

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
Atlanta, Georgia,
May 6, 1892

Dr. J. B. Gambrell, of Mississippi, read his text, Isaiah 54:304. He began his sermon with an expression which came from the lips of Dr. B. Manly, Sr., and which had had a wonderful impression on his life: "We need a religion with much of God in it." The text is a call to the universal conquest of the world. It is about the same on meaning as the commission of our Lord. Note some of the forms of expression which show the meaning of the text: "Enlarge thy borders," refers to the necessity of enlargement of room. Back of all we need faith. We need to believe that God is going to be with us in all our missionary movements. "Spare not." We are not to enter into any cold calculations against God. We are to spare nothing, but must put in every thing—time, children, money. With more than a million Baptists, are we not sparing a great deal? And this is why we are doing so little for our Lord. We must bring our choicest children, spare them not. "Lengthen thy cords and strengthen thy stakes." We are to let our influence go out into all the world. It is easy to see that all these expressions mean expansion. Divide and conquer is the doctrine of the New Testament. Many of our churches are dying of bigness and inactivity. Divide them and let mission stations be started, and the old mother church become alive and active. "Break forth." Our hearts are often much wiser than our heads. We shall never conquer the world for Christ until there is that breaking forth from the heart. There is power in talking which comes from the heart that can't help talking. Break forth on the right and on the left. The old times were great and good, but much greater times are upon us. We must do more than was ever thought of before. The promise of inhabiting is being fulfilled by what we see at this Convention. The speaker then re-

ferred to the effects of the gospel has had for the past one hundred years. This modern mission movement was begun in a small way and midst many discouragements, but there was success. It made Andrew Fuller become the great theologian and the world's benefactor. At once it began to be demonstrated, therefore, that as Christians began to put out their strength abroad they gain strength at home. Anti-missionary people are passing. They stand now only as a desolate post to warn us not to go that way. While God does not say, "Go and I will go with you," he does ~~not~~ say, "Stay and I will stay with you." The gospel conception is that of going ahead of everything. Then, too, we are encouraged to go on account of the great preparation which has been made in heathen lands. Through many years this preparation ~~which~~ has been going on. Great things are about to come to light among the heathen. Something like what has been done among the Telugus will come to pass in many other places. The preparation has already been made. There is also encouragement in this language we speak. This seems to be the tongue in which the world is to hear the gospel. Railroads and steamships also give us encouragement. Increased educational facilities may help us. We have 25,000 students in our schools. One of the most helpful signs is the general conception of womanhood. At the beginning of the century there was not a college on earth for the education of women. Now what have we? Consecrated womanhood is being turned on heathendom. We need missionary papers, missionary colleges, but we need the women more to help us save the world. The gospel influences is needed to lift up our churches. We need it to save us from materialism here in the South. We are fast becoming rich, and we need the gospel to save us midst our coming prosperity.

This sermon, together with soul stirring music and announcement of many good things for tomorrow, constituted the feast this evening.

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(Full text of sermon not given.)