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THOS. W. ATKIN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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The Southern Baptist Convention

To their Brethren in the United States: to the congregations connected with the respective Churches; and to all candid men.

A painful division has taken place in the Missionary operations of the American Baptists. We would explain the origin, the principles and the objects of that division, or the peculiar circumstances by which the organization of the Southern Baptist Convention became necessary.

Let not the extent of this disunion be exaggerated. At the present time it involves only the Foreign and Domestic Missions of the denomination. Northern and Southern Baptists are still brethren. They differ in no article of the faith. They are guided by the same principles of gospel order. Fanatical attempts have indeed been made, in some quarters to exclude us of the South from christian fellowship. We do not retort these attempts, and believe their extent to be comparatively limited. Our christian fellowship is not, as we feel, a matter to be obtruded on any one. We abide by that of our God, his dear Son, and all his baptized followers. The few ultra Northern brethren to whom we allude must take what course they please. *Their* conduct has not influenced us in this movement. We do not regard the rupture as extending to foundation principles, nor can we think that the great body of our Northern brethren will so regard it. Disunion has proceeded, however, deplorably *far*. The first part of our duty is to show that its *entire origin* is with others. This is its history.

I. The General Convention of the Baptist denomination of the United States was composed of brethren from every part of the American Republic. Its constitution knows no difference between slaveholders and non slaveholders. Nor during the period of its existence for the last thirty years has it, in practice, known any thing like this distinction. Both parties have contributed steadily and largely (if never adequately) to those funds which are the basis of its constituency; both have yielded its office bearers of all grades; its missionaries and translators of God's word, its men of toils many, and of prayers not unavailing, abroad and at home. The honored dead of both these classes have walked in closest sympathy with each other; anticipating in the Board room and in the monthly concert, that higher, but not holier union now in their case consummated. Throughout the entire management of its early affairs, the whole struggle with its early difficulties, there was no breath of discord between them. Its Richard Furman, and its Wm. Staughton, its Jesse Mercer, and its Thomas Baldwin led on the sacramental host, shoulder to shoulder, and heart to heart. Their rivalry being only in earnest efforts for a common cause, their entire aversions and enmities were directed with all the strength of their souls, against the common foe. And to the last, did they not cherish the strong belief that they left no other enmities or aversions; no other rivalry, to their successors?

In particular, a special rule of the Constitution, defines who may be missionaries, viz: "Such persons only as are in full communion with some church in our denomination; and who furnish satisfactory evidence of genuine piety, good talent, and fervent zeal in the Redeemer's cause." Now, while under this rule, the Slaveholder has been, in his turn, employed as a missionary, it is not alledged that any other persons than those above described, have been appointed. Moreover, the important post of a superintendent of the education of native missionaries has been assigned, with universal approbation, to the pastor of one of our largest slaveholding churches.

But an evil hour arrived. Even our humble efforts in the conquest of the world to God, excited the accuser of our brethren to cast discord among us; and in the last two Triennial Conventions, slavery and anti slavery men began to draw off on different sides.— How did the nobler spirits on each side endeavor to meet this? They proposed and carried almost unanimously, the following explicit resolution:

"*Resolved*, That in co-operating together, as members of this Convention in the work of foreign missions, we disclaim all sanction, either expressed or implied, whether of slavery or anti slavery; but as individuals, we are free to express and to promote, elsewhere, our views on these subjects, in a christian manner and spirit."

Our successors will find it difficult to believe that so important and plain a declaration had become, before the close of the first year of the triennial period, a perfect nullity. In December last the acting Board of the convention, at Boston, adopted a new qualification for missionaries, a new special rule, viz: that "If any one who shall offer himself for a missionary, having slaves, should insist on retaining them as his property, they could not appoint him." "One thing is certain," they continue, "We could never be a party to any arrangement which implies approbation of slavery."

