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MINUTES

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OF THE

SIXTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST

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VIRGINIA PORTSMOUTH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT

BLACK CREEK MEETING HOUSE, SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY.

May 19th, 20th and 21st, 1858.

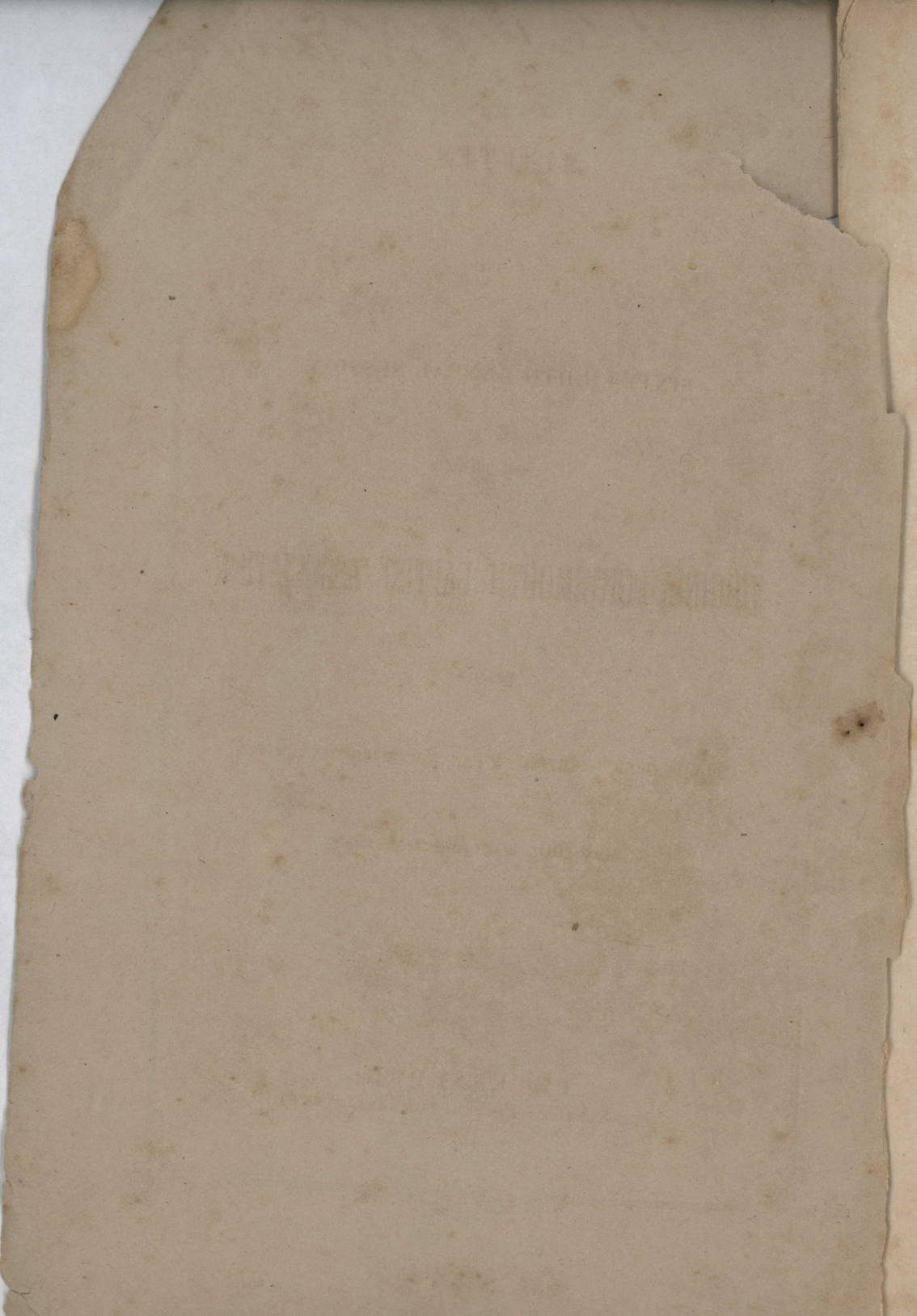
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O. ELLYSON, PRINTER, LOMBARD STREET.

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Black Creek Meeting House,
May 19th, 1858

The Virginia Portsmouth Baptist Association assembled here
this day in its sixty-eighth annual session.
The introductory session was preached according to appoint-
ment by Elder G. W. Rogers, of Hickory, Greenville Co.,
Text: Cor. viii. 9. For ye know the grace of our Lord
Jesus Christ that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he
became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.
After these services, Brother J. R. Chambliss, the former
Moderator, called the Association to order, and prayer was of-
fered by Elder Jas. L. Gwaltney.
The letters from the churches were then presented by the del-
egates. After some progress in reading them, the hour for din-
ner having arrived, a recess of one hour was taken. Resolu-
tion by Elder Jas. Dalk.

Business was resumed at the expiration of the recess—prayer
having been offered by Elder T. G. Jones.
When the reading of the letters was completed, the election
of officers was announced as in order. Bro. J. R. Chambliss,
then took occasion to declare a re-election as Moderator, not
from an unwillingness to be found actively co-operating with
us; but as he had served in this capacity for six years, he felt it
his duty to give place to others. After several ineffectual at-
tempts to induce him to retain the position he had so nobly and
abundantly filled, Bro. Joseph H. Farris, of Southampton
County, was nominated and unanimously elected. Elder T.
Hume was then elected Clerk.

MINUTES.

BLACK CREEK MEETING HOUSE, }
May 19th, 1858. }

The Virginia Portsmouth Baptist Association assembled here this day in its sixty-eighth annual session.

The introductory sermon was preached according to appointment by Elder G. W. Keese, of Hicksford, Greensville Co.,—Text 2 Cor. viii-9—"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."

