

OUR HOME FIELD.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE HOME MISSION BOARD OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION, ATLANTA, GA.

VOL. III.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA, MARCH, 1891.

NO. 7.

DEDICATION OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH IN HAVANA ON FEBRUARY 15th, 1890.

The circumstances under which the Home Mission Board purchased, in Havana the "Hans" theatre for the use of our mission there, have been several times given in HOME FIELD, and need not be repeated in detail.

We may simply say now, that after the fullest investigation of all of the facts, and taking the judgment of such business men as Deacon J. S.

In February, 1889, Dr. Tichenor went to Havana with money in hand to make the first payment, but there were difficulties in the way of making us a clear title, and as they seemed of easy solution he came home and left the money in the hands of Brother Diaz to be paid as soon as the title could be perfected. The matter was postponed from time to time, and Diaz was assured that they were mere technicalities, and that he could safely make the payment, and have them adjusted afterwards,

when he received a cablegram to the effect that the title had been perfected and the money for the first payment was needed.

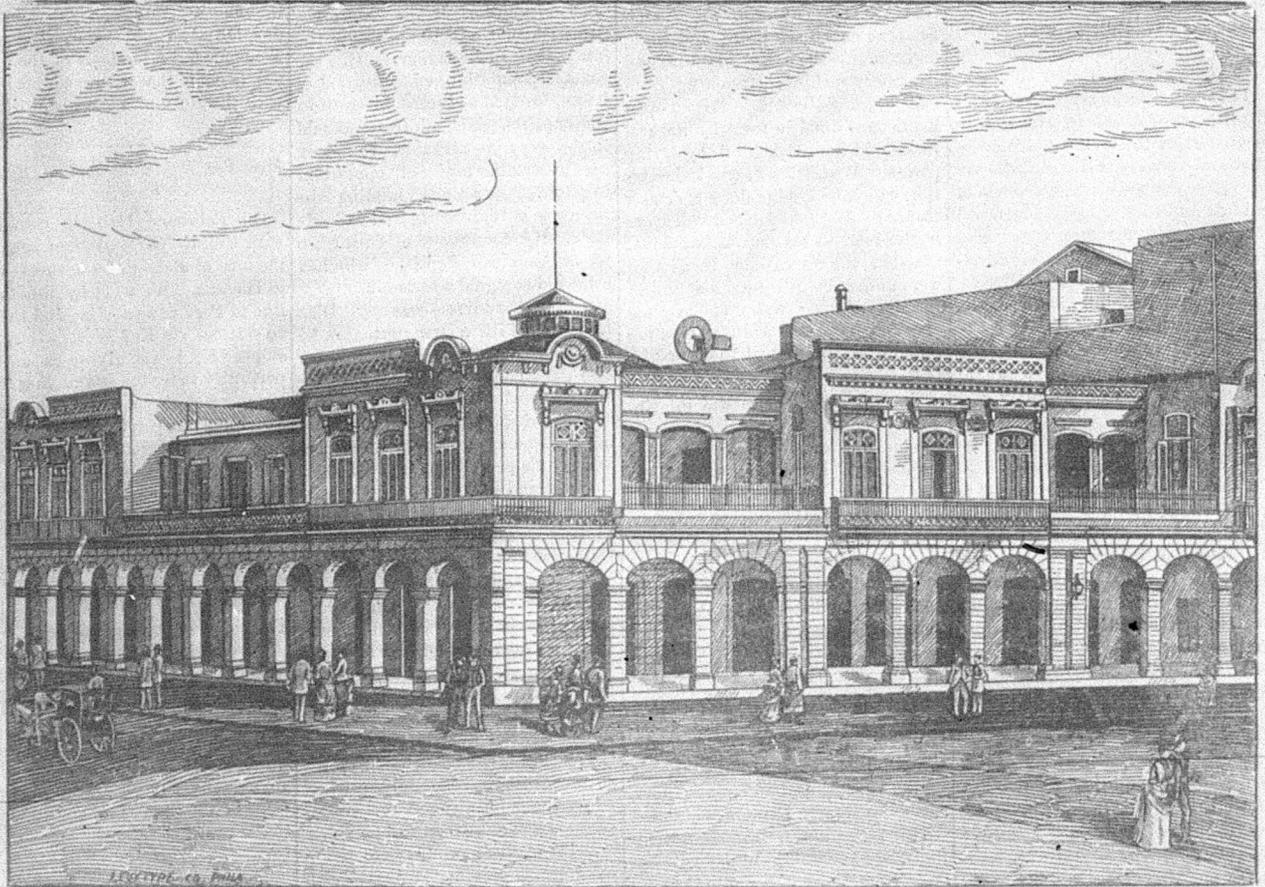
The Board during all this vexatious delay, however, was in the best possible position in reference to the matter. *We had the use of the house free of all rent, and we had the money for the first payment also safe in hand.*

We had always purposed to dedicate the house as soon as we had the title, and brethren all over the country expressed a desire and purpose of being present.

appointed in his expectation of being one of the happy excursionists, but we are fortunate in being able to give the account of the trip and dedication written by several of the party.

From Rev. Dr. Lansing Burrows, in the Christian Index.

The dedication of the Baptist church at Havana marks an historic point in modern mission. It is difficult to convey an adequate conception of the wonderful work which has led up to this longed-for consummation, or the promise of the



GETHSEMANE BAPTIST CHURCH, HAVANA, CUBA.

Paine, of Boston, A. D. Adair and W. A. Hemphill, of Atlanta, and others, the Board unanimously decided that the purchase was a wise one, and it was accordingly made, we agreeing to pay \$65,000 in three annual payments for a magnificent building which cost ten years ago one hundred and forty thousand dollars, which was in good repair, which would answer our purposes much better than any house we could build for twice the money it would cost us, and one which for the stores and dwellings we could get an annual rental of from \$2,500 to \$3,000.

but with that rare "sanctified common sense" which has characterized our noble missionary in all of his management of the affairs of the mission he said: "No, if I were acting for myself I might accept it, but I am acting for the Southern Baptist Convention, and I cannot pay a dollar of this money until the title to the property is made clear beyond all doubt."

After waiting for some time he sent the money back to Treasurer Adair who lent it out "on call," and sent it back to Diaz the afternoon of the day about the first of last Novem-

We were not as fortunate as we could have wished in our arrangements with the railways and steamboats, the meeting of the Workers' Convention in Louisville, and the Baptist Congress in Alabama, and other causes conspired to prevent brethren who had intended going from doing so, and the excursion was not as large, therefore, as we had hoped. But there were from seventy-five to one hundred who went, and we hear from them but one expression—that of enthusiastic delight at the trip and the dedicatory exercises. The editor of HOME FIELD was dis-

work which now must necessarily flow from the vantage thus secured. The conditions are widely different from those to which we are accustomed. There are difficulties apart from those which spring out of the violent antagonism of Rome, of which we have little or no conception. Roman churches, for example, are museums and art galleries, to be visited as places of exhibition, and their treasures reward the sight-seer, who is indifferent to religious sentiments.

The more wealthy a particular church, the greater the wonderful

things with which it is stored, and the greater the throngs who use it, simply as a treasure house.

In Catholic countries, the great open spaces of the church interiors, with their cool, inviting shades, are dotted with groups of careless loungers or inquisitive tourists, who inspect and disappear. This has bred the custom of a familiar use of all houses of worship, and people come and go as the impulse moves them, without a dream of disrespect to either God or man. This restless, continuous movement in a large mixed congregation impressed the Americans in Havana as something strange. Yet, the idler in an evangelical house would be more apt to be impressed with truth, than amid the ornate ceremonies of a Romish Mass, and as it is the custom of the country, no particular harm is done and few are disturbed. There are other difficulties more serious than this, springing out of the mercurial disposition of the people, and their intense desire for pleasure.

There were, perhaps fifty American Baptists who landed in Havana to be greeted by the loving welcome of Diaz and Cova and Porta, who at once gave themselves to the work of guiding and interpreting the strange tongues to unaccustomed ears. The days prior to the Sabbath were devoted to excursions to places of interest. Thus were visited and inspected the sugar mills and fruit plantations, the Morro Castle and fortifications, the Cathedral containing the bones of Columbus, the city of Matanzas and valley of Guanari, the consecrated burial spot of the Baptists, and the homes and shops of Havana.

