

MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-THIRD SESSION

OF THE

African Baptist Association

OF

NOVA SCOTIA.

Held with the Halifax Church, Cornwallis St., on Saturday, Monday,  
Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 2nd, 4th, 5th and 6th, 1870.

TOGETHER WITH THE

CIRCULAR LETTER.

HALFAX,

NOVA SCOTIA: PRINTED BY

1870.

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OF THE

TWENTY-THIRD SESSION

## ERRATA.

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Page 12—Thomas Jones, *Lic.*, omitted.

“ 12—Falmouth Church : Deacon, Benjamin Gray.

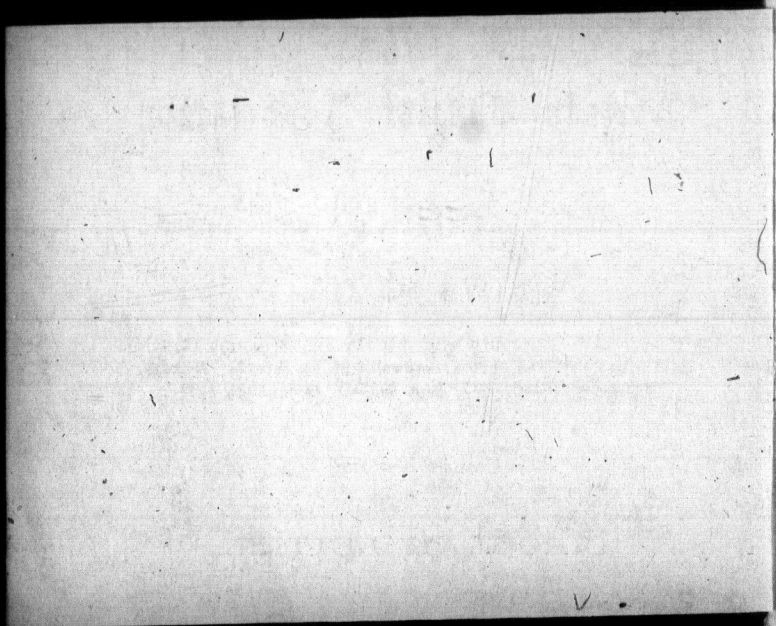
“ 12—Missionary, Rev. S. R. Walls.

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HALIFAX :

NOVA SCOTIA PRINTING COMPANY.

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WINTER

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHYSICS

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

PHYSICAL LABORATORY

PHYSICAL LABORATORY  
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
CHICAGO, ILL.

# MINUTES.

## FIRST SESSION.

Halifax, N. S.,  
Saturday, September 2nd, 1876. }

THE AFRICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION assembled on September 2nd, at 3 o'clock, P. M., in its 23rd annual Session.

It was resolved that the Rev. James Thomas, Pastor of the Church, take the chair.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman; and owing to the death of the Secretary, Bro. P. E. McKerrow was chosen to fill that office.

Religious exercises were conducted by the Rev. James Thomas, Chairman, by singing and prayer; also, lecturing from First Epistle of Peter, 5th Chapter; during which time the list of Delegates was being prepared.

The list of Delegates was then read as follows:—

*Halifax*—Revs. James Thomas and A. Bailey; Deacons Chas. F. Biddle and R. Simons; Bros. Jos. Flint, William Johnson, Thos. H. White, P. E. McKerrow.

*Preston Ist.*—Rev. George Carvery, and Deacon John Brooks.

“ *3rd, (New Road Settlement)*—Bro. James Downey, (Licentiate).

*Hammoud Plains*—Bros. A. Emmerson and D. Anderson.

*Dartmouth*—Bro. James Cassidy.

*Digby Joggins*—Rev. James Wilmot and Deacon Peter Butler.

*Beech Hill*—Rev. A. Bailey; Bros. R. & J. Hamilton.

*Horton*—Sister Annie Doleman.

*Campbell Road*—Bros. Deacon James Brown, and William Howe.

*Cornwallis*—Bros. John A. Smith (Licentiate), and John S. Powell.

*Falmouth*—(Newly organized)—Bro. John A. Smith, (Licentiate.)