After these services, brother J. R. Chambliss, the former Moderator, called the Association to order, and prayer was offered by Elder Jas. L. Gwaltney.

The letters from the churches were then presented by the delegates. After some progress in reading them, the hour for dinner having arrived, a recess of one hour was taken. Benediction by Elder Jas. Delk.

Business was resumed at the expiration of the recess—prayer having been offered by Elder T. G. Jones.

When the reading of the letters was completed, the election of officers was announced as in order. Bro. J. R. Chambliss then took occasion to decline a re-election as Moderator, not from an unwillingness to be found actively co-operating with us, but as he had served in this capacity for six years, he felt it his duty to give place to others. After several ineffectual attempts to induce him to retain the position he had so ably and satisfactorily filled, Bro. Joseph H. Prince, of Southampton County, was nominated and unanimously elected. Elder T. Hume was then elected Clerk.

On motion, messengers from corresponding Associations and visiting ministers were affectionately invited to present themselves and participate in our deliberations. Then, and during the session, the following were reported :

James Delk, J. D. Ellwell, ————— McDowell and L. R. Gwaltney from the Chowan Association ; Robert H. Vaughan from the Dover Association ; A. E. Dickinson, Superintendent of Colportage ; S. A. Creath, Agent of Richmond College, Jas. L. Gwaltney, John W. Ward and M. L. Ward ; Geo. Bradford, from the North Carolina Baptist State Convention.

On motion, the following committees were appointed :

On Religious Exercises—P. Owens, J. C. Bailey and the Deacons of Black Creek Church.

On Finance—Wm. D. McClenny and M. Sykes.

Messengers to corresponding Associations were called upon and made their reports.

On motion, the following resolution (which was adopted at the last session) was called up :

Resolved, That for the purpose of bringing more of our brethren into counsel and co-operation with us during our sessions, and thus begetting more general interest, it be recommended to the churches to amend the constitution of this body, so that each church may be allowed to send any number of delegates to the annual session ; provided, however, that only one vote shall be allowed each church, which said vote shall be cast by a member appointed for that purpose by the church, or chosen by the delegation from each church.

While an interesting discussion was progressing on this subject, a motion was made to adjourn.

This motion was withheld, and the Committee on Religious Exercises was allowed to report the selection of Elder T. G. Jones to preach to-morrow at 11 o'clock in the house, and Elder S. C. Boston, at the same time under the arbor.

The Association then adjourned until to-morrow 9 o'clock. Prayer by Elder R. Jones.

THURSDAY, May 20th, 1858.

The Association met at the appointed hour. After singing, prayer was offered by Bro. J. D. Ellwell.

The minutes of the preceding day were read, and the roll called.

The resolution under discussion at the time of adjournment on yesterday was called up. Various amendments were proposed and a protracted and profitable discussion ensued. Finally, an amendment offered by Bro. Chambliss was passed, which provides for the appointment of four delegates from each church (all being entitled to vote.)

The resolution thus amended, was adopted, and is as follows :

Resolved, That for the purpose of bringing more of our brethren into counsel and co-operation with us during our sessions, and thus begetting more general interest, it be recommended to the churches to amend the constitution of this body, so that each church may be allowed to send four delegates, (all being entitled to vote.)

The committee on the Depository presented the following report:

REPORT ON DEPOSITORY.

Your committee have only been able to accomplish any thing of their legitimate work, viz : the circulation of religious books, as they have co-operated with the "Virginia Baptist Sabbath School and Publication Board," in its colportage labors.

It is known by you that at our State anniversaries last year, it was regarded that the action of "the American Tract Society," in speaking of the "moral evils" of slavery, and directing the issue of publications on that subject was offensive, and demanded the withdrawal of its colporteurs from among us. Previous to this issue, a large field was before us, particularly for the purpose of disseminating our denominational literature, now, there was a necessity for more vigorous and abundant efforts. A hearty determination was manifested to accept this responsibility, and enter upon the work we were thus called to.

The Board was enabled to secure the valuable services of Bro. A. E. Dickin-son as Superintendent of Colportage. He has vigorously and successfully prosecuted the great work. The number of Colporteurs throughout the State has been increased to forty, and it is designed to add largely to this band of laborers in every section of the State.

Two Colporteurs have been employed in this Association, under the direction of your committee. Two others are under appointment, and yet others are anxious to enter upon the work. The Superintendent has visited some of the churches in our bounds, and secured liberal contributions. We do not doubt that wherever the character of this enterprise is clearly exhibited, its importance and claims will be felt and will secure the support of our brethren.

Appended is the report of Bro. Absalom Cherry, one of our Colporteurs. The other Colporteur, Bro. _____ has been laboring in the city of Norfolk and surrounding parts, for about two months. He has been actively and successfully employed, but we have no report from him.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

REPORT OF A. CHERRY.

During the last summer and fall I acted as Colporteur in the bounds of the "Portsmouth Association." A portion of the time I supplied myself with our

denominational works, which I disposed of in communities where there was little or no baptist influence. I was also well supplied with tracts, which I distributed wherever I went. Last fall I received an appointment from the "Board of Colportage," under the general superintendence of Bro. A. E. Dickinson, to continue my labors in this Association. I accepted the appointment, and prosecuted the work until I was *compelled to leave* the field. I resigned very reluctantly, but my health becoming feeble from excessive labor, admonished me of the duty of resigning *at once*, in order that some one more *physically* competent might enter the field and relieve its necessities. I resigned about the first of April. The following brief statement will show what amount of labor I have performed since July last.

Families visited 507, conversed on the subject of personal religion and prayed with 194, found destitute of all religious books except bible 40, found destitute of bible 17, habitually neglecting religious service 67. I sold of religious books 174 volumes, bibles and testaments 17 volumes, distributed gratuitously 38 volumes of religious books, and 2,256 pages of tracts.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

ABSALOM CHERRY.

