

Baptists, Florida.

Wheeler
Edgar J. F. Daggs

MINUTES

With Regards

OF THE

R. J. M.

EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

FLORIDA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH THE

HICKSTOWN CHURCH,

MADISON COURT-HOUSE, FLA.,

COMMENCED ON SATURDAY, THE 12th OF OCTOBER, 1850.

Tallahassee:

FLORIDIAN & JOURNAL OFFICE.

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1850.

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STATE AND CONDITION OF THE CHURCHES, &C.

CHURCHES, COUNTIES, AND STATE	POST OFFICE	PASTORS	DELEGATES	Received by Baptism...	By Letter...	Restored...	Dismissed...	Excom'd...	Dead...	WHITES...	BLACKS...	TOTAL...	Amount for Minutes...	Domestic Missions	Foreign M.	African M.	Meetings
1. Zion,	Leon Co. Fla.	Robert Levy,	By Letter...	44	1	1	1	1	1	19	82	101	\$1 50	3 30	3 00	3 00	1
2. Bonah,	" "	R. Fryer,	Not represented...	1	6	1	1	1	1	23	3	26	1 00	3 30	3 00	3 00	1
3. Bethel,	" "	E. C. Walker,	S. B. Smith, J. J. Polhill,	6	1	1	1	1	1	13	12	25	1 50	1 00	4 00	3	3
4. Bethesda,	" "	Z. G. Wheeler,	W. G. Walker, E. W. Seely,	15	2	1	1	1	1	16	188	205	1 50	1 00	4 00	3	3
5. Bethpage,	" "	R. J. Mays,	R. J. Mays, W. T. Johnson,	9	2	1	1	1	1	17	29	39	1 00	33 00	20 00	15 20	2
6. Concord,	" "	Sam. C. Craft,	Not represented...	9	2	1	1	1	1	27	17	44	2 25	33 00	20 00	15 20	2
7. Concord,	" "	B. S. Fuller,	Jesse Walker, Joseph Kinsey,	15	1	1	1	1	1	19	81	100	3 00	10 35	8 00	14 10	3
8. Elizabeth,	" "	J. B. Lacy,	J. G. Bevell,	3	1	1	1	1	1	18	4	22	1 50	19 00	8 00	14 10	3
9. Ebenezer,	" "	George Walker,	R. Scruggs, J. F. Scruggs,	3	1	1	1	1	1	32	11	43	5 00	5 00	8 00	14 10	3
10. Ebenezer,	" "	H. Z. Ardis,	S. Forest, L. J. Simmons,	3	1	1	1	1	1	15	25	40	3 00	8 85	8 00	14 10	3
11. Friendship,	" "	R. S. Fuller,	Naill Campbell, Isham Walker,	6	1	1	1	1	1	26	9	35	3 00	3 00	8 00	14 10	3
12. Hicktown,	" "	G. W. Bostick,	J. D. Reid, E. G. Mays,	8	1	1	1	1	1	35	8	43	2 00	14 00	13 00	18 35	4
13. Indian Spring,	" "	J. B. Lacy,	Not represented...	8	1	1	1	1	1	19	1	20	2 00	16 25	1 00	18 35	4
14. Lake Jackson,	" "	G. W. Bostick,	W. Blewett,	8	1	1	1	1	1	19	1	20	2 00	16 25	1 00	18 35	4
15. Liberty,	" "	W. B. Cooper,	J. B. Lacy, R. H. Shackelford,	46	13	1	1	1	1	64	1	65	2 50	2 50	5 00	5 00	1
16. Liberty,	" "	W. B. Cooper,	G. M. Williams,	28	14	1	1	1	1	11	47	58	1 00	28 50	7 50	5 00	1
17. Lake Jackson,	" "	R. Fryer,	L. Starling, H. M. Fryer,	5	2	1	1	1	1	17	4	21	1 00	3 50	2 50	5 00	1
18. Monticello,	" "	J. T. Houston,	J. T. Houston, L. G. Lamb,	9	3	1	1	1	1	17	27	44	2 00	4 00	4 00	4 00	1
19. Ocklocknee,	" "	J. W. P. McCall,	J. Broome, J. W. P. McCall,	2	6	1	1	1	1	17	27	44	2 00	4 00	4 00	4 00	1
20. Providence,	" "	W. R. Cooper,	W. R. Cooper, J. O. Goldwire,	9	3	1	1	1	1	17	27	44	2 00	4 00	4 00	4 00	1
21. Redland,	" "	J. B. Lacy,	G. R. Moore, J. M. Gray,	9	3	1	1	1	1	17	27	44	2 00	4 00	4 00	4 00	1
22. Redland,	" "	B. S. Fuller,	Sam. C. Craft, Isaac Townsend,	218	59	10	82	10	3	545	586	1157	46	139 10	55 00	58 52	1
23. Sharon,	" "	J. W. P. McCall,	T. Turner, J. Stevens,							9	9	18	1 00	50 00	2 00	2 00	1
24. Troupville,	" "	M. Strickland,	John Higdon,							8	8	16	1 00	50 00	2 00	2 00	1
25. Troupville,	" "	Z. G. Wheeler,	J. T. Carroll, J. H. Carr,							15	15	30	1 00	50 00	2 00	2 00	1
26. Union,	" "	J. E. Lacy,	Z. G. Wheeler, J. R. Mett,							9	9	18	1 00	50 00	2 00	2 00	1
27. Union,	" "	J. E. Lacy,	Mark Strickland,							9	9	18	1 00	50 00	2 00	2 00	1
28. Carmel,	" "	J. E. Lacy,	J. E. Broome,							9	9	18	1 00	50 00	2 00	2 00	1
29. Liberty,	" "	J. E. Lacy,	J. E. Broome,							9	9	18	1 00	50 00	2 00	2 00	1
30. Mill Creek,	" "	J. E. Lacy,	J. E. Broome,							9	9	18	1 00	50 00	2 00	2 00	1
31. Mount Gilend,	" "	J. E. Lacy,	J. E. Broome,							9	9	18	1 00	50 00	2 00	2 00	1
32. Oak Grove,	" "	J. E. Lacy,	J. E. Broome,							9	9	18	1 00	50 00	2 00	2 00	1
33. Tallahassee,	" "	J. E. Lacy,	J. E. Broome,							9	9	18	1 00	50 00	2 00	2 00	1