There were representative Baptists from Georgia, Florida, the Carolinas, Virginia, Alabama, Kentucky and the cities of Boston and Chicago. Among the more widely known were Dr. Hawthorne, Dr. Mason of Boston, Dr. Durham of North Carolina, Brethren Sheldon of Chicago, Weller of Louisville, Jas. Leigh, Jones and T. H. Eliott of Richmond, and many of the Florida neighbors, from whom this Cuban work originated, humanly. Nor were consecrated and earnest women wanting, upon whose hearts this work had been lying heavily, and whose joy and gratitude were manifested in brimming eyes.

The morning of Sunday, Feb. 15th, was typical. Fleecy clouds moved softly over the wondrous blue, impelled by a breeze of balm which came spice-laden from the Caribbean. The touch of the air was like that of a relief, pressing the benediction of love. The fronds of the royal palms waved like triumphal torches, as if in ecstatic measure in an anthem of praise. Like refined gold, the beams of the tropic sun burnished the roofs of the quaint city and checkered the pavements through the wide sweep of arcades. Nature seemed sympathetic with the happy disciples who were flocking to

their own sanctuary. The house is immense in size and admirable for location. Less than five minutes walk from the cluster of hotels, and but a step from the parked Prado, it is accessible from every avenue and itself a center. It was built ten years since as a theatre. What would the old Cuban have thought had he been told that he was erecting a Baptist church? He made it an ideal amphitheatre with an inside diameter of 75 feet. Beyond this parquette, extend the galleries, two in number, and thence spring the iron rafters which make the dome until they meet 80 feet above the floor. These rafters, as well as the gallery fronts, are moulded in delicate tracery and the spaces between, as the walls behind, are frescoed in tasteful designs. In the panels of the same, the letters stand boldly out which declare that "Dios es Amor"—God is love. The proscenium arch faces the entrance, broad and high, and contains the pulpit platform and baptistery behind, stretching from end to end of the arch. It is an open baptistery, lined in front by natural rocks, and framed behind by living plants. A painting of tropical exterior, which had done duty once as a theatrical scene, fills the wall space in the rear, so that on a baptismal occasion the appearance is as if it were under the free heavens and in the Master's own land. The original opera chairs furnished in the erection remain for the use of the worshipers.

The morning service was in English. The usual hour is eight o'clock, but on this occasion, it was near noon. The house was well filled, many of the auditors being American guests of the adjacent hotels. The exercises were conducted by Dr. Tichenor. The Scripture was read by Dr. C. Durham, and an appropriate prayer made by Dr. A. P. Mason. The addresses were by this editor and Dr. J. B. Hawthorne, in the order named. The two addresses aimed at a synopsis of Baptist doctrine. The first touched upon the vital differences existing between the true Christianity of the Bible and that crude, undeveloped and partial type visible in Roman Catholic countries. These variations respected individuality as antagonized by Hereditary, Voluntaryism as opposed to Ceremonialism, and the Motive of Life from an End rather than unto an End. The true type of the New Testament Christian was made to appear in individual acceptance of Christ, a simple, voluntary service of Christ and as impelled by an assurance of present salvation.

The address of Dr. Hawthorne, following this line of thought treated of the doctrines of Faith, of Obedience as the Index of Faith and of the liberated Conscience, untrammelled by the dictates of temporal power, upon this great distinctive principle of Baptists. The orator was fully up to

his enviable reputation as a bold, lucid, impressive speaker. Pastor Diaz attempted to follow with a brief address, but was visibly overcome by his emotion.

The evening was set apart for the Spanish service. The great house was filled. The Cuban Baptists were there in force. A large number of native Cubans and resident Spaniards thronged the galleries. Nearly twenty judges of the various courts, with lawyers and merchants were recognized. Intelligence and character were stamped upon the faces of vast numbers. The proportion of children—well behaved, interested, eager—was large. Pastor Cova, of the Pilar church, first spoke, from the closing verses of Luke's Gospel. An English address, from Rev. H. M. King of Key West, in whose church the first mission work of Cuba, was planned, followed, giving an account of the inception of the enterprise. Senor Chomat, a jurist and one of the law judges, spoke as representing the general population, who, wearied of Rome, fostered a sincere interest in the Baptists. His address was said to be very remarkable, sounding no uncertain note of opposition to Roman exactions, lauding the principle of soul-liberty and extending hearty assurances of friendship to the American Baptists, who had achieved so signal a triumph.

The last address was by Diaz himself. With a few sentences, he became the master of a throng which had grown somewhat weary under the unusually protracted exercises. His fervid spirit burned with intense ardor, and his passionate utterances swayed his people, then melted them to tears and led them to the heights of religious ecstasy. It was a scene to be remembered; the Apostle of Cuba was aflame with emotion, as he beheld the consummation of hopes fed with the tears of anxiety, and while he spoke in an unknown tongue to us, we readily caught his meaning from his graceful, yet animated, delivery. Diaz never appeared to us so great and noble and consecrated as in this hour of his triumph.

The closing scene of all was his entrance into the beautiful baptistery where he administered the ordinance to two young men and two girls.

Between these two services occurred a strange episode. It was the visit of the large delegation of American Baptists to the imprisoned Arriaga. For four months he has lain in the common jail, without even the pretensions of a trial, for having declared his faith in the New Testament order. The charge is that he spoke disrespectfully of the Bishop of Porto Rico, and while nothing was said directly of this dignitary, so highly elevated above the shafts of criticism, it is affirmed that Arriaga meant him. It is, of course, but a diaphanous excuse for putting a minister of Christ in prison. It was gratifying to see what absorbing interest took possession of the large

company who crowded around him for an hour, in his cheerless prison. The grateful gladness which illumined his intelligent features, as he welcomed his visitors, had but one counterpart in the feast of the dedication—that was the noble countenance of our grand Home Secretary, who had modestly chosen a subordinate position in these festivities. Himself an orator of rare gifts, he had preferred to bestow the privilege of the addresses upon others. The guiding mind which has, under God, worked out this great achievement, was content to yield the place of prominence to his brethren. But as he sat and watched with misty eyes the progress of the crowning day, his face glowed as Peter's must have shown when he saw "the glory in the holy mount," and his bosom heaved with joyous emotion to which even his own golden eloquence could find no adequate expression. A happy day for Diaz and Cuba, it was to Tichenor but a foretaste of the great day to come that will crown his brow with the glory of a successful life.

B.

From Rev. Dr. C. Durham, in *Biblical Recorder*.

On February 11th, in company with Bro. E. G. Harrell, I left the city of Raleigh for a short visit to Havana. We went by the Coast line to Port Tampa, Fla., and thence on steamer via Key West. Here we stopped six hours, giving us an opportunity to see the Island, Fort Taylor, the factories, city, churches, etc., and I had the privilege of preaching to a good congregation hurriedly gotten together in the beautiful Baptist church. We left at 10 o'clock p. m., and at sunrise Saturday we arrived at Havana. I remained in Havana five days, and reached Raleigh last Saturday evening.

The entire trip was most refreshing. The object of it was to be present at the dedication of the first house of worship for Baptist people, ever secured on this Island, and, from personal observation on the field, to gather the facts about our mission work there, that I might be, as I go among the churches and Associations of the State, the more helpful to the cause of missions among our people.

The property purchased cost \$60,000. Twenty thousand of this amount has been paid, twenty thousand is to be paid December 1st, 1891, and the last payment is to be made December 1st, 1892. This is all without interest. The building will seat about three thousand people, and is as well located for this great city of 250,000 people as the First Baptist church of this city is for Raleigh. The best judges of real estate in this city say that the ground itself is worth every dollar we have paid and are to pay for the property.

The morning services were all in English, and special addresses were made by Dr. Hawthorne of Atlanta,

and Dr. Burrows of Augusta, Ga. The services at night were in English and Spanish. A sermon in Spanish, a sermon in English, an address in behalf of the people of the city by one of the judges of the Supreme Court of Havana, and then a sermon of great power and surpassing eloquence by Bro. Diaz from the text, "Mine eyes have seen thy salvation."

