

OUR HOME FIELD

VOLUME XI.
NUMBER 11.

Published Monthly by Home Mission Board of Southern Baptist Convention.

ATLANTA, GA.
JUNE, 1900.

When this paragraph is checked with blue pencil it indicates that your subscription has expired. We hope you will renew promptly, or advise if you wish your paper discontinued. We would appreciate your renewal.

Extracts from address of Ex-Governor W. J. Northern delivered before the B. Y. P. U. Convention at Hot Springs:

An American consul remonstrating against the looseness of our laws on this subject, has said: "It is easier for a common mendicant to land at any point in the United States than for a respectable American traveler to enter some European ports."

In 1890 we had a population of 63,000,000. Of these there were 33,000,000 native whites. Of these latter there were about 2,000,000 over ten years of age who could neither read nor write: that is about six per cent. The foreign born were thirteen per cent; and the negroes fifty-six per cent. illiterate.

What will you do with this vast body of ignorant people—a disgrace to the nation?

The State says educate them. Christianity says educate and elevate them. While I would not, for a moment, disparage the work of Foreign Missions, in the name of humanity and in the interest of the future of the republic, do what may be possible, through State and Home Missions, to remove this body of death, through the redemption of these elements of our citizenship.

In politics, at least: I have grown to believe that most men, if not all men, have their price. This monster evil would never have been here, nor would it be here to-day if it had not paid its way with a price.

It first came with a small offer, in the way of general tax to the State. When complaint was made of the ruin it wrought, the monster only gave the State a little higher price to be allowed to maintain its hold and do its wreckage. As public opinion put it more in disfavor it bethought itself of the education of the children, and offered even a higher price and bought the whole people in a lump. To-day, at the close of the nineteenth century the saloon stands the colossal sin of the ages, educating one child with the crystalized tears of scores of others; bringing one to elevation and success in order to take scores and hundreds to poverty, to shame and to death.

I adjure by all means that are legal, sacred and right, in the name of our civilization, in the name of the State, and in the name of our living Christ, wipe this blot from the glory of the nation and do not delay a day to begin the masterful work.

I am not a pessimist. I believe in God. I believe in the future of our Christian young people. Yet, I can not decline to present to you the spectacle of the nation.

Ten Millions of negroes and fifty per cent of them illiterate, with seventy one per cent removed beyond the age for schools; nineteen millions of foreigners, and thirteen per cent of them illiterate,

with ninety six per cent removed beyond the age for schools; aggregating twenty-nine millions American citizens, and eighty per cent of the illiterates beyond the reach of the schools.

Now, scatter this mass of ignorant humanity throughout the nation and open up to these people unhindered access to mean whiskey, through the saloon, and tell me where is the power, outside of Christianity in politics that can save the nation from disintegration and death. Place these conditions in the hands of corrupt politicians to be manipulated, and stand aloof, if you dare, and see the wreck and ruin and slaughter and blood that will follow.

What will Christian patriots and Christian politicians do in the twentieth century to arrest the horrors that thus threaten the nation?

There is still another class of citizens even more dangerous to the spirit and perpetuity of our institutions than the classes already considered. I refer to the class that make monopolies.

[Ex-Gov. Northern's remarks on this subject will be given in next issue.]

CHILDREN'S BIBLE DAY.

SECOND SUNDAY IN JUNE, 1900.

It has become common among us, as among the denominations, to emphasize one day in the Sunday School by a special service as Children's Day. This is our Bible Day.

It comes on the second Sunday in June, the 10th day of the month. Some may prefer the last Sunday in June, as that is Review Day, and so the regular lesson will not be interrupted.

ORDER OF EXERCISES FREE.

This was prepared by Woman's Missionary Union at the request of the Sunday School Board. It has for its subject, "The Bible as the Signal Light," and is very impressive.

The program proper, the supplement containing recitations, and mite boxes, all are furnished without cost by the Sunday School Board at Nashville.

THE BIBLE FUND.

The money collected on Children's Bible Day will be sent the Sunday School Board at Nashville, to be used in the Bible work of the Southern Baptist Convention. The Board is using this fund for sending out Bibles to destitute places, and adds a dollar to every dollar contributed, so that your gift will do double service in sending out the Word of God.

A LARGER REQUEST.