* Contributed \$11 00 to the Association Fund.

J. T. McArthur - 1/2 4/42 - 8.00

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MINUTES.

The Florida Baptist Association convened, according to adjournment, at the Baptist Church, Madison Court House, Florida, on Saturday, 12th October, 1850.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Brother J. B. Lacy, from Phil. 3d chapter, first clause 10th verse—"That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection."

1. After intermission, the Association convened, and was opened by singing and prayer by Brother W. H. Goldwire.

2. Brother E. W. Solomons, the former Clerk, not being present, Brother J. F. Scruggs was requested to act as Clerk *pro tem*.

3. The Letters from the Churches were then read, and their statistics noted.

4. Six Petitionary Letters were then presented, to wit: Carmel, Mill Creek, Mount Gilead, Oak Grove, Liberty, and Tallahassee, all of which were received into fellowship, except the last named, the consideration of which, on motion, was laid over till Monday morning next.

5. Re-elected Brother W. B. Cooper, Moderator, and Samuel C. Craft was elected Clerk.

6. The Moderator appointed Committees as follows, to wit: On Preaching, J. Cason, E. G. Mays, T. O. Goldwire, J. Forest, and T. Denmark; On Business, J. F. Scruggs, G. M. Williams, W. T. Johnson, and T. B. Wynn; On Finance, B. S. Fuller, Isaac Townsend, and L. Starling; On Correspondence, J. J. Polhill, L. G. Lamb, and C. N. Powell; On Circular Letter, E. C. Walker, G. W. Bostick, and W. G. Powell.

7. Preaching Committee report Brother Bostick to preach at candle-light, followed by Brother Walker; Brother Ardis to preach the Missionary Sermon, at 11 o'clock to-morrow morning; Brother Blewett to preach at 2 o'clock, P. M., followed by Brother Fryer; Brother Fuller to preach at candle-light, followed by Brother Lacy.

8. Adjourned till Morning morning, 9 o'clock; prayer by Brother Walker.

SABBATH, October 13.

9. The Missionary Sermon was preached by Brother Ardis, from Luke, 15 c. 10 v.: "Likewise, I say unto you, There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." The other Brethren all preached, according to previous arrangement of the Committee, to large, attentive, and, we trust, feeling congregations.

