







WESTERN RECORDER

A. C. OARLTON, T. B. CHAMBERLAIN, A. B. PARSONS, J. D. OILMAN

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 1884

Location of the Seminary.

There has been no more important problem worked out by the Baptists of this city during the past year than the location of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. A little more than a year ago the Board of Trustees put this question for solution in charge of its various official bodies in Louisville.

The location is on the best vacant lot of the size in the city. It was highly important that it should be in the heart of the city, so that the students might be brought into immediate contact with the churches and especially with their missionary work.

Christianity a Conservative Form.

Christianity is on trial to-day. Few periods in history have witnessed of mightier and more determined efforts for its overthrow, and the overthrowment of it, than the present. Infidelity with its vandals, would rationally pluck up by the roots, the glad good which it inspires, destroy its precious and significant symbols, quench the glow of the love it kindles, and obscure the light of its soul-illuminating faith.

But our present purpose is simply to look at the conservative influence of Christianity. The distinctive feature of Christianity—that which gives it its rightful claim to the universal faith of mankind, that which fits it for universal appreciation among the multifarious systems of religion, and endows it with immortality—is, that it not only contains all that is of good and value in other systems, but advances far beyond them in the range and sweep of its thought and of its teaching.

Christianity has been more than ethical in character. They have overlooked national boundaries, and given their missionary labors and multiplied their triumphs among other nations. But Christianity only is endowed with those qualities that give it an essentially cosmopolitan character. It is inherently fitted for universal expansion. And this by its very genius. It is adapted to all. It recognizes no social rank; it has no respect for any aristocracy of culture or of wealth; it knows nothing of domestic distinctions. It establishes the brotherhood of man. It meets and satisfies the wants of every human soul that comes under its sway.

Other religions and philosophic systems have said many beautiful things as to culture, art, mind and nature. Thoughts of these have fired the genius of the philosopher and awakened the most brilliant fancy of the poet. But all that has ever been written by either poet or philosopher of real substantial value to the race, was said in substance, if not in form, by the sacred writers long before they were born. And when they enter the realm of imagination, it matters not how brilliant the rhetorical setting, the supposed thought-gem is found to be but a gross and wild fancy after all. And how unsatisfying it is to the immortal mind! Take, for illustration, the following lines from "Thanatopsis," by Bryant, one of America's most gifted and brilliant poets.

From the standpoint of natural theology, there are some things true in these lines, which the world will brilliant and beautiful. But to the man standing on the brink of the dark river, they are destitute of illuminating influence and sustaining power. Shall the image of the world's heroes, conquerors upon their bosoms, or of the world's sages, seen against the sky, and, at last, indeed become "brother to the inensible rock?" So says philosophy. But Christianity, while it strongly buttresses all the truths that philosophy teaches, dashes, with iconoclastic hand, to the ground all the gods of materialistic doubters and unfolds a brighter vision to the race.

The Baltimore Convention. The Convention at Baltimore was an auspicious grand success. There were attendance 224 delegates besides a goodly number of visitors—the largest convention the Baptist of this country has ever had, by the largest ever held by any denomination of Christians in this country.

The former of these two once thought himself defeated in a case before the Superior Court, by the influence of the other, who was one of the Judges of the said court, and in average of rights he was justly provoked to take any further redress than a regular course of Justice would give, and in a speech at Mt. Sterling, he said his action upon his Christianity, his own peace of mind, his courage, and his honor, was all that was left him, and to those who have so long listened to the reports of mere passion's bloody and fearful rills, they are as the silver lining to the clouds of a storm, and as the apple which the conduct of Judge Reid elicited among many people had scarcely died away and his nobility of heart and his glowing spirit, when, as if some demon had been loosed upon him, he rushed from his hiding place and threw his black mantle over all the report abroad that Judge Reid had committed suicide! It is not only the public and the reporter, but the press and the public alike, who are to be blamed for this, and the applause which the conduct of Judge Reid elicited among many people had scarcely died away and his nobility of heart and his glowing spirit, when, as if some demon had been loosed upon him, he rushed from his hiding place and threw his black mantle over all the report abroad that Judge Reid had committed suicide!

In the manner of conducting the Convention there was, we think, a decided improvement. The suggestion of Dr. J. W. Jones, some mistakes were made, and other improvements might yet be made. Having spoken in commendation of some features of the Convention, we now venture modestly and kindly to suggest a few features that we do not approve, and in which we were able to suggest many improvements. This we will do in all candor and kindness.

1. It was a mistake, we think, to dispense with written reports. Well written reports are of great value, and especially to the many thousands who do not attend our Conventions. And, then, a reporter gives wider scope to the Convention, and resolution or series of resolutions can possibly be made. A resolution may be discussed affirmatively or negatively; you may either endorse it or oppose it, whereas a report may be merely suggestive, and may be the one of which may serve as a text for a speech.

2. The Convention to us much under the management of the Boards. The proceedings in the day-time presented to be shaped by the Boards and the night sessions were in a plain manner. The subject to be discussed and the speakers for the occasion seemed to have been all selected outside of the Convention. And, then, the members of the Boards occupied the greater time in the discussion, and especially when their own work was under consideration. We can make all due allowance for the interest of those who are especially charged with a par-

sonal work, but after all, it would be well to let others be heard once in a while. 3. The discussions were not general enough, and they did not touch the heart of the body. A few brethren counted too much time. Some spoke too frequently and too long. Very few men should make more than one speech in such a body, and no one should speak more than once. It is better to have had some very important say.

DR. CURRY'S MISTAKE. The speech of Dr. Curry on the condition of the colored people of the South was so noble and so grand, and so full of a profound and noble sentiment, that it has been the subject of much discussion. But his effort on Italian sentiment, like his speech at Waco, was marred by some very unwise and unskillful remarks at views held and cherished by members of the Convention and Southern Baptists in that of most Christian men and women seeking to promote the glory of the common Master.—The Independent.

THE FOREIGN MISSION BOARD. The Foreign Mission Board has been the largest number that has ever attended one of our Conventions, and it will be the largest of our Convention that has ever been held in this country.

THE BAPTIST WORLD. The Moody-Birney family, who were in Louisville, Ky., on Monday, May 20th, 1884.

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With the Roman, we adopted many of the...

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Though many of them get bewitched, they...

After a pleasant interview with Rev. D. J....

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