If you do not wish to have the special services, we yet earnestly ask that you will send to the Board a contribution for the Bible Fund—send some amount whether large or small, that we may use it in sending Bibles for distribution in Cuba, or among the immigrants or in destitute places throughout the South and West. We very much desire to enter your School on our list of contributors to this great work.

BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD

J. M. FROST, Secretary,
NASHVILLE, TENN.

NEW CENTURY LITERATURE.

The Committee on Co-operation, carrying forward the New Century movement, have prepared a series of tracts setting out the different phases denominational life and work. These tracts are handled by the Sunday school Board at Nashville so as to save the committee that expense. All orders should be sent to the BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD, Nashville Tenn. Tracts sent post paid at 20cts per dozen.

What the figures say of Baptist Growth, Lansing Burrows, D. D.
Fundamental Baptist Principles.

T. T. Eaton, D. D.
Spread of Baptist Principles during the Century S. H. Ford, D. D.

Apostolic Model in the Missionary Enterprise J. S. Dill, D. D.

The Responsibility of the Pastor in Missions. A. J. Holt, D. D.

Baptist Growth in Education and Intelligence, 1800-1900, W. W. Landrum, D. D.

The Fidelity of Baptists to the Bible, C. S. Gardner, D. D.

These papers were prepared at the request of the Committee and are strong presentations of their respective subjects. The small price at which they are sold barely covers cost of printing. They should have wide circulation.

It should be understood that these tracts were prepared specially as aids to those who may speak in connection with the New Century Movement. Any speaker knowing this topic can easily decide which tracts he needs for his special subject. It would be well for every speaker to secure the entire lists of tracts, as they all bear upon the New Century Movement. Of course anyone else is at liberty to send for these tracts also.

Literature bearing specially upon Foreign Missions can be secured by writing to Rev. R. J. Willingham, Richmond, Va. That bearing specially upon Home Missions can be secured by writing to Rev. F. H. Kerfoot, Atlanta, Ga. That bearing upon Sunday School Board and its work can be secured by writing to Rev. J. M. Frost, Nashville, Tenn. That bearing upon the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary can be secured by writing to President E. Y. Mullins, Louisville, Ky. That bearing specially upon State Missions can be secured by writing to your State Secretary. You will find below the program which has been suggested for these meetings. If the particular meeting for which you arrange does not give time enough for the whole program, you will, of course, make the best selection of topics that you can for the occasion.

PROGRAM FOR NEW CENTURY MEETING.

- I. Our Denomination a Century Ago.
- II. Denominational Growth the last Century.
- III. Our Denominational Missions a Century Ago.
- IV. Progress of Our Denominational Missions During the last Century.
- V. Our Present Improved Equipment For Missionary Work in the Century to Come.
- VI. What should be the Special Aims of the Denomination for the Century to Come.
- VII. The Denominational Organization Needed for the Accomplishment of These Aims.
- VIII. The Leadership and Responsibility of Pastors in this Work.

F. H. KERFOOT, Chair. Com.
On New Century Movement.



PUBLISHED ONCE A MONTH BY THE
HOME MISSION BOARD

— OF THE —
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION,

722-723-724 Austell Bldg. - ATLANTA, GA.

ATLANTA LITHO. & PRINT. CO. ATLANTA.

Subscription Price 10 Cents per Year.

Fifty copies or more mailed in one wrapper, to one address, 5 cents per copy, per year.

Subscriptions payable invariably in advance.

To any one sending ten subscriptions at 10 cents each, or fifty to one address at 5 cents each, we will send one copy free.

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Subscribers who can not send checks on one of these points are requested to remit by Registered Letter, Express, or Postoffice Orders. Small amounts may be sent in stamps.

Address all remittances to **OUR HOME FIELD, Atlanta, Ga.**

Entered at the Postoffice at Atlanta, Ga., for transmission at Second Class Rates.

SAMPLE COPIES: Persons receiving sample copies of **OUR HOME FIELD** are urgently requested to aid in increasing its circulation. Secure a club of subscribers in your church, Mission Society or Sunday-school. See terms above.

THE CONVENTION

recently held at Hot Springs, Arkansas, is by general consent, regarded as being the best meeting ever held since the organization of that body. Several things contributed to this result.