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MONDAY MORNING, October 14.

10. Met pursuant to adjournment; prayer by Father Broome.
11. Report of Business Committee read and adopted.
12. The Rules of Decorum were then read.
13. Brethren of our Faith and Order invited to seats with us.
14. Correspondence from other Associations called for, and received minutes from Bethel, Georgia, and West Florida Association.
15. The Circular Letter was read, and referred to the Committee on the Circular.
16. Ordered to continue correspondence with Associations, as follows: Bethel, Georgia, Elders Houston and R. J. Mays and Brother Gray to bear correspondence; West Florida Association, Elders Blewett and Simmons and Brother Williams to bear correspondence; Alachua Association, East Florida, Elder R. Fryer and Brethren Isaac Townsend, and H. M. Fryer to bear correspondence. Also, Ordered, That we propose correspondence with the Ocklocknee and Suwannee River Associations; Elders Broome, Walker, and Lacy to bear correspondence to the former, and Elder Cooper and Brethren J. O. Goldwire and Richard Scruggs to the latter.
17. Brother E. G. Mays appointed to write Corresponding Letter.
18. Brethren R. J. Mays, McCall, and Wynn, were appointed a Committee on Queries.
19. The case of the Tallahassee Church, was now taken up, and after discussion thereon, she was received into fellowship with the Association.
20. Ordered to hold the next Association with Friendship Church, Thomas County, Georgia, to commence Saturday before the second Lord's day in October, 1851.
21. Brother Polhill was appointed to write the next Circular Letter.
22. Brethren E. G. Mays and J. G. Dekle, who were appointed a Committee at the last Association to correspond with the Southern Baptist Board of Domestic Missions in relation to ministerial aid for Tallahassee and Quincy, reported their proceedings, which were satisfactory, and their report accepted.
23. Brother W. W. Maund was appointed to preach next Introductory Sermon, and Samuel C. Craft his alternate.
24. The Committee on Queries report as follows:
In answer to Bethesda Church, in regard to Antioch Church, that we advise said Church to call a meeting, and invite helps from sister Churches.
In answer to the query from Friendship Church, we reply, that the Testament recognizes but two classes of offences, to wit: error in doctrine and error in practice, and the question of reception depends on the manner in which these queries are determined.
25. The Committee on the Circular Letter, reported the same back without any alterations; which was adopted.

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TUESDAY, October 15.

26. Committees were appointed to visit and ascertain the condition of Churches, as follows: Benlah, Hamilton County, Florida, Brethren R. Fryer, Polhill, and Starling; Concord, Hamilton, Florida, Brethren McCall, J. O. Goldwire, and H. M. Fryer; Hebron, Quincy, Brethren Blewett, Williams, and Bostick; Antioch, Leon County, Florida, Brethren Walker, Strickland, and Wheeler.
27. On motion, took a recess till 2 o'clock, P. M.
28. Met according to appointment; prayer by Brother R. G. Mays.
29. The Finance Committee Report was read and adopted:—marked A.
30. The Committee on Correspondence report nothing before them, worthy of special notice.
31. Brethren R. G. Mays, Forest, and Wynn, were appointed a Committee, to consider of, and suggest at, the next Association a proper time for the meeting of future Associations.
32. Brethren R. J. Mays, Forest, Cason, Fuller, and Shackelford, were appointed a Committee to investigate and report on the subject of Union Meetings, at 10 o'clock, to-morrow.
33. The Corresponding Letter was read and adopted.
34. The Committee on Education made their Report, which was laid over for consideration till to-morrow morning.
35. Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning; prayer by Brother R. J. Mays.

TUESDAY, October 15.

36. Met pursuant to adjournment; prayer by the Moderator.
37. The Report of the Executive Committee was read and adopted: marked C.
38. The Committee on Union Meetings, appointed yesterday, Report, that they have had the subject under consideration, and recommend, with a view to meet all parties and give additional interest to these meetings, that the present line be done way, for the present, and the first meeting be held with the Friendship Church; the second with Ebenezer, Jefferson County; the third with Concord, Madison County; and the fourth with the Indian Spring Church; and the meetings to begin on Friday morning, 9 o'clock.
Which Report was adopted.
39. Resolved, That all Missionary operations of this Body be submitted to an Executive Committee of five members, to be elected by the Association.
40. The Brethren Cooper, R. J. Mays, and Fuller were appointed a Committee to devise and suggest to the next Association, a plan for a permanent system of Missionary operations for the future.—The same Committee were also requested to take into consideration and report as to the most practicable method of imparting Religious instruction to our black population.