The reading of the report was followed by interesting addresses from Brethern Dickinson, Chambliss, McDowell and others—after which it was adopted.

After statements were made in reference to the subject generally, and particularly in regard to the increased number of Colporteurs designed to be employed within our bounds, the following resolutions were then presented and adopted:

Resolved, That we pledge our best efforts to secure a contribution of at least \$1000 during the next associational year for the Colportage work.

Resolved, That brother Dickinson be now privileged to take up a collection in behalf of this object.

The names of the Churches were now called over and the delegates present stated the amounts for which they would be responsible, as follows: Antioch (W. D. Mangum for himself) \$10; Beaver Dam \$10; Black Creek \$25; Court Street, Portsmouth, \$50; Cumberland Street, Norfolk, (Miles Davis for himself) \$5; First Church, Petersburg, \$100; Fourth Street, Portsmouth, \$20; Free Mason Street, Norfolk, \$50; Hicksford, \$20; High Hills, (T. B. Creath for himself) \$5; Hebron \$20; Thos. Lansdell, \$10; S. Henderson, \$1; Kempsville, \$25; Millfield, \$10; Mill Swamp, \$10; Mulberry, (A. Cherry for himself,) \$5; Newville, \$10; North West, \$25; Old Shop, \$5; Oak Grove, \$5; Pleasant Grove, \$10; St. Johns, \$25; Sappony, \$25; Second Church, Petersburg, \$30; South Quay, \$15; Suffolk, \$15; Moore's Swamp, \$10; Tucker's Swamp, \$25; Western Branch, \$25; Gillfield, \$5; First African, Petersburg, 15; First Colored, Norfolk, \$5; Bute Street, Norfolk, \$5; Carr Bowers, \$25;—total \$671. There were *cash* con-

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tributions also made which will be acknowledged by Bro. Dickinson, and there were also other subscriptions given to him.

The committee on Religious Exercises reported the selection of Bro. J. D. Ellwell to preach this afternoon at 3 o'clock.

The hour for preaching, (viz: 11 o'clock,) having arrived, the Association resolved to take a recess. Bro. T. G. Jones preached in the house, and Bro. S. C. Boston at the stand to large and attentive congregations.

The association resumed its session and proceeded with the business.

Elder R. Jones from the Standing Committee on Temperance presented the following, which, after discussion and amendment, was adopted:

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

The men are now living who can remember when ardent spirits was regarded an indispensable article of diet and of hospitality throughout the Southern States,—when children had their toddy as often as their dinner, and servants their drams as regularly as mules their fodder.

As might be expected from such a state of things, a tide of desolating evils soon flooded every department of society. The philanthropy of the age was aroused to the invention of a remedy by which to arrest, or at least, impede its progress.

It is worthy of note that the first organized effort against the evils of intemperance, was made in Massachusetts at the suggestion of a few christian brethren, in the year 1811, simultaneous with the origin of American Missions, and that the two enterprises have ever been inseparably linked in aim, in toil and in achievement. The influence of this first temperance effort, like "living waters, flowing out to the hinder and former sea" soon spread into every city, hamlet, and neighborhood in the whole country. The temperance pledge was reckoned one of the greatest moral engines of the age, not inferior to the Declaration of Independence, and temperance lecturers were classed with Wilberforce, Howard and Washington. Religion and politics, war and commerce were all eclipsed by the halo of glory that covered the great temperance army. This hyper enthusiasm of the old temperance societies having reached its high flood tide, began to ebb back to its old channels, and the seeming "goodness thereof, like the morning cloud and early dew, passed away."

These societies accomplished much good, but they were found deficient in concentration and projectile force. They had no power of guarding the doors against the intrusion of improper members, or of dealing with the delinquent. To meet this desideratum, the Order of the Sons of Temperance was instituted, whose benevolent feature challenged the sympathy of the christian community, and brought under its influence a class of persons who could not be reached by any previous efforts. Divisions multiplied with amazing rapidly, and political demagogues with other interested votaries, hastened to do homage at the altars of the Sons. But soon this Order lost its talismanic power with the public mind, and depraved appetite, like the strong man bound, having broken his strong cords and walked forth to corrupt and devour, making earth and hell to tremble beneath his giant strides.

It was now found by experience, that societies and "moral suasion" alone, would not do to arrest the evil of intemperance. The next effort was to invoke the aid of legislation. The people of various States petitioned and obtained a prohibitory Liquor Law, and the results of its operation for awhile were of the

most gratifying character. Yet this the last form of organized effort, has not met with perfect success, even in the few states where it has been tried.

From all these partial failures, the friends of temperance turned to a pure christianity as the only hope of ultimate success. The Portsmouth Association has for years had a Standing Committee on Temperance. Once they could report the formation of many societies, and the growing interest of the public mind on the subject. But now we have to echo the melancholy report we hear, alas, too true, that drunkenness is greatly on the increase in our bounds.

Thank God, we are in advance of our fathers on this subject, and hope to see our churches brought up to a much higher standard than they have hitherto reached. Christians have stronger incentives to engage in this work than men of the world. This is soul labor, gospel labor, labor for eternity. Let the churches take the lead in this matter—let the people speak out in "loud and peeling notes."—let the Press, with all its galvanic batteries thrill the nation with its warnings—let the friends of temperance, in serried ranks shout back the sound and press "on, and on," until king Alcohol and his adherents shall be utterly demolished.

REUBEN JONES.

On motion, the following brethren were appointed to attend to taking up the public collection to-morrow for State Missions, viz: M. Sykes, T. C. Garrison, W. D. McClenny, A. Edwards, and T. D. Toy. Elders R. Jones and J. C. Bailey were appointed to present the object to the respective congregations.

