

The Biblical Recorder.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1893.

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OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Any reader of current literature can but notice that there is a mighty stir among our churches, pastors, and young church members, to find some means of better cultivating and developing the young who are under our influence, and especially those who are members of our churches. There is such crying need for attention to this particular thing that many of our best churches and pastors are strongly inclined to encourage the organization of our young people into societies of some kind under the direct control and oversight of the churches. The organization of the B. Y. P. U. has spread like wild-fire in the more northern and western States of our Union, and there is a manifest tendency among our Southern churches to follow suit; indeed there are already several State organizations of the B. Y. P. U. The Southern Baptist Convention has expressed itself favorably as to the organization of these societies, provided they are under the direct control of the churches, and confine their organic affiliations to the limits of our Convention. The wide awake Secretary of our Sunday-school Board is preparing to issue a paper adapted to the needs of such societies, and the indications are that their organization may become pretty general in the bounds of the Convention.

Some of our best pastors and churches are opposed to the organization of any societies, either in or outside of our churches, with the object of helping on in church work, and in the upbuilding of Christ's kingdom. There are others, well qualified to judge, who are quite enthusiastic for such organizations, and are ready to multiply their number, and, as a rule, to rush into almost any new claimant for denominational or un-denominational favor. Our readers will bear in mind that the Recorder has endeavored to pursue a conservative course; and, while not opposed to all organization of societies in our churches, we are opposed to their hasty and needless multiplication; especially those that cripple the working force of the churches, and possibly divert their funds into channels not under church control. A sense of justice compels us to say, however, that when societies are under direct church control, they are not to be feared as some of the good brethren seem to fear them. The Sunday school with its work and organization differs little from any other church society, and our most cautious pastors and churches are fully committed to this great movement. Ladies' missionary and sunbeam societies are now organized in many of our churches, and they are generally admitted to be helpers in church work. If these societies are helpful, may there not be room for a few more?

We have watched this Baptist Young Peoples' Union movement with some interest, and we are inclined to favor the organization, under proper limitations, such, for instance, as those laid down by our Convention. Whether it is best to have State and interstate affiliations is a question on which our people and our societies, if organized, may differ; and such will be settled by experience and observation. Certainly there would be no risk to run in testing their efficiency in local churches and in State organizations.

One strong reason why there seems to be a necessity for such organizations is, that many of our young church members are lamentably deficient in information about Baptist history, polity, and Baptist doctrine. Any organization that would make them stancher and firmer in their faith will be a blessing to them. It is a well known fact that many of our young people, when placed in certain communities where Baptist sentiment does not prevail, drift into other churches, often because they are not real Baptists through principle or conviction. We have a history of which any people need not be ashamed, and it is time that our honored record as a people were known to more than the select few. We have a freedom of faith and practice, an individual and church liberty, with which our young people ought to be fully acquainted, in order that they may better appreciate them, and may thus be prevented from hasty union with organizations or creeds which curtail both the individual and religious liberty they have inherited from a sturdy Baptist ancestry.

Another reason for such organizations among our young people, especially among the young church members, results from the fact that nearly all the leading denominations of our day have them, and we cannot afford to be behind in the line of needed attention to our young

members, Sunday-school scholars, &c. There are also quite a number of Union organizations composed of young people of all denominations, and active participation in the work of such organizations will often lessen the zeal of the young convert for his own church and her work. It is rather a measure of self-defense among us, then, and we can often study with profit the Saviour's words, "Be ye as wise as serpents, and as harmless as doves." It would be well, then, we think, for our pastors to interest themselves especially, and at once, in their young members, and get them to work; give them something to do, and if some kind of organization is needed to accomplish such desirable results, we see no special danger in it.

THE PRAYER MEETING.

Some one has said the "prayer meeting is the pulse of the church," and if this is so, surely some of our churches sadly need doctoring. How often is it the case that even large city churches, numbering from five hundred to a thousand in membership, make rather a poor showing at the prayer meeting. We once "dropped in" at a regular weekly prayer meeting of a large city church, and out of a membership of about one thousand not more than seventy-five or eighty were present. Where were the nine hundred and twenty on that night? Echo answers where? but God knows. Did that great host need no prayer? If the Master had come that night to reckon with them, could they have met him with a bright face and a clear conscience? They can answer better than we; but we must say that those who habitually absent themselves from the prayer meeting rob their souls of a great deal of joy, and have rather a poor way of encouraging the pastor in his work, and of letting their light shine before the world.

