

Rev. John Norton
Shelton
18

MINUTES,
OF THE
Nova-Scotia and New-Brunswick
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,
HELD AT THE
Baptist Meeting-House
IN
UPPER GRANVILLE,
June 22 & 23,
1812;
TOGETHER WITH THEIR
Circular and Corresponding Letters.

HALIFAX:
PRINTED BY HOWE & SON,
1812.

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MINUTES

OF

The Nova-Scotia and New-Brunswick Baptist Association.

MONDAY, JUNE 22, 1812.

1. **A**T ten o'clock, A. M. Revd. Brother *Joseph Crandall*, delivered the introductory Sermon, from Acts 24. 25.—“*And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled—God’s gracious presence was manifested.*”
2. Introductory Prayer by Revd. *T. S. Harding*.
3. Chose Revd. *J. Burton*, Moderator, and Revd. *E. Manning*, Clerk.
4. Baptized Ministers, and private Brethren, in good standing, not Members of this Association, were invited to take a seat with us.
5. Read Letters from the several Churches, and took the

following account of Members added, dismissed, excluded, and died the past year ; and the present number in each Church.

N. B. Ministers' names are in small capitals, and those marked thus *, were not present. A Dash — denotes no settled Minister.

CHURCHES	MINISTERS & MES- SENGERS	Added	Dismissed	Excluded	Died	Total
CECEBOO, 1st Baptist C. in the Township of Digby	ENOCH TOWNER, David Shook, John Roof. - - -					
LOWER GRANVILLE,	JAMES MANNING, James Delap, Josiah Snow. - - -			1		57
UPPER GRANVILLE,	THOMAS ANSLEY, Joseph Fellows, Silas Morse, William Bent, Roger Quin, John Saunders, George Troop.				1	55
CORNWALLIS, - - -	EDWARD MANNING, Homes Chipman, Lebbeus Harris, Levi Woodworth. - - -	7		1		73
HORTON, - - -	THEODORE HARDING, Benjamin Kinsman, Peter Bishop, Simon Fitch, David Harris. - - -	3				65
NEWPORT, - - -	James Stevens. - - -	1	5	8	8	220
ONSLOW, - - -	NATHAN CLEAVELAND, Daniel Blair.	1			1	88
9d Baptist Church in the Township of Digby, -	PETER CRANDAL, Stephen Harris, Jacob Cornwell. - - -	1				39.
AMHERST, - - -		15		3		74
SALSBURY, N. B. - -	William Freeman. - - -				1	16
SACKVILLE, N. B. -	JOSEPH CRANDAL. - - -	15				110
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CHURCH

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TUESDAY, JUNE 23.

9. Met according to adjournment. Our Rev. Brother *Hale* preached this Morning from *John 8, 31*.

10. Prayer, introductory to business, by the Moderator.

11. The Circular and Corresponding Letters were presented by the Committee, and accepted by the Association.

12. Received the Minutes, Circular and Corresponding Letters, from the Lincoln Association, by their Messenger Rev. *H. Hale*.

13. Voted, that the Rev. *E. Manning*, be our Messenger to the Lincoln, Bowdoinham and Cumberland Associations; and that he be allowed thirty Dollars for travelling expenses.

14. The Rev. Brethren *E. Manning*, *J. Dimock*, and Brother *Quin*, according to appointment, proportionated the expense of printing the Minutes, &c.

15. Appointed Brother *Burton* to superintend the printing of the Minutes : four hundred copies to be printed.

16. Appointed Rev. *J. Crandal* to write the Circular, and Rev. *T. H. Chipman* the Corresponding Letter.

17. Voted, that Brother *J. Dimock* preach the introductory Sermon ; in case of failure, Brother *J. Burton*.

18. Voted, that each Church belonging to this Council raise upon an average six-pence for each Member, to be sent to the Association, and put into the hand of the Treasurer.

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Brother *David Harris*, for the purpose of defraying the expense of printing the Minutes, &c.

19. Voted, to advise the Churches belonging to this Community, to observe the first Thursday of November, as a Day of Thanksgiving ; and the first day of January as a Day of Fasting, Humiliation, and Prayer, before the LORD.

20. Voted, to hold our next Annual Meeting in Waterbury, N. B.

The Moderator closed this Session by Prayer.