41. Brethren Fuller, Cooper, Lacy, R. J. Mays, and Cason, were appointed the Executive Committee for the ensuing Associational year.

42. Brother Cooper was re-elected Treasurer.

43. *Ordered*, That the Clerk have 1200 copies of Minutes printed, and that he receive \$20 for his services.

44. *Resolved*, That Brother Ardis, the Pastor of this Church, be requested to return the thanks of this Association to our Methodist Brethren for their kindness in affording us the use of their House of Worship, during our present session: also, to the friends generally of this vicinity for their kindness and hospitality towards us.

45. *Resolved*, That the "Christian Index," published at Penfield, Georgia, be recommended to the confidence, support, and patronage of Florida Baptists.

46. The Treasurer's Report was read and adopted: marked B.

47. The Report of the Committee on Education, which was laid on the table yesterday evening, was now taken up, read, and adopted, (marked E.) and Elders H. Z. Ardis and W. B. Cooper and Brethren John Cason, R. G. Mays, J. D. Reid, and T. W. Brevard, and S. B. Thomas and R. W. Parramore, Esqrs., and Dr. B. Waldo and Gen. J. S. Broome, were appointed Trustees in accordance with its provisions.

48. *Resolved*, That to the Board of Trustees, named in the last item above, be assigned the duty of fixing upon a name, and of petitioning the Legislature for a donation from the Seminary Fund of the State of Florida, and also the appointment of Sub-Committees or Agents, as thought most desirable.

49. Adjourned to time and place named in item 20: prayer by Brother James E. Broome.

W. B. COOPER, *Moderator*.

SAMUEL C. CRAFT, *Clerk*.

CIRCULAR LETTER

To the Churches-comprising the Florida Association.

Dear Brethren:—In our present Circular, we invite your serious attention to the subject of self-examination, which we believe to be a duty solemnly enjoined in the scriptures, and equal, in point of importance, to any other divinely imposed upon us. Without self-examination, we never can know either our virtues or our vices. Very objectionable traits of character, plain to the view of others, remain undiscovered to ourselves for years, and even through life. There are Brethren so entirely blind to their defects of character, who, when told of them, appear to be surprised that any one should ever have thought such things of them: and these Brethren, when told of their defects, behave in such a manner as to show that they receive such faithful dealing as personal unkindness. When we meet

with such, we say within ourselves, that Brother has not examined himself as he should have done; or surely he would not be ignorant of traits so prominent in his character. And has it not appeared to us that Brethren, the most blind to their own defects, exhibit unusual clear-sightedness in discovering the spots and blemishes in others? Surely this is an evil among Brethren; and this, together with a knowledge of general proneness of us all to "behold the mote in our brother's eye, but to consider not the beam in our own eye," have led us to address you upon the subject of self-examination.

Brethren, the great Apostle of the Gentiles, in his second letter to the Church at Corinth, (13.5) says: "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves." And in Galatians, 6: 3, 4, the same Apostle says: "If any man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself." Taking these two passages together, we have self-ignorance pre-supposed, and a command to correct that ignorance by self-examination; and from this, we infer that ignorance of ourselves must be criminal. Does not our own Savior, by implication, clearly charge his disciples with guilt, when he upbraids them with self-ignorance in not knowing what manner of spirit they were of? And does it not appear reasonable to us all that ignorance is a sin, when the knowledge required is attainable? But we may be asked, is this knowledge attainable? We should think, of all the knowledge which we are under obligation to acquire, a knowledge of ourselves, surely, is the most accessible. There is much important knowledge far removed from us, so that we can attain unto it only with difficulty, and long and assiduous application. But with ourselves we are always present, and may at any time engage in self-examination, and by this means may gain the knowledge required. Then, Brethren, to this work let us apply ourselves, determined, if possible, to find out what we really are, whether good or bad.

