


10-1858

Proceedings of the Eleventh Annual Session of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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AMERICAN BAPTIST
1100 S. GOODMAN ST.
ROCHESTER 20, NEW YORK

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

ELEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION,

HELD WITH THE BAPTIST CHURCH AT

Charleston, Franklin County, Arkansas,

OCTOBER 16—19, 1858.

"OUACHITA HERALD" PRINT., CAMDEN, ARK.

MINUTES.

Convention met pursuant to adjournment, with the Baptist church at Charleston, Franklin county, Arkansas, on Saturday the 16th of October, A. D. 1858.

The President, Elder W. M. Lea, being present, appointed Elder R. M. Thrasher Rec. Secretary, *pro tem.* and then proceeded to the transaction of business.—Prayer by Elder P. S. G. Watson.

Letters from Associations and Churches were then called for and read; whereupon, the following names were enrolled:

Fayetteville Association.—Elder T. B. Van Horne, elder J. M. Houston, elder C. H. Bootright, B. F. Boone, C. Jones and W. B. Johnson.

Caddo River Association.—Elder Thomas H. Compere and G. W. Welch.

Dardanelle Association.—Elders Samuel Douthit, Moses O'Neal, J. R. G. W. N. Adams, P. M. Nixon and D. Buckley.

Mount Vernon Association.—Elder P. S. G. Watson.

Bartholomew Association.—Elder Peyton Smith and W. R. Trawick.

Judson Association.—Elders W. M. Lea and R. M. Thrasher.

Caroline Association.—Elder John Carroll.

Nashville Church, Hempstead county.—Elder Thomas H. Compere.

Arkansas Church, Johnson county.—N. L. Meadows.

New Hope Church, Dallas county.—Elder A. Yates, elder J. T. Craig and William Daniel.

De Roche Church, Clark county.—Elder Thomas H. Compere.

Rome Church, Clark county.—Elder Thomas H. Compere.

Princeton Church, Dallas county.—D. G. Stokes, (appointed to write.)

Charleston Church, Franklin county.—R. M. Barnes and M. S. Buckley.

El Dorado Church, Union county.—Elder — Gray, — Norwood and Thomas Ingram. (Reported by W. R. Trawick.)

Samaria Church, Dallas county.—M. W. McCraw, J. J. Harris and Elder R. M. Thrasher.

Individual Contributors.—J. De Witt, C. Houston and J. V. Cross.

Visiting Brethren.—Horace Pierce, Hamilton, New York.

The Convention next proceeded to elect officers for the ensuing year: whereupon, elder W. M. Lea was chosen President, and elder R. M. Thrasher Rec. Secretary.

The brethren appointed to preach the Introductory Sermon being absent, elder W. M. Lea was appointed to preach that sermon to-night, at candle-lighting.

On motion the following brethren were appointed as a committee to confer with the committee of the Dardanelle Association, to arrange preaching during the present session of this body, B. F. Boone, N. L. Meadows, and elder F. M. Nixon.

Committee on Endowment of the College: elder T. B. Van Horne, elder Samuel Douthit and W. R. Trawick.

Committee on Denominational Paper: elder P. S. G. Watson, elder D. Buckley and B. F. Boone.

On motion, adjourned to Monday, 9 o'clock a. m. Prayer by bro. Van Heras.

MONDAY, 9 o'clock, A. M.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by the President, Elder W. M. Lee.

The Minutes of the preceding meeting were then read and approved.

The report of the committee on the endowment of the College, was then called for, read, received and, after several good speeches, all in its favor, was unanimously adopted.

REPORT.

Your committee on the endowment of the College, would submit the following as their report on the subject assigned them:—1st. There ought to be a Baptist College, or University, well endowed in this State; because Baptists generally ought to be educated. Our church polity individualizes our members, beyond that of any other denomination. It gives a greater prominence to *lay members*, and consequently the general education of the denomination would exert a marked influence in effecting the prevalence of Baptist principles. The conflict between truth and error, now raging fiercely, is to become more and more severe, until the final triumph of the truth shall be complete. The radical enemies in this contest are the Baptists at one extreme, and the Roman Catholics at the other. And there can be little doubt but that, under these two standards, essentially antagonistic in Church polity and principles, the decisive battle between truth and error, will eventually be fought. Occupying, therefore, such prominence, it is our imperative duty to prepare ourselves for the leadership in defense of Truth. Our brethren, in other States, appreciate our position and responsibility, and have given at least two MILLIONS DOLLARS for the establishment of Colleges, Universities and Theological Seminaries, since 1830.