*Bridgetown*—

After which the following officers were elected:—

CHAIRMAN.....REV. JAMES THOMAS, (re-elected).  
“ —ASSISTANT.....REV. GEO. CARVERY.  
SECRETARY.....BRO. P. E. MCKERROW.  
TREASURER.....DEA. CHAS. F. BIDDLE, (re-elected.)

The following were appointed a Committee of Arrangements:—Revs. Jas. Thomas, Geo. Carvery, and A. Bailey; Bros. John A. Smith, (Licentiate); Deacon John Brooks;

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Bros. E. Flint, Wm. Johnson and John Powell, who retired to the vestry, and after a few minute's deliberation returned to the Church, and reported as follows :

That the following Brethren were appointed to preach on the Sabbath, viz :—

*African Baptist Church*—John A. Smith, (Lic.) . . 11 a. m.  
*Zion Methodist Church*—Rev. S. R. Walls, and if  
 not present, Rev. Carvery to be his substitute. . . 11 a. m.  
*African Baptist Church*—Rev. Geo. Carvery . . . 3 p. m.  
 “ “ “ — “ Jas. Wilmot . . . 7 p. m.

Committee recommend that a collection be taken after each service for the benefit of Missionary purposes ; Committee also recommend that the two Brethren chosen as Deacons—Bro. Joseph Flint for the Halifax Church, and Bro James Brown for the Campbell Road Church, be ordained after the preaching of the sermon at 3 o'clock. They further recommend that Bro. R. Smith, who applied for a Letter of License, be placed in the hands of Revs. Jas. Wilmot, Geo. Carvery and A. Bailey, who were appointed a Committee of Investigation.

Bro. Deacon C. F. Biddle moved and Bro. P. E. McKerrow seconded that the report be adopted.

The following Committees were appointed, viz :—

*To examine Letters*—Brethren A. Emmerson, C. F. Biddle and Wm. Johnson.

*Finance and Audit*—Rev. Geo. Carvery. Brethren Wm. Johnson, D. Anderson, A. Emmerson and John Brooks.

Voted—That Bro. A. Emmerson assist the Secretary in reading letters.

The Committee on Letters handed in a letter from the Falmouth newly organized Church for admission into the Association. Bro. John A. Smith, their Delegate, being present, the right hand of Fellowship was given him with a hearty good welcome by the Chairman.

Moved and carried—That this Association wave their Monday afternoon Session for the purpose of attending the funeral of their late Brother John Spriggs.

Adjournment having been moved and carried, the Session closed with prayer by the Rev. A. Bailey.

## SABBATH SERVICES.

*Sunday, September 3rd.*

11 a. m.—Preaching by Bro. John A. Smith (Licentiate), from 19th Chap. St. John, latter clause of 5th verse: "Behold the man," followed by Rev. Jas. Wilmot, and Bros. E. Dickson and Goffigan, with some very soul-stirring remarks from Bro. Geo. McDonald.

3 p. m.—Preaching by Rev. Geo. Carvery, from Acts 6th Chap., 1st to 7th verse: "And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration;" followed by Rev. Jas. Wilmot. After the sermon the Rev. James Thomas requested the congregation to remain during the ordination of the two Deacons and the administration of the Lord's Supper, which occasion was most solemn and imposing.

7 p. m.—Preaching by Rev. Jas. Wilmot, from Psalm 23rd, 1st verse: "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want;" followed by Bro. John A. Smith and others.

## SECOND SESSION.

*Monday, September 4th, 10 a. m.*

Forenoon Session commenced with prayer by the Rev. Jas. Thomas, Chairman.

The minutes of last Session were read and approved.

Voted—That the Brethren from sister Churches take a seat in Council with us.

The reading of letters was next in order; after which it was resolved that business be suspended for ten minutes, preparatory to the introduction sermon, when the Brethren retired to the vestry and exchanged salutations with each other, and expressing their thankfulness to Almighty God for sparing their unprofitable lives for another year. After the expiration of the time granted they repaired to the Church, when Rev. Geo. Carvery preached the Introductory Sermon from Ephesians 2nd chap., verse 17: "And came and preached peace to you which were afar off and to them that were nigh."

Session adjourned by singing, and prayer by Bro. Thos. Jones, Licentiate.



## THIRD SESSION.

*Tuesday, September 5th, 10 a. m.*

Session commenced with singing and prayer by Bro. A. Emmerson. The minutes of the previous Session was read and approved.