Not long after the above mentioned experience, we were at another city church, much smaller and poorer than the one just mentioned, and there were something like two hundred people at the ordinary prayer meeting. Who can explain this difference? Perhaps the best explanation can be found in the Saviour's words when he addressed the poor church at Smyrna, "I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty; but thou art rich;" and his words when he spoke to the rich church at Laodicea, "Thou sayest I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked."

PERSONALS AND OTHER ITEMS.

The Baptist Historical Society met last week in Augusta, Ga.

Many good things have been crowded out of this issue; but they will keep.

The Methodist Conference met in annual session in Wilmington on Wednesday, the 6th inst.

An account of the proceedings of the Convention on Monday and Tuesday will appear in our next issue.

The Convention over, let us commence now and get a "flying start" for the year that lies before us.

Many church members are like much of the tobacco sold on the market, only fillers. But we need fillers. They have their place.

Gen. Thos. J. Morgan and Rev. Dr. E. T. Hiscox, while in the city on business pertaining to Shaw University, called to see us.

Remember that if the pastors and missionaries have sown unto you spiritual things, it is to be expected that they shall reap your carnal things.

The Mt. Zion Union Meeting will be held with the First church in Durham, beginning on Friday before the fifth month in December, 1893.—W. C. Tyree.

We stated some weeks ago that Rev. J. L. Sproles of Shelby was going to Tennessee. We are glad to say this is a mistake. Bro. Sproles is still with the Shelby people.

Rev. Mr. Newton of Wake Forest preached morning and evening at the First Baptist church, Raleigh, last Sunday. Rev. Dr. T. E. Skinner conducted services at the Tabernacle.

Rev. Herbert Williams preached his first sermon as pastor of the Roxboro church last Sunday. Bro. Williams has also accepted the pastoral care of the churches at Clements and Virginia.

We begin in this issue the first of a series of eight articles on the Life and Letters of Paul, by Prof. W. L. Potat. Judging from those we have on hand, the entire series will be very profitable reading.

The new house of worship of the Fayetteville Street Baptist church, Raleigh, approaches completion. The seats are now being placed in position, and the house will in the near future be ready for occupancy. The Lord has greatly blessed the efforts of this band of brethren. Nearly all of their membership has been gathered by conversions in their own meetings, and they have more than a hundred on their list of members. Bro. O. L. Stringfield has accepted a call to the pastorate of the church commencing Jan. 1st, 1894.

The next session of the Mecklenburg and Cabarrus Association will be held with the church at Arlington. Introductory sermon by Rev. I. W. Thomasson.—D. M. Austin.

Our office was brightened by the pleasant faces of brethren C. A. G. Thomas, W. R. Bradshaw, C. W. Blanchard, C. J. Thompson, and T. M. Honeycutt, who were delayed in Raleigh on their way to the Convention. They were all in good spirits and very encouraging.

Prof. Chas. F. Meserve, President of Haskell Institute, Lawrence, Kansas, will be chosen to succeed Dr. Tupper at Shaw University on the 20th inst. Prof. Meserve is a young man, in the full vigor of life, not over forty-five years of age, is a graduate of Colby University, Maine, and comes highly recommended.

The First Baptist Sunday-school of Raleigh, on Sunday morning last, chose its officers for the year 1894. With few changes the present officers were selected. Bro. S. W. Brewer proved himself to be a very efficient Superintendent, and this is his second annual election to that position. The school succeeds well under his care.

Let us make this a record-breaking month in our contributions to missions. A little effort on the part of our leaders in churches and Sunday-schools will accomplish a glorious result. Don't put it off; time is flying, and \$40,000 is needed before the year passes. Let us make the memory of this month glorious.