And to proceed, let us ask, what are we, morally, intellectually, and physically? Have we a pure conscience—a clear and elevated intellect? Do we know what is in our hearts, and have we honestly and properly estimated our mental capacities? Have we examined ourselves in these respects, so as to prove what we really are? The scriptures require nothing short of demonstration, at the end of this self-examination: and yet we fear that many of us have left undisturbed those moral coverings of the heart which have concealed much of our *inner-selves* from our partial inspection. We know that it is a difficult thing to enter into the secret chambers of the soul, and overturn and ransack the tables of the heart, and discover every sentiment written thereon, and every foul spirit and unholy temper, which have entered into and which dwell there; yet we believe we may conduct this examination so as to ascertain, in a good degree, our capacities, our virtues, and our reigning vices. If a man is talented, may he not humbly and properly estimate his talents?—We don't see any necessity of his thinking more highly of himself,

in this respect, than he ought to think. And if a brother has a pure conscience, may he not prove himself, in this respect, so that he may feel an humble confidence in his pureness of purpose, and integrity, and uprightness of heart? We think that it is our duty and privilege to thus prove ourselves, so that we may say, like Job, "Dost thou enquire after my iniquity, and search after my sin? Thou knowest I am wicked;" and like Paul, "I exercise myself to have always a conscience void of offence towards God and towards men." Thus self-examined and proven, we should have "rejoicing in ourselves, and not in another." And, Brethren, how much peace and comfort would result to us and our beloved Zion, were we all to thus engage in self-examination, instead of being so scrupulous in our concern about others!

But again, if a brother have evil in his heart, may he not, by a sincere and honest examination, detect his reigning vices, and thereby be able to amend his ways and correct the evil? We shall insist that it is his most solemn duty to do this, and at the same time think it quite possible for him to do it; yet we believe that it is much more difficult for the brother, with an evil heart, to examine himself successfully, than one who has a pure conscience and an upright heart. Therefore, how important is it for one who has a proneness of heart to any vice or vices, to always keep a prayerful watch over himself?

There are some brethren so prone in their natures, that it appears hard for them, at any time and all times, to have correct views of themselves; while there are others who, in times of peace and social calmness, seem to manifest nothing objectionable in this respect; but let disturbances arise in the community, involving them as a party in the conflict, and then may the most humble and self-abased expect to find it extremely difficult to know himself as he should. We have no doubt but brethren, on examination, often find themselves, under and after provocations, entertaining sentiments of heart and committing acts of which they had been accustomed to think themselves morally incapable. Then, Brethren, these remarks suggest to us the importance of self-examination, not only habitually or customarily, but particularly in times of difficulty and trial.

Now, in bringing our Circular to a close, permit us to urge the importance of this duty from the great evils arising from the neglect of it. An undue esteem of ourselves—which is sure to result from self-ignorance—will lead us ahead of our place in the service of the sanctuary, and cause us to venture out upon duties which we are not able to discharge; and thus expose ourselves, to the injury of the cause which we seek to promote, and the mortification of our brethren, who love and esteem us in our proper places. And should these forward servants in the cause, receive an intimation that their efforts are not appreciated by their brethren, they at once take it as a piece of great unkindness, and fret themselves and annoy others with their long complaints of the insupportable injustice with which they have met.

This is surely a great evil among brethren. We are ready to admit that the abilities and services of brethren may be, and sometimes are, undervalued; and we think we have seen appearances of very unjust depreciation of brethren of the most ordinary capacities, and consequently they have a good reason to complain of the unbecoming neglect with which they sometimes meet. This is also a great evil, and arises from an undue self-appreciation in those who enjoy a higher reputation for talents and abilities.

Then we urge that each and all of us, whatever may be our gifts and qualifications, should closely and prayerfully examine ourselves, as we know we shall be examined in the judgment of the great day. And let us not forget that, without divine assistance, we shall live and die in fatal ignorance of ourselves.

W. B. COOPER, Moderator.

SAMUEL C. CRAFT, Clerk.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The Florida Baptist Association to those with whom she Corresponds:

DEAR BRETHREN:—We have received Minutes from your Bodies, by the hands of our Brethren, for which we thank you. We are gratified that you still remember us, and we should have been still more gratified had it been in the power of your Messengers to have met with us. We trust the Messengers appointed by us will be permitted to meet with you. We believe that these Christian courtesies should be observed, if possible; that brotherly love may extend, continue, and prevail.