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Circular Letter.

BELOVED BRETHREN,

WE rejoice that the God of all Grace, has permitted us once more to meet, in order that we might unitedly pursue the Cause which we believe is, beyond expression, precious to the Churches we have the honour to represent. But the success of our weak, and very imperfect efforts, to advance the important subject in view, depends entirely on the blessing of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.

We have had the privilege to hear by Letters from the several Churches which compose this Association—some appear to be clothed in sackcloth, and others in garments of praise. It refreshes our souls to understand, that the Churches, in the midst of all their trials, joys and sorrows, hold fast the blessed mystery of Faith; and the ordinances of the Gospel in the unity of the Spirit; which is the bond of perfectness: it strongly evidences that the foundation of God standeth sure: having this seal, the LORD knoweth them that are his.

This is a trying day to God's People: errors prevailing on every hand; towering professors falling into flagrant vices; the love of many waxing cold; and lukewarmness is too general among religious people of all orders; the judgments of

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God are abroad in the earth ; vast numbers have been cut off by the sword ; thousands have been destroyed by earthquakes ; and a thick cloud is hanging over us. The womb of Providence is big with events ; Saints and Sinners ought to tremble and fall before the great I AM !

Surely, God's hand is lifted up—"Is there not a cause?" In this and the adjacent Province, we have been highly favoured, temporally and spiritually, with peace and with plenty, and still our blessings are continued. We have the Bible in our houses ; Ministers, and the Gospel, in our Churches ; and we are frequently visited by the Servants of God in our habitations : but we have greatly abused our mercies. We have not so carefully and prayerfully perused God's word as we ought to have done : consequently our knowledge of it is comparatively very small ; and the Christian warriors, through their neglect, frequently in the field and time of battle, appear to disadvantage : like soldiers, in time of great danger, who are destitute of courage, arms, and ammunition. Moreover, when we attend Divine Worship, it too frequently consists more in bodily exercise than heart worship : let us remember, God requires the heart.—If we reflect how we have spent our Sabbaths, then, we shall see the propriety of crying out—Guilty ! Guilty ! Have we not often received and paid worldly visits on the LORD's Day ; and likewise spent much of it in carnal conversation. Upon self-examination, we shall find that we are too closely joined in affinity with the world. May the LORD give us a right understanding of the address, question, and declaration of *James* : "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God ?

Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." Have we not been so accommodating (at least some of us) to those who stand against a great part of the counsel of God, that we have been tempted to reject with disdain, several branches of the precious Gospel of the Lord JESUS CHRIST; and others of us have been underrating truths which angels admire; and, traditions of men have been substituted in their places. Verily, the holy, just, and righteous God hath a controversy with us! on the account of our sins. Let us speedily lay down our weapons, and fight against our God no more.

The children of God, who feel an application of the above-mentioned truths, and have a deep sense of their sins and imperfections, inward corruptions, and their abuse of the tender mercy of God—are ready to cry out, Who can stand before the infinitely great and holy JEHOVAH, when he comes to render vengeance to his enemies? Trembling saints lift up your heads! the day of your redemption draw nigh! the hairs of your heads are all numbered. His mercy is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him. Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth, who is he that condemneth? Consider his eternal purpose, he made sufficient provision for all his elect, so that they shall stand before him with joy at the great Day, clothed in the best robe, and perfectly free from all sin. Let your hearts be deeply affected with his unparalleled love towards you. Behold! He spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all; how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? JESUS CHRIST, God's eternal SON, equal with his adored FATHER in ever-

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unbounded perfection, and yet he took upon him the seed of Abraham, and perfectly fulfilled the Law, and made infinite satisfaction for guilty and polluted sinners; and thousands can say, We have redemption in his blood, the forgiveness of sins. By an imputation of his perfect righteousness, sinners the most vile, who are heartily willing to be saved freely through the unsearchable riches of his grace, shall obtain everlasting life.

The Holy Spirit of God, who opens the understanding of sinners to see their guilt, total depravity, and their utter inability to help themselves; the same Spirit, leads them from every idea of obtaining salvation by their own works; and leads the distressed sinners to the feet of the Lord JESUS CHRIST; and excites them to cry for mercy; and enables them to venture their eternal all for time and eternity on the Friend of Sinners. At that moment Heaven opens to their view! and their redeemed and admiring souls are filled with Heavenly peace and raptures all divine! Their language is, Not unto us! Not unto us! but unto thee, O LORD! shall all the glory be given; for thou hast blessed us with all spiritual blessings in CHRIST; according to thine own infinitely pure choice of us in our glorious EMMANUEL before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before thee in love.