The Standing Committee on Foreign Missions, presented through Elder J. C. Bailey, the following report:

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The Committee on Foreign Missions beg leave to present the following report:

In our annual report it is impossible to present an adequate impression of the subject of Missions. We can expect to do no more than interest your mind and possibly lead you to a thorough investigation of the Foreign Mission enterprise. This cannot be more forcibly expressed than it is from the lips of our Master, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," and to encourage us to labor in view of success, he says: "Lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

This commission was regarded by the first christians as equally binding upon every redeemed one; each with an untiring zeal labored to accomplish this great and glorious work. And it is now committed into our hands. Why should we not have the same spirit. This must and will be before the world is converted to Christ.

He has called us into his vineyard to labor for this great end; Therefore, it is the duty of each individual member of the church to send out the gospel to the world as far as his ability extends.

Yet, as but few of us are prepared to go to a distant land to preach the gospel, we should cheerfully sustain those who may be called to go, with our money and our prayers.

Our Mission Board should be regarded as the Agent of the churches; to enable each member, if he has a mind to work, to accomplish it at his own door. We would call the attention of the churches to the last report of the Board; it is exceedingly interesting and encouraging, and we earnestly advise all our members to procure a copy and study it.

We present from it the following interesting items: "The Missions of the Board are in a healthful and encouraging state. The Divine blessing has great-

ly attended the laborers of our missionaries during the past year. They have had a larger number of conversions than any previous year. The Board have recently made several new appointments to supply the place of some who have had to return home on account of feeble health and also to enlarge their operations.

During the year they have distributed 1,905 copies of the New Testament and portions of the Scriptures comprising 156,650 pages; 11,047 Tracts, 206,407 pages; besides 270 copies of Denominational works, 65,800 pages.

The reports from China are truly encouraging. Many at home were beginning to feel that our efforts in China would prove abortive. But now a bright day has dawned at Shanghai; and however clouds may flit across the horizon from time to time, we believe its sun will never go down until the end shall come. Bro. Crawford says, "a revival at Shanghai still continues, and since I wrote one month ago we have had five more conversions."

Our mission in Liberia is still progressing successfully, during the year most of the churches have been favored with revivals.

FINANCES.

The last annual report of the Treasurer showed a balance on hand of \$3,211-73, since that time \$34,302 53 have been received, making an aggregate of 37,514 28; the expenditures during the year are \$33,633 02, leaving a balance of 3,881 26. The report states "in view of the financial pressure which has prevailed for more than half the current year, we can but hail this result with gratitude and increased confidence in him who has disposed the hearts of his people to give liberally." It should be known, however, that an increase beyond this rate of contribution will be necessary to the mission of the Board.

We would close in the language of the report of the Board, by "earnestly urging upon the brethren everywhere the importance of an increased zeal, prayerfulness and activity in the work of Foreign Mission enterprise. From every one of our Missions urgent pleas for increased aid are pressed upon us. Men are wanting, men for China and Africa—Jesus Christ's men, who are willing to toil and suffer and die to glorify Him."

Remarks were made by brethren in connection with this report, when it was adopted.

The Committee on Religious Exercises reported the selection of Bro. Thos. Lansdell to preach at the stand at 11½ o'clock., Bro. L. R. Gwaltney in the house at the same time, and Bro. James L. Gwaltney at the stand at 3½ o'clock.

Bro. O. Ellyson, from the Committee on State Missions, presented the following report, which was adopted after remarks by Elder S. C. Boston and others:

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

It is with feelings of heartfelt joy and gratitude we review the past history of our State Missionary operations. In no department of Christian effort in which we have been engaged have our labors been crowned with so great success. God has indeed smiled upon the labors of our Missionaries. We are confident, also, that for the present elevated position now enjoyed by us in this State as a denomination, we are in no small degree indebted to the attention paid to the cultivation of our home field.

We learn from the circular of the Corresponding Secretary of the Board of State Mission, that over one-third of the churches in the State were organized

by their missionaries, and that for real efficiency, they are, probably, equal to one-half. Being born of the Missionary spirit, most of them entertain enlarged views of Christian obligation, and from them is received a large share of the funds which go into the treasuries of our different benevolent societies.

While much has been accomplished by the persevering zeal and liberality of those who have engaged in this noble work, yet more remains to be done. Let us, therefore, brethren, with a liberality far exceeding that which has marked any former period of our history, encourage the Board, not only to keep in their service the sixty-seven Missionaries already employed, but to increase their number, and greatly to enlarge their field of operations; so that, partaking more freely of this labor of love, we may the more greatly rejoice in the fruits thereof.

Your committee would recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That we will endeavor, by an earnest effort among our brethren, to raise for State Missions the coming year, an amount equal to one dollar for each white member within the bounds of this Association.

The Association then proceeded to the usual arrangements for the next session,—when it was resolved, the next session of this body should be held with the Shoulders Hill Church, at its Meeting House called *Sycamore Hill, in Norfolk County, commencing on the Wednesday before the fourth Sabbath in May, 1859.*

Elder S. C. Boston was appointed to preach the introductory sermon, and Elder Thos. Lansdell his alternate.

The committee appointed at the last session to draw up and report to this session a plan for the appointment of an Executive Committee, offered the following, which was adopted: Your committee instead of reporting a plan for an Executive Committee &c., would recommend that the "Standing Committees" be continued, and be directed to organize themselves and prosecute the presentation to the churches of the objects committed to their charge, in such ways as shall tend to awaken a deeper interest in their behalf.

The Association then adjourned to to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Prayer by Bro. Richard Allen.

FRIDAY, May 21st, 1858.

The Association met at the appointed hour. After singing, prayer was offered by Bro. T. A. Hall.

The minutes of the previous day were then read, and the roll called.

Elder G. W. Keesee from the committee on the instruction of the colored people, presented the following report, which was adopted :

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON THE INSTRUCTION OF COLORED PEOPLE.