After this four persons were baptized, and then the great congregation of fifteen hundred people who had listened so anxiously, and had been moved to tears time and again as Bro. Diaz preached, turned away to their homes, and we saw them no more.

Bro. Arriaga, a Baptist preacher, and a former Catholic priest, is in prison. He has been in prison since October 26th, 1890, and cannot reach a hearing in the court till the last of March. There he will doubtless go forth to do the Lord's work in preaching the gospel with greater power than ever before. In company with Drs. Tichenor and Diaz, I visited this brother in prison, and found him, old John Bunyan like, hopeful, determined, and willing thus to suffer, if by it the cause of the Lord could be advanced. Let us all pray for him. Never has there been a braver or more faithful little band of Baptists in the fires of persecution through all the ages than these fourteen hundred Cuban Baptists, and never has there been wiser planning or more heroic sacrifices to establish the Baptist cause. The foundation for a great and lasting work is being rapidly and most judiciously laid, and God, it seems, has guided in every step of this most extraordinary and hopeful effort to give the gospel to Cuba. The half has never been told.

This native ministry, nothing like it in all the past century of missions, will, under God, give the gospel to the millions of people on this bountiful Island. Hastily,

C. DURHAM.

From Col. John H. Weller, of Louisville, in *Western Recorder*.

Bro. John H. Weller, the efficient Sunday-school Superintendent of 224 and Walnut St., writes a very interesting letter to the *Western Recorder*, which we should be glad to publish in full, but our space will only allow the following extracts:

"Emotions fill of my heart, when I think of Bro. Diaz's great work for God; his mother's noble mission to educate the people; and Miss Minnie's dearer and really more far-reaching, gentle efforts for the Cuban children. If there is one thing in the Christian life I would attain more than aught else, it is grace enough for such a life as theirs. On Thursday, at 1:30 p. m., Mr. Diaz was called upon to marry a couple from Chicago (in English) at his church. I was invited, and of course went. They were Miss Sylvia Spring-

er and Mr. C. W. Doton, of Chicago, Ill., at present sojourning here with the bride's parents. They had long been lovers, and suddenly concluded to make an end of courtship and a beginning of wedded bliss while on this "Gem of the Antilles." It was solemn and romantic, and Dr. Tichenor's prayer at the close made an impression on us all, which I hope may lead the youngsters to a life as useful as their present appearance indicates."

"After landing at Havana, we took quarters at Hotel Inglaterra, and so soon as we had our breakfasts, proceeded to 'hunt' for Cuban Baptists. It has been my greatest pleasure, on this the most pleasant of all my journeyings, to discover Baptists who do not speak one word of English, and many who never heard our language before. You have no idea how touching and heart-melting it is to hear them pray and preach and sing in their own language, so strange and new to me. I attended the mission known as the Second, on Neptuno and Solidad streets, the evening of our arrival. Bro. Diaz performed the marriage ceremony for a couple in that congregation after the prayer-meeting. It was the second marriage, they having been heretofore joined by the civil authorities. Not knowing this, we thought we had discovered a great peculiarity in the conduct of the contracting parties. The gentleman was a deacon in said church. Leastwise he passed the contribution basket and officiated around after the manner of our deacons. Bro. Diaz called them up at the close, and they came from out the congregations in different directions, met at the front of the church, were married and then separated as unconcernedly as though nothing unusual had happened. Bro. Diaz is pastor of this church as well as of the First, and he presided at prayer-meeting, with his sister, Miss Minnie, at the organ. Here, as at the First church, the singing was excellent, owing to the fact that it was participated in by pupils of the Baptist day and Sunday-schools. The brethren took active part in the meeting, talking and leading in prayer freely. In appearance, saving complexion, they are easily equal to the brethren in any of our home churches. In manner when speaking, far superior. They are generally of the rich Spanish-Cuban type, which to me is strikingly agreeable. Thus I spent the time attending church, and one of the day schools (free, all of them) conducted by the young sister of Bro. Diaz, Miss Minnie. She is bright, intelligent and active, seemingly fitted for this great work. His mother is also very active, having general charge of the women and girls of all the schools. I can hardly restrain words; you can 'edit' them down, but you can no more 'edit' my emotions than you can drink the great gulf that divides us."

"In company with the visitors quartered at the Hotel Telegrafo, we early Wednesday went to the jail to see Rev. Francis Arriaga, now confined there. When he renounced Catholicism (he being a priest) he wrote a card for the press stating his views, etc. The Spanish Government construed a portion of the address to be a reflection upon the Bishop of Porto Rico, which was not so intended, and he was seized and placed in the jail where there are about seven hundred prisoners, representing every kind of criminal known to the Spanish law. Where freedom of speech and the press are muzzled it is not surprising that we find newspaper men, Free Masons and Cuban sympathizers called rebels. Mixing freely with these are murderers, cut-throats, bandits and all sorts of criminals.

"Our brother has been there since November 1, 1890, and will stay until it suits the whim of the Captain General to grant him a trial. We pressed him to tell us if he needed anything, and his invariable answer was that he only desired his freedom in order to preach the gospel. He is apparently about thirty-five years of age, and if I am not mistaken in him, he is just the man to make a tremendous stir among his countrymen when he regains his freedom. The worst that can happen if the Government find him guilty will be banishment or a continuation in jail."

"You may form some idea of the vast work before the brethren here. It surely is in safe and reliable hands, and our prayer should be for more help.

"A brief description of the building dedicated yesterday, after which the programme of the service, and I will relieve your patience. The property purchased was the Theatre or El Circo Jane, on Dragones near El Prado, the very heart of the city, and in the most beautiful part of this one of the most magnificently built cities in the world. It cost \$149,000 in Spanish gold to the builder of it in 1881. Our Board gave \$65,000 for it; one-third cash, balance in one and two years without interest. Second payment due next December. It is likely that if the whole balance is tendered then a deduction of \$5,000 could be had.

"The lot is about 120x100 and every inch built upon. The building is of white limestone, stuccoed to preserve the same from decay and discoloration by climate. The shape of auditorium is polygonical (having eighteen sides) and nearly circular. Parquetto, dress circle and gallery supported by iron beams reaching to the stately dome, and the whole covered with a metal roof. The architecture compares well with the buildings in the neighborhood, being massive and antique in design. The whole is of stone and iron except the

floors, which are of wood. Chairs are used for sittings. Acoustics perfect. Baptistery runs across the stage along the edges of which are arranged artistically shells, growing plants and flowers, giving it a realistic appearance. It is beautiful, and has running water passing through all the time. When I use an old expression and say that the baptisms performed yesterday by the pastor "was the grandest sight I ever beheld," I do not believe I will ever have to retract. If you had seen that glorious sight, you would not let me take it back. I sat as one in an ancient temple of the gods, entranced and scarce realizing that in that seemingly classic spot I beheld so much honor and glory and praise shown forth to my blessed Saviour.

"The building seats comfortably 2,500, and can easily accommodate 3,000 to 3,500. Following is an account of the dedicatory services. There were two, morning and evening. Morning was taken by the visitors and in English; evening in Spanish."

Bro. Weller then gives the full programme of the dedication exercises, and closes as follows:

"The services were conducted by the pastor, Rev. A. J. Diaz baptizing two young ladies and two young gentlemen into the fellowship of that church.

"The audience was deeply moved while Mr. Diaz was addressing them. There were many in tears in all portions of the building.

JOHN H. WELLER.

"Havana Cuba, Feb. 16, 1891."

From Rev. C. H. Nash, of Florida, in the *Religious Herald*.

HAVANA, CUBA, Feb. 17, 1891.