Secondly. It is especially imperative, that we should have an educated Ministry. The learning of the world sustains our denominational positions. And our Ministry should be able to render this learning available for the maintenance of our principles. Besides, our ministers, as far as possible, ought to be educated, at home, in the midst of the people, where their labor is to be performed. A ministry trained at home, all other things being equal, will be the most effective. And, as was suggested by the writer of the circular appended to the Minutes of the last session of the Convention, there is danger of losing our young Ministers altogether when they are sent out of the State to be educated.

Thirdly. We ought to enter upon this work vigorously, since we are able to accomplish it easily.—It would be useless to talk about the importance of such a movement, if we had no ability to accomplish it. A united effort, without doubt, will speedily determine the practicability of the enterprise. But, as a denomination, we should resolve to prosecute this enterprise to complete success before we divide our strength upon schools designed to supply educational facilities of a more limited character for special localities. The facts contained in the report of the Executive Board, manifest a marked degree of success in proportion to the efforts that have been made, and afford great encouragement to further effort.

T. B. VAN HORNE, Chm.

On motion, appointed the following committees:

On *Nominations*.—M. S. Buckley, M. O'Neal and W. R. Trawick.

On *Finance*.—Elder F. M. Nixon, R. M. Barnes and B. F. Boone.

The report of the Committee on Denominational Paper was now called for, read and received.

On motion, adjourned to 4 o'clock, p. m. Benediction by the President.

MONDAY, 4 o'clock, P. M.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by brother Douthit.

Then proceeded to the transaction of business, taking up the report of the committee on *Denominational Paper*, which was unanimously adopted.

REPORT.

Your committee on a Denominational *State's Paper*, ask leave to report, that they have had the same under consideration, and recommend the following resolutions to the Convention for adoption:

1st. That we believe the time and circumstances surrounding us, demand a weekly Denominational Paper to be published in this State.

2nd. That we now make all the necessary arrangements, (so far as we can,) to begin the publication of said paper.

3d. That we discuss the subject in the following order: first, the place of publication; secondly, the size of the paper; third, the Editor; fourth, any other matter connected with the paper.

Respectfully submitted,

P. S. G. WATSON, Chairman.

On motion, the Convention now proceeded to the discussion of the subjects, and in the order recommended in the report, taking up the first item in the 3d resolution, viz: *The place of publication.* Bids from publishers in the different parts of the State were now laid before the Convention by brethren Watson and Lea. The best bids in favor of the Convention being from Helena and Little Rock; and the Convention being unable to decide between those two places without further consultation with the publishers, it was, on motion,

Resolved, That elder W. M. Lea be appointed to negotiate with the publishers in Helena and Little Rock, as to terms of publishing the paper; and that he then lay before the Executive Board the result of his negotiations, and that said Board then decide between the two places.

Next took up the second item, *the size of the paper.* And it was, on motion, decided that the paper should be a medium sheet—18X24 inches, for a commencement. Then considered the third item, *the Editor.* And it was, on motion, agreed that we consult elder P. S. G. Watson, as to his taking the editorial responsibilities of the paper, and the terms. Brother Watson being present was called on to express his feelings in the matter. He then arose and addressed the convention very briefly and appropriately as to his willingness to serve the convention, and the many fears he entertained, growing out of the onerous duties and uncertain contingencies connected with the office of editor. Whereupon, he was, on motion, unanimously chosen editor of the paper. And it was further

Resolved, That the Executive Board be authorized to complete the arrangement for the publication of the paper, as soon as it is ascertained that it will be self-sustaining. It was then resolved that the paper be styled *THE ARKANSAS BAPTIST*; and that brother Watson prepare, and superintend the printing of five hundred copies of a prospectus of the paper for distribution. The sum of five dollars was then contributed by the brethren present, and handed over to brother Watson to pay for the printing of the Prospectus.

The fourth item in the report was then taken up; whereupon, it was agreed that the price of the paper be two dollars, *strictly* in advance.

On motion, adjourned until to-morrow morning, subject to the call of the President. Benediction by brother Lea.

TUESDAY, 8 o'clock, A. M.

The Convention came together at the call of the President. Prayer by brother Adams.

The report of the Executive Board was then called for, read and adopted.

R E P O R T .

Dear brethren of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention:—The action of your body at its last Session, gave in charge to your Executive Board, one of the great objects now eliciting the interest and benevolence of our brethren throughout the State. All our action has pertained to the ~~EXPANSION~~ OF THE COLLEGE, contemplated by the Convention. We were unable to secure a suitable agent to canvass the State to accomplish this endowment, until our March meeting. We then secured the efficient services of bro. W. R. Trawick. And from that period to the present, he has labored continuously and energetically, and we are happy to add, *very successfully.* In the employment of our agent no pecuniary responsibility has been incurred. He has undertaken this agency at a heavy pecuniary sacrifice to himself, even should the brethren enable us to give him the full amount specified as his salary, the payment of which, in whole, or in part, has been made contingent upon their liberality. We refer you to his report for details, both of labor and success, and give only the aggregate amount thus far secured. This aggregate, in bonds ranging from TEN to ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS, IS TWENTY-ONE THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIVE DOLLARS. Our agent has also collected in cash SEVENTY-THREE DOLLARS AND SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS for conventional purposes.