Hot Springs is in many respects an ideal place for holding the session of a great body. The meetings were held at the Eastman Hotel. The dining room, specially set apart for purposes of the Convention, seated from 2000 to 2500 people. The ladies parlor, in the opposite end of the building would seat a congregation of several hundred. There were rooms of ample size for the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Seminary, for the Secretaries of the Convention, for the display of books and literature, and for the various committees of the body. Then the ample rotundas, piazzas, and the sward under the shade of the verdant trees afforded ample facilities for the social enjoyment of the occasion.

The success which had attended the work of the various Boards, as shown in their reports, was a source of great encouragement and inspiration to the body.

The Foreign Mission Board reported an increase of funds of more than 25 per cent over last year, and an increase of baptisms of nearly 50 per cent over any preceeding year in its history. The Home Mission Board reported the largest number of additions to its churches ever received in one year, being about 12000. Besides large bequests which had been made to it, it had

received for current expenses about 25 per cent above its collections of last year.

The Sunday-School Board reported more than \$71000 of gross receipts the largest ever had, and surpassing last year by nearly \$5000. Its appropriations made to denominational work, during its brief history of nine years, are \$144,634. Four fifths of all the white Sunday schools in the South use its literature.

The Woman's Missionary Union during the past year contributed to the Home Mission Board in cash \$18,114, and in boxes for missionaries \$27,089, making a total contribution to the Home Mission Board of \$45,200. Its contribution to the Foreign Mission Board was cash \$31,757.65. The total contributions of the Woman's Missionary Union to the Sunday-School Board, cash, boxes for Sunday-School missionaries and annuity fund of \$1000, aggregated \$6305. effect of this increase upon the spirit of the Convention manifested itself in resolving to raise next year two hundred thousand dollars for foreign missions and one hundred and fifty thousand dollars cash, besides boxes for missionaries, for the Home Mission Board.

Arrangements had been made to have a "Century Day" during the session of the Convention, and Sunday was selected for that day. Instead of having preaching services, the Convention met in its usual place of business, and held three sessions, one in the morning, one in the afternoon and one at night.

At each of these sessions three addresses, each limited to forty minutes, were delivered by men who had been selected for that purpose. These addresses all bore upon our history for the last hundred years. They were all of the highest order, and were listened to by the vast assemblage with the deepest interest. Those who had visited the great Missionary Council recently held in New York, and who had been thrilled with enthusiasm excited by that occasion, said that no one day of that Conference equalled the "Century Day" of the Southern Baptist Convention.

One of the unusual things occurring was the recommendation of the Committee, appointed by the Convention of 1899 to devise a plan for the observance of the year 1900, the last year of the Century, "to inform our people more fully of the Divine blessing which had fallen upon our denomination during the last hundred years, and to organize and equip them for the greater work which lies before them in the century to come." In view of the fact that not more than one fourth of the membership of our baptist churches in the South ever contribute anything to missions, Home or Foreign, it was recommended that the Convention address itself with all diligence and earnestness to the development among the masses of our people of a broader spirit of missions, and, as far as possible, to secure contributions from every church and from

every member of every church to every object fostered by the Convention. For this purpose the Convention provided a standing Committee of nine, three from each Board of the Convention, having power to adopt such methods, and select such agencies as they might deem wise, and to cooperate with the State Boards and State Conventions in an effort to inform our people and awaken in them a deeper interest in the evangelization of the world. While this plan met with some strong opposition upon the floor of the body, it was passed by a most decided majority.

This is a great step forward in the progress of our people. Whenever the more than a million and a half of Baptists in the South shall be awakened to the duty and responsibility of evangelizing the world and of the unparalleled opportunity now before them for the accomplishment of this work, and shall contribute out of their abundance even a scanty amount of their annual income, the accomplishment of world-wide evangelization will not be far distant. The present effort to bring about this result, though it may not to some of our brethren seem to be wise in all of its provisions, ought to commend itself to loyal and enthusiastic support of every man who loves his race and loves the cause of our blessed Master. If there be defects in the proposed plan these can be remedied. No machine constructed by human hands was ever made perfect at one effort. It is experience, practical use, careful thought brought to bear upon the working of its various parts, that finally results in the perfection of any piece of mechanism, and its perfect adaption to the end for which it was designed. So it has been with all of our religious organizations. The present plan of collecting money for the Boards of the Convention is not more than twenty years old. It superseded the agency system, adopted by the fathers of the Convention. The effort now is to improve upon the present system, which was itself a proposed improvement upon the system of collections adopted when the convention was organized. The great need of these improved methods is demonstrated by the inadequacy of our funds and by the numbers in our churches that give nothing. This great Baptist host of ours in these Southern States, if aroused to that degree of intensity and enthusiasm which ought to possess every disciple of our Lord and Master will in the next twenty years make itself felt in the remotest corner of the globe, and so revolutionize the kingdoms of the world as to bring into all their confines the growing Kingdom of our Lord and Master.