EDWARDS RELIGIOUS HERALD.—The dedication of the house of worship of the First Baptist church of Havana took place yesterday with appropriate services. Dr. I. T. Tichenor, of Atlanta, remarked at the opening that, ten years ago, when there was not a Baptist on the Island of Cuba, had some one, who had had foresight given him, told the man who was at that time putting up this house for a theatre, that it would, at the close of a single decade, be dedicated to the worship of the Almighty God by a people at the farthest religious remove from Romanism, he would have treated the prophecy with contempt and derision. "What hath God wrought?" Appropriate and affecting indeed was the commingling of the English and Spanish tongues in singing "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

Dr. Durham, of N. C., read the Scriptures, and Dr. A. P. Mason, of Boston, Mass., offered prayer. After singing the old hymn, "All hail the power of Jesus' name," Dr. Lansing Burrows, of Augusta, Ga., set forth some of the great distinctive principles separating Baptist churches from Romanism.

It would be impossible, in the (Continued on fifth page.)

OUR HOME FIELD.

[Entered at the Post-office at Atlanta, Ga., as second-class mail matter.]

The price of OUR HOME FIELD has now been reduced to 25 cents per annum, for each paper regardless of the number taken by churches or individuals. We thus furnish an eight-page, illustrated paper for a mere pittance, and urge pastors and others to exert themselves to extend our circulation.

We have also reduced our advertising rates, for the terms of which application should be made to the Editor.

All communications for the columns of the paper, and all subscriptions or advertisements, or other matter pertaining to the paper should be addressed to J. Wm. Jones, Editor, P. O. Box 307, Atlanta, Ga.

J. WILLIAM JONES, EDITOR.

ATLANTA, GA., MARCH, 1891.

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REV. J. H. DEVOTIE, D. D.

The brother, so long and so efficiently engaged in the work of the Master among our Southern churches, who was so tenderly loved by his brethren, and whose name is linked with so many of our denominational enterprises, is no more.

On Monday, February 16th, he fell asleep in Jesus to awake at the resurrection of the just.

Brother DeVotie was born in the State of New York, September 24th, 1811. Coming South in early manhood he was converted and baptized in Savannah, Ga., December 2d, 1831. He subsequently entered Furman University, where he remained about two years. Removing to Alabama, he became pastor of the church, first in Tuscaloosa, then in Montgomery, and afterwards at Marion.

While pastor at the last named place he was largely instrumental in founding Howard College.

When the Southern Baptist Convention was organized, the Home Mission Board was located at Marion, and he was made its president, holding this position during all the remaining years of his pastorate there.

While in Marion his work was by no means confined to the church of which he was pastor. Then in the

full vigor of his manhood, he traveled over the State, advocating now this and then that great enterprise. He built the Judson, the first Baptist Female College in the South. He raised the funds to build Howard College, and then raised an endowment of one hundred thousand dollars for it. He took the infantile Home Mission Board in his loving arms and pleaded for it until Alabama and the other Southern States answered his call and supplied it with needed funds.

The name of no man stirs more tender memories in the hearts of Alabama Baptists to-day than that of Brother DeVotie.

In 1856 he removed to Columbus, Georgia, and followed the eloquent and beloved John E. Dawson, as pastor of the First Baptist church. During the fourteen years he remained



REV. J. H. DEVOTIE, D. D.,
BORN SEPTEMBER 24TH, 1811, DIED FEBRUARY 16TH, 1891.

there his hand and heart were employed in every good work that called for aid. He was largely instrumental in founding the system of public schools that now exists in that city, and his work for the poor will never be forgotten.

From 1870 to 1877 he was pastor of the church in Griffin, which he resigned, accepting the position of Corresponding Secretary of the State Board which he held at the time of his death.

We think the general verdict of the Baptists of Georgia and those of Alabama who remember him, will be that no man ever preached the gospel more tenderly, and sweetly than he, that no man ever loved his brethren with a larger, warmer love, and that his memory will be cherished and his name honored equally with those of the noblest and wisest of our honored dead.

"FUTURES."

It is an axiom in social science that conditions being equal, population in any country will equalize itself according to natural advantages.

In our country, heretofore, conditions have not been equal. And though not fully so now, the barriers to this equality are rapidly disappearing. When this shall be the case the South will take her proper rank among the other sections of the country.

What will then be her wealth, population and political power we may form some conception by a simple comparison.

Pennsylvania has 5,258,000 inhabitants. But for the great commercial advantages of New York City, which controls the larger part of both the import and export trade of the country, she would be in point of popula-

Pennsylvania and undersell her great rival.

Twenty-three furnaces in Ohio and Pennsylvania recently went out of blast because they said that southern iron had been sold at their doors at prices with which they could not compete.

In water power, Alabama is the superior of the two. The shoals of the Tallapoosa, the Coosa, the Cahaba, the Warrior, and the Tennessee and their branches are scarcely equalled for manufacturing facilities by those of any State.

In agricultural products the inequality between the two States is even greater. The valley of the Tennessee in North Alabama and the prairie region of central Alabama are in fertility and productiveness more than equal to the agricultural resources of Pennsylvania. In no one of the staple products, unless it be wheat, can Pennsylvania equal her sister. It is safe to say that Alabama can be made to produce all that Pennsylvania does, and then a million of bales of cotton besides.

In climate, there is no comparison. An acre in central Alabama of equal fertility and under equal skill can be made to produce crops as early and as abundant as an acre of Pennsylvania covered over with glass and converted into a greenhouse. Yet while Pennsylvania has 5,258,000 people Alabama, has but 1,500,000.

Now what we insist upon is that the population of these two States must and will be made equal, or rather that the population of Alabama must exceed that of Pennsylvania, by as much as her area and natural advantages are greater. Such an equalization will give Alabama four times her present population.

Nor is the time of such equalization in the remote future. It is much nearer at hand than most people imagine.

This point we reserve for elaboration in another number.

The comparison between these two States holds true approximately of the two sections North and South.

We call attention to this matter to show its bearing upon our mission work. The work before the Mission Boards of Southern Baptists is becoming greater and more important every year.

It is only as our people realize that that they will be stimulated to furnish the means necessary for this vast work.

A BAPTIST ABROAD.

By Rev. W. A. Whittle, with an Introduction by Dr. J. L. M. Curry.
Published by J. A. Hill & Co., Union Square, New York.

Books of travel are very numerous, and many of them scarcely worth the reading. But we can heartily commend this book, as written by the facile pen of a bright, active, young man who kept his eyes wide open while traveling in the most interesting portions of the old world, and who tells in very attractive style just the things we would wish to know. Brother Whittle's letters from abroad in several of the papers attracted great attention and excited great interest, and we hope that this book will find a place in many homes, excite a deep interest in the lands of which it treats, and be of permanent value to many who shall read it.

We suggest that it is an admirable book to put into our Sunday-school libraries as well as into the homes of the people.

tion the first State in the Union. Her resources of iron and coal would give her the easy supremacy. But Pennsylvania's natural resources are in every particular inferior to those of Alabama.

In area they stand:
Pennsylvania, square miles, 46,000
Alabama, " " 50,000

The coal area of the two States is about equal, with the advantage of greater thickness of coal measures and greater number of workable seams in Alabama.

In iron ores there is no comparison. Pennsylvania buys much of her ore from Lake Superior, while Alabama's ores are found in such vast quantities as to excite the wonder of all who behold them.

The proximity of materials for the manufacture of pig iron in Alabama is so favorable that she is able to lay it down in the principal mart of

A FEW WORDS ABOUT OUR PAPER may, perhaps, be pardoned, as we have not been in the habit of having much to say in that direction.

1. We are sending out, from time to time, postal card notices of the amounts due us by subscribers, and we beg brethren to respond promptly to our call. The pittance of *Twenty-Five cents* (or even *Fifty cents* if that much is due), is a very small matter to the individual, but the aggregate is a very important matter to us.

2. We have been very much gratified at the kindly words about the paper received from brethren whose good opinions we value, and if we thought proper to do so, we might fill columns with such commendations. But we give only two, one from Virginia and one from Texas. Wm. Ellyson, Esq., of Richmond, so long known as the "Lay Bishop of the Dover Association," and whom the State Mission Board has recently elected to succeed his lamented father (Hon. H. K. Ellyson) as its Corresponding Secretary, says in a private letter: "When the pressure of work is somewhat over I will be pleased to drop a few lines to *OUR HOME FIELD*. I congratulate all interested on the able paper you have made it. *It is a model of its kind.*"

Rev. Dr. J. B. Cranfill, the efficient superintendent of Missions of the Texas Convention, writes: "*I received your last HOME FIELD, and think you improve as you progress.*"

If it be true that "Praise from Sir Hubert is praise indeed," then we have cause to warmly appreciate the opinions of these two Mission Secretaries.