The committee on the "Instruction of Colored People," submit the following report :

The first view of this subject presents two things, the *importance* of it and our *indifference* towards it. The African race are doubtless included in the purchase of the Redeemer's blood, and they have in their constitution a large share of the religious element, and yet there is but little of regular, systematic effort put forth in our midst for their spiritual good. Their *bodies* are well provided for, but who shows much care for their *souls* ?

It cannot be denied, and would not be concealed, that there are difficulties in the way of instructing them. Our State laws forbid us to teach them to read, and consequently instruction must be imparted to them altogether by the living voice. Many of them have grown old in ignorance, and now find their minds indisposed, and to some degree, incapacitated to giving attention to such work. In some cases also, as happens to the illiterate in every country, they have imbibed hurtful or troublesome superstitions, which cannot be easily removed. And then, along with the rest of Adam's race, they have the carnal mind, which is enmity against God.

But these difficulties are not insurmountable, and instead of excusing neglect, they call for increased diligence. That it is the duty of christians to afford to this class of the community, suitable religious instruction, cannot be doubted. The fact that God has placed them in our midst, made them members of our households, makes it our duty to teach them the way of life ; while the fact that they minister to us in temporal things, should prompt us to minister to them in spiritual things.

And there are not lacking considerations, drawn from their character and condition, to counterbalance the disadvantages in their case, and to encourage earnest effort. Though they cannot read, yet their memories on this account are the more retentive. Their social position renders them docile. They have no scepticism—they believe with the credulity of children, and the liveliness of their emotions, if properly directed, may be turned to the advantage of religion.

Now if it be worth the while of our churches to give of their money for the spread of the gospel among the tribes of Yoruba, is it not also worth their while to put forth personal efforts in behalf of their own and their neighbors' servants ?

It is expected of this committee that they shall suggest some plan on which this instruction may be conducted. No more, however, can be done than hint at a general plan, which the good sense of our churches must modify to suit their necessities. It is hoped that our brethren and sisters will give the following suggestions, which are humbly offered, their prayerful consideration and a conscientious trial.

1. Let such of the servants as can, be invited, and, if necessary, required to attend the daily family prayers. Many may attend every day without any appreciable loss of time, and on Sunday all may attend.

2. Let every pious master or mistress devote some portion of each Sunday to reading the scriptures to their servants, catechising them and praying with them. Such a work would be profitable alike to master and servant, and well pleasing to our Lord.

3. In every church and neighborhood let some suitable brother be selected to conduct a *Colored Sunday School* ; let him assemble all the colored people, *young*

and *old* at some convenient house of the Sabbath; let him secure the assistance of a teacher for every four or five pupils, and let their teachers give their pupils *oral* instruction, using "Ryland's," or "Winkler's" Catechism, reading to them simple passages of scripture, especially the Gospels and the Acts, and the historic parts of the Old Testament, and teaching them to commit hymns and scripture verses to memory.

4. In most places it might be made convenient for country pastors to hold separate meetings on Sunday afternoons for their colored congregations. By this means additional interest and larger attendance will be secured, as well as the advantage of being at liberty to speak in a manner more suitable to this class than to a promiscuous congregation. On such occasions short, pointed, practical sermons, illustrated freely by reference to subjects familiar to their minds, may be profitably connected with catechising. It is also hoped that pastors will *approve* and *recommend* the plan here proposed or some other for Domestic and Sunday School instruction.

In all their instructions, a prominent place should be given to singing. This will be found a useful auxiliary in doing them good.

As with the whites so with the colored people, the most hopeful field of labor is among the *young*. The arguments for early religious training in Sunday Schools, will apply with equal force to colored as to white children.

Finally, much of the success of this plan will depend upon the spirit and manner with which it is carried out. Let the desire to glorify God and do good, prompt a gentle spirit and soft manner in all who engage in this work.

All which is respectfully submitted.

Previous to the adoption of this report, brethren Goodall, Ellyson, Allen and others made remarks appropriate and interesting on this important subject.

Elder P. Owens presented the following report on "Chowan Institute," which was adopted:

REPORT ON CHOWAN FEMALE COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE.

Your committee are gratified to report this Institution still in a prosperous condition. The number of students entered during the present year has been eighty-eight, about eighty of whom are now in attendance. The faculty consists of eight members—four gentlemen and four ladies,—all of whom have had years of experience in teaching and are well qualified to fill the positions assigned them. In regard to the character of its faculty and to other means of instruction, this Institution is not inferior to the best schools in the country.

The health of the pupils has been unusually good during the present year. A single case of Scarlet Fever occurred a few weeks ago, which caused the temporary withdrawal of some fifteen or twenty of the young ladies, all of whom, except one, have now been returned.

The present indebtedness of the Institution, as reported at the recent session of the Chowan Association, amounts to between six and seven thousand dollars, and that body resolved to raise ten thousand within the next twelve months, between two and three thousand of which were subscribed during the session of the Association.

Additional buildings to provide for the more comfortable accommodation of a large number of pupils, are greatly needed, and to provide the means of adding these desirable improvements, the Board of Trustees are relying mainly upon this body.

Bro. McDowell gave an encouraging statement concerning this valuable institution, and others spoke on the subject.

On motion, the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That we have heard with pleasure of the success of the Agents of Chowan Female Collegiate Institute, in raising funds to liquidate the indebtedness of the Institute, and, also the liberal proposition made by the Chowan Association to raise within the next twelve months an additional ten thousand dollars.

Resolved further, That we will endeavor to raise at least an equal sum for the contemplated improvements, and that we cordially invite the Agent of the Board to visit us for this purpose, and heartily recommend him to the liberality of our brethren.

Elder T. G. Jones from the committee on Bible Operations, presented the following report, which was adopted :

REPORT ON BIBLE OPERATIONS.