Such chosen and redeemed people, are in an especial manner under infinite obligations, to fear, honour, and obey God in all things: not only from the consideration, that he is infinitely glorious and lovely in Himself, in his Law, in the plan of Redemption, and in all his ways; but also from the consideration, that He has planted, in their hearts, a princi-

ple of universal obedience ; and has secured to them, their eternal holiness and happiness.

Brethren, let us frequent our closets, and there, and every where, plead fervently with God for his Ministers, for the prosperity of his precious cause, and for our ourselves, that we may obtain much sanctifying Grace, and a full assurance of our eternal happiness. In such a frame of mind, our communion with God would be sweet and sensible ; and we should be enabled boldly to confess the Friend of Sinners, before a crooked and perverse generation ; so that many would take knowledge of us, that we had been with JESUS. We should endeavour to live religiously at home, and abroad ; in public, and in private. It is our duty, and ought to be our delight, to fill up our seats and places in God's House. By our light thus shining before men, we shall be a blessing one to another ; and to our families ; and through our means, many may be brought from darkness to marvellous light ; and numbers encouraged to follow their dear Lord and Master into his watery tomb ; and cheerfully to join God's dear militant band. "The LORD make you to increase and abound in love one towards another, and to all men, even as we do towards you : to the end he may establish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord JESUS CHRIST, with all his Saints." *Amen, and, Amen.*

On behalf of the }
Association. } (Signed,)

John Burton,
Moderator.
Edward Manning,
Clerk.

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Corresponding Letter.

DEAR BRETHREN,

IT is cause of lamentation, that through our own neglect, we too much of our time walk in darkness, and have no light, yet, we hope, that frequently, by **Grace Divine**, we are enabled to trust in the **LORD**, and stay upon our **GOD**.

The **LORD**, by way of judgment and reproof to all Nations, on account of their heinous and multiplied sins and misimproved blessings, has permitted Men to spread death ! and destruction through a great part of the world ; and **JEHOVAH** himself, by his own immediate hand, has recently sent very alarming judgments. Though we cannot see the **ALMIGHTY**'s design in the whirlwinds ; and deeps of his providences—his way being in the sea, and his path in the great waters, and his footsteps are not known. Nevertheless, thereby, He is bringing about His eternal and unalterable decrees ; and it is our duty reverently to say, "It is the **LORD**, let him do what seemeth him good."

While many in the world have been labouring under much distress, and living in Nature's night, we have been living in the enjoyment of peace and plenty, and favoured with the precious Gospel of **JESUS CHRIST** ; and with privileges both sacred and civil. Thanks be to **GOD** for those mercies, and the blessings we still enjoy. It is not on account of our worthiness that we are so highly favoured ; no, we are too much like Israel, a rebellious and gainsaying peo-

ple. Notwithstanding, we hope some of us can say, That the LORD has washed us, scarlet and crimson sinners, from our sins in the blood of the Lamb. We trust we may say, that our Session has been both pleasant and profitable. Our Assemblies were large, and in general solemn. The LORD enabled his Servants to preach faithfully the pure, but too much neglected Doctrine of the Cross, and they were sent home with power to the hearts of the people.

To us it appears that this is an eventful time: but, "a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without our Father, and the very hairs of our heads are all numbered." We wish to follow peace with all Men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the LORD.

It is our soul's desire to see that happy day, when swords shall be beat into ploughshares, and spears into pruning hooks; when Nation shall not lift up sword against Nation; and when they shall learn the direful art of war no more. Then shall the Kingdoms of this world become the Kingdoms of our LORD, and his CHRIST, and he shall reign for ever and ever.

We have been refreshed by your Correspondence and Messengers. May the LORD remove every unfavourable thing out of the way that is calculated to prevent our mutual friendship.

Brethren, we are your's in the best of bonds,
(Signed,)

John Burton,
Moderator.
Edward Manning,
Clerk.

By Order of the }
Association. }