3. Is it not time that many of our brethren who have promised us clubs were sending them forward?

4. But without waiting to make up your club *Be sure and send us your own subscription* and others, if you can get them, *at once.*

THE REPORT OF THE HOME MISSION BOARD to the approaching meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention will depend largely upon the action of our churches and Sunday-schools within the next two months.

We have had during the conventional year a larger number of missionaries, and they have done a better work than ever before and our receipts also are larger than ever.

But we greatly need an *increase* of receipts, and we beg that pastors, Sunday-school superintendents, deacons, women's missionary societies, and lovers of missions generally will remember their Home Mission Board, and send us *at least one collection* before our treasurer closes his books the last of April. But we beg church, association and State treasurers *not to wait until the last of April*, but send us *now* what money they have on hand, and to continue to forward it *as fast as they receive it*, as we are constantly needing all of the money we can get.

Some of the States are behind their contributions of last year, and all are behind the quotas asked of them this year. Will they come up in March and April?

Let us hear from you, brethren, and remember that "*he gives twice who gives quickly.*"

(Continued from third page.)

space of a letter like this to give anything like a satisfactory synopsis of this address (not a sermon) or the one by Dr. J. B. Hawthorne, of Atlanta, following. They were both masterly and eloquent. Both brought out so clearly the great ground principles which characterize us as a denomination as the antipodes of Romanism, that many express a wish that they might be translated into Spanish and published in some of the papers of the city. Probably something of the kind will be done.

Prayer was offered by Rev. C. H. Nash, of Ocala, Fla., and then the hymn sung, "The morning light is breaking."

Dr. Tichenor introduced Rev. A. J. Diaz after telling a little of his truly wonderful story. Diaz said that he could not find words, even in his own language, to express his deep feeling, and felt like saying, "Now lestest thou thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation."

The morning service closed with the hymn, "How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord." The night service was mostly in Spanish. Several of the Cuban brethren, among whom were Rev. J. V. Cova and Judge Charnat, made short addresses, and seemed to have an unction from above. Diaz manifested especial power, and moved many of his listeners to tears. At the close of this service four were led down into the water and "buried with Christ in baptism." The whole service was impressive, and after the benediction there was a cordial handshaking between many of the Cuban and American Christians.

There were perhaps a hundred or more English speaking people present, and a thousand or twelve hundred Cubans. And yet, on this day, came the annual "Mardi Gras"—a carnival of all kinds of fantastic display, and the roar was like the "noise of many waters," and very far from being as pleasant. The within, at the altar of Divine worship, was in amazing contrast with the without, at the shrine of a goddess merry-making. It was indeed a great day in Havana for the Devil, but it was a greater day for God. For there were in motion influences that day which shall more and more break the power of Romanism and release our enslaved people.

This edifice is centrally located, substantially built, and all things considered, it is probably the best possible investment which the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention could make at this time for the Baptist cause in Cuba. I was informed by those who had looked into the matter, that a sufficient lot, in a good locality, with a building put there which would

seat 1,000, would cost not less than \$70,000. The building just dedicated will seat from 2,500 to 3,000. The business places, which form a part of the building, will net over and above taxes near \$2,000. This building cost \$65,000 in Spanish gold, about \$60,000 in our money. Twenty thousand dollars of this has been paid, and the deed has been turned over to Dr. Tichenor. One-half of the remainder will be due December 8, 1891, the other half December 8, 1892. This will all be without interest. Thorough business men have looked into this matter and after reporting on it, have been instructed by the Board to do what has been done. They tell us that even if the Baptist cause in Havana should fail, the investment would be a good one; for the ground on which the building stands is worth to-day all that the entire property cost.

He would indeed be an evil prophet who now would prophesy failure in the face of a phenomenal success. Where in all the mission work of the Southern Baptist Convention has there been anything like it? The First Baptist Church in Cuba was organized only four years ago; to-day there are seven churches, twenty-one preaching places, four ordained ministers, seven preachers, and over 1,500 members.

There seems to be great care in receiving members, and time given for one to realize and give evidence of a change of heart. The per cent. of failures, thus far, in a continued consistent life, is less than in our own churches at home.

In closing this letter let me refer to Rev. Ariaga, the converted priest, who has been in the Havana jail for three months for declaring his religious convictions through the newspapers. Many of his Baptist friends from the United States visited him on Sunday evening, and expressed their sympathy by a cordial shake of the hand, or through the words of an interpreter. He seemed in good spirits, and willing to endure for Christ's sake. His trial does not come off until the 18th of March. The story of this man's conversion is a very interesting one, but too long to be told here. But we may judge something of the quality of that conversion, from such words as he uttered through the public press: "I renounce the idolatry of the church of Rome, the worship of the Pope, the worship of the Virgin Mary, the worship of Saints and the worship of the Church." "I accept Jesus Christ as my Saviour, and rely on him for my salvation." Cuba, in her state religion, is not yet beyond the darkness of the Middle Ages, and Rome, left with unbroken power, will hold any nation, religiously, in that medieval darkness forever. God grant that the dawn of a better day, which has come to Cuba, may brighten into the noontide glory of a perfect day.

C. H. NASH.

From T. H. Ellett Esq., of Richmond, Va., in the *Religious Herald*.

It was arranged to have two services, one on Sunday morning in English, and one in the afternoon in Spanish. The addresses in the morning were made by Dr. Lansing Burrows and Dr. J. B. Hawthorne. Dr. Burrows' theme was, "Fundamental principles of Christianity as they are distinguished from those of the Catholic Church." Dr. Hawthorne's was a presentation of our "Baptist principles as distinguished from all other denominations." They were both able addresses.

There was a gentleman from the States who said that he learned more from these two addresses than he had learned in twenty years. The result will be, I think, that he will unite with the Baptist church.

Dr. Tichenor presented Dr. Diaz to the congregation and he delivered an admirable address. There were about 1,000 people present at the morning services.

At night, Dr. Diaz conducted the service, it being in Spanish. There were 1,500 to 2,000 persons present. Bro. Cova, one of our Havana preachers, made the first speech.

Mr. Charnat, a distinguished lawyer of Havana, made an address in behalf of the non-Catholic people of Havana, welcoming our American people and thanking them for their liberality in aiding the Cuban Baptists. This was regarded as a very fine address and made a profound impression on the Spanish people. Dr. Diaz spoke next. During his speech, which was powerful, a large number of people were tears.

I took occasion to examine the property carefully and formed an opinion as to the action of the Board in the purchase. I think they have acted wisely. It is located in the centre of the city, and will accommodate about 2,500 to 3,000 people. It is a great building and well suited to our purposes. Besides what we use for worship, the three stores and three dwellings will rent for \$2,500 per year.

T. H. ELLETT.

Havana, February 18, 1891.

From a letter of Mrs. Louie M. Gordon in the *Atlanta Constitution*.

HABANA, Cuba, Sunday, February 15.—[Special Correspondence.]—This has been a grand day for Havana and for our Christian people. This city has never had anything like it to occur in all of her history. The first Protestant church of any pretensions was dedicated with appropriate exercises in presence of a large congregation of about 100 Americans and 1,000 Cubans.

Ten years ago one of the wealthiest men in Havana built what is now the Baptist house of worship for a theatre in this city of theatres and opera houses.

It will seat 3,000 people and is highly ornamented. Dr. Tichenor said to-day:

"If some one who could scan the future had told this man when he was building this structure that it would be used by the Baptists as a house of worship, he would have laughed them to scorn and derision." Such a prediction would have seemed absurd then, for there was not a Baptist on this "Isle of the Sea."