The reading of letters was then resumed. The Committee on letters asked for an extension of fifteen minutes, which was granted, when they retired to the vestry, and after a careful examination of all the letters, they brought in their report as follows :--

Your Committee most respectfully beg to submit the following : That they have carefully examined all the letters, some of which, having been written by unexperienced Secretaries, required a great deal of correction, in which your Committee would advise the Delegates on their return, to inform the various Secretaries to use a little more pains and precision in the dictation of the same, to the next Annual Association.

Voted—That the report be adopted. (See Digest of Letters.)

The Chairman made a verbal statement of his mission to Horton, in which he was pleased to inform us that although a great many of the male members were always absent, yet their meetings were kept up by the assistance of the females and ministering Brethren close by. He was also pleased to learn that Brother John A. Smith had visited them. The Chairman also stated that from the good feeling which existed among the members of the newly organized Church at Falmouth, during his short stay among them, with the endeavours of Bro. John A. Smith, and the assistance of God, they would surely grow Spiritually as well as Temporally, in which he recommended them to look well to the giver of *all* good and perfect gifts.

Voted—That the report be adopted.

A request was made by the Delegates from the Hammond Plains Church, that our next Annual Association be held with them. Same was put to a vote and carried unanimously. Reading of letters were then completed. Bro. James Cassidy moved, and Bro. D. Anderson seconded, That we procure Two hundred (200) copies of Minutes, passed

unanimously, also, the Rev. James Thomas, Chairman, superintend the printing of the same.

Committee of Arrangements recommend that Bro. P. E. McKerrow write the Circular Letter.

Voted—That Rev. James Wilmot preach the Introductory sermon, and Rev. A. Bailey be his alternate.

Session adjourned with singing, and prayer by Bro. James Downey.

#### FOURTH SESSION.

*Wednesday, September 6th, 10 a. m.*

Forenoon Session opened with prayer by Rev. A. Bailey. When the Chairman read from a copy of the *Christian Messenger* a statement of a small donation from the Halifax Church, over which he is Pastor, had sent to the Central Association for Home and Foreign Missionary purposes, for which said Association made a grateful acknowledgement. The subject of Home Mission and education was taken up, when several of the Brethren took part in the discussion.

Rev. George Carvery moved, which was seconded by Bro. P. E. McKerrow :

*Whereas*, In view of the great want of Finance at all of our Annual Associations, to aid our Missionaries in their important work.

*Be it Therefore Resolved*, That this Association request the Pastors of all Churches in the connection, that a Tax of twelve cents per annum of every member be demanded, and as much more as they could afford, the same to be deposited with the Treasurer of their Churches for said purpose, whereby the destitute places of our earthly inheritance might be filled with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The resolution was spoken to by Revs. James Thomas, George Carvery, A. Bailey, and Jas. Wilmot, Bros. John A. Smith, John Brooks, A. Emmerson, Wm. Johnson, D. Goffigan, and P. E. McKerrow.

After a most interesting discussion the motion passed unanimously.

The Treasurer submitted report of monies received at the Association, which was adopted.

The business of the Association being ended, Bro. D. Anderson moved, and Bro. A Emmerson seconded,

That the thanks of the Association be tendered to the Brethren and friends of Halifax for the warm and hospitable treatment afforded the Delegates and friends of this body."

A vote of thanks was tendered to the Chairman for the able manner in which he conducted the business of the Association, the same was responded to in his usual pleasant style, although having had to pass through the bitter waters of affliction by the death of his son, our much esteemed Bro. John R. Thomas, who had been a Secretary for this Association for the past fifteen years, but from the testimony that he left behind him, he felt rejoiced to know that he had only gone a step ahead, when he hoped that all the ministering Brethren and lay members who now surround this earthly altar, would meet him on that great day on the fair plains of unclouded Glory.

A vote of thanks was also tendered to the Secretary, who responded to the same, after which the Brethren joined hands, when the Chairman delivered a short eulogy, the Doxology was then sung, prayer offered by Rev. George Carvery, and the Session closed, to meet with the Hammond Plains Church, on the first Saturday in September, A. D. 1877.