The Convention adjourned with the spirit of work incited in every heart, and we shall be greatly mistaken if the year upon which we have entered does not show at its conclusion the accomplishment of all that the Convention proposed should be done for and by its Boards in the work of missions.

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION.

Auxiliary to S. B. C.

No. 304 N. Howard St., BALTIMORE, MD.

Motto:—GO FORWARD.

MISS ANNIE W. ARMSTRONG, EDITOR.

THE TURN OF THE ROAD.

Ah, here is another turn of the road,
Another league is gone;
Take a strong new grip and grasp of your load,
And then go on—go on; Go on.
For we follow a Voice down the long, long road
That travels hither and yon,
And the Voice is the voice of the hastening years—
"Go on; Go on; Go on."

We are glad for the Voice at the turn of the road,
'Tis turn to the heart of man:
It has cheered his way and lightened his load
From the day when the world began.
When the heart of man said "Yea to the Voice
In all the years that have gone,
Its words like music have thrilled in his blood,
"Go on! Go on! Go on!"

Selected

Let us resolve as we enter the crimson light of
another Conventional Year that we shall indeed
"Go on" in service for the Master, ever remembering
that deeds of helpfulness are jewels strung for
eternity. Iron will rust, gold become dim, marble
perish, fame die, life pass away, but work for God
will perish—never.

MONTHLY MISSIONARY TOPICS—

MEXICO AND BRAZIL.

Mexico is a republic of 37 States, a federal District and two Territories with a population of twelve and a half millions.

Mexico's mineral wealth has long attracted attention. For silver, she stands proudly in the front rank. Of iron, she has solid mountains while lead, zinc, nickel, platinum and other minerals are constantly drawn from the soil.

We read about the "two women grinding at the mill" in Palestine 2000 years ago. Just so the woman grind in Mexico to-day.

They soften corn, lay it on a flat stone and with another stone shaped like rolling pin, they grind the corn to a paste.

In 1521 at the point of the sword and through the inquisition Roman idolatry was grafted on the paganism of Mexico.

Result: The Word of God is hated. Eight millions have never even seen a copy of it.

35 years ago, there was only one Protestant minister in Mexico. To-day there are 14 missionary organizations at work and they have gathered a church membership of over 16,000.

The Foreign Board S. B. C. has 10 missionaries in Mexico and 10 native assistants. New missionaries have been appointed in places of those who resigned and cheering reports come from both old and new missionaries.

Brazil with 16,000,000 people has one missionary only to every 130,000 souls. The excuse is sometimes offered: "The Roman church is evangelizing these countries, hence we are not needed as in heathen lands. To evangelize is to teach. Romanism teaches nothing. It gives no light. We may infer the ignorance of the true gospel from the question often asked of converts to Protestant Christianity: "How much do you pay for this salvation?"

Destruction of the Bible in Brazil—A Bible agent in Brazil reports that the priests destroy every Bible they can get hold of.

S. B. C. work in Brazil is very encouraging. Last year "in spite of unprecedented famine and persecution, real progress was made both in adding numbers to the churches and in deepening spirituality."

The Church of Rome is about as tolerant as a Bengal tiger, in a cage, he submits to various circumstances. In the jungle, the real nature of the animal is seen. Would you know exactly the principles of the Church of Rome and her theories concerning the religious rights of others, study her procedure in countries where she is at liberty.

GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD.

In God's Word, frequent admonitions are given to remember that all good gifts are from above, to be thankful and praise Him. Yet, the tendency in all prayer is to offer more of petition than of praise. This fact is well illustrated in the familiar poem which describes the going forth of two angels, in the early morning, one carrying a large bag in which to bear the requests of men; the other, a small one to contain the praise. The day's labor having ended, the angel of petition was heavily burdened, but he who bore the praise of men returned with his small bag not near filled.