We pray our Brethren and all candid men to make the date of this novel rule—the close of the first six months of their three years' power, a date at which the compromise resolution could scarcely have reached our remoter Mission stations. If usurpation had been intended could it have been more fitly timed?— An usurpation of ecclesiastical power quite foreign to our policy. Such power was assumed at a period when the aggrieved thousands of [illegible] as it now appears, no [illegible] either our final subjugation to that power, or a serious interruption of the flow of Southern benevolence. The latter was the far more probable evil; and the Boston Board knew this well. They were from various quarters apprised of it. We, on the other hand, did not move in the matter of a new organization until three liberal States had refused to send Northward any more contributions. Our leaders had chosen new rules. Thus came war within our gates: while the means of war on the common enemy were daily diminishing.

By this decision the Board had placed itself in direct opposition to the Constitution of the Convention. The only reason given for this extraordinary and unconstitutional dictum being—that 'The appointing power for wise and good purposes, is confided to the acting Board.' On such a slight show of authority, this Board undertook to declare *that* to be a disqualification in one who should offer himself for a Missionary, which the Convention had said shall *not* be a disqualification to Anti slavery opinions, and impliedly fixed its condemnation on slavery, although the convention had said that "neither" should be done. And further it forbade those who shall apply for a Missionary appointment to "express and promote elsewhere" their views on the subject of slavery in a right "manner and spirit," when the constitution declared they "were free" to do so. These brethren, thus acted upon a sentiment they have failed to prove —That slavery, is in all circumstances sinful. Whereas their own solemn Resolution in the last Convention (their's as much as ours) left us free to promote slavery. Was not this leaving us free, and "*in a Christian spirit and manner*" to promote that which in their hearts, and according to the present shewing of their conduct, they regard as a sin?

Enough, perhaps, has been said of the origin of this movement. Were we asked to characterize the conduct of our Northern brethren in one short phrase we should adopt that of the Apostle. It was "FORBIDDING US *to speak* UNTO THE GENTILES." Did this deny us no privilege? Did it not obstruct us, lay a kind of Romish interdict upon us in the discharge of an imperative duty; a duty to which the church has been, after the lapse of ages, awakened universally and successfully; a duty the very object, and only object, of our long cherished connection and confederation?

And this would seem the place to state, that our Northern brethren were dealt with as brethren to the last moment. Several of our churches cherishes the hope that by means of remonstrance and expostulation, through the last Annual Meeting of the Board of Managers at Providence, the Acting Board might be brought to feel the grievous wrong they had inflicted. The Managing Board was therefore affectionately and respectfully addressed on the subject, and was entreated to revise and reverse the obnoxious interdict. Alas! the results were—contemptuous silence as to the application made; and a deliberate resolve, expressing sympathy with the Acting Board, and a determination to sustain them.

II. The Principles of the Southern Baptist Convention it remains then to be stated, are conservative; while they are also, as we trust, equitable and liberal. They propose to do the Lord's work in the way our fathers did it. Its title designates at once its origin and the simple, firm abiding of the South on the ground from which it has been so unconstitutionally and unjustly attempted to eject us. We have but enquired for 'the old paths' of Missionary operations; 'asked' for, and attempted to restore the practically 'good way.' The Constitution we adopt is precisely that of the original union; that in connection with which, throughout his Missionary life, Adoniram Judson has lived, and under which Ann Judson and Boardman has died. We recede from it no single step. We have constructed for our basis no new creed; acting in this matter upon a Baptist aversion from all creeds but the Bible. We use the very terms as we uphold the true spirit and great object of the late 'General Convention of the Baptist denomination of the United States.' It is they who wrong us that have receded. We have receded neither from the Constitution nor from any part of the original ground on which we met them in this work. And if, we ask in parting, the original and broad Bible ground of Confederation were not equitable, how came it so nobly and so long to be acted upon? If equitable, why depart from it?

