

A
254710
A

MINUTES
 OF THE
THIRTEENTH SESSION
 OF THE
AFRICAN
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
OF NOVA SCOTIA.

HELD AT WEYMOUTH CHURCH,

• *Saturday, Monday and Tuesday, September 29th,
October 1st and 2nd.*

ALSO THE

CIRCULAR LETTER.

226 M
HVS A1

HALIFAX:
 PRINTED BY W. CUNNABELL.
 1866.

MINUTES
OF THE
THIRTEENTH SESSION
OF THE
AFRICAN
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
OF NOVA SCOTIA.

HELD AT WEYMOUTH CHURCH,
Saturday, Monday and Tuesday, September 29th,
October 1st and 2nd.

ALSO THE
CIRCULAR LETTER.

HALIFAX:
PRINTED BY W. CUNABELL.
1866.

MINUTES
OF THE
AFRICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Weymouth, Saturday, September 29th, 1866.

The Association met, pursuant to adjournment, with the Weymouth Church, Saturday, 2 p. m. After singing, prayer by Rev. Henry Jackson.

Resolved, That Brother Thomas Saunders be Chairman for our Association.

Resolved, That Brothers C. Taylor, T. Saunders, T. Jones, Wm. Smith, A. Berry and J. R. Thomas be a committee to wait upon defected members. Also that Brother Taylor be Moderator for said committee.

After singing the Rev. James Thomas read the 33rd Psalm and lectured from the same, followed by the Ministering brethren, also a number of the brethren and sisters. Truly we had a good time.

Met at 7 o'clock. Prayer by Bro. Jones. The Rev. Henry Jackson read the 15th Psalm, and lectured from the same, followed by several of the brethren. Prayer by Rev. James Thomas.

Sunday.—Met at 10½ o'clock, a. m. Prayer by Brother Thomas Saunders. Rev. James Thomas preached from the 4th Chapter of Daniel.

3, p. m. Preaching by Rev. Henry Jackson from the 14th Chapter John, followed by Rev. James Thomas.

Met at half-past six o'clock. Preaching by Brother E. Jackson from the 41st Chapter of Isaiah, 5th verse, followed by Rev. James Thomas, and several of the brethren.

Monday the ministers and delegates met at 9 a. m. Prayer by the Rev. James Thomas. The Association was

called
Smi
M
vise
feet
and,
The
M
The
Hal
M
ing
clau
othe
T
Tho
A
Tho
R
read
S
1st
3d P
Hal
Bee
Cam
Har
Hor
Corr
Gra
Bea
Dig
We
Yar
Live

called to order. The counsel got into confusion about Smithers' case, so we did no further business.

Met at 11 o'clock. The Rev. Benson Smithers being advised by his ministering brethren to be silent and lie at the feet of the Cross, until his case was settled, yet he persisted, and, for sake of peace, the ministers did not disturb him. The Clerk was ordered to take no notes of his preaching.

Met at half-past 2. Prayer by Brother Thomas Jones. The Rules and Regulations of the African Baptist Church, Halifax, were read and discussed and approved of.

Met at 6 o'clock. Prayer by Brother Jackson. Preaching by Rev. James Thomas from 3rd Chapter Exd., last clause, 2nd verse, followed by Thomas Saunders, Jones, and others.

Tuesday.—Met at 10 o'clock, a. m. The Rev. James Thomas read the 7th Chapter of Solomon's Song.

Approved, that the Rev. James Thomas and John R. Thomas read the letters.

Resolved, That the Letters from the various Churches be read; from which statistics were found.

State of the Churches. Increase and Decrease.

Churches	Baptized	Rec'd	Excluded	Removed	Died	Total
1st Preston,	0	5	0	0	3	84
3d Preston, New Road,	0	5	0	0	1	21
Halifax,	3	0	0	0	3	87
Beech Hill,	0	0	0	0	0	5
Campbell Road,	0	0	0	0	1	8
Hammond Plains,	0	4	5	0	0	52
Horton,	0	0	10	1	2	11
Cornwallis,	0	0	0	4	3	21
Granville Mountain,	0	0	3	0	2	51
Bear River,	0	0	2	0	0	24
Digby Joggins,	0	1	0	0	0	17
Weymouth,	0	0	0	0	0	23
Yarmouth,	0	0	0	0	0	28
Liverpool,	0	0	0	0	0	17
	3	15	20	5	15	449

334394

An application being made from the Bear River Church that our Association be held with them next year,

Resolved, That the Association be held with the Bear River Church on the last Saturday in September, 1867, and that the Rev. James Thomas preach the Introductory Sermon, and that the Rev. George Neal be his alternate.

Voted that Brother John R. Thomas write the Circular Letter.

Approved, in the choice of the Granville Mountain Church, of Brother Middleton as Deacon.

Voted that if the Church to which Brother Charles Francis belongs approves to give him a Letter of License, he has our approval.

Resolved, That no Brother be entitled to a license to preach until he is approved of by our Association.

This Association advised Brother Roan to go home and make acknowledgment to the Halifax Church, as we consider him and all concerned in the difficulty with the little Meeting-house, Dartmouth, entirely wrong, from first to last.

Met at 7 o'clock. Preaching by Rev. Henry Jackson, followed by Thomas Saunders and others. Our Association then separated to meet with the Bear River Church on the last Saturday in September, 1867.

December 5th.

Brothers Charles Roan, Thomas Tynes, Richard Tynes, and John Gerry, have acknowledged their wrong to the Halifax Church, then called for their dismissal which was granted, therefore they are not considered members of our body.