PETER E. MCKERROW,

*Secretary.*

## DIGEST OF LETTERS

TO THE

### African Baptist Association.

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*Halifax Church.*—Dear Brethren,—During the past year we have had our sunshine and our cloudy seasons, in which we have been happy as well as sad. The grim messenger—Death—has been amongst us, and borne away some of our best members, wherein we feel sad; but when we realize the reason, and by whose bidding they are called, we repose, and say: “Thy will be done in earth as it is in Heaven.” We have had four added by Baptism, besides two received to membership. Sabbath School and Bible Class goes on harmoniously. Our little Zion is comfortable. On the whole, we believe the labors of our dear Pastor, Rev. James Thomas, are much blessed.

*Hammond's Plains.*—Another year has passed and taken its members; still God in His mercy has spared us to the present moment. We feel grateful to Him for His loving kindness toward us; for just when we were in our lowest state He broke forth in sweet songs from the threshold of glory, causing saints to rejoice and sinners to fall in with the plan of salvation. Our meetings are interesting, attendance large, twelve (12) having been added by Baptism. Our Sabbath School has been re-organized and is now in good working order.

*Preston (First).*—Dear Brethren,—We thank Almighty God that we are still alive and striving to do right, and through the mercies of our Heavenly parent, we hope to hold out to the end. Although our membership is small and increase limited, yet we are in harmony with one another. We have had two (2) added by Baptism. Our Sabbath School is in working condition, and all is peaceful and bright.

*Preston (Third).*—No additions have been made during the past year. Our Church remains the same, with one death during the year. We pray earnestly for a revival of the Sunday School and meetings generally.

*Dartmouth.*—Dear Brethren,—Again a few of us are spared as living monuments of the tender mercies of God to see another Association Session; and though the swift messenger has made great inroads amongst our members, yet the few that remain bless God for what He has done, knowing that He does all things well. We trust you will have a good time, and great good will be done in teaching and preaching the way of salvation.

*Beech Hill.*—Brethren,—The Almighty God has spared us all as a Church another year. We have lost none nor added any. Our beloved Brother, Rev. A. Bailey, labors with us incessantly, and we trust God for the result. Our attendance is small although interesting.

*Campbell Road.*—Beloved Brethren,—We have been blessed with rather a golden opportunity in again sending one of our members to be ordained as Deacon. Pray for him that his labours might be blest. Hoping for a good time in future. One of our old Pillars has fallen, but we trust his place is well filled.

*Horton.*—Dear Brethren,—Our Church is composed principally of seafaring men who are always absent. We feel much a need of their presence to assist in leading the meetings; nevertheless the Master always provides. Bro. John A. Smith has labored with us several times during the winter, and we trust that God will show the fruit thereof. The Rev. James Thomas visited us during the winter and we had a good time. Pray for us that we might prosper and become great in the sight of the Lord.

*Cormallis.*—Brethren,—We send you Christian salutation, and trust that God will preside over your deliberations as a Church. We are trying to keep up our meetings. We are without a Pastor. Although we have had no new additions the past year, we have lost none. Rev. S. Walls has left here and gone to St. John, N. B., which lessens our help. We, therefore, wish the Rev. James Thomas to look after our

spiritual wants, in connection with Bro. John A. Smith, who exhorts us quite often.

*Bridgetown.*—No letter.

*Weymouth.*— “

*Liverpool.*— “

*Bear River.*— “

*Yarmouth.*— “

*Digby Joggins.*—Dear Brethren,—We, as' a Church, are strong, with God's assistance to keep up our meetings; and He has blessed the labors of our dear Pastor. Four volunteers for Christ have been added by Baptism; and we request your earnest prayers in our behalf for our spiritual growth.

*Falmouth (newly organized.)*—Dear Brethren,—The past winter it pleased Almighty God to send Bro. John A. Smith amongst us and his labors were blessed. Nine (9) willing converts were buried with Christ in Baptism, by our much esteemed and most venerable Father Thomas, who organized us in a Church, in which, we trust, that although few in numbers as yet, we shall grow and become great in the sight of the Most High.

# African Baptist Association of Nova Scotia.

CHAIRMAN.....REV. JAMES THOMAS.  
SECRETARY.....PETER E. McKERROW.