We claim to have acted in the premises with liberality towards our Northern brethren. Thrust from the common platform of equal rights between the Northern and Southern churches, we have but reconstructed that platform. Content with it, we adhere to it, and reproduce it, as broad enough for us and for them. Have they thrust us off? We retain but one feeling in the case. *That we will not practically leave it on any account*: much less in obedience to such usurped authority, or in deference to such a manifest breach of trust as is here involved. A breach of covenant that looks various ways—heavenward and earthward. For we repeat, THEY WOULD FORBID US TO *speak* UNTO THE GENTILES. The Jerusalem church, then, must be [illegible] centre of operations like Antioch. "One thing *is* certain"—We must go every where preaching the word. "*We* can never be a party to any arrangement" for monopolizing the Gospel: any arrangement which like that of the Autocratical Interdict of the North, would first drive us from our beloved colored people, of whom they prove that they know nothing comparatively, and from the much-wronged Aborigines of the country; and then cut us off from the whitening fields of the Heathen harvest-labor; to which by cogent appeals and solemn prayers, they have so often protested that, without us, they were inadequate.

III. Our objects, then, are the extension of the Messiah's kingdom, and the glory of our God. Not disunion with any of his people; not the upholding of any form of human polity, or civil rights; but God's glory, and Messiah's increasing reign; in the promotion of which, we find no necessity for relinquishing any of our civil rights. We will never interfere with *what is Cæsar's*.* We will not compromit what is God's.

These objects will appear in detail on the face of our Constitution, and in the proceedings, which accompany this address. They are distributed at present betwen two acting Boards for Foreign and Domestic Missions, having their respective seats at Richmond, Va., and Marion, Ala. We sympathise with the Macedonian cry from every part of the Heathen world,—with the low moan, for spiritual aid, of the four millions of half stifled Red Men, our neighbors; with the sons of Ethiopia among us, stretching forth their hands of supplication for the gospel, to God and all his people,—and we have shaken ourselves from the night-mare of a six years' "strife about words to no profit," for the profit of these poor, perishing and precious souls. Our language to all America, and to all Christendom, if they will hear us, is "*come over*," and for *these* objects, as ye love souls, and the divine Saviour of souls, "*help us*." We ask help at this juncture for nothing else. We have had more talk than work about these objects too long. We have waited quite too long for the more learned and gifted, and opulent and worthy, to lead our way toward these objects; and we have shortened debate upon them to get to business. Our eyes and hearts are turned with feelings of parental fondness to Burmah and the Karens; with a zeal in which we are willing to be counselled by God and all considerate (but by none else)—to the continent [illegible] ries, and *her* pernicious fountains [illegible] try, oppression and blood; but yet [illegible] unutterable hope and thankfulness [illegible] and her providentially opened [illegible] teeming thirsty millions. Amo[illegible] South, we have property, whic[illegible] to the Lord and his cause, in [illegible] —some prudence with which [illegible] our best wisdom† to dwell [illegible] of a piety which we seek to [illegible] purified, like that of the fi[illegible] when they had "rest; [illegible] fear of the Lord, and in [illegible] Holy Ghost, were multip[illegible]

In parting with belo[illegible] co-adjutors in this cause [illegible] have wept, for ourselv[illegible] the season, as well of [illegible] ling, is we are constra[illegible] past. For years the [illegible] has been upon us far [illegible] ren have pressed upo[illegible] vileges and our sacr[illegible] only urge our gush[illegible] tionately of their re[illegible] to the church univ[illegible]

*It was not dw[illegible] tion—we do not [illegible] too stringent a fa[illegible] that one of the [illegible] Board, and Bo[illegible] presume, and [illegible] er not in this [illegible] openly prote[illegible] tually remit[illegible] assisting sla[illegible] felony by th[illegible]

†Prov. viii[illegible]

[illegible]

By order of the Convention.

WILLIAM B. JOHNSON, D. D.

