Corrected copy

Beptist Church. Florida. West Florida Association

Minutes of the eighteenth annual session of the West Fla. Beptist Association,
held with the Beptist Church at Greenwood, on the 22d, 23d and 24th days of
October, 1864. Tellahasses: Office of the Floridian & Journal. Printed by
Dyke & Sportant. 1865. 15 p. 20 3/b on. (Title page is mutilated so that words
"Office" and "Printed" are incomplete; lower right helf of page 15 is missing.)

14 3 p. 15 missing also - contains the report of the Committee on Financing

de fective Copy 1864 9.15

MINUTES

OF THE

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

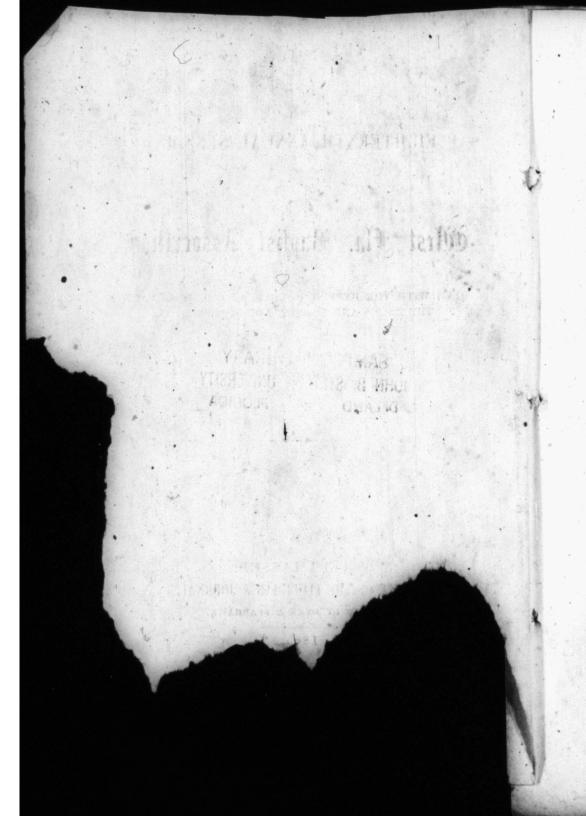
Mest Fla. Baptist Association,

HELD WITH THE BAPTIST CHURCH AT GREENWOOD, ON THE 22D, 23D AND 24TH DAYS OF OCTOBER, 1864.

JOHN B. STETSON UNIVERSITY
Deland :- FLORIDA

TALLAHASSEE:
CE OF THE FLORIDIAN & JOURNAL.
D BY DYKE & SPARHAWK.

1865,



1. The congregation assembled in the house, and the brethren appointed being both absent, the introductory sermon was preached by brother Howell, from the 15th chapter and 8th verse of the Gospel by John: "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."

2. After one hour's intermission, the delegates convened in the house and the Association was organized by singing and pray-

er. Prayer by brother Underwood. .

S. The letters from the churches were then handed in and read.

4. Elected brother W. B. Lacy, Moderator, and brother Ste-

phen Rowe, clerk.

5. Called for correspondence from religious bodies and received, from the Florida Association brother T. J. Wombwell, who was also recognized as Agent for the Florida Baptist Convention for army Missions. From the Judson brethren, L. R. Simms, W. R. Davis, D. B. Bluett, J. M. Poiner and David Rogers.

6. Appointed the following Committees, viz: On Preaching—Brethren Collier, Bevis and Taylor. On Business-Brethren Howell, White and Patterson. On Finance-Brethren Barnes, Bevis and Tidwell.

On Publications-Brethren D. P. Everett, J. A. Collier and

On Documents-Brethren S. Rowe, S. Arnold and T. Marlin! On S. Schools-Brethren D. P. Everett, W. M. Howell and John Godwin.

On Missions-Brethren S. M. Pyles, G. Hartsfield and Wm. Butler.

On Decease of Ministers-G. W. Underwood, Wm. Sorey and S. Cox.

On Nominations—Collier, Barnes and J. Everett.

To write Corresponding Letters-S. Rowe.

7. Invited Ministers of our faith and order and not members of this body to seats with us.

8. Called for report of committee on the constitution, who reported not ready and asked to be discharged, which was done.