Ma
I
cen
De
Da
kee
Eve
8
lor,
F
rett
Gro
Bai
E
C
mia
min
E
Th
sell
Gof
F
mar
C
Cou
C
Mid
E
son.
I
Wil
V
Lan
Y
Cha
Diz
I
Wa

Ministers, Licentiates, Deacons, Counsellors, &c.

1st Preston.---Rev. James Thomas, Rev. George Neal; Licentiates, Thomas Saunders, James Downing, George Brown; Deacons, J. Slawter, David Brown, George Taylor, William Dare; Counsellors, Peter Williams, John Thompson; Door-keepers, John Brooks, William Thomas; Clerk, Joseph Evans.

8rd Preston, New Road.---Rev. James Thomas; Counsellor, William Smith.

Halifax.---Rev. James Thomas; Deacons, William Barrett, Peter Brown, Charles Biddle; Counsellors, Daniel Gross, Joseph Cox; Door-keepers, John Spriggs, Alexander Bailey; Clerk, John R. Thomas.

Beech Hill.---Licentiate, Henry Bailey.

Campbell Road.---Rev. James Thomas; Licentiate, Jeremiah Wright, Eppy Carvery; Deacons, Allen Dixon, Benjamin Fletcher.

Hammond Plains.---Rev. James Thomas; Licentiate, Thomas Jones; Deacons, Deal Wiley, Gabriel David; Counsellors, Stephen Manigo, Frederick David; Clerk, Daniel Goffican.

Horton.---Rev. James Thomas; Deacons, Daniel Doleman, Dennis Doleman.

Cornwallis.---Rev. James Thomas; Deacon, Daniel Taylor; Counsellors, Charles Landsay, John Smith.

Granville Mountain.---Deacons, Edward Dixon, Isaac Middleton; Counsellor, Isaac Cuff.

Bear River.---Rev. Henry Jackson; Deacons, James Johnson, Isaac Johnson.

Digby Joggins.---Rev. Henry Jackson; Deacon, James Wilmot; Counsellor, Joseph Francis.

Weymouth.---Rev. Henry Jackson; Counsellor, James Lankford.

Yarmouth.---Licentiate, Edward Jackson; Deacons, Silas Chandler, James Crawford; Counsellors, David Dize, George Dize; Clerk, Isaac Turner.

Liverpool.---Deacon, John Fells; Counsellors, James Wade, Robert Ely.

AFRICAN BAPTIST SABBATH SCHOOL, in connection with
the Halifax Church, Cornwallis Street.---Superintendent,
Jeremiah Wright; Assistant Superintendent, Charles Biddle;
Treasurer, Alexander Bailey; Secretary, John R. Thomas.

DE.
spa
wo
thi
mi
thi
wri
glo
hu
Sav
hor
tha
ex
an
the
hu
hav
ca
pre
Pr

do
im
Go
led
gle
mo
blo
a p
of
the
an

CIRCULAR LETTER.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,—

We feel under a renewed covenant to God for having spared our lives; yet we stray away from him by thought, word, and action. And as I have been instructed to write this letter there is one thing that remains pressing upon my mind, incompetent promotion, too long, dear Brethren, has this topic been in and among us, and I feel it my duty to write briefly upon the same. God requires us to work to the glory and honour of himself, but it becomes us to work with humble simplicity, looking low to the feet of our Blessed Saviour Jesus Christ, that we may see high to where thine honour dwelleth. When self promotes a man he is as salt that has lost its savour, as we see those that wish to be exalted to honour, to teach according to the blessed Bible, and are not capable to explain one verse that is contained therein. It is better for us to sit still. O Lord keep us humble. How they grieve the Holy Spirit. Yet we all have something to do. All are not sent to the Pulpit! We can work by our daily walk and conversation, if we cannot preach we can sing; if we cannot sing we can pray, for Prayer is the simplest form of speech that infant lips can try.

Finally, Brethren, let us not exalt ourselves, but let God do his own work. He will not give his praises to graven images. That we may be enabled to behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world, and being thus led to behold him by faith in all the perfections of his glorious sacrifice, we can then truly say that Jesus has removed all our sins and guilt by the application of his precious blood which cleanses us from all sins, and that he has found a prodigal and led him to lay at his feet where there is none of the husks which the swine eat, but delicious dainties for the new and spiritual appetites of his heavenly-born sons and daughters.

Hence the Lord said by the mouth of his servants, the

products of oil, "I will make a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined." This is truly a delicious feast, but, if we have not got an appetite for this heavenly feast, then we can have no delight in this glorious provision which the Lord has made for his people. But when the dear Lord says, "Awake, O North wind, and come thou South—blow upon my garden that the spices thereof may flow out, let my beloved come into his garden and eat his pleasant fruit." It is in this way the Lord forms his people and gives them new desires and spiritual appetites, then the blessings of eternal life becomes sweet to our taste, when this heavenly wind blows upon the dry bones of the spiritual Israel. And now we can say that we were born not of blood, for from it we inherit corruption, nor of the will of the flesh, for the works of the flesh are only sin; nor of the will of man for the carnal mind is enmity to every thing that is spiritual, "but of God." Thus we are saved by grace alone independent to creature efforts, and were it not for the work of grace which the Lord begins in the souls of his people, whom He has loved with an everlasting love, and carries it on in the soul, we never would be saved.

Grace all the work shall crown
 Through everlasting days,
 It lays in heaven the topmost stone,
 And well deserves the same.

Ah but for free and sovereign grace,
 I still had lived estranged from God,
 Till Hell had proved the destined place
 Of my deserved but dread abode.

But O, amazed I see the hand
 That stopp'd me in my wild career,
 A miracle of grace I stand,
 The Lord has taught my heart for prayer.

JOHN R. THOMAS.