Our Session has been a pleasant, and, we trust, a profitable one. We pray that the grace of God may preserve you and us unto eternal life. Our next Session will be held with the Friendship Church, Thomas County, Georgia, commencing Saturday before the second Lord's day in October, 1851.

W. B. COOPER, Moderator.

SAMUEL C. CRAFT, Clerk.

FINANCE REPORT—A.

The Committee on Finance beg leave to Report, that they have received from the Churches composing this Association, moneys for the following objects, viz:

For Domestic or Home Missions,	\$165 50
Foreign	35 00
" African Mission, (Brother Bowen,)	72 75
" Minutes,	46 75
Collection on Sabbath,	50 00
Associational Fund,	11 00
Total,	\$381 00

Respectfully submitted.

B. S. FULLER, Chairman.

TREASURER'S REPORT—B.

Paid out by order of the Executive Committee, as follows:

To the Southern Baptist Philanthropic Society,	\$112 00
" " American Sunday School,	50 00
" " Rev. Z. G. Wheeler, Domestic Missionary,	100 00
" " " R. Fryer,	100 00
" " " W. B. Cooper, Colporteur and Missionary,	75 00

Total, \$437 00

On hand,	\$10 50
Subscription,	26 00
" doubtful,	2 00

\$38 50

Respectfully submitted.

W. B. COOPER, Treasurer.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT—C.

The Committee to whom was submitted the Missionary operations of the past year, beg leave to Report:

That immediately after the session of this body last year, we held a meeting in Monticello, at which it was resolved, in view of the various considerations presented before us, to employ in the field two Missionaries; one in the Eastern and one in the Southern boundaries of the Association.

Your Committee secured the services of Brother Ryan Fryer in the East, and Brother Z. G. Wheeler in the West: each to receive, as compensation, from the Association \$100, over and above what the Churches in the vicinity or bounds of their labors might be disposed to give them.

Brother Fryer has reported to your Committee, as the result of his mission and labor under God, the Baptism of thirty-five hopeful converts, assisted in the ordination of one Deacon, and the constitution of one Church. He has received from the Churches \$7 50.

Brother Wheeler reports having received by Baptism twenty-three converts, and seven by Restoration, having established several new places of worship, and there are ready at those places members for the constitution of two new Churches; that he has aided (within the bounds of his labors) in the constitution of one Church; that he has received from the hands of friends the sum of \$8 00 during the year.

The Association having submitted to this Committee the control of their funds for Sabbath School, Baptist and other standard works, Report, that they have invested for standard works the sum of \$112 with the Southern Baptist Philanthropic Society, which books have been received, and about one-fourth part of them have been sold at Charleston wholesale prices.

For Sabbath School Books, the sum of fifty dollars was invested

with the American Sunday School Union, from which we received a donation in books to the amount of \$25 to \$50. We have on hand \$20 in Sunday School Books, the balance having been sold to the amount of \$50, after paying transportation, &c. Your Committee have re-invested the original sum, and are now expecting a new supply of books. Your Committee having received the above books, thought it advisable to employ Brother W. B. Cooper as a Missionary and Colporteur, to aid and establish Sabbath Schools wherever it was practicable, and furnish them with Libraries, and also to distribute those other works through the community; and for these services we have awarded him in the same proportion as the other Missionaries.

In the Sabbath School enterprise, he has aided and established two schools in each of the Counties of Thomas and Lowndes, Georgia; in Hamilton, Florida, one; Madison, Florida, five; in Jefferson, two, and in Leon, one.

Respectfully submitted.

B. S. FULLER,

Chairman, Executive Committee.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION—D.

The Committee appointed by the last Association of the Baptist Church, under Item 50, beg leave to Report:

That they have had the various subjects embraced in said item, under the most earnest and serious consideration, and have arrived at the conclusions hereunto attached, that is to say:

1. They deem it altogether proper, and in accordance with the true and real spirit of the Baptist Church, that they should adopt all available means for the diffusion of knowledge and truth throughout the scope of their operations; and consequently,

2. They recommend the establishment of an institution of a literary character, that shall ultimately extend its character, as the means may be obtained, &c., as to afford the means of education to all classes of the community.

3. They have fixed upon Madison Court House, in Madison County, Florida, as the best and most eligible location for such literary institution.

