

MINUTES

OF THE

HALDIMAND ASSOCIATION,

AT THEIR

FORTY-THIRD ANNIVERSARY,

HELD WITH THE

Regular Baptist Church in Kingston,

ON FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 29, & 30, 1861.

TOGETHER WITH THE

CIRCULAR LETTER, CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

REV. J. CAMERON, MODERATOR.

BRO. J. KING, CLERK.

TORONTO, C. W. :

CANADIAN BAPTIST OFFICE, 39 KING STREET WEST.

1861.

MINUTES.

KINGSTON, June 28, 1861.

Rev. J. Cameron of Peterboro' preached the Introductory Sermon, from Proverbs xxiii. 23. At the close of the sermon, the Preacher was chosen Moderator, and Bro. J. King, Clerk.

The Constitution and By-Laws were then read.

Revs. W. Lacey, D. Wait, J. Reddick, and Brethren T. Butler and M. Ross, were appointed a Prudential Committee.

Revs. P. McDonald, H. Lloyd, and Dea. Smith, were chosen a Committee on the Circular Letter, and Brethren J. Wixon, J. King, and C. Paxton, a Committee on Resolutions.

The Prudential Committee reported as follows: That we adjourn till 2½ o'clock, P.M., and upon re-assembling proceed with the business of the Association: That Rev. H. Lloyd preach at 7 o'clock.

The Report was adopted and the Meeting adjourned.

Rev. J. Reddick closed with prayer.

'AFTERNOON SESSION.

Meeting opened with singing. Rev. P. McDonald prayed. The Letters from the Churches were presented and read. On motion, a Committee of three was appointed, consisting of Rev. D. Wait, Brethren P. Hinman and Dea. W. Sim, to consult as to the proper course to be taken with regard to a letter sent to the Association, by a body calling itself the 1st Markham Church. Rev. A. Anderson and P. McDonald were requested by the Association to give this Committee all the information in their possession.

The Committee appointed last year to visit the Fenelon Falls' Church, reported through the Rev. J. Reddick. On the recommendation of the Committee, it was Resolved: That the Fenelon Falls' Church be considered in good standing with the Association.

A Committee was appointed to consider an application of the Stirling Church for admission to the Association. Said Committee consisted of Revs. H. Lloyd, J. Reddick, and Bro. P. R. Randall, who were requested to report on the following morning immediately after the opening of the session.

The Committee on the Markham letter, reported the result of their deliberations, and recommended the rejection of said letter.

On motion, it was resolved that a due proportion of minutes be sent to J. B. Miller, Esq., of Markham.

A letter from the 1st Rawdon Church, was referred to the Committee appointed to consider the application of the Stirling Church, who were then constituted a standing Committee on applications.

Visiting Brethren were invited to a seat.

Rev. W. Lacey was appointed to visit the Huntingdon Church, it having failed to report itself for two successive years.

An application for admission to the Association from the Woodville Church was referred to the Committee on applications.

The Committee on the Circular letter gave in their report, and recommended its being read before the Association.

The Letter was then read by Rev. W. Lacey, and approved; but owing to its great length, it was resolved that Revs. H. Lloyd and P. McDonald, and Bro. King be requested to make an abstract of the same for publication with the Minutes. It was also resolved, that the entire letter be sent to the editors of the *Canadian Baptist*, and that they be requested to insert it in their columns.

After prayer by Rev. D. Wait, the meeting adjourned.

Re-assembled at 7 o'clock, when the Rev. H. Lloyd preached from Colossians iii. 3.

SATURDAY MORNING.

Held a prayer meeting from 9 till 10.

At 10 o'clock, Elder McIntyre preached from John xiv. 15. A collection, amounting to \$18.77, was then taken up in aid of the Stirling Brethren, who are building a Meeting-house.

The Prudential Committee reported: That when the Association adjourns, it does so for one hour, at the expiration of which the business of the Association be proceeded with: That the Rev. P. McDonald preach in the evening at 7 o'clock.

The Committee on applications reported as follows: "Your Committee appointed to consider the letter of the 1st Rawdon Church, would report that that Church has by its own act voluntarily disbanded, in our opinion, and advise that their letter be returned."—Adopted.