Augusta, (Ga.) 12th May, 1845.

Late from Europe.

From the New York Herald, May 2[illegible]

ARRIVAL OF THE BRITANNIA AT BOSTON.

The steam ship Britannia, Captain Hewitt, arrived [illegible]

[illegible]

The London Times, and other English papers, are still harping upon Oregon and Texas.

The Maynooth question had not reached the House of Lords. It had not passed the House of Commons; it only went through a committee, and that on the evening of the 2d inst.

There has been a slight improvement in cotton.

O'Connell was making the most of the concessions of Peel to Ireland.

The monster steamer Great Britain is coming over in July.

Parliament was engaged in railway investigations.

The Repeal Association met again on the 28th ult., and O'Connell again praised Peel's concessions—he looked upon the measure of the Premier in regard to Banking in Ireland, as excellent. The rent for the week was £417.

The arrival of the Great Western was looked for with some anxiety. She left New York on the 24th, after the receipt of Sir R. Peel's Oregon speech.

A large number of persons from the Highlands of Scotland purpose emigrating to Canada.

It was reported at Paris that England had applied to France to join her in a protest against the annexation of Texas to the American Union.

The Arabs who had assembled, to the number of 20,000, to attack Aden, quarrelled, as usual, amongst themselves, had a fight, and the whole force may be said to have been broken up.

The Anti-Corn Law League Bazaar will certainly surpass in magnificence and vastness any similar display that ever took place in the country; it will open on the 8th inst.

The Lords of the Treasury have decided that vessels carrying passengers to North America be relieved from the obligation of carrying a surgeon, pending the decision of Parliament on the subject.

An elephant, a giraffe, a lion, and two young cubs, have been shipped on board the George Washington for New York. They belong to Mr. Titus, and formed part of Van Amburgh's menagerie.

Although the new Houses of Parliament are in the ninth year of their building, they have only advanced about one third towards completion, and the Morning Chronicle estimates that they will be at least twenty years [illegible]

[illegible]

tion, until the sovereignty of the country is filched away before an effort has been made to challenge the assailant.

The eager, gain-seeking, and roving population of the western States of the Union are fitted beyond all the rest of mankind to carry on this kind of surreptitious warfare.— They conquer provinces as the cuckoo steals a nest; and if their irregular enterprises be allowed to carry with them all the political consequences of lawful war, it is evident that at no very distant period they will have made themselves masters of all such parts of the North American continent as are not defended by the forces and the resolution of Great Britain. But the conduct of Texas in the present emergency will determine whether these political consequences are to be realized. It depends on the acceptance or rejection of the proposed measure of annexation by the people and Government of Texas, whether every fresh step of the Anglo-American race is to add citizens and lands to the Union; or whether the new States which may be formed in the course of time on either shore of that vast continent may not uphold an independent flag, independent interests, and an independent policy.

When we take into consideration the position of Texas, the decline of Mexico, and the future condition of the unappropriated lands, rivers, and regions lying between the coast of Upper California on the Pacific Ocean and the Rio del Norte, it is impossible to doubt that such a country ought to possess an original character and an independent existence. Its annexation to the United States, if that measure be consummated at the present time, would only lead more surely to the eventful disruption of that wide and imperfectly united confederacy, and to a struggle which would prove injurious to the best interests of the whole continent. But Texas independent is peculiarly qualified to interpose, as it were, the keystone of an arch between the United States and Mexico, on the one hand, and between the maritime interests of European and of American nations on the other. These views are so clear and evident that they will probably have a decisive influence on the Government of Texas, provided the Mexicans can be brought to recognise in a liberal spirit an arrangement which is the sole guarantee of their national existence.— Nor can we believe that this policy will be defeated by the popular emissaries of the U. States in Texas, who are avowedly engaged in promoting the work of annexation solely with reference to the interests of their own party in the United States, and to the cause of slavery with which that party is identified.