Rev. T. M. Honeycutt of Mars Hill, N. C., writes under date of Dec. 4th: "Last night closed, at Mars Hill, one of the best meetings in the history of this church. Twenty-three were baptized during the meeting and about thirty more were approved for baptism. There were seventy-five additions to the church. I was aided the first week by Rev. T. C. King of Burnsville, N. C. The ministers of the village also rendered valuable service. God bless the Recorder."

Dr. T. T. Eaton recently closed a most successful meeting in Walnut Street Church, Louisville, Ky., of which he is pastor. He preached four weeks, and his subjects were: Sin, Guilt, Repentance, Faith, Salvation, Immortality, Inspiration, Divinity of Christ, Atonement, Conversion, Excuses, Neglect, Eternally Lost, Assurance, Heaven, God, Man, Grace, Sanctification, and Day of Judgment. All the converts except two were men. These were grown women. It is the great doctrines of the Bible which God uses to save thoughtful men.

We have on hand death notices of the following persons, which are crowded out of this issue, viz: Of Sister Rachel C. Wells, who died Dec. 3d, 1893; of Sister Clarissa Sloan Bourden, who died Nov. 24th, 1893; of the son of Bro. C. E. Wilson and wife, who died Dec. 7th, 1893; of Deacon John W. Perry, who died Oct. 13th, 1893; of Mrs. Martha Ann Austin, who died Nov. 14th, 1893; of Sister Mollie Gentry, who died in East Bend, Yadkin county, of Edgar Wilson, who died Sep. 26th, 1893; and of verses to the memory of Joseph M. Ellis, who died Nov. 26th, 1893. We will insert these obituaries in our next issue.

BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION.

THURSDAY NIGHT.

The "Convention Special" left Raleigh Thursday with a good-humored crowd of representative North Carolina Baptists from that city and the western part of the State, to whose number many pleasant additions were made on the way. Barring the general tenor of liveliness, for which travelling Baptists are notorious, especially when brethren Durham, Cobb, Mills, Mitchell, Taylor and Van Deventer are in the company, the trip was devoid of remarkable incident.

Arriving at Elizabeth City we found the depot thronged with Baptists, whose only effort seemed to be to make all visitors feel at home. The doors of Elizabeth City were literally thrown open to us.

The appointee being absent, Dr. J. W. Carter, alternate, delivered the sermon introductory to the Convention, from Revelations 1: 13. "And in the midst of the seven candlesticks One like unto the Son of Man;" the subject being, "Christ in the church." Dr. Carter said the seven candlesticks represented the seven churches of Asia, and that John saw Christ among them reflecting an eternal light that was to dispel the darkness of the world in the centuries that followed. This was the last time Christ was seen on earth, and the preacher attached special significance to the fact that in the vision he was among his churches. So he is to-day, so must he always be, if his kingdom on earth is to be accomplished. The subject was treated under three sub-heads, viz: Christ's presence in the church, the hope of glory; the assurance of perpetuity; and a power that would not be overcome by the Prince of Darkness, and before which all mankind must bow in life or death; if in the former, it is a victory of love; if in the latter, of condemnation. The sermon was listened to with remarkable interest by the audience of six hundred that had assembled. The sermon was regarded on all sides as peculiarly appropriate to the Convention.

The services were participated in by an excellent choir. Dr. Marsh, Dr. J. J. Hall

and R. V. Van Deventer were on the platform and took part in the exercises.

At the close of the services Dr. Marsh announced that a motion to go into organization was in order.

On motion of Dr. Pritchard, Dr. Marsh was for the third consecutive time elected President of the Convention, which honor he acknowledged in feeling terms.

On motion, a nominating committee was appointed to name the other officers of the Convention for the present session. The following were nominated and elected *vice voce*: First, second and third Vice-Presidents, Dr. J. W. Carter, E. F. Aydtlett and Rev. R. T. Vann; Secretaries, Dr. N. B. Cobb and N. B. Broughton; Cor. Secretary, Dr. C. Durham; Auditor, W. N. Jones; Treasurer, J. D. Boushall.

At this point Dr. C. S. Blackwell, the well beloved pastor, came forward, and in behalf of the church and the city invited the Convention to their hearts and homes. His remarks, excellently interspersed with humor, were indeed an inspiration to the visitors, and at his conclusion we could not but feel "at home."