This large list, combined with the manifestation of sympathy and co-operation on every hand, on the part of Associations, Churches and individuals, warms the hope that the endowment will be accomplished at an early period. All of which is respectfully submitted.

R. M. THRASHER, President Ex. Board.

AGENTS' REPORT.

To the Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Dear Brethren:—I have traveled through several counties in the Southern part of the State, and have visited Associations, Churches and individuals, and have advocated the cause of education, both in public and in private, presenting the enterprise and claims of our Convention. I have met with a good deal of encouragement, both in kind words and good deeds.

I have received for the College, in bonds, Twenty-one Thousand, Four Hundred and Sixty-five Dollars.

Received cash for Conventional purposes, as follows:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---------|--------------------------|---------|
| Isaac W. Fuller, | \$1 00 | Amount brought forward, | \$23 00 |
| E. K. Haynes, | 1 00 | Thomas K. Smith, | 5 00 |
| G. W. Lambert, | 1 00 | D. Scott, | 1 00 |
| Perry Lambert, | 2 50 | R. Manning, | 2 50 |
| S. T. W. Meek, | 1 50 | H. M. Simpson, | 1 50 |
| Smyrna Church, | 1 95 | P. V. Weason, | 5 00 |
| William Wood, | 50 | L. H. Sheppard, | 2 50 |
| Harvey Oliver, | 1 50 | J. T. Sheppard, | 2 00 |
| Robert Goodwin, | 1 00 | Abraham More, | 1 00 |
| Mrs. Lucy H. Goodwin, | 2 00 | Mrs. Jane McKellar, | 2 00 |
| T. Goodwin, | 1 00 | Eldorado Church, | 15 00 |
| Lisbon Church, | 1 55 | Mrs. M. S. Cox, | 1 00 |
| Thomas Malone, | 1 00 | Miss Callie H. Rodgers, | 25 |
| Thrasher & Hay, | 1 00 | Bartholomew Association, | 5 00 |
| C. M. Hervey, | 2 50 | Elder A. Yates, | 5 00 |
| | | James Woods, | 1 00 |
| | \$23 00 | | |

\$73 75

The place of holding the next session of the convention was now considered, and Little Rock was selected as the place. On motion, Article VIII of the constitution was amended so as to read thus: The Annual Session of this Convention shall commence *Friday before the 4th Sabbath* in October of each year.

The report of the committee on nominations was called for, read, and adopted.

Report—Young committee on nominations, respectfully submit the following as their report:

The executive Board, located at Princeton, Dallas county, Arkansas.

Elder R. M. Thrasher, President.

Gen. Nat G. Smith, } Vice Pres't.

Dr. M. W. McCraw, }

Jno. J. Harris, Tulip, Ark., Cor. Sect'y.

E. M. Harris, " " Treasurer.

MANAGERS.

Wm. Daniel, D. C. Hall, D. G. Stokes, R. W. Dickinson, T. H. Brown, Elder A. Yates, Jonathan McCargo, D. Cunningham, James Ketchum, James Woods, B. L. Dickinson, T. A. Heard, J. H. Carlton, and elder W. M. Lee.

Appointed further, the following brethren to preach the Annual Sermons at the next session of the convention.

Introductory Sermon.—On Friday 7 o'clock, p. m., elder W. H. Barkdale, Helena, Arkansas—*Alternate*, elder W. O. Johnson, Eldorado, Ark.

Ministerial Education.—On Sabbath, 10 o'clock, a. m., elder T. B. Van Horn, Fayetteville, Ark.—*alternate*, elder Peyton Smith, Monticello.

Revision of the Holy Scriptures.—Saturday, 7 o'clock p. m., elder T. G. Freeman, Camden, Ark.—*alternate*, elder W. M. Lea, Pine Bluff.

Ministerial Support.—Monday, 7 o'clock, p. m., elder P. S. G. Watson, La-grange Ark.—*alternate*, elder D. Buckleŷ, Charleston.

M. S. BUCKLEY, *Chairman*.

The report of the committee on Finance, was next called for, read and adopted.