It may be that many Woman's Missionary Union workers, feeling the need of divine help, zealously laboring to hasten the coming of the kingdom, have not taken sufficient time for thanksgiving. In entering upon another year of service, the Conventional Year, 1900—1901, we have special reason for ascribing praise to our divine Co-laborer for his blessing upon the work of the General Organization of Southern Baptist women. The Annual Report of Woman's Missionary Union as given by the Corresponding Secretary at Hot Springs, is the best which has ever been made. Why? Because the year has been the most fruitful in its history. Human instrumentality is recognized as having been a factor in bringing this to pass, yet back of all is the power of the great God who controlled the hearts of his people, and inspired every noble self-sacrificing action.

\$83,266.73 has been raised by the Baptist women and children of our South-land during the past year, an increase of \$19,154.00 over any preceding year. Financial results, however, are not all for which thanksgiving should be returned. Hundreds of letters bear testimony that Woman's Work is becoming better understood; that the people are anxious for information, that a love for missions is being cultivated, and in many cases great pains are taken in carrying out suggestions made by Central Committee officers and others. New plans are receiving with favor, and the promise of the future is that Woman's Missionary Union will continue to "Go Forward." Great indeed is the goodness of God to those that put their trust in Him and obey His commands. Let us magnify and exalt His name together.

Totals for Home and Foreign Missions Since Organization

1889	\$ 30,773.69
1890	31,237.76
1891	38,900.34
1892	44,282.80
1893 (Centennial Year)	62,336.75
1894	45,128.55
1895	48,605.99
1896	56,343.19
1897	61,497.54
1897 (including contributions to Sunday School Board)	58,293.61
1899 (including contributions to Sunday School Board)	64,112.73
1900 (including contributions to Sunday School Board)	83,266.73
Grand Total	\$616,238.69

PLEASANT REFLECTIONS.

The 19th Century marks the fullness of time in which the Master's voice was heard summoning women, as helpers in God's kingdom, to untiring, enlarged and systematic endeavor.

The first Woman's Missionary Organization of the century was formed by Baptists and Congregationalists, with Mary Webb, a Baptist as Secretary and Treasurer.

Woman's Missionary Union, organized by Southern Baptist women in 1888, during its short history of twelve years has raised for missionary purposes \$616,238.69.

The past year has been the best year in the history of W. M. U. Total contributions to the three S. B. C. Boards \$83,266.83.

Expenses of W. M. U. (officers of which receive no salaries) for the past year \$2,275, less than three per cent of the amount raised.

Christmas offering receipts larger than ever before, amounting to \$5,309.57.

An Annuity Fund for each of the three Boards has been inaugurated through W. M. U. instrumentality. \$4,000 was thus given to the Home Board, \$4,000 to the Foreign Board, \$1,000 to the Sunday School Board.

Star Cards are proving very attractive to young people. Over 9000 have already been distributed.

The first contribution to the BABIES BRANCH W. M. U. was five dollars from one too old to engage in the work, but who sent the offering as a proof of best wishes.

Dr. F. H. Kerfoot, Secretary of the Home Board rendered great assistance in securing general observance of the Week of Self Denial.

246,859 leaflets and pamphlets were distributed by W. M. U. the past year. Good seed, sown we trust, in good ground.

Heirs of the 19th Century, pioneers of the 20th Century, God gives to Southern Baptist woman of to-day opportunities for greater work than was possible in the past.

"Out of the shadow of night
The world moves into light
It is day break everywhere."

UP TO DATE QUESTIONS.

Is the Sunday School of your church making preparations for Children's Day in June? If not why not? Do YOU appreciate the duty of giving the Word of God to those unable to purchase a copy? Have you realized your obligations for helping the Sunday School Board S. B. C. Which is carrying out this work through the Bible Fund?

You may render effective aid by conferring with pastor and Sunday School superintendent regarding the advisability of observing Children's Day, and by doing all in your power in stimulating the children to generous giving. Attractive Programs entitled "Signal Lights of the Bible." Also little boxes have been prepared by Woman's Missionary Union. These are ready for free distribution. Will the school adopt them? Write to Dr. J. M. Frost Secretary of the Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tennessee.

Children's Day is one of the special lines of work for the success of which the co-operation of W. M. U. is asked. Will you do your part.

If OUR HOME FIELD interests you will you not call attention of others to it and help to increase its circulation.

