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MINUTES

OF THE

**Synod of Mississippi**

AT ITS

**EIGHTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION**

Oxford, Miss., November 19-21, 1912.



PORT GIBSON, MISS.  
Chamberlain-Hunt Academy Print  
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when we have laid out before us the work along the lines indicated above.

In conclusion, your Board recommends that Synod consider the advisability of enlarging the membership of the present Board from 9 to 11, so as to have a larger section of Synod represented on the Board than is possible with the present membership. It is necessary here to call attention to the fact that the terms of three members of the Board expire with this meeting of Synod, namely, Dr. J. B. Hutton, Dr. J. R. Bobyns and Dr. W. D. Redus.

Respectfully submitted,  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF C.-H. A.

#### THE SABBATH.

The fight for the Sabbath has been kept up faithfully during the year, all along the different Church lines. Credit is due mainly to the National Lord's Day Alliance and the different Sabbath leagues throughout the country. There are Sabbath laws in nearly every state in the union. If these laws were enforced, Sabbath desecration externally would come to an end; but it seems impossible to enforce the laws. In the legislatures of different states, 35 or 40 anti-Sabbath bills have been presented. Their advocates have labored hard to secure their passage, but with one minor exception the Sabbath laws remain intact in all the states. Our great advance has been made in the Post Office Department. By vigorous efforts a federal statute was passed granting relief to thousands of post office employees on the Sabbath day. This law has gone into effect, and now 90 per cent of the post offices over the country are closed on the Lord's day.

From a report to the Northern General Assembly I quote the following:

"The postal authorities at Washington, when first the movement for closing post offices on the Sabbath was urged, feared the result would increase the *deficit* of the postal service for the previous year, which was over \$17,500,000. They have been agreeably surprised that at the end of one year since the order for Sunday closing, the *surplus* was over \$300,000, a net gain of over \$18,000,000. Thus has God prospered the nation in this department in honoring His law. In San Francisco formerly as many as 20,000, mostly strangers, called for their mail on Sundays. Now not more than 20 people call."

Taking courage from the success in the post office work of

the country, a vigorous attempt is now being made to secure a Sabbath rest day for the more than 3,000,000 laborers throughout the union. The great corporations that are employing these laborers are making a hard fight against the efforts for a weekly day of rest.

The end is not yet in sight, but we believe that through God's grace the Sabbath will sooner or later win the victory.

The National Lord's Day Alliance is a body of faithful workers, and they are entitled to the gratitude of the whole Church for their faithful and self-denying labors in this sacred cause. Your committee, however, calls attention to the fact that mere civil legislation will not secure the proper observance of the Sabbath day. While we are glad to receive the help of the state in arresting the wholesale violations of the Lord's day, we must remember that the religious obligation to keep the Sabbath springs out of the enlightened Christian conscience. While, therefore, the state is endeavoring to do its part, the Church should rise up as a great army to teach and practice the religious obligations of the Sabbath day. Throughout the bounds of our own Synod, so far as your committee has observed, there has been no change in the attitude of the people on this subject. We still have, and are likely to have for years to come, much cause for grief over the way our people treat the Sabbath day. If the members of the Presbyterian Church, or if even the elders and deacons of the Synod of Mississippi, would adopt and practice the high code of Sabbath ethics as set forth in the Westminster Confession, the Sabbath problem among us would be settled. Genuine Sabbath leaven would be sure to work. It is a matter of great sorrow and shame that with our own membership of 17,000 in the Synod, together with our Methodist and Baptist brethren and other Christian denominations, there should be such lamentable desecration of the Lord's day.

We have to mourn over the long railway trains that carry excursions on this day of rest. Telegraph and telephone companies ply their business uninterruptedly. All over the state the Sabbath sun seems to wake up the pleasure seekers, who call out their horses and buggies, who take the fast-moving trains for trips of pleasure and profit, who eagerly take the Sunday newspapers, who roll out their automobiles and fly rapidly over streets and country roads. This last mentioned contrivance on wheels, a most wonderful invention of this present age, is fast becoming one of the most serious Sunday desecrating agencies before the Church.

Your committee recommends to our people the most solemn consideration of the fourth commandment. Don't travel on Sunday; don't visit on Sunday; don't seek your own pleasure on Sunday. With all fidelity use the Sabbath day for the worship of God in public and private sanctuaries, and for works of necessity and mercy. "If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath from doing thy pleasure on my holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honorable, and shalt honor him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord, and I will cause thee to ride on the high places of the earth and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."

We recommend that the managers of the Synod's Summer School give this matter a place in their program.

C. W. GRAFTON, Chairman.

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#### MISSISSIPPI SYNODICAL COLLEGE.

Your Committee on the Mississippi Synodical College presents herewith, and makes a part of this report, the report of the Board of Trustees of the College, and would recommend its approval:

The Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Synodical College would report to the Synod of Mississippi that the year of 1911-12 was a very successful year, and that we opened this year with an excellent faculty and with a very fine body of students, but with only 72 boarders, as against 96 last year, and with 42 day pupils, about the same number as last year. The above stated fact leaves it doubtful if the income of the school will meet the expenses of this year. This is the first time in the history of your school when we have felt that there was danger of closing with a deficit.

2. The above stated fact also emphasizes in a most forceful way the need of the scholarship endowment fund for the successful operation of your school.

3. That the Board of Trustees' term of office expires each year and we will have to elect Trustees. The present Trustees are Dr. T. W. Raymond, J. E. Anderson, C. Z. Berryhill, R. L. Campbell, W. B. Gray, R. E. Jones, C. T. Ames, J. B. Perkins, J. H. Long.

We recommend the election of the following Trustees for