"Your Committee having carefully investigated the application of the Woodville Church, would report, that we feel much sympathy with the Church, and would be pleased to report favourably, but since the Churches of Brock and Eldon make a formal request, that the subject be referred to a Committee of Investigation, we advise that their request be granted, (especially since irregularities have occurred in both Churches), in order that if possible a reconciliation may be effected, and thus contiguous Churches may walk together in brotherly love and harmony."—Adopted.

"Your Committee would further report, in regard to the letter of application from the Stirling Church, that the Church be received, and the right hand of fellowship be extended to its representative by the Moderator."—Adopted.

The Committee of Investigation, recommended by the Committee in the case of the Woodville and Brock and Eldon Churches, was appointed by the Association, and consisted of Revs. Dr. Caldicott, H. Lloyd, and the Moderator. It was resolved, that the next Annual Meeting of the Association, be held with the Churches in Peterboro'. Dr. Caldicott to preach the opening sermon. Rev. P. McDonald to alternate. Rev. Joel Reddick to write the Circular Letter. Rev. H. Lloyd to alternate.

The Committee on resolutions submitted the following :

Whereas, a very large portion of the people of Canada are opposed, from principle, to granting State support to religion, deeming the connection between Church and State as injurious to both ; and whereas, the Government of this Province, fully recognizing this fact, solemnly declared in Parliament assembled, that it is desirable to remove all semblance of connection between the State and religious denominations as such. Therefore,

Resolved, That this Association regards the yearly grants from the public funds to denominational colleges, and religious institutions of various kinds, both in Upper and Lower Canada, not only as a grave wrong inflicted upon those who are in principle opposed to such grants, and as a source of political corruption ; but also as a direct violation of the pledge given at the settlement of the clergy reserves.

Resolved, That the open and frequent violation of the aforesaid pledge, given in order to secure acquiescence in what has ever appeared to us a most unrighteous disposal of the clergy reserves, has encouraged various denominations to press more eagerly for State support in some form ; and we look with serious apprehension upon the religious alienations and strifes which must spread over this country, unless all government grants to ecclesiastical bodies be at once done away.

Resolved, That we regard the present agitation, got up mainly by the Wesleyan Methodists, to break up our National University and divide its funds among the sectarian colleges, as one of the evil fruits of the bad system so long fostered by the government. And we, as citizens of Canada, shall ever protest against the supposed right of any denomination or party of men to carve its own separate share out of property designed as the common patrimony of all Canadians, and not of separate sects.

Resolved, That we deem University College and Toronto University amply sufficient to meet the wants of what is known as "higher education" in Canada. And that any surplus of funds over the efficient support of this national "institution" should be devoted to "academic education," in which the people of Upper Canada have an equal interest, and not to schools from which particular sects derive special and exclusive advantages.

Resolved, That though comparatively few of the young people of Canada require a University education ; yet a great many who do not wish to enter the University, long for a better education than they can get in our grammar schools. For this class no provisions have been made in this country, and hence many seek, in the neighbouring republic, that which should be furnished to them in their own land. Schools occupying a rank

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between the University and our grammar schools, should be established for such—schools in some respects resembling the “Scotch Academies” or German Gymnasias; and to the endowment of such schools we would recommend that the “surplus funds” of University College and Toronto University should be appropriated.

Resolved, That encouragement should be given by the government of this country to female education. It appears to us manifestly unjust that so many hundreds of thousands of dollars should be given by the Government for the education of young men in Canada, while not one shilling is appropriated for the education of the sisters and future companions of these young men—that Canada should so freely provide for the education of her sons, while she forces so many of her daughters either to go without mental culture or seek it in a foreign land.

Carried unanimously.

After prayer by Bro. Randall, the meeting adjourned.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

Prayer by Bro. Wixson.

The Committee on resolutions continued their report.

The following were submitted and adopted:

CANADIAN LITERARY INSTITUTE.

Resolved, That we look upon an educational institution as an absolute denominational necessity, and hereby record our gratitude to Almighty God for inclining his people to give of their means sufficient for erecting the *Canadian Literary Institute*, which was unfortunately destroyed by fire in January last; and pledge ourselves to use all the means in our power for rendering it in every respect complete and efficient.