Rev. W. C. Tyree was very happy in his response to Dr. Blackwell's generous welcome, and no doubt voiced the sentiment of those whom he represented. It is rather remarkable that the address of welcome and the response thereto were delivered by brethren who have been in the State but a few years, but they proved well worthy of the honor and the responsibility reposed in them. May our adopted sons ever be as able and worthy.

After a report on order of business, read by Prof. Hobgood, the body adjourned to meet Friday at 9:00 a. m.

FRIDAY MORNING.

After appropriate devotional exercises, conducted by Rev. J. Hartwell Edwards, the Convention proceeded with miscellaneous business.

On motion of Bro. N. B. Broughton, a committee was appointed to consider the expediency of appointing a separate Board to conduct copyright and Sunday-school work. Carried.

The report of State Missions and Sunday-school Board was the special order of this hour. Dr. Durham read a very encouraging report, saying that in the past eleven months, during which collections have been more difficult than in the memory of this generation, we had raised more for State Missions than ever before in the same length of time in the history of the denomination. Some valuable historical statistics were brought out. In 1775 there was one Baptist in the State to every one hundred in general population; in 1835, one in twelve; in 1890, one in five; in 1893, one to every three inhabitants over ten years of age. This remarkable increase, which has indeed made North Carolina pre-eminently a Baptist State, is largely due to the work of the Board under God. As the report is published in pamphlet form it is unnecessary to quote it further. State Missions was made a special order for tonight, when the committee reports.

Next in order came the report on Ministerial Education, read by the retiring agent of the Board, Rev. W. R. Gwaltney. Bro. Gwaltney stated that in spite of the hard times Baptists had been more liberal to the Board this year than ever before, and the debt was largely due to an increase of necessary expenses, the College having this year required all students to pay library fees, room rent, &c.

It is to be regretted that Bro. Gwaltney retires from a post in which he has been so successful and useful, but he feels that more of his time must be given to his pastorate.

Prof. Potat also addressed the Convention on this subject, and made a very practical and earnest appeal that the means be speedily raised to support the thirty-one young men now on the Board, and to pay the debt. That this is one of our worthiest and most essential objects there can be no doubt, and it should not be allowed to lag.

At this point, Dr. W. H. Whitsitt of the Louisville Seminary was recognized, and addressed the body on the subject of ministerial education at the Seminary. Dr. Whitsitt, as usual, was pointed and practical in his remarks, and won the hearts of his hearers. We have now thirteen young men from North Carolina at the Seminary, and, as the speaker said, we should see to it that they are not supported or aided by other States' contributions. He asked for voluntary pledges for \$600 to "carry our boys through till June next," and succeeded in a very short time in securing \$500. This was the first collection that had been taken this session, and the liberality with which many pledged themselves was indeed a credit to the State. Dr. Whitsitt's remarks were greatly enjoyed throughout.

After routine business of minor importance, the Convention adjourned until 3:00 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

In the afternoon session the Orphanage was the special order. Dr. Pritchard made a few well-timed and stirring remarks. Bro. Mills, in his own practical style, told of what the orphans needed and what was not needed.

We were gratified to learn that the Orphanage is now in a better condition than in some time, as regards equipment, provisions and health. But room is sadly needed for many more orphans who apply almost daily. Bro. Mills' remarks stirred the Convention, and after further addresses on the subject by Rev. R. T. Vann, Dr. J. J. Hall and B. Craig, a good collection was taken.

Next in order was the report on periodicals, read by Dr. J. L. Carroll, in which the BIBLICAL RECORDER, Foreign Mission Journal, Charity and Children, and the Wake

Forest Student, were especially commended. The time being short, only two speakers were heard, though others expressed a desire to speak. Dr. J. L. Carroll, in twenty-five minute address on the Resurrection, which Dr. Huffham (and we think Convention agreed with him) said was best speech on periodicals he had ever heard. Rev. M. P. Matheny also spoke on the Recorder, and urged the brethren only to subscribe for it, and to spread among their churches, but to write for his remarks, though limited, were taken.