9. The committee on preaching report, that brother Poiner is appointed to preach to night and brother Underwood to preach here to the colored people to-morrow at 11 o'clock, and brother W. B. Lacy to preach the Missionary sermon at the Methodist house of worship to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

> SAMPSON LIBRARY DeLAND FLORIDA

10. On motion, agreed to meet at 91 o'clock to-morrow morning, for special prayer in behalf of our soldiers and our distressed

11. Adjourned to 81 o'clock on Monday morning. Benedic-

tion by the Moderater.

SARBATH, OCTOBER 23d.

The congregation assembled for prayer in the Methodist Church, according to appointment.

2. At the request of brother Lacy, brother L. R. Simms preached the missionary sermon from the Gospel by Matthew, 5th chapter and 14th verse: "Ye are the light of the world." Brother Underwood preached to the colored people at 11 o'clock, and brother D. Rogers preached to the whites and brother S. Rowe to the blacks in the afternoon.

Brother Wombwell preached at night. May God bless the

labors of the day.

There was collected for missions \$244.

MONDAY, OCT. 24th.

Met according to adjournment. Prayer by brother Everett. 1. Read and corrected the minutes of the two past days.

2. The report of committee on business was read and adopted.

3. Read the decorum.

4. Called for further correspondence.

- 5. Called for petitionary letters from newly constituted churches.
- 6. Appointed correspondence to sister Associations as follows: viz:

To the Tuskeegee-D. P. Everett and W. B. Lacy.

The Eufaula-

The Salem-

The Judson, Sardis Ch., four miles above Abbeville, Saturday before the 1st Sabbath in October-Brethren Howell, Lacy, Pyles and Everett.

The Bethel, Cotton Hill, Saturday before the 1st Sabbath in

Nov.—Brethren Pyles and Lacy.

The Florida, Friday before the 3d Sabbath in October-Brethren Lacy and Pyles.

The Zion--

The Bowen, Saturday before the 2nd Sabbath in October-Brethren S. M. Pyles, S. Rowe and W. B. Laey.

7. The committee on preaching appointed brother L. R. Simms

to preach to-day at 11 o'clock.

8. Appointed the next session of this body to be held with the church at Friendship, Saturday before the 4th Sabbath in October, 1865.

9. Called for the report of committee on publications, which

was recommitted.

10. The report of Executive Committee was read and adopted. (See Appendix Letter A.)

11. The report of committee on documents was read and

Adopted. (Letter B.)

12. The report on nominations was read and adopted. (C.)

13. The report on the decease of Ministers was read and recommitted.

14. The report on publications as amended was read and adopt-

15. The report of committee on sabbath schools was read and

adopted. (E.)

16. On motion, agreed to elect four delegates to the Florida Baptist Convention, and the following brethren were elected, viz: W. B. Lacy, S. M. Pyles, D. P. Everett and W. M. How-

17. Adjourned to hear the 14 o'clock sermon.

18. After a sermon by brother L. R. Simms and one hour's intermission, repaired to business. Prayer by brother Rogers.

19. The report on decease of ministers as amended was read

and adopted. (F.)

20. The report of committee on missions was read and adopt-

ed. (G.)

21. On motion agreed to suspend other business to take up a collection for the army mission, when the sum of \$434 was raised in money and subscription.

22. The report on Finance was read and adopted. (H.) 23. The Treasurer's report was read and adopted. (I.)

24. The following brethren were elected Executive Committee, viz: W. B. Lacy, T. Barnes, J. A. Collier, D. P. Everett and S. M. Pyles.

25. Elected brother Wm. Sorey, Treasurer.

26. On motion, Resolved, That the Clerk be instructed to have 150 copies of the minutes printed and distributed, and that he have \$100 for his services.

27. Adjourned till after preaching to-night.

28. After the sermon delivered by brother Everett, the Association was called to order, and the following brethren, viz: D. P. Everott, S. M. Pyles and W. M. Howell, were appointed to draft a form of a standing order of business for the Association, and to report at the next session.

29. On motion, adopted the following resolutions, viz:

Resolved, That in view of the distressed and distracted condition of our country, and that our God in whom alone we trust is waiting to answer the prayers of His people, we recommend all of our churches to hold monthly prayer meetings, to invoke God's blessings on our country and soldiery.