Report—Your committee beg leave to report that they have received money for printing the minutes of the convention, as follows :

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|----------|
| Fayetteville Association, | \$7.00. | Amount brought forward, | \$24.25. |
| Arkansas Church, | 50. | Carolina Association, | 2.00. |
| New Hope Church, | 1.75. | J. De Witt, O. Houston, | 1.00. |
| Dardanelle Association, | 3.00. | J. V. Cross, | 25. |
| Rome Church, | 1.00. | Charleston Church, | 25. |
| Mt. Vernon Association, | 2.00. | W. R. Trawick, | 1.00. |
| Judson " | 2.00. | | |
| Princeton Church, | 3.00. | Total, | \$28.75. |
| Samaria Church, | 4.00. | Respectfully submitted, | |
| | <u>\$24.25.</u> | F. M. NIXON, <i>Chair'm.</i> | |

On motion, the Secretary of the convention was ordered to have 1000 copies of these minutes printed, and distribute the same among the Associations and Churches throughout the State, and that the Secretary be allowed \$15, for his services.

On motion, brethren P. S. G. Watson and W. M. Lea were appointed a committee, to get the best legal advice as to the propriety of chartering this convention, and if it shall be found best, they are to proceed to get a charter as soon as possible.

On motion, the following nine brethren were appointed to be incorporated in the Charter as Trustees of the convention; viz: elder T. B. Van Horne, Fayetteville; John H. Carlton, Eldorado; Peter P. Siler, White Bluff; elder T. S. N. King, Helena; Hon. L. B. Fort, Lewisville; John Woods, Dardanelle; Gen. Nat G. Smith, Tulip; W. R. Trawick, Monticello; M. Shelby Kennard, Batesville, Ark.

On motion, the Secretary was instructed to confer with the Treasurer, who is absent, and request him to make out his report, and insert it in these minutes.

Report—Your Treasurer having conferred with the Secretary, begs leave to report as follows :

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|----------|------------------|
| E. M. Harris in account with the A. B. S. Convention. | | | |
| Dr. Oct. 1857. | Money received of S. Douthit, | | \$18 00. |
| " " | " " from Churches, &c. | | 14 00. |
| " 1858. | Money collected by W. R. Trawick, | | 78 75. |
| " " | Contributions by Churches &c, | | 28 75. |
| | Total | | <u>\$184 50.</u> |
| Cr. Oct. 1857. | Paid Secretary for printing minutes, | \$32 00. | |
| " 1858 | " Agent, W. R. Trawick, | 73 75. | |
| " " | " Secretary for printing minutes, | 28 75. | |
| | Total | | <u>\$134 50.</u> |

Respectfully submitted, E. M. HARRIS, *Treas.*

On motion, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted :

WHEREAS, we feel the great importance of *Female education* to the rising generation, both politically and religiously, therefore be it

Resolved, That we earnestly entreat our brethren throughout the State to consid-

er well this important subject, and, whatever they do, not to neglect the education of their daughters.

Resolved, That we recommend as institutions of female learning, the "Fayetteville Institute," at Fayetteville, Ark., under the charge of elder T. B. Van Horne, A. M.; the "Berenice and Camden Female Institute," at Camden, under the charge of Mrs. M. B. Hay; and the "Arkadelphia Female Institute," under the charge of elder Samuel Stevenson, at Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

Resolved, That we request Bro. Watson to have his sermon on *Ministerial Education* published, and we pledge ourselves to secure for it a liberal sale.

Resolved, That we heartily approve of the efforts our brethren are making in various parts of the South to prepare and circulate a healthy Sunday School literature; and therefore, appoint elders P. S. G. Watson, W. M. Lea, and brethren W. R. Trawick and M. S. Buckley to represent this body in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Convention, to meet in the City of Memphis, on Friday before the 4th Sabbath, proximo.

Resolved, That we tender our thanks to the brethren and friends in Charleston and vicinity for their hospitality; and that we are grateful to our Heavenly Father for the unity of feeling, and action which has characterized our entire session.

Resolved, That we return our thanks to the President, for the faithful and impartial discharge of duty, during this session; also to our Secretary for his services.

Resolved, That we tender W. R. Trawick, our Agent, our thanks for his efficient services; and pledge ourselves to remember him in our prayers at the throne of grace, that God may bless him in the great and arduous work to which he has been appointed, and give him favor among the people.

On motion, it was agreed that the Constitution be published in connection with these minutes.

On motion, after reading the minutes, adjourned to meet in Little Rock on Friday before the 4th Sabbath in October, 1869. Prayer by brother Horace Peñee. Thus closed one of the most harmonious and interesting sessions of the Convention.

W. M. LBA, *President*.

R. M. THRASHER, *Rec. Secretary*.

It is worthy of remark, that the brethren appointed to preach during this session of the Convention seem to enjoy much of the presence of God, and it is to be hoped that great good was accomplished.

There were nearly five thousand dollars taken up for the College, besides a pretty good contribution for Missionary purposes, which speaks much for the liberality of our brethren and friends about Charleston.

SECRETARY.