This house is situated in the best part of the city—is central and covers nearly one-fourth of a square. It cost us about \$60,000 in our currency, and fine business men like Mr. A. D. Adair, Mr. J. T. Fitzgerald, of Alabama; Mr. James Leigh Jones, Mr. T. H. Ellett, of Richmond, Va.; Mr. E. E. Rawson, Major M. C. Kiser, Mr. Cornelius Jordan, Professor Charles Cox and the ministers who are here, think the investment a splendid one, and should Cuba be annexed to the United States the property would immediately enhance four times its present value; which, according to the opinion of these splendid business men, is now \$100,000. One-third of the amount for the house has been paid and the other two-thirds are to be paid in one and two years, without interest. We think the southern Baptist convention is to be congratulated upon the wisdom shown by the board. Dr. Tichenor deserves the thanks of all Baptists for his untiring work and devotion in establishing this mission in such a building, which is really a block of buildings on the finest business street here, and for a price so much below its real value.

Besides the splendid auditorium, there are two galleries which reach high up into the dome-shaped ceiling. Around the top of this ceiling are the words *Dios es Amour*, ("God is Love.")

Cuba's sun shone with glad beams, and surely the skies in Italy were no more beautiful than this to-day as we went to this house of God. Most of the passers-by were seeking pleasure-exciting scenes. Brass bands could be heard on all sides tempting the dancers to pass by any holy temple. It was time for the opening of the annual fancy dress ball for the children, and many were the gaily dressed little ones who were in charge of fond parents on their way to this festival-making. This is carnival day, as will be next Sunday—the Cubans celebrating the first two Sundays of Lent in this way—and now and then a masker would dash by to join the fantastic pageant, which would soon enliven the streets in gay procession. What a strange, new scene it was to one from Atlanta, with her church-going people, who respect and reverence God's day. It produced a feeling of wonder and a strange chill of almost fear as we pushed our way through the laughing, jeering crowd into the church, where we saw familiar faces among the distinguished ministers seated in the pulpit. Drs. Tichenor, Hawthorne and Burrows from Georgia;

Dr. Durham, of North Carolina; Drs. King and Nash, of Florida; and three Cuban ministers—Drs. Cova, O'Halloran and Bueno, had been invited and were present to assist Rev. A. J. Diaz in the dedication service which was to be in English. Dr. Tichenor, the corresponding secretary, opened with interesting remarks and requested that the congregation sing the grand old coronation song, which was done with a great deal of feeling, the Cubans, in their own language, raising voice and heart with their American friends. Mrs. Mary Barnes and Miss Adaline Adair, of Atlanta; Mrs. E. W. Agnew, of Florida, Mr. G. W. Argabrite, of Virginia; Mr. John H. Weller, of Louisville; Mr. Jordan, Miss Florence Green and Mrs. Gordon, of Atlanta, were the choir; Miss Minnie Diaz, organist.

Dr. Durham, of North Carolina, read the scriptures, then Dr. Mason, of Boston, led in a beautiful prayer. It had been arranged not to have any set sermon—two addresses were delivered, first by Dr. Lansing Burrows, and second by Dr. Hawthorne. Dr. Burrows's address was full of thought and was a masterly, happy effort and produced a profound impression. He presented the fundamental principles of Christianity.

Dr. Hawthorne presented in his own brilliant, inimitable and forceful way the following thoughts, which were perhaps the finest that ever fell from his lips:

1. That Baptists believe that "regeneration is necessary to church membership."
2. That "obedience, of which baptism was the first act, must characterize the life of the Christian."
3. "As God alone was the sovereign of the human conscience, no political power has the right to dictate the religious faith or practice."

These points were illustrated beautifully. The hearts of both these noble brethren are with Cuba and their grand truths to-day came from hearts full of hope, thanks, and rejoicing.

After an earnest prayer by Dr. Nash, of Florida, Dr. Tichenor said he "could not forego the pleasure of introducing to the American brethren present, some of whom had never seen him, the beloved pastor of the church, Rev. A. J. Diaz." Dr. Tichenor gave a history of Dr. Diaz's exile from Cuba during the revolution, how he was converted in New York and his determination to return to Cuba, and how he did return without friends or help with his Bible in his hand to preach the gospel. His "Bible and a trust in God" was all he had when he reached the wharf at Havana. Suspicion, danger and superstition have been around him on every hand, only lately has he received a helping hand since, in a providential way the Baptists in the South have come to his assistance. In January, 1896, his first Baptist church was constituted with

seven members; now his church has 1,500 members, while there are five or six other churches, with many members of the same faith and order.

Dr. Tichenor introduced Dr. Diaz who said: "My heart is too full to find words to express myself, even in my own language." He made a brief address, full of feeling and appreciation for assistance rendered him by our southern churches and individuals from the North.

Mr. G. W. Argabrite, of Virginia, sang a beautiful solo, which reached a responsive chord in many hearts. Miss Adaline Adair captivated her hearers with a solo. She has a lovely voice.

Services at night were mostly in Spanish, Dr. Diaz presiding. Address by Dr. Cova, who was partly educated in the United States and speaks and writes English. He is pastor of a church in Pilar, a district in the city. Dr. King gave a history of Cuban missionary work in its beginning and how Florida Baptists were connected with it. Signor Charvat, a distinguished lawyer of Havana, who, on his mother's side, was the grandson of the celebrated O'Connor, of Ireland, delivered an address. He is not a Baptist, but has sympathy for their cause. He is counsel for the Home Mission board, and saw to titles of the church, etc.

The Baptists of Georgia may rest assured that they have a house of worship and a preacher equal to any in our ranks at home. Many think Dr. Diaz the finest missionary the denomination has ever had.

Dr. Charles Cox, of LaGrange, is with us. He is delighted with the outlook, and considers Dr. Diaz fearless, prudent, humorous, intelligent and conscientious.

* * * * *
LOUIE M. GORDON.

We had arranged for full reports of the dedication by Drs. Tichenor and Hawthorne, but they insist that the other reports render it unnecessary that they should do more than to give briefly their impressions.

From Dr. Tichenor.

Other brethren have given full accounts of the dedication of the house of worship in Havana. We have but two things to say:

1. The dedication took place under the most unfavorable circumstances. There was an unexpected delay in receiving needed intelligence from Havana. Then the railroad officials were very slow in replying to our application for reduced rates. The reduction they offered was far less than we had reason to expect. As the steamers to Havana were filled with passengers every trip, the officials controlling them refused to show any spirit of accommodation, and did all they could to diminish the numbers of the excursion. Two of our own religious papers refused to give their readers any notice of it. Two great denominational meetings, one in Alabama and one in Louisville, Ky.,

conflicted with it, and prevented some brethren from going. In Havana Sunday was the Carnival, when the day was given up to dances, masked balls, street processions, where thousands paraded in masks and the most grotesque costumes. A more unpropitious time could scarcely have been selected.

2. Notwithstanding these adverse influences we were gratified: 1. At the large number of American people who attended the dedication services. There must have been at least 200 Americans present. 2. At the immense numbers of Cubans that gathered at the evening services. 3. At the admirable addresses, admirable in conception, in expression and delivery, of both Dr. Burrows and Dr. Hawthorne. It was an occasion well calculated to draw forth all their powers, and we are sure neither ever made a happier effort, and we doubt whether either will ever equal it in the future.

4. We were gratified at the able and eloquent speech of Judge Charvat, welcoming our Baptist people to Cuba and commending so highly both our Baptist faith and the upright lives of our Cuban Baptists.

5. We were gratified at the grand address of Diaz, who melted all hearts, and moved to tears not only his Cuban people, but those of us who could not understand a word he uttered. 6. We were gratified that all our party so much enjoyed the trip, the novelties seen in Havana, and their meeting with these Cuban Christians.

7. But above all, we were gratified at the approval of our brethren of what the Board has done. When business men like Brethren Ellet and Jones, of Virginia, Kiser, Hood, Weller, Sheldon and others said, "This property is worth more than you paid for it." "The ground is worth the money if there were no buildings upon it." "You have chosen the right location." "If the Baptists were driven from Cuba, this property is worth more for business purposes than you gave for it;" and when all united in saying: "In all you have told us about Cuba, you have not only overstated nothing, but the realities exceed your representation," it was enough. Our cup of happiness was full.
I. T. TICHENOR.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD.

