,



from Atlantic to Pacific. And shall we be regarded as too sanguine? And shall we be disappointed in our hope, that, at the next annual meeting, every church and association in the State will be represented, and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention will shine out as a star of the first magnitude in the bright galaxy of State Conventions?

W. H. BAYLISS.