By special appointment, Dr. C. C. Bitt of the Tract and Bible Department of American Baptist Publication Society, addressed the Convention. His hearers were persuaded long before the conclusion of address that Dr. Bitt was presenting the claims of Christ. That his remarks were highly appreciated was attested by rapt attention of the audience for more than an hour.

At this point it was announced that Rev. T. M. Honeycutt, formerly of the Western Convention, had brought requests from three of the western Associations for membership in the Eastern Convention. The Associations were the Mitchell, the Yancey and the French Broad. They were heard and received. It is said they are forerunners of a Union.

CONVENTION ADJOURNED.

NIGHT SESSION.

At 7 p. m. the report of the committee on State Missions was read by Rev. J. K. Felt. The report advised, in view of the present debt and deficit, that our collections next year be made on a basis of \$3,000, and that the aggregate salary of each missionary not more than \$800 per year. This report brought forth the most interesting, instructive, spirited, and withal, good-humored discussions of the Convention.

After Brother Fant had concluded his remarks, Dr. J. W. Carter, Rev. M. P. Matheny, Rev. C. F. McConnell, Drs. C. Blackwell, C. Durham, R. E. Overtly, J. Carroll, Rev. B. Cade, Rev. J. B. Boone and Hon. J. C. Scarborough made excellent addresses.

This was the first time that Bro. McConnell had spoken to the Convention, although his remarks were all too short, but admirably fitted for his position, and we are sure no better successor to Dr. Jones could have been found.

The report was amended so as not to limit our contributions or aims, but rather to encourage broader hopes and greater zeal. There were in attendance to-night about one thousand persons, who justified the foresight of the Elizabeth City saints in building their convenient annex.

SATURDAY MORNING.

Bro. Cade, for committee, nominated the Ministers' Relief Board for next year. Adopted.

Bro. J. B. Harrell, for committee, nominated the Board of Education. Adopted. Dr. Durham offered a resolution that the Convention express its opinion that our interests can best be served by a union of the Home Field and Foreign Mission Journal, one sheet monthly. Carried.

By special order, the report of the Board of Trustees of Wake Forest College was read by Dr. Taylor.

A resolution in regard to State and denominational education was offered by Dr. Huffham, which approves that a committee be instructed to memorialize the next Legislature to take steps to remove the present friction between the University and the colleges.

Dr. Cobb offered a counter-resolution. Splendid addresses were made by Rev. A. M. Simms, Dr. Huffham, R. T. Vann, Dr. Hume, Rev. W. R. Gwaltney, and others. Dr. Huffham's resolution was carried.

Dr. R. J. Willingham addressed the Women's Missionary Society this morning. He is making a very favorable impression on the Convention.

So far not even a shadow of discord had darkened the spiritual sight that seems so prevalent here. Elizabeth City is taking care of her visitors in a manner that elicits the admiration of all. Though not so large as usual in the number of delegates present, the Convention promises to be not only one of the most harmonious, but also one of the most spiritual that has assembled in many years.

PLACE OF NEXT ANNUAL SESSION.

Charlotte, N. C., was selected as the next place of meeting.

SUNDAY AT THE CHURCHES.

The following services were held on Sunday:

Baptist church—morning, sermon by Rev. C. F. McConnell of Atlanta; night, addresses on missions by Dr. Willingham and Rev. B. T. Bryan.

Methodist church—morning, Dr. T. H. Pritchard; night, Dr. J. L. Carroll.

Presbyterian church—morning, Dr. Thos. Hume; night, Rev. W. C. Tyree.

[The remainder of the proceedings of the Convention will be given next week.]

Resolutions of the Randleman Baptist Church.

WHEREAS, Our beloved pastor, Rev. G. M. Webb, has tendered his resignation as pastor of this church, and the same has been accepted upon his earnest request; and whereas, he contemplates going to another field of labor in the Master's cause;

Resolved, That we give him up with regret, and that he goes from us possessing our full confidence as a man of noble Christian spirit, and a gospel minister who is as unchangeable as adamant in the fundamental principles of our faith. He is a good preacher and a good man, and we most cordially recommend him to the brethren wherever he may be called, praying that God's blessings may attend him through all coming years. J. H. Wilson, C. C. Randleman, Nov. 24, 1893.