4. Under the above views, they appointed sub-committees to procure subscriptions in advance of the enterprise, and also to fix upon the particular locality; said committees upon subscription have made no report, saving the committee for Madison County, who have obtained subscription to the amount of \$ —.

The committee of locality selected the site at the South-west extremity of the village of Madison, and Mr. R. W. Parramore kindly offered the Association twenty acres of land as a gratuity for a site for the buildings.

5. That a Board of seven Trustees be appointed, who shall take charge of the donations and subscriptions for this purpose, and shall

proceed at once to the organization of a good school in the building on the premises hereinbefore designated, and who shall have power to expend the further sum of \$———, out of any moneys which they may receive, in the employment of teachers and purchase of necessary apparatus, the erection of additional buildings upon the same premises: such additional buildings to be of the plan and size and material which a majority of the Board of Trustees may determine.

6. That a further committee be appointed by the Association to obtain subscriptions for the Institution throughout the bounds of the Association, and elsewhere, and pay over the same to the Board of Trustees.

7. That the Board of Trustees shall report to the next Association a complete system for the conduct of said Literary Institution.

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

FLORIDA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

1. This Association shall be known by the name of the Florida Baptist Association.

2. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the respective Churches in its union, not to exceed two members from each Church, who shall be duly authorized by letter to represent the Churches delegating them.

3. In the letters sent by the Churches at each session of the Association, shall be expressed their respective members in full fellowship; those Baptized, received by Letter, Restored, Dismissed, Excommunicated, and Dead, since the last session.

4. Believing it to be proper, on account of the diversity of opinion among men, as to the import of the scripture doctrines contained in the Old and New Testaments, to declare our belief and understanding thereof, we therefore append our belief in twelve articles, and present them, with our Minutes, to the Baptist denomination.

5. The Association, when convened, shall be governed by a regular and proper decorum. A Moderator and a Clerk shall be chosen by the votes of the members present, who shall hold their office till the next session of the body, and until their successors are elected. The Moderator shall preside at the meetings of the Association, and the Clerk shall record the proceedings thereof, and prepare them for the press.

6. The Association, thus organized, shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor infringe upon the internal rights of any Church.

7. Newly constituted Churches may be admitted into this union upon application by letter and delegates; and if, upon examination,

found to be orthodox, shall be received by the Association, and the right hand of fellowship extended to the delegates by the Moderator.

8. The Association shall furnish the Churches with the minutes of their proceedings, in proportion to the funds sent up for that purpose by the Churches.

9. The minutes of the Association shall be publicly and distinctly read, (and corrected, if necessary,) and then signed by the Moderator and Clerk before adjournment.

10. Any amendment or alteration of this Constitution may be made by the votes of two-thirds of the members present, at any regular meeting of the Association, (of which notice shall be given in the minutes,) and the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present at the next Association shall make the desired alteration.—All other matters in this Association shall be decided by a majority of votes.

11. The Association shall have power, 1st, To provide for the general union of the Churches. 2d, To give the Churches advice in matters of difficulty. 3d, To enquire into the course of any Church failing to be represented at the meetings of the Association. 4th, To withdraw all connection from any Church or Churches in this union, who shall violate the rules of this Association, or shall deviate from the orthodox principles of the revealed word of God. 5th, To appropriate the moneys contributed to the Association fund, by the Churches, to any purpose they may think best for the interest of the Church of Christ. 6th, To adjourn to any future time and place they may deem most convenient to the Churches in the union.

Assented to by the Florida Association at Ebenezer Church, Jefferson County, Middle Florida, and signed by order of the same, on the 16th day of October, 1843.

JOHN BROOME, Moderator.

SAMUEL C. CRAFT, Clerk.

ARTICLES OF FAITH OF THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION.

I. We believe in one only true and living God, and that there are three persons in the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

II. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.

III. We believe in the doctrine of eternal and particular election.

IV. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

V. We believe in man's impotency to recover himself from the fallen state in which he is by nature, by his own free will and ability.

VI. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Christ.

VII. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated, and sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

VIII. We believe that the saints shall persevere in grace and never finally fall away.

IX. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ: that nothing is Baptism except immersion; that believers are the only subjects of this ordinance, and that none but Baptized believers are entitled to partake of the Lord's Supper.

X. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgment.

XI. We believe that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting, and the joys of the righteous will be eternal.