The committee on Bible operations take pleasure in stating that the facilities enjoyed for the distribution of the word of God, not only within the bounds of the Portsmouth Association, but throughout various other portions of our State, are greater than they have been at any time previous. The active and enterprising Superintendent of Colportage, and the brethren connected with him in that important work, have been able through the blessing of God upon their efforts, to secure the services of about forty brethren, who, as colporteurs, are bearing the bible, along with other religious books, to the destitute in many hitherto greatly neglected portions of the State. Towards the support of this system of colportage, the Bible Board of the General Association make considerable contributions in money besides supplying the colporteurs with all the bibles and testaments which they require.

In view of these facts, the committee feel that the lovers of the bible and of the souls of men among us, have reason to be encouraged and stimulated to increased zeal and more vigorous effort in the noble work in which they are engaged. But while there is so much reason for encouragement, the committee are pained to have to say that there is also cause for discouragement. They fear that the interest in the great work of supplying with the bread of life those who are perishing without it, instead of increasing as it should do, is lessening in the hearts of not a few. While all the churches represented in our Association, reported contributions to other benevolent causes, many of them reported nothing at all to that which is the cause of causes. While mentioning this fact with regret, the committee are not without hope that the doing so will have the effect of stimulating the flagging zeal of the churches. And that this may be the case, they would earnestly and devoutly pray.

All which is respectfully submitted.

Elder James L. Gwaltney from the Committee on Domestic Missions, presented the following report. After remarks from various brethren, and particular reference being made to the fact that the Board of Domestic Missions located in our bounds, in the city of Petersburg, is thus somewhat confided to our care, the report was adopted.

REPORT ON DOMESTIC MISSIONS.

The General Board of Domestic Missions of the Southern Baptist Convention is located in Marion, Ala. It embraces the South and Southwestern States, also the Indian Missions, and the China population of California. Its extent is vast,

its work is great. The object of this Board is to supply the destitutions of our own land with the preached word. To do this requires men and money—men to preach the gospel and the means of support, both of which must be supplied by the churches. The gospel of Christ is God's appointed instrumentality to save sinners. This gospel has been committed to the churches and ministry, who are responsible for its proclamation. Go and preach the gospel to every creature, is the command of Christ. This command is binding upon every christian more or less, according to the circumstances under which he is placed. The dominions and success of this branch of our Missionary operations will be seen in the minutes of our Southern Baptist Convention, much of which may be learned from the Home and Foreign Journal, published in Richmond, Va. Connected with this Board, is one located in Petersburg, in union with our General Association, and in order that this subject may be kept before the churches comprising this body (the Portsmouth Association,) a committee has been appointed. We learn from the letters sent up here that out of 46 churches, 23 have contributed to this object, the precise amount we are not able to report. We are glad to learn that an increased interest is being awakened relative to this department of our great work. May it continue, strengthen, and widen its influence, accompanied by the prayers of God's chosen people, and attended by the Holy Spirit, until our whole land shall be supplied with the bread of life.

Elder G. W. Keese presented the following report from the Standing Committee on Sabbath Schools, which was adopted :

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools offer the following report :

It is a source of regret that it is not in our power to report more exactly the state of Sunday Schools in our churches. The Association extends over a very large area of country, and we had, therefore, no means of information on this point except through the church letters, and the information furnished from this source is imperfect. In some of the letters no mention is made of the subject, in others it is reported, "we have no school this year," and others state the attendance of but few pupils. In the schools reported there are 329 officers and teachers, and 1,669 pupils. Making a liberal allowance for schools that have not been reported, we may suppose that there are in our churches 400 officers and teachers, and 2,000 pupils. It can not be that we are alive to the importance of this enterprise, when out of about 3,700 white members, only about 400 are engaged in teaching Sunday Schools. There must be many others who "ought to be teachers," now idle in the Lord's vineyard. Let our churches look to it, lest they pay the penalty of their indifference in this matter, in having their spiritual strength wasted by inactivity instead of increased by exercise, while they shall be compelled to see the churches wane and decay from want of the supplies which Sunday Schools should furnish.

We are gratified at the zeal manifested in the work of Sunday Schools and Colportage by the Sunday School and Publication Board of the General Association of Virginia, and we recommend this Board to the patronage of our churches. We state for the information of those interested that brother A. E. Dickinson, Superintendent of Sabbath Schools and Colportage under this Board, will furnish libraries and other books to schools on the most favorable terms, and will make *donations* to such schools as are unable to buy.

Respectfully submitted.

The Moderator announced the Standing Committees :

STANDING COMMITTEES.

On State Missions—Keesee, Thos. Wallace, Chandler and Chambliss.

On Foreign Missions—T. G. Jones, Toy, March and Creath.

On Domestic Missions—T. G. Keen, B. Todd, J. C. Bailey, and Hall.

On Education—S. C. Boston, Pugh, Ellyson and T. A. Harrison.

On Temperance—P. Owens, J. W. Hunnicutt, Goodall, and D. G. Potts.

On Bible Operations—Watkinson, Thos. Lansdell, Jesse Jarratt, and R. L. Dobie.

On Sabbath Schools—R. Jones, W. H. Williams, S. March, W. D. McClenny, and Ellwell.

On Depository—T. Hume, W. H. Williams, M. Sykes and J. Barnes.

On Chowan Institute—J. R. Chambliss, J. C. Bailey, Keesee, J. R. Wilhoit, J. E. Peters, Hall and Hume.

Missionary for the Upper District—J. C. Bailey, F. H. Robertson, John W. Potts, and T. B. Creath.

For the Middle District—P. Owens, J. R. Wilhoit, S. Henderson, and W. D. McClenny.

For the Lower District—T. Hume, A. J. Wise, T. D. Toy, and Ellwell.

A recess was then taken for the purpose of presenting the claims of "State Missions," and taking up a collection.