TEXAS.

The following report was mislaid, or it should have appeared in our last issue; but it is of too great interest to be omitted now:

Report of 106 Missionaries, for the quarter ending Dec. 31, 1890:

Days labored, 6,425; stations supplied, regularly and irregularly, 416; miles traveled, 63,332; sermons preached, 3,184; exhortations and other religious addresses, 1,239; total sermons, 4,423; churches assisted in organizing, 17; number of constituent members of churches organized, 84; baptized for Mission Churches,

296; received by letter and restoration by Mission Churches, 425; total received, 805; professed conversions, 423; prayer meetings assisted in organizing, 58; Sunday-schools, 41; prayer meetings led, 649; Elders or bishops assisted in ordaining, 12; deacons assisted in ordaining, 32; pages religious literature distributed, 181,472; religious visits, 8,596; Church houses built in connection with labor, No. 7, cost, \$4,070.00; Books, Bibles, etc., distributed, No. 659, cost, \$685.15; collected for State Missions (including Southern Baptist Convention, \$1,250.00) \$9,632.70. J. B. CRANFILL, Cor. Sec., Waco.

LOUISIANA.

VICKSBURG, Jan. 25, 1891.

J. Wm. Jones, Assistant Corresponding Secretary, Atlanta, Ga.:

DEAR SIR—I received the HOME FIELD. Its reception is highly appreciated. I am engaged in missionary work in Northeast Louisiana. My territory covers several parishes. My field is promising, yet it is a hard one. Our cause here has not been advocated with that zeal that should be demonstrated by those holding our views of the Master's work. Infidelity reigns in the hearts and minds of many otherwise noble men and women in my district. But the people generally hear the word gladly and welcome plain Bible doctrine. What we need is more laborers and the Holy Spirit to wield His sword through them. Truly, the harvest is great, but the laborers are few. But we are praying and trusting that the Lord will send us more consecrated shepherds. In many of the towns of from two hundred to four hundred inhabitants you will find only two or three Baptists. Ought this not to cause Baptists to awake from slumbering, and let their lights shine? Truly, the darkness is great.

Fraternally yours,
A. L. POWELL,
Missionary for Bayou Macon Association.

Report of Missionaries.

DEAR DOCTOR—Here are three months' work for the quarter ending December 31, 1890, from as faithful a band of missionaries as are under any board. The bare figures here given tell a very small part of the heroic struggles on the harvest field of the Master. The long tedious drives, swollen bayous that somehow must be crossed, many a day with two sermons, and one meal to eat, separation from home, sickness along the journeys—these, with many other things are included in the above figures. The Lord be praised, for God-fearing, self-sacrificing men and women of the cross of Christ. To consult my preference, I'd rather give than go; but to consult my feelings and convictions, I both give and go.

Here are the figures: Days labored, 545; prayer service, 214; visits, 1,032; sermons preached, 405; baptized,

131; received by letter, 34; miles traveled, 5,158; collected on salaries, \$711.20; tracts distributed, 4,323; addresses, 111; Sunday-schools organized, 7; Bibles given, 6. The work is done; results are of the Lord.

J. T. BARRETT,
Cor. Sec'y.

CUBA.

Letter from Rev. J. V. Cova.

Editor Our Home Field:

MY DEAR BROTHER—All has been joy for us during the past holy days. Each of our Sunday-schools had a very nice Christmas tree, and after those feasts a revival spirit is reigning among all our congregations. Very large gatherings of people flow to hear the word of God, and we are thankful beyond expression for all these blessings.

The mission at Neptune street is in a fine condition. Brother Diaz preaches there every week to a vast congregation. The school at that station is now increasing to the same number it had before.

The mission at Cerro, attended by myself, has a small but enthusiastic congregation. Their school numbers about forty children, and I am very satisfied with the progress of this mission. I preach there every week, and if I had a three times larger room it would be fully occupied.

The church at San Miguel had also its Christmas tree, January 6th; many of our brethren went there, and the whole population of the village and environs was present.

We have at this place a cemetery, the ground for which was donated by a member of the same church.

When any of our missionaries visit San Miguel, they are welcomed with such marks of love and sympathy as to make them blush for so many distinctions.

Brother Diaz's church is as well attended as ever. In their last Sunday services I have heard that the hall was quite crowded, and many people of distinction go to hear him preach.

My own field at Pilar greatly pays up all the efforts I am making to christianize it. I have added twelve new Baptists during this month to the Saviour's host.

The intended excursion to Cuba has awakened much interest, as much in our congregation as among the other people of the town. They styled it the *American General*, and are preparing to see our brethren and hear them.

The excursion parties will be heartily welcomed by our people, and I can say that their presence among us will be pleasant and interesting for them. Two or three of our most comfortable hotels are prepared to receive the excursionists at the lowest possible rates, and many of the brethren will go on the appointed days to meet them on board.

Truly yours in common faith,
J. V. COVA,
Central del Pilar, Havana, Cuba,
Jan. 29, 1891.

A GIRLS' SCHOOL IN CUBA.

The need of a christian school for girls in Cuba, or any other Romish country, is most apparent, if the work of the missionary is to be successful or permanent. It is the practice of Rome, when she controls the government, to withhold education from the masses. Especially are girls debarred from educational privileges, not being considered the equals of their brothers in intelligence. Also ignorance fosters allegiance to the superstitions of the Romish Church. Would we see the young converts developed into rounded christian character?

This has been Mr Powell's experience with his work in Mexico, at the Satillo School; and his impressions were strongly confirmed by the experience of others in his recent trip to Italy, Turkey and Syria. These girls also will be the mothers of the next generation and the makers of the homes. Shall the homes be Christian?

The effort to raise money for the twenty-five girls to whom the school is open at present—\$120 a year for the support of each pupil—has been placed before Woman's Mission Societies in the different States. A leaflet, "A Girl's School in Cuba," has been circulated by Woman's Missionary Union. They must have the benefit of surroundings which will daily nourish their neglected mental and spiritual natures. Schools are not unnecessary aids in christian lands, how much greater the need in heathen countries!

For the educated Cuban girl there will be openings of usefulness as teachers. Our work so grandly begun, must lay its foundations broad and strong, for its future permanence.

From experience in papal and pagan lands, of older missionary service, these girls' schools are fundamental to success, and the growth of Christian work largely depends upon them, through State Central Committees, to excite an interest. Eight girls were provided for before this present effort. The definite promise of support for five more pupils has been received by Woman's Missionary Union since, viz.: Two from Florida; one from Alabama; two from Maryland; and \$50 from Missouri. If decision has been reached anywhere else to undertake this needed work, Mr. Diaz would be most gratified to learn of it through Woman's Missionary Union, 20 Fayette St., Baltimore.

A touching letter from a consecrated christian woman in Alabama will be helpful reading. She writes as follows: "The more I read of our mission work, the more my heart goes out toward the lost in our own and heathen countries. I have begun this year denying myself to be able to send more money into the Lord's treasury. My husband proposed giving me a new Brussels carpet; and, after considerable struggle with

pride, I got my consent to get a three-ply and give the difference to missions. To this my husband cheerfully assented. This will allow me about \$18. I wish to educate one girl in Brother Diaz's school. My Sunday-school class will help me, but I will have the larger part of the expense to bear. I shall be compelled to do without many things I would like to have, but are not precious souls in my crown of rejoicing more valuable than elegant dressing here, and then to appear before God to receive from the Son a starless crown. Dear sister, pray for me that I may be able to keep my vows unto the Lord. May God open the hearts of all Christian women to "do unto others as they would be done by." How our purses would open to the cries of distress at home and abroad, were we to heed the Golden Rule."

To whom does this letter come as a direct appeal from Christ: "Go thou and do likewise?"

ALICE ARMSTRONG,
Baltimore, Md.

NO HOME! AND A MISSIONARY'S WIDOW!

Bad enough for our poor white people, and white preachers, in the Indian Territory, who cannot own their homes! But how inexpressibly sad to know that one of our missionaries is dead, and his widowed wife is both afflicted and homeless!