XII. We believe that no Ministers have a right to administer the ordinances, only such as are regularly called and have come under the imposition of the hands of the Presbytery.

W. B. COOPER, *Moderator*.

SAMUEL C. CRAFT, *Clerk*.

Rules of Decorum for the Florida Baptist Association.

1. At every meeting of the Association, the Moderator shall call the members to order, and cause the Clerk to read the minutes of the preceding Association.

2. The Moderator shall preserve order, shall speak on points of order in preference to other members, and shall decide questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Association when requested by any two members.

3. The Moderator shall put all questions distinctly in this form: "As many as are in favor (as the question may be) say aye;" and, after the affirmative voice is taken, "as many as are of a contrary opinion, say no." If doubtful which voice in the majority, it shall be decided by rising and counting.

4. The Moderator shall appoint Committees, except in cases of appointment by ballot.

5. In all cases of ballot, the Moderator may vote; in other cases he shall not vote, unless the Association be equally divided, or unless his vote, if given to the minority, will make the division equal; in that case the question shall be lost.

6. When any member is about to speak in debate, he shall rise and address himself respectfully to the Moderator.

7. If any member while speaking, or otherwise, transgress the rules of decorum, the Moderator shall, or any member may, call him to order.

8. When two or more members rise at the same time, the Moderator shall determine who is first entitled to the floor.

9. No member shall indulge unkind remark in debate; nor shall any member speak more than twice on the same question without leave of the Association, nor more than once, until every member choosing to speak shall have done so.

10. While any member is addressing the Association, it shall be

the duty of the Moderator to suppress all private discourse that may be entertained between the members, and to require strict attention on the part of the members.

11. When a motion is made and seconded, it shall be stated by the Moderator before debated.

12. Every motion shall be reduced to writing, if desired by any member of the Association.

13. After a motion is made and seconded, it shall be deemed in possession of the Association, but may be withdrawn at any time before decided or amended.

14. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be entertained, unless to amend it, or to refer it to a committee, or for the previous question, or for adjournment.

15. A motion for adjournment shall always be in order, and decided without debate.

16. Any member may call for the division of a question where two or more distinct propositions are set forth, and when the substance will admit of division.

17. Motions and amendments may be referred to a Committee, at the pleasure of the Association.

18. Every resolution shall receive two statements or readings in the Association, previous to its passage. The first shall be for information, and the second when the decision of the Association is to be made.

19. These rules may be changed and amended at any regular and full meeting of the Association.

20. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer each day, either by the Moderator or some other member.

21. All queries shall be fairly stated, in writing, and approbated by the Association by two-thirds of the members present, before they shall be acted on.

W. B. COOPER, *Moderator*.

SAMUEL C. CRAFT, *Clerk*.

MINISTERS OF THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION.

NAME.	POST OFFICE.
H. Z. ARDIS,	Madison C. H., Florida.
JOHN BROOME,	Talofa, "
G. W. BOSTICK,	Attapulcus, Georgia.
W. BLEWETT,	Bainbridge, "
W. B. COOPER,	Troupville, "
SAM. C. CRAFT,	Perry, Florida.
B. S. FULLER,	Monticello, Florida.
RYAN FRYER,	Clyattville, Georgia.
J. Gauden,	Ocapilco, "
W. HENDERSON,	Clyattville, "
I. T. HOUSTON,	Moseley's Hall, Florida.
J. B. LACY,	Thomasville, Georgia.
ROBERT LEVY,	Tallahassee, Florida.
W. W. MAUND,	Newport, "
R. J. MAYS,	Clifton, "
J. W. P. McCALL,	Talofa, "
O. E. McKearn,	Quincy, "
L. J. SIMMONS,	Thomasville, Georgia.
M. STRICKLAND,	Mannington, Florida.
GEORGE WALKER,	Monticello, "
E. C. WALKER,	St. Marks, "
Z. G. WHEELER,	Perry, "
G. M. Williams,	Quincy, "

☞ Licentiates in *Italics*.

NOTE.—The Statistical Table is made out from the Church Letters, consequently there is a discrepancy between it and the Financial Committee's Report: hence the necessity of Churches noting every item in their Letters, which is intended to be published in the Minutes.

Robert H. Nichols
Edgemoor C. H.
P. C.