Business was then resumed and Elder S. C. Boston from the Standing Committee on Education, presented the following report, which was adopted:

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Your committee beg leave to report, that as a people we not only admit the importance of education, but by our acts and efforts have shown that to a very high degree we appreciate its advantages. Colleges and schools of the highest grade have sprung up in every part of our country, second to those of no other denomination in our land for furnishing a good and solid education. Indeed, a highly commendable feeling on this subject for a long time has been cherished by our churches North and South, East and West. It is gratifying that in our own State we, as a people, have not been insensible to the importance of this subject. Both male and female education has received a large share of our attention, and is continuing to do so. It is no longer necessary that our sons and daughters shall go abroad or be sent to others. At home in our own State, in institutions founded, fostered and controlled by our own people they can enjoy all the means and facilities for acquiring an education that they can ask. Nor

has the importance of an educated ministry been overlooked by us. Our own Education Society and our own College at Richmond, grew out of this conviction. For our present corps of intelligent and efficient ministers throughout our State, we are largely indebted to this society and to this college. Year after year they are sending forth fresh recruits of youthful ambassadors prepared and equiped to do affective service for Christ and his cause. These institutions should be warmly cherished by us and liberally supported. They are doing a work for us that cannot otherwise be done. They are preparing poor yet promising and faithful young men to preach the gospel, who, in all probability, never would be prepared through any other medium. Let these decline for the want of a proper support and our churches will suffer, and the cause of Christ will languish. A recent revival has been enjoyed in our college, and quite a number of young men have been led to consecrate themselves to the service of their Lord. This is truly cheering. And it is a cause of devout thankfulness that this institution of learning is so often made the recipient of such refreshing seasons from the presence of the Lord. Some of our most active and efficient ministers were converted while pursuing a course of study at this college. Quite a goodly number of young men aided by our Education Society are now pursuing a course of study at the college preparatory to the ministry. From a circular recently sent forth by the president, we learn that funds are very much needed. Shall any of these young men panting to preach the gospel, be turned away for want of means to enable them to prosecute their studies? Surely not. The churches of this Association will surely strive to the best of their ability to prevent such an unfortunate occurrence. Let us as an Association, as churches, as individual baptists weigh our responsibility properly in this matter and act accordingly.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

The Missionary Committees for the several districts made verbal reports, which were received.

The following resolutions were then presented and adopted :

Resolved, That a committee be now appointed to take charge of the Historical Sketches sent up to this Association, and prepare a connected history of the churches, to be presented at our next session.

Resolved, That those churches which have not sent up sketches of their history, be requested to forward the same at an early period to the committee.

Resolved, That the above committee be requested to append to the above mentioned narrative a sketch of the history of this Association, and such statements in regard to its plans of benevolence, its co-operation with the denomination, &c., &c., as they may think proper.

Committee—T. Hume, T. G. Jones, R. Jones, P. Owens, M. R. Watkinson and T. G. Keen.

Elder R. Jones presented the following resolution which was unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That the thanks of this body be tendered to brother J. R. Chambliss, our late Moderator, for the ability and fidelity with which for six years he presided over our deliberations.

The following brethren were appointed delegates to the General Association: T. Lansdell, W. D. McClenny, John W. Ward and James Corbett.

After remarks from various brethren, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we recommend to the patronage of the churches of this Association, the Religious Herald, as one of the very best religious journals in the land.

The Finance Committee made the following report, which was adopted:

Your committee have examined the accounts of brother John W. Potts, Treasurer, accompanied by proper vouchers. We find all to be correct.
 We find in his hand a balance of..... \$78 22
 Contributions received at this session,..... 115 01
 \$193 23

It may be proper to add that the Clerk has neglected to apply for the amount for his services and expenditures last year, which somewhat accounts for the balance on hand being larger than usual.

WM. D. McCLENNY,
 MICHAEL SYKES.

Messengers to Corresponding Associations were then appointed.

To Concord—(Meets Wednesday before the 3d Sunday in August at James Square Church)—J. C. Bailey, Keesee, Lansdell, Creath, Chambliss, and J. W. Potts.

To Accomac—Boston, T. G. Jones, Toy, Hume, Watkinson, and R. Jones—(Meets on Friday before 3d Sunday in August.)

To Middle District—(Meets _____ before the 1st Sunday in August)—Pugh, Ellyson, Wm. Robinson, Keen, F. H. Robertson, and B. Todd.

To Chowan—(Meets at Mount Carmel, Northampton County, Tuesday, before 3d Sunday in May, 1859.)—Hume, R. Jones, J. C. Bailey, T. Lansdell, T. G. Jones, and G. W. Keesee.

To Dover—(Meets Saturday before the 2d Sunday in October, at Colosse Church, King William County,)—Keen, Wallace, Goodall, Ellyson, and Schoolfield.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the thanks of this body be returned to the brethren and friends of this community for their kind attentions to us during our session.

On motion, T. Hume was appointed to edit and distribute the minutes.

A motion for adjournment was then made and carried.

After singing, prayer was offered by Elder T. Hume, when the Association was declared to be adjourned, the next session to be held at Sycamore Hill Meeting House, Norfolk County, commencing on Wednesday before the fourth Sabbath in May, 1859.

JOS. H. PRINCE, *Moderator*.