## Ministers, Licentiates, Deacons, Counsellors, &c.:

- Halifax.*—Rev. James Thomas, Pastor; Charles F. Biddle, Richard Simons, Joseph Flint, Deacons; Daniel Gross, William Johnson, P. E. McKerrow, Counsellors; Thomas H. White, Clerk; John David, Door Keeper.
- Hammond's Plains.*—Rev. Jas. Thomas; Daniel Goffigan, Licentiate; Gabriel David, William Wilson, Deacons; David Anderson, F. David, Counsellors; A. Emmerson, Clerk; Isaac Giddy, Doorkeeper.
- Preston (First).*—Rev. George Carvery, Pastor; John Brooks, George Tyler, Deacons; John Williams, Geo. Dare, Counsellors; Joseph Evans, Clerk.
- Preston (Third)—New Road Settlement.*—James Downey, Licentiate; James Smith, Deacon; James Smith, Sr., Counsellor.
- Dartmouth.*—Rev. James Thomas; James Cassidy, Counsellor.
- Campbell Road.*—James Brown, Deacon; Wm. Howe, Counsellor.
- Beech Hill.*—Rev. Alex. Bailey; Joseph Hamilton, Deacon; Robert Hamilton, Counsellor.
- Horton.*—Dennis Doleman, Deacon.
- Cornwallis.*—John A. Smith, Licentiate; Daniel Taylor, James Landsay, Deacons; Thomas Powell, Counsellor.
- Bridgetown.*—Andrew Clements, Deacon; Frederick Hill, Counsellor; Joseph Jackson, Frederick Hill, Trustees.
- Bear River.*—Rev. James Wilmot; Peter Butler, Deacon.
- Digby Joggins.*—Rev. James Wilmot, Pastor; Peter Butler, Deacon; William Harris, Counsellor.
- Yarmouth.*—Silas Chandler, James Crawford, Deacons; David Dize, Counsellor.
- Liverpool.*—John Fells, Deacon; Jas. Wade, Robert Ely, Counsellors.

## Sabbath School in connection with Halifax Church:

- Superintendent*—Charles F. Biddle. *Male Teachers*—P. E. McKerrow, Thomas White. *Female Teachers*—Mar. Thomson, Annie Joseph, Louisa Brown, R. C. Thomas. *Librarian*—William Johnson. *Assistant Librarian*—Thomas McDonald. *Secretary*—Thos. White.
- HAMMOND'S PLAINS.—*Superintendent*—Alex. Emmerson. *Male Teachers*—David Anderson, Thomas Anderson. *Female Teachers*—
- \*PRESTON (FIRST).—*Superintendent*—Rev. George Carvery. *Male Teacher*—Joseph Evans. *Female Teachers*—Amelia Turner, Susan Murphy.
- PRESTON (THIRD).—*Superintendent*—James Downey. *Male Teacher*—  
——. *Female Teacher*—Eliza Downey.

## CIRCULAR LETTER.

The Circular Letter of the African Baptist Association to the Churches of which it is composed.

DEAR BRETHREN,—Having been appointed to write the Circular Letter of our Association, I would rather have seen the lot fallen into more experienced hands than mine, not having the desired qualification for such a duty. I most cordially solicit your sympathy.

Among the most important blessings which the Divine Being has conferred upon mankind, may be numbered the happy display of good and pious examples. In every age and country, perhaps in almost every little district throughout the earth, He has placed some of His faithful servants or returning prodigals to bear witness of His power and goodness, and to encourage others to a life of purity, piety and beneficence.

The one to whom I allude is our most respected and much lamented Brother John R. Thomas, who was Secretary of this Association for the past (15) fifteen years; but the Divine Creator thought fit to call him home from his earthly seat of action, and to take him to that undiscovered country, from whose bourn no traveller has ever returned. By his death the Association has lost a noble member. His habits were temperate; his manners were social; but more than all, his end was a happy one. During the latter portion of his life, when his sufferings at times were quite severe, in one of his sharpest fits of pain, looking up to Heaven, he said: "God's holy will be done; I bless Him for all my afflictions."

He was of strong bodily constitution; but a severe cold, which he caught about one year previous to his death, brought on a consumption of the lungs. The nearer he approached his dissolution, the more plainly was observed his continual improvement in a spiritual and Heavenly temper.