The part taken by England and France in this question—for we are happy to find that the most entire concurrence prevails between the two great powers by which Texas was first recognised in Europe—has been dictated by no [illegible] or exclusive objects— [illegible] of Texas [illegible]

[illegible] overreaching neighbors. The [illegible] the annexation of Texas is the most [illegible] they have made in this direction; [illegible] it is only the prelude to their ulterior [illegible] The claim to the exclusive possession of the Oregon territory is another [illegible] of the same policy. It will be followed [illegible] either by force or by fraud [illegible] On all these points the same [illegible] spirit of aggrandisement prevails [illegible] the British dominions in North America ample means [illegible] the possession of the Oregon territory by the Hudson's Bay Company, under the [illegible] of the convention of 1818, is [illegible] conclusive on the point. But in [illegible] in which no European power has [illegible] the only check to the [illegible] encroachments of the United States [illegible] energetic and independent power [illegible] the dominion of North America. [illegible] we still hope Texas may be [illegible]

IRELAND.

Repeal Association.—At the meeting of this Association on Monday the 21st ult., Mr. O'Connell presented the second report of the [illegible] on the report of the Land Commis[illegible] Subsequently, he proceeded to [illegible] bill. Of Mr. Goulburn's speech, he thought little. That gentleman had taken [illegible] of the endowment in abuse of the clergy; but the tone of the other Ministers was different. For the first time in his life he had an opportunity of praising Sir Jas. Graham, and he did so most cordially, on account of the manliness which characterized his speech. There was nothing more foolish than the cry of inconsistency. When a man was in the wrong, a change in his conduct merely amounted to a declaration that he was wiser to-day than he was yesterday. Who should presume that because a man was once wrong, he was never to emerge from the precincts of error? No; he held out both his hands to Sir James Graham with forgiveness for the past, and he should be placed on a pedestal having on its base, "Justice to Ireland." He had expressed his sorrow for having used the expression that confession had reached its limits; and no man was either a Christian or a gentleman who did not forgive after the symptoms of repentance manifested by him. Sir James Graham said that the Maynooth bill was but the precursor of future concessions to Ireland. They themselves had a Precursor Society before they formed the Repeal Association, and he was glad that the honorable baronet had arrived at the stage of precursorship; all they wanted farther from him now was his subscription. What did he tell the Recorder Shaw? Why, this—that Ireland had been governed too long for the purposes of Protestant ascendancy, and that they were to have no more of that. Now, for that declaration he thanked him heartily; for the greatest evil in Ireland had been Protestant ascendancy; and, in his opinion, it would be as great an evil to have a Catholic ascendancy. There should be no ascendency there, and hurrah for Sir James Graham, who was to assist them against it. He was pleased with Sir James Graham's speech—it was a comely speech, a repentant speech, and he thought they should send him along with him to Conciliation Hall. (Cheers and laughter.) The next speech he would glance at was that of Sir Robert Peel; and he criticised it at full length. He was in an [illegible] ment; and though there were some [illegible] to his speech, he forgave them [illegible] When he talked of them being "conspirators," he must have forgotten the [illegible] of the prosecution. Conspirators! [illegible] of heaven might [illegible] packed Dublin jury. Convicted! Where they not turned out of prison by the [illegible] of the House of Lords? Sir Robert said that the [illegible] could not be put down by force. They knew that well; they knew that force could not be used against men who instead of [illegible] were talking and striving by peaceful and constitutional means to carry into effect the will of the people of Ireland. [illegible] Robert Peel that he might now [illegible] dier out of it; and if he [illegible] for corpse, the repealers [illegible] And at all events [illegible] poor soldiers [illegible] of the Prime Minister their barracks; [illegible] ought not to be [illegible] is called [illegible] them, "coward" [illegible] ought to be [illegible] had been [illegible] a single soldier [illegible] would take nothing [illegible] said that they were [illegible] conciliation [illegible] for