Teste—T. HUME, *Clerk*.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	DELEGATES.	Baptised.	Rec. by letter.	Restored.	Dismissed.	Deceased.	Expelled.	Nett gain.	Nett loss.	Whites.	Colored.	Association Fund.	State Mission.	Domestic Mis-sions.	Foreign Mis-sions.	Bible and Col-Portage.	Education.	U. S. and Pub. Society.
Antioch.....	Joel Mangum, Geo. Miskell, *									71	101	2 00	20 00	6 00	23 61	1 00	2 75	
Beaver Dam.....	S. Bradshaw, J. Watkins,	1		1		1	6	4 26	10	223	69	3 50	3 00	8 50	4 00	3 50	3 00	1 00
Bethesda.....	Dempsey Johnson, * R. Bell, *	33		1		4	2	2	2	11	39	1 00						
Black Creek.....	Allen Edwards, J. Edwards,					3	3	23		138	20	3 00						
Black Water.....	Geo. W. Bell, * J. Etheridge, *	28		1		3	1		1	75	23	2 00						
Brandon.....	Jas. W. Lucas, * Theo. A. Hall, ..	3	4	2		5				20	51			3 75	2 75	4 00	1 50	1 25
Cabin Point.....																		
Court st., Portsmouth.	W. H. Morris, W. D. Robertson, ..	39	25	2	8	9	8	45		276	114	5 00	20 00	50 00	30 00	157 50	10 00	8 50
Cumberland st., Norfolk.	Miles Davis, Seth March,	7	7	14	1	1	1	2		146		3 00						
Elam.....	Wm. Presson, J. N. Bain,									30	32	2 00						
First Church, Peters' g.	T. C. Garrison, I. B. Mayes*	15	10	3	9	1	3	15		207		5 00						
Fourth st., Portsmouth.	T. Hume, <i>Cincinnati's Goodall</i> , ..	17	13	1	1	2	28			126		2 50	25 00	21 16	12 00	5 50	5 00	
Free Mason st., Norfolk.	T. G. Jones, T. D. Toy,	3	10	2	9	1	6		1	274		3 00	40 00	20 00	25 00	15 00	15 00	
Hebron.....	J. H. Prince, N. L. Pond,	8								99	31	3 35	10 00	10 00	14 00	15 00	15 00	
Hicksford.....	G. W. Keese, J. E. Chambliss, ..	15		1	5	1	2	6		73	70	2 00	17 16	6 16	6 17	6 66	12 17	6 16
High Hills.....	<i>Thos. Lonsdale, T. E. Creath</i> ,	30	2							82	24	3 50	11 37	4 50	24 42		1 75	1 50
Jerusalem.....	S. Henderson, Joseph Davis,	5	5	7	2	2				30	4	1 00						
Kempsville.....	Wm. S. Wright * W. Etheridge, *	13		1	2	1	9			30	4	3 00						
Lake Drummond.....	F. F. Lynch, * H. T. Culpeper, *	2			4	1		3		20	8	1 00						
London Bridge.....	<i>H. H. Banks, * Charles Brock, *</i>	5		3	1	1	1			37	16	2 00						
Millfield.....	A. Stephenson, * S. Lain,	7		3	1					229	100	2 00	4 00	1 00	1 00	1 00		
Mill Swamp.....	A. D. Colcote, * B. G. Washington	27	2	1	4	1	23			123	18	2 00	7 10	7 12	7 12	7 12		
Moore's Swamp.....	Z. Harris, J. H. Lane,	2								115	55	2 00	6 00	8 50	6 25	8 50	3 50	3 00
Mulberry.....	A. Cherry, J. Overman *	5	3	4	2	2		11		53		1 50	2 50	2 50	1 50	3 00	1 50	
Newville.....	J. Jennings, H. Niblett,	1	11	2	1	1	13			78	55	3 00	10 25	6 25	7 25	3 50		

	52	2	3	4	43	163	54	2 00	6 10	10 00	1 18	2 67	4 00
North West,.....	8	1	3	2	4	163	54	2 00	6 10	10 00	1 18	2 67	4 00
Old Shop,.....	8	1	3	2	4	58	45	2 50	6 10	10 00	1 18	2 67	4 00
Olive Branch,.....	17	3	4	3	13	14	14	1 00	5 36	5 37	4 09	2 67	2 67
Oak Grove,.....	1	2	3	1	1	32	38	2 00	6 50	5 00	5 00	2 67	4 25
Pleasant Grove,.....	1	1	3	5	5	18	4	2 00	6 50				
St. Johns,.....	15	1	1	1	13	49	42	2 50	133 25	55 00	52 78	2 00	5 00
Salem,.....	13	11	2	2	21	66	2 00	55 00	55 00	55 00	52 78	2 00	5 00
Sappony,.....													
Second Ch., Peters' G.,.....	76	4	4	10	8	103	254	4 00	70 00	70 00	100 00	20 00	20 00
Shiloh,.....						6	102	1 50	10 00	5 00	5 00	10 00	10 00
Smithfield,.....	14	2	1	1	11	160	43	4 00	10 00	10 00	10 00	8 00	10 00
South Quay,.....	11	2	1	4	7	67	190	2 66	10 06	10 00	10 00	8 00	3 75
Suffolk,.....	25	1	7	4	14	142	94	3 00	20 00	20 00	15 00	18 55	15 75
Tucker's Swamp,.....	4	1	3	2	2	140	34	4 00	10 56	13 77	15 00	3 00	3 00
Western Branch,.....	48	1	6	29	16			3 00	3 00	2 00	2 00	3 00	3 00
Western Petersburg,.....	62	10	17	6	1			5 00	5 00	2 00	2 00	3 00	3 00
African,.....	5	5	4	4	12			1 50	1 50	3 50	3 50	1 50	1 50
Gillfield,.....	13	1	9	4	7			383	1 50	3 50	3 50	1 50	1 50
Third (col'd,) Petersburg,.....	5	1	9	4	12			255	3 00	2 50	3 50	1 50	1 50
First (col'd,) Norfolk,.....	13	1	9	4	7			2	3 00	2 50	3 50	1 50	1 50
Bate st., (col'd) ".....	5	4	3	4	8								

Those marked thus * were absent. Those in *italics* are ordained ministers—their post offices may be found in the list of ministers appended to the Minutes of the General Association of Virginia.