I have conversed with him on more than one occasion of his willingness to die. He expressed his desire to live or die, as it pleased Divine Providence. He rejoiced in the comfortable persuasion of accepting *Christ* in his youth. A few days before his decease he said: "I shall now die; but O! what unspeakable glories do I see!



What joys beyond thought or expression am I sensible of! I am assured of God's mercy to me through Jesus Christ. O! how I long to die and to be with my Saviour!" This is true religion, which is the perfection of human nature and the joy and delight of every one that feels it active and strong within him. It is true my Brethren that this is not arrived at all at once; but, is attained only by continual watchfulness and constancy in prayer. Such were the habits of our much esteemed Brother JOHN ROBINSON THOMAS, who departed this life at the early age of thirty years.

Now, Brethren, a few words of encouragement to those who are of the less favored race. How great does it exalt the mercy and goodness of the Universal Parent of mankind, to perceive that His regard is equal toward His children and people, whatever may be their stations and conditions in the world. To the poor and illiterate, as well as to the rich and learned the gospel is preached; and those of every class who become truly humble and poor in spirit, and those only, will cordially receive and rejoice in it. Learning and knowledge are, indeed, ornaments and improvements of our nature, and, as well as riches, rank and influence, enables us to enlarge the sphere of our utility and beneficence. The wisdom of Providence to promote order and government in the earth has, indeed, ordained a diversity of talents and conditions amongst men; but He has always graciously declared that, to the religious and faithful, improvement even of the fewest talents, shall be annexed to the highest reward that can be conferred upon them, namely: that of "Well done good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord!"

Now, Brethren, in conclusion. In the most solemn and serious manner you who have taken up the sword to fight against Satan; allow me to recommend strongly to you temperance in all things, as well as the study and practise of religion,—as that which is the most important of all things, and which is both the light of the world and the salt of the earth.

**STATISTICS**  
Of the Churches in the African Baptist Association.

NAME OF CHURCH.	Baptized.	Received.	By Exp.	By Letter.	Removed.	Expelled.	Died.	Total.
Halifax.....	4	2				2	7	176
Hammond's Plains.....	12	1				1		82
Preston (1st).....	2						1	26
"    (3rd)—New Road.....							1	16
Dartmouth.....							1	4
Beech Hill.....								17
Campbell Road.....							1	7
Horton.....	1	1						10
Cornwallis.....								24
Bridgetown.....								15
Bear River.....								8
Digby Joggins.....	4							12
Weymouth.....								8
Yarmouth.....								20
Liverpool.....								10
Falmouth—(newly organized)...	9	1						10
Totals.....	32	5				3	11	445

# 1876.-FINANCIAL ACCOUNT.-1876.

*The African Baptist Association in Act. with Treasurer.*

**CASH RECEIVED:**

Halifax	.....	\$14 25
Hammond's Plains	.....	5 55
Freston (1st.)	.....	5 18
"    (3rd.)	.....	1 30
Dartmouth	.....	2 25
Beech Hill	.....	1 85
Campbell Road	.....	1 11
Horton	.....	0 75
Cornwallis	.....	1 10
Digby Joggins	.....	2 10
Falmouth (newly org'd)	.....	0 50
Sunday and sundry Collections	.....	26 37
		\$62 31

**Contra.—CASH PAID OUT:**

Cash paid Secretary	.....	\$ 6 00
"    for Minutes, Postage and Stationery	.....	15 00
"    Rev. James Wilnot	.....	8 00
"    to Bro. John A. Smith for Mission to Horton and Falmouth	.....	4 00
"    to ditto for other services	.....	3 00
"    "    Bro. F. Butler	.....	2 50
"    "    "    Daniel Goffigan	.....	1 00
"    "    "    Rev. George Carvery	.....	3 00
"    "    "    Bro. Chas. F. Biddle	.....	1 00
"    "    "    Chairman for Mission to Falmouth and Horton	.....	6 00
"    "    ditto for other services	.....	4 00
"    Balance cash in hand	.....	8 73
		\$62 23

To the Memory

REV. JOHN R. THOMAS,

Who was a consistent member of this Association,  
and Secretary for the past fifteen years.

DIED ON THE 30th OF DECEMBER, 1875.