

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
May 12, 1851, Nashville, Tennessee

Dr. Howell of Richmond, Virginia, in the absence of the President, took the chair and proceeded to read a letter from Rev. Johnson.

Dr. Howell stated that in the absence of the President that the duties of that office devolved upon him as president to the task of opening the Convention by reading the Holy Scripture, the 36th chapter of Isaiah. Hymn 912 was sung.

The President called for the report of the Committee on Delegates.

The committee appointed to select a place for the next meeting of the Convention and to select ministers to preach were ready to report. The report being read with a number referring the decision of the place of meeting to the Convention was taken up, and Rev. Mr. Dargan desired before that question was discussed to propose that the Convention meet Triennially instead of Biennially.

The Secretary said he would regret to see that question spring up at the shank of the evening, it would, he was sure, involve a long debate. Some were in favor, and I believe a majority of ~~of~~ annual meetings, and he was not sure that he would vote for them. But he moved to lay the motion by Brother Dargan on the Table. Carried.

The discussion of the subject and place for holding the next meeting was then taken up. Baltimore, Maryland, was selected as the place for holding the next Convention. After arrangements for the meeting of the committee, and Prayer by Rev. Mr. Campbell of Kentucky, the Convention adjourned until Monday at 9 a. m.

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The President called up the report of the Committee on Preachers at the next meeting of the Convention.

The secretary read the report and moved it be motioned so as to read:

Foreign Mission Sermon---Rev. R. B. C. Howell

Domestic Mission Sermon---J. E. Dawson, Georgia, Rev. Samuel Baker, Tennessee, alternate.

Monday morning, May 12---

The report being called for the Tellers announced 89 votes have been cast which Dr. Howell had received 52, and was elected President of the Convention.

Dr. Howell said---

The result was not anticipated by him. Indeed he had not thought of it. It would be impossible for him not to feel himself flattered---he estimated the good opinion of the brethren. On this occasion he need not express the feelings of his heart. He would rely upon the assistance and aid of the Convention in the conduct of the proceedings, and he hoped they would be conducted harmoniously. It would be his duty to require the strictest order in proceeding with the business and he hoped that they would be conducted harmoniously. He hoped that the deliberations of the Convention would be governed by that love to Christ and the Cause of Christianity, which he knew characterized all present.

The President then ordered that the Convention proceed to elect 4 vice-presidents.

The Tellers then reported the vote for Vice Presidents. Rev. J. B. Jeter of Virginia received a majority of all the votes and so declared elected first vice-president. 36 other

other members were voted for, none of whom received a majority, the Chair said the Convention would proceed to vote again for 3 more vice-presidents.

The Chair requested that the Secretary read the Constitution on the subject of the election of officer, which was done, and it appearing that the election as proposed would be constitutional--the three next highest were chosen and the teller declared Rev. Mr. Buck, as second; Rev. Dr. Fuller third, and Mr. Reynolds of Kentucky and Rev. Mr. Taylor of Covington, Kentucky, a tie. Dr. Reynolds begged that Mr. Taylor be declared elected. The Chair was of the opinion that the Convention must proceed to vote for a fourth vice-president.

Dr. Reynolds hoped not, and in in order, he would decline in favor of Dr. Taylor, especially as there was already one vice-president from Kentucky, and moved that Mr. Taylor be declared elected.

Rev. Dr. Jeter then moved that Dr. Reynolds be declared elected, inasmuch as Brother Taylor was already corresponding secretary of the Board.

Dr. Reynolds was declared fourth vice-president.