

time very strong, had hitherto abstained from reducing his principles to practice. Mr. Sutton began immediately to preach the gospel. Sinners were converted, and baptism followed conversion. Daniel Dimock carried into effect his long cherished convictions, and many others obeyed the command of the Saviour. The minister returned to his native land, but the good seed which he planted continued to spring up and bear fruit. Much obscurity hangs over our early history, and it is especially difficult to account for the long interval which elapsed before the formation of a Baptist church;—the fact, however, cannot be disputed that the first church of our denomination was organised at Horton in 1778—the second, at Halifax, in 1795. The latter was for many years the only Baptist Church in the province, in the strict sense of the term, the other churches being composed of Congregationalists and Baptists united, and the church at Horton having adopted open or mixed communion in the second year of its history.

The establishment of the Association in 1800 was an important event. It comprised the churches in Upper Granville, Lower Granville, Digby, Digby Neck, Yarmouth, Cornwallis, Horton, Newport, Chester, and Newville, N. B. The ministers present were Thomas Handley Chipman, James Manning, Enoch Towner, Harris Harding, Edward Manning, Theodore S. Harding, Joseph Dimock, and Joseph Crandal. George Dimock, not then a minister, was the messenger of the church at Newport. He is the only survivor of the brethren who were then constituted in union. The others are with God.

In 1809 the practice of open communion ceased in the associated churches, and the body became, properly speaking, a Baptist body. Four churches withdrew for a time, but were afterwards re-united to the Association. When it met in 1810, fifty years ago, the number of churches was thirteen, with 924 members. Nine of these were in Nova Scotia, containing 714 members. Adding to them the members of