Resolved, That the thanks of this body are due to the citizens of this community for the hospitalities furnished us during the present session, and to our Methodist brethren for the use of

their house of worship on Sabbath. !!

30. Collected \$150, for the benefit of Elder Joshua Mercer.
31. The business being closed, a hymn was sung and the parting hand taken and the Association was then adjourned to the time and place before mentioned. Benediction by the Modera-

STEPHEN ROWE, Clerk.

national grow grandless subgrade to work at the street of the street of

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The West Florida Baptist Association to the Sister Associations with whom she corresponds in christian love:

Dear Brethern:—In the kind providence of our Heavenly Father we are permitted to address you again by way of correspondence. In consequence of having to contend with the increased difficulties and distresses of the war, our churches are again but thinly represented; nevertheless, in the midst of all our difficulties, we have reason to thank God for the outpouring of His spirit upon some of the churches. We were sorry to see so few of our brethren from your bodies, and we do hope that in the kind providence of God we shall ere long be permitted to realize a better state of things, when we can discharge our christian duties with less difficulty. May God in His mercy grant it, and may Heaven's richest blessings rest upon you all is our prayer for Christ's sake.

W. II. LACY, Moderator.

W. B. LACY, Moderator.

STEPHEN ROWE, Clerk.

Names of Ordained and Licensed Ministers, with their Post Office Address:

W. B. Lacy, Greenwood; D. P. Everett, Greenwood; S. M. Pyles, Greenwood; Green Hartsfield, Greenwood; Joshua Mercer, Orange Hill; G. W. Underwood, Orange Hill; Wm. Borum, Beauregard; R. B. C. Lawrence, Marianna; Brinson Hollis, Marianna; Stephen Rowe, Chattahoochee.

LICENTIATES:

T. R. Mercer, Greenwood; S. Cox, Greenwood; — Williams, Greenwood; J. J. Grantham, Chattahoochee; George F. Mercer, Chattahoochee.

SAMPSON LIBRALY

JOHN B. STETSON UNIVERSITY

DeLAND :- FLORIDA

Articles of Faith of the West Florida Association.

ART. 1. We believe in the existence of one only true and living God, and that He has made himself known to his people, under the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, the same in essence, and equal in divine perfection. Exodus 20, 8; Isa. 9, 6 & 46, 9; Matt. 28, 19; Mark 12, 82; Jno. 1, 1—4; & 5, 23 & 10, 30; 1 Jno. 5, 7.

ART, 2. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the words of God, and the only rule of faith and practice. 2 Sam. 23, 2; Acts 1, 16;

2 Tim. 3, 16, 17; 2 Pet. 1, 21.

ART. 3. We believe in the doctrine of election; that God chose his people in Christ before the foundation of the world; that they should be holy and without blame before him in love; having predestinated them to the adoption of children, by Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will. Matt. 20, 16 & 24, 83; Jno. 13, 18 & 15, 16—19; Acts 13, 48; Rom. 8, 28, 29 & 9, 10—16 & 11, 5; Eph. 1, 4, 11; 1 Thess. 1, 4; 2 Thess. 2, 13; 1 Pet. 1, 2.

ART. 4. We believe in the doctrine of Original Sin. Gen. 6, 5; Ps. 5, 9; Eccl.

8, 11; Rom. 6, 20 & 7, 18 & 8, 8; 1 Cor. 2, 14; 2 Cor. 5, 14; Eph. 2, 1-3; Col.

ART. 5. We believe in man's impotency to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature, by his own will and ability. Jno. 6, 44, 45; Rom. 11,

6; Eph. 2, 8, 9.

ART. 6. We believe sinners are justified in the sight of God, only by the imputed righteousness of Christ. Isa. 57, 8; Acts 4, 11, 12; Rom. 3, 21-36 & 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 21.

ART. 7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated, and sanctified by the Holy Ghost. Jno. 6, 68 & 16, 13, 14; 1 Cor. 2, 10—12; 2 Cor. 1, 10—12; Eph. 2, 1—10; 2 Tim. 1, 9; Tit. 3, 4—7.