Elder V. M. Thrasher was talented, true, brave, active, useful as a preacher. He was in his prime—full of work, and greatly needed. He was a most affectionate husband and doting father. But he has ceased from earthly toil and sorrow, and entered the rest above.

His wife has been badly afflicted for years, sometimes bedridden, sometimes going on crutches. One son is an invalid from dropsy. There are five fatherless children with this unfortunate widow—and none of them, except one, can do much to help the mother.

The father loved his family and worked hard for them. But he was not able to provide a house that they could call home. He had bargained for lumber (on credit) and proposed to build on the land of his nephew, Freeman Smith, a citizen, who would hold the claim for his uncle.

The Smiths are Baptists, good people, and will do all they can for their bereaved relatives. They will gladly hold the claim for Sister Thrasher. And in this way she can have a house without rent.

Certainly the Baptist people will furnish the money needed to secure a plain house for the afflicted family of a dead, but worthy missionary.

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their afflictions," (James 1:27.) But if "ye give them not those things, which are needful to the body," 2:16, will not the "Father of the fatherless, the judge of the widows" (Ps. 68:5.) say, "Depart," (Mat. 25:41.) "ye did it not to me." (45.)

Think of this distressed, helpless, worthy family, far over in the Indian Territory! And send what you may be able to give to help them. Send to me, at Dallas, Polk county, Arkansas.

E. L. COMPERE,
Supt. of Missions, Baptist General Association, W. Arkansas and Indian Territory.

RECEIPTS OF HOME MISSION BOARD FROM JANUARY 28, TO FEBRUARY 28, 1894.

ALABAMA.

W. B. Crumpton, Cor. Sec., \$80.92; W. B. Crumpton, Cor. Sec., 15.00; W. B. Crumpton, Cor. Sec., 38.75; Ladies' Aid Society, Midway (Box for missionary), 35.00; St. Francis Street Sunday-school, Mobile, Cuban Missions, 25.00; Ladies' Aid Society, Woodlawn, Havana house, 6.00; Ladies' A.V.I. Society, Oxford, Cuban Girl, 7.00. Total for the month, 187.67. Previously reported, 4,141.04. Aggregate since May, 4,328.71.

GEORGIA.

Lizzie Willingham Society, Macon, Cuban girl's tuition, \$25.00; Mrs. B. E. Clark, Rome, Cuban Missions, 3.00; Ladies' Society, Deratur (Box for missionary), 25.00; Missionary Society, Southern Female College, LaGrange, Havana house, 10.00. Total for the month, 163.00. Previously reported, 5,148.95. Aggregate since May, 5,311.95.

KENTUCKY.

Rev. J. W. Warder, Cor. Sec., \$47.38; Rev. J. W. Warder, Cor. Sec., 80.53; Carrollton Sunbeams, Cuban mission, 9.66. Total for the month, 517.87. Previously reported, 2,908.38. Aggregate since May, 3,426.25.

LOUISIANA.

Ladies' Society, Coliseum Pace church, New Orleans (box for missionary), \$50.00; Ladies' Society, Chaneyville (box for missionary), 24.00. Total for the month, 74.00. Previously reported, 71.70. Aggregate since May, 145.70.

MARYLAND.

Woman's Home Mission Society, Franklin Square Church, Baltimore (box for missionary), \$86.00; Woman's Home Mission Society, Rockville (box for missionary), 20.52; Eutaw Place church, Baltimore, 424.34. Total for the month, \$89.86. Previously reported, 3,780.17. Aggregate since May, 4,320.03.

MISSISSIPPI.

Ladies' Society, Oxford (box for missionary), \$24.75; Ladies' Society, Taylor (contribution to box), 5.00; Ladies' Society, Abbeville (contribution to box), 1.50; Ladies' Society, Shubuta (box for missionary), 24.25. Total for the month, 55.50. Previously reported, 266.50. Aggregate since May, 321.05.

MISSOURI.

L. M. Wright, Cuban house, \$1.00. Previously reported, 3,098.80. Aggregate since May, 3,099.80.

NORTH CAROLINA.

Ladies' Society, Charlotte, box for missionary, \$40.00; Fern Hill church, Asheville, 6.88; Total for the month, 46.88. Previously reported, \$2,019.90. Aggregate since May, 2,066.78.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

W. B. Crumpton, Sumter, 7.75; Parkville church, Spartanburg Association, 5.65; Spartanburg, 18.58; Peizer, 4.00; a lady, Greenville, Girls' High School, Cuba, 5.00; Enoree church, 2.00; Camden church, 6.00; Taylor's church, Chick Springs, 4.25; Rev. T. M. Bailey, Cor. Sec.'s, Greenville, 7.00; Antioch church, Welch Neck Association, 4.75; Miss M. E. McIntosh, Corresponding Secretary, Cuban Missions, 12.50; Havana House, 2.00; general work, 34.79; Hurricane church, Ready River Association, 5.00; Greenville Association, 11.07; Greenville Association, Havana House, 2.00; North Greenville Association, 2.00; Church,

Cartersville, 1.35; Church, Chester, 8.00; Bethel church, Southeast Association, 6.13; Ladies' Society, Trough Shoals (box for missionary), 67.35; Church Parkville, 5.60; Sunday-school, Parkville, 2.41; Church, Welford, 10.00; Church, Sumter, 10.35; Sunday school, First church, Newberry, 4.00; Church, Scranton, 1.00. Total for the month, 255.31. Previously reported, 3,651.95. Aggregate since May, 3,907.26.

TENNESSEE.

Mill Creek church, \$1.50; New Salem, 5.00; Mt. Zion Sunday-school, 3.78; Woman's Missionary Society, First Baptist church, Chattanooga, Cuban Missions, 4.50; Ladies' Society, First church, Nashville, box for missionary, 75.00; Ladies' Society, Central church, Nashville, box for Missionary, 75.00; Ladies' Society, Edgeland church, Nashville, box for Missionary, 50.00; Ladies' Society, Endora church, box for Missionary, 22.00; Mrs. K. C. Rhodes, Cuban girl, 6.00; Brick cars, Mrs. O. L. Halley, Young South, Cuban house, 329.35; Mrs. O. L. Halley, Young South, 70.05. Total for the month, 642.78. Previously reported, 1,001.02. Aggregate since May, 1,644.80.

TEXAS.

Miss Annie Roussel's Sunday-school class, Sherman, Havana house, \$8.00; Woman's Aid Society, New Boston, printing press and cemetery, Cuba, 10.00; Ladies' Society, Alamo church, San Antonio, box for Missionaries (additional contribution) 1.00. Total for the month, 23.00. Previously reported, 1,440.23. Aggregate since May, 1,469.23.

VIRGINIA.

Ladies' Society, First church, Richmond, box for missionary, \$30.00; J. S. Felix, Lynchburg, New Orleans church, 10.00; Ladies' Society, Fork Union, 25.00; W. Ryland, treasurer, 750.00. Total for the month, 815.00. Previously reported, 4,778.98. Aggregate since May, 5,593.98.

MISCELLANEOUS.

J. S. Morrow, Indian Territory, Cuban house, \$5.00. Previously reported, 1,946.11. Aggregate since May, 1,951.11. GRAND TOTAL. For the month, \$3,320.10. Previously reported, 34,364.69. Aggregate since May, 37,712.79.

Congress has been asked by the Secretary of War to appropriate \$1,300,000 to pay the expenses of the recent Indian war, and it has been estimated that the whole cost will amount to \$2,000,000—enough to have fed and clothed the whole tribe of Sioux for twenty years, to have furnished them with a Bible for each family, and a preacher for each community, to civilize and Christianize them. When will men learn that it is cheaper to send Bibles than bullets to the Indian and the heathen?—Exchange.

THE DATE OF ISSUING OUR paper depends largely upon the ability of the editor to work it in between other important and pressing duties. Sometimes at the very time he is needed to furnish copy, correct proofs, or see to the make up of the forms, other engagements keep him in Texas or Virginia, Kentucky or North Carolina, or some other delightful place where he has a good time with the brethren, but meantime the paper has to await his return. We try to get out each issue about the last of the month, but we beg our readers to have patience with us when we are not "on time."

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