THE YOUNG REAPER.

Resolved, That this Association deems it highly important, that the youth of our denomination should not only be well informed upon those great truths which more immediately concern the salvation of their souls; but that they should also be made acquainted with the principles and practices peculiar to the Baptist denomination, which we consider essential to the purity and prosperity of the Christian Church, and believing that the *Young Reaper* is eminently calculated to promote both of these objects, we earnestly recommend it to the notice of the parents of our children, and the superintendents and teachers of our sabbath schools.

THE CANADIAN BAPTIST.

Resolved, That recognising the importance of the denominational organ, we will continue to support it, and seek to place it upon a permanent basis, by endeavouring to increase its circulation in our midst.

The cordial thanks of the Association were tendered to the Brethren and Friends of Stirling, for their hospitality, and to the Presbyterian Friends, for their kindness in allowing the Association the use of their meeting-house.

It was *Resolved*, That the Revs. Dr. Caldicott and D. Wait, and Brethren J. King and P. R. Randall, be a Committee to revise the Constitution and By-laws, and report at the next Association.

A request from Bro. W. McKague, that the Association would permit him to make some statements in regard to the Chapel at Cobourg, was referred to the Prudential Committee for consideration.

Dr. Caldicott and J. King were appointed to superintend the printing of the Minutes.

It was *Resolved*, That the Minutes be sent to the various Churches, subject to charges for freight.

The Rev. D. Wait was appointed Corresponding Secretary. His address is Vernonville P. O.

The Prudential Committee recommended that Bro. McKague be permitted to make his statements to the Association. Permission was accordingly given.

Revs. J. Reddick, D. Wait, and W. McKee, were appointed a Committee to take measures for removing the debt which remains upon the Cobourg Chapel, and which, if not speedily liquidated, will occasion its loss to the Baptist Denomination.

The Moderator gave the hand of fellowship to the representative of the Stirling Church.

The business being dispatched, the Association adjourned to meet in Peterboro', on the 4th Friday in June, 1862, at half-past 10 o'clock, A.M.

In the evening, at 7 o'clock, the Rev. P. McDonald preached from Jude 3.

SABBATH SERVICES.

In the morning, the Rev. J. Reddick preached from 1 Corinthians vi. 58; in the afternoon, Bro. King from 1 Peter iii. 16; in the evening, Rev. A. Anderson from Romans v. 1. Collections were made after each service. In the morning, \$13 were collected for the Missionary Convention; afternoon, \$9.69 for the Grande Ligne Mission; evening, \$7.46 for the Stirling Church.

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ABSTRACT OF THE CIRCULAR LETTER

TO THE
CHURCHES OF THE HALDIMAND REGULAR BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION.

DEAR BRETHREN,

The subject of the present letter is the importance of special prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon our Churches.

The importance of this subject must be obvious, we think, to those who understand the present state of religion amongst us.

It is true, we may be correct in many respects, but without the influence of the Holy Spirit all will be vain. For instance :

1. Our Churches may be scripturally organized; that this is essential all will admit, for if there are defects in the organization of our Churches, there will be defects also in the practice. Grant that our Churches are modelled after the one at Jerusalem, still the admission of the truth of a proposition is not the same as the working out of such a proposition, any more than the constitution of a locomotive and the perfection of its parts, will give it motion. The locomotive must have steam to propel its machinery, so a Church needs something more than the embracing of correct principles, in order that it may be prosperous, and a blessing to the world.

2. As to discipline. A church may be strict in enforcing the obedience of its members to its disciplinary laws, yet this may be done with pharisaical complacency.

3. Our Churches may have wealthy members, this also may seem important for carrying on the cause of Christ more effectually. We admit that pecuniary means are necessary to support the Gospel Ministry, the Missionary Society, The Bible Society, Tract Distribution, Sabbath Schools, &c., but it is not always the case that where there is the most wealth, there is the most piety and prosperity, for generally we find more display and pomposity where wealth abounds. The prosperity of a