ART. 8. We believe that nothing can separate the true believers from the love

of God, but that they will be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. Jno. 6, 37; 10, 28-30; 13, 1; 17, 23; Phil. 1, 6; Heb. 6, 17, 18; 1 Pet. 1, 5.

ART. 9. We believe that baptism and the Lord's supper, are ordinances of Jesus Christ, that true believers are the only subjects of these ordinances, and

that immersion only is Baptism. Matt. 3, 5—12; Mark 1, 5; Luke 3, 7; Acts 2, 38—42; Jno. 3, 23; Rom. 6, 3, 4; Col. 2, 12; 1 Pet. 3, 21; Acts 18, 8.

ART. 10.—We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and a general judgment. Job 19, 26, 27; Dan. 12, 2; Hos. 13, 14; Mark 12, 24—27; 1 Cor. 15 chap.;

2 Cor. 5, 10.

ART. 11. We believe that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting, and the joys of the righteous will be eternal. Matt. 25, 46; 2 Thess. 1, 9; Dan. 12, 2; Mark 9, 43, 44; Luke 3, 17; 16, 26; Jno. 3, 36; 2 Th. 1, 7—9; Rev. 14, 9-11.

ART. 12. We believe that no minister has a right to administer the ordinances, unless he is called of God, and come under the imposition of hands by a presbytery, and is in felfowship in the church of which he is a member. Isa. 62, 6; Mal. 2, 7; Acts 14, 23; Rom. 12, 6, 7; 1 Cor. 1, 1; 2 Cor. 5, 18; Col. 4, 17; 1 Tim. 1, 12; Eph. 4, 11-13.

1. Every query sent up to the Association, by any church in this union, shall be read, and put to vote by the Moderator, whether it shall be debated or not, and if there be a majority for it, it shall be taken up and investigated; but if not, it shall be withdrawn, provided always, that those be first considered which effect the union of the churches.

2. Every motion made and seconded, shall come under the observation of the Association of the withdrawn by the under the observation of the Association of the seconder is the moderator.

ation, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

3. Every person who speaks in debate, shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator, and shall not be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject in debate, or use indecorous language. debate, or use indecorous language . No person shall speak more than three times upon the same subject, without leave

of the body.

5. No member shall abruptly break off, or absent himself without leave of the body; and if he so does, he shall be marked as an absentee.

6. The names of the members of the Association shall be enrolled by the Clerk, and

called over as often as the body may require.

7. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, provided the chair be filled, but he shall not vote except the body be equally

8. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to see that these rules are strictly observed by

9. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a regular record of the proceedings of the

body. 10. The minutes of the Association shall be read, and signed by the Moderator and

Clerk, before the body rises.

11. Amendments may be made to this form of government by two-thirds of the members in session.

Respectfully submitted,

W. B. LACY, Chairman.

2

STATISTICS OF THE CHURCHES.

THE NAMES OF ORDAINED MINISTERS IN SMALL CAPITALS, LICENTIATES IN ITAL

Haptiwed. Received by Letter. Dismissed by Letter. Excommunicated. Dead. Trotal in Pellowship.	28.00 50.00 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	15 9 0 1 0 1 54 90 43 1 24 5 12 952
DELEGATES	W. B. LACY, G. HARTSFIELD. S. M. PYLES T. Barnes, W. SOFEY, A. Bevis, W. But let, S. Car, Juo, Godwin, Jas. Godwin King White and J. A. Collier, D. P. Evererrand, G. W. Underwood, STEPHEN ROWE and Lilleton Patterson, No delegation. Carried out fm last year, No delegation. Sterling Athold, Jesse Mercer E. H. Marlin No delegation Dond No delegation	No delegation B. Hotzis and H. L. Sellers.
CLERK'S P. O.	hee.	
CLERKS.	Jas. Godwin, Greenwood J. H. Rowe, Chattahooc J. B. Everett, Greenwood J. Mercer, Open Fond E. H. Marlin, Vernon,	J. M'Pherson,
PASTORS.	W. B. Lacy, W. M. Howell, G. W. Underwood, Stephen Rowe. J. M. Poiner G. Hartsfield R. U. B. Lawrence,	R. C. B. Lawrence, J. M.Pherson, Marianna
CHURCHES AND COUNTIES.	Campbellton, Jackson, Orange Hill, Washington, Sardis, Jackson, Erlendahip, Jackson, Pine Barren, Jackson, Prine Barren, Jackson, Pine Barren, Jackson, Pigrim's Rest, Henry, Alforna, Pilgrim's Creek, Holmes, Pittman's Creek, Holmes, Salem, Jackson, Salem, Jackson, Salem, Jackson, Salem, Jackson, Salem, Jackson, Walton, Camp Creek, Holmes, Suchesanna, Walton, Camp Creek, Holmes, Camp Creek, Holmes, Salechesanna, Walton, Camp Creek, Maiton, Aralichicola, Franklin	son.

932; Baptized, 90; Received by 5; Number of Communicants,

APPENDIX

(A.)

The education committee have to state in this their annual report, that but little business of interest to the association has come to their notice. Owing to the distracted state of the country, caused by the war, your committee have found it impracticable to prosecute the domestic mission as heretofore, and consequently they have suspended the work for the present. There being a surplus in the treasury after paying associational expenses, amounting to 258 60-100 dollars, your committee thought proper to appropriate it in aiding brother W. M. Howell in preaching statedly at a point seven miles west of Campbellton, and brothers G. W. Underwood and Lawrence in preaching to weak churches. Brother Howell reports labor up to Sept. 25th, viz: Sermons preached 20; baptised 5, with a promising condition in his field of labor. The Committee would recommend that your body continue to aid brother Howell to labor at that point. Your Committee have to state in this brief report the mournful fact that one of their body is no more. Our brother F. T. Allen, hitherto so punctual in responding to every call of our common Zion, met a cruel death at the hands of the ruffian invaders of our country while patriotically and nobly facing the enemy in the late battle at Marianna.

Respectfully submitted, W. B. LACY, Ch'm.

(B.)

The Committee on Documents report, that nothing has come to their notice demanding the attention of this body.

STEPHEN ROWE, Chm'n.

(C.

Your Committee on nominations beg leave to report, that they have nominated brother Pyles to preach the introductory sermon for our next session, and brother Lawrence his assistant. Brother Howell to preach the missionary sermon, brother Everett his assistant. All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. A. COLLIER, Chm'n.

The Committee on publication beg leave to report, that it is feared christians do not appreciate as they ought to, the importance of religious books and papers. While it is to be expected that in times like these all men will feel a deep interest in the secular news of the day, the disciples of Jesus should remember that they have a higher interest to subserve, and should first attend to such things as will enhance the prosperity of Zion, and what will more than the support and perusal of good religious periodicals. We recommend the following papers to the patronage of the brethren: The Baptist Banner, by J. N. Ells, Augusta, Ga., the Christian Index, by Samuel Boykin, Macon, Ga., and the Biblical Recorder, by J. D. Hoffhar, Raleigh, N. C.

to report as follows: From the letters from the churches there seems to have been

BRETHREN: - Your Committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave

but few schools carried on this year. There has been a school kept up at the Greenwood Church by brother Thomas Barnes and others with some interest, and as we trust considerable benefit. Brother John Godwin has also kept up a private Sabbath School in his vicinity, in which there was a considerable interest taken by the children. In this school the classes met and recited several lessons during the day, and the diligent study, punctual attendance and indefatigable labors of brother Godwin gives us reason to hope that much good has been accomplished, and we think the example worthy to be followed by others.

The school at Campbellton was organized in the spring with several interesting classes and was attended with much interest by the teachers and students for several months, but the Superintendent and teachers being necessarily absent occasionally, the interest relaxed and the school went down. Yet, we hope, not without doing much good. These are all the Sabbath Schools that have organized in our bounds that your committee is aware of. We would insist on a more lively interest being taken in this great work. What is more important and merits more encouragement from parents than learning their children to read the Bible? Yet how little interest seems to be taken on the part of many parents to accomplish that object! It is generally the case that a few, very few, faithful friends of the cause are expected to do all the Sabbath School labor, as if the Sabbath School cause was not of sufficient magnitude to require all the service and encouragement that can possibly be given by all christian parents. This is what we want to see-all willingly give their efforts to the religious education of the young.

We would also recommend the Child's Index, an excellent child's paper, published at Macon, Ga., by Bro. Samuel Boykin, as a paper well calculated to assist the parent and Sabbath School teacher in religiously educating the rising generation.

Respectfully submitted,

D. P. EVERETT.

DECEASE OF MINISTERS.

Your Committee feel thankful that none of our Ministers have fallen this year, and acknowledge the tender mercies of God in this regard; but we feel that our duty would not be done if we failed to notice in this report the death of three of our worthy Deacons, viz: Brother F. T. Allen, of Greenwood, and brother B. T. Barkley, of Campbellton, and brother H. C. Bragg, of Orange Hill. Brother Allen fell nobly defending his country in the late raid of the enemy at Marianna, aged 71 years. On leaving home the morning of his death, he told his family he was not afraid to die; that he had commended them to God and knew he would take care of them. We are satisfied that brother Allen is at rest, and we sorrow not as others who have no hope, but we regret that he has fallen by the hand of so cruel a foe. But we are confident that the God whom he served will turn all this to good account. May God comfort the bereaved.

Brother Barkley was a good and true man to the cause of his Saviour and his country. He died at his post in the army at Savannah. He rests from his labors. May God comfort and take care of his bereaved wife and dear little children.

Also, brother H. C. Bragg was a good and true man, long serving the churches as a faithful deacon. He has fallen in death during the past year. Peace be to his memory.

Respectfully submitted,

W UNDERWOOD, Chm'n.

D. P. EVERETT, Chm'n.

Your Committee on Missions report : 1st. That but little has been done during the past associationat year in this branch or our christian duties.

2d. That a portion of the information communicated to us has come through the Executive Committee, and we are glad to hear of the success of brother Howell's efforts under appointment of said committee and hope this relation may still be continued.

3rd. We cannot pass unnoticed the interest manifested by the brethren composing the churches in your bounds in the subject of army missions. And here we mention that brother T. J. Wombwell, under appointment of our State convention as general agent for army missions, has visited and preached to some of your churches, and taken up collections somewhat favorable upder the circumstances. Brother Wombwell is also engaged a portion of his time in preaching in the eastern part of your boundary as missionary, receiving aid in part from the Marion Board.

4th. Brother S. M. Pyles is also laboring about two-thirds of his time with the soldiers in our boundary. We have reason to hope that these labors have been blessed of the Lord. Brother Pyles is acting under appointment of brother Wombwell as agent of the convention, and is sustained by funds raised in part in your own bounds. It is probable in the judgment of your committee that with the proper effort upon your part that a sufficient amount can be raised within this association to sustain a missionary all the time in preaching to the soldiers in West Florida. Resolved, therefore, that we will do all in our power to sustain a missionary to preach to our loved ones in our bound, whilst in the service of our country.

Rrother Pyles also reports about one hundred and sixty copies of the Baptist Banner, Christian Index and Biblical Recorder have been distributed amongst our soldiers here and in Gen. Finley's Brigade in the front in the army of Tennessee. Also that these contributions by way of reading matter have been gratefully received, and we trust not without good effect. All of which is respectfully submitted.

S. M. PYLES, Churin.

staper, probability Magneton by Jare. Samuel Doyant. as a super well seemed if to need the parent and Sabbat. School solder in religious to elegation the transplant in reduce.

Respectfully substituted.

(H.)

The Committee on Financheg leave to make the following

	For Minutes.	Associational purposes.	Total.
Campbleton,	. 10 00	\$ 37 00	\$ 47 00
Greenwood,	20 00	95 25	115 25
New Hope,	2 00		2 00
Pilgrim's Rest,		13 00	13 00
Friendship,		22 05	22 05
Sardis,		30 00	30 00
Orange Hill,		25 00	25 00
Poplar Spring,		12 35	12 35
Holmes Valley,	2 00	18 25	20.25
Called A Sall al	\$34 00	\$252 90	\$286 90
Collected on Sabbath,			\$244 00

All of which have been paid over to your Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,

THO. BARNES, Chm'n.

(I.)

William Sorey, Treasurer, in account with t Association.

1863.

Oct. 26.—By amount received of Fin

Oct. 29.—By amount received of F

Oct. 26 .- To am't paid over t for Army Mission

" 26.—To amount paid cl

66 66 1864.

Feb.

" R. " for

Oct. 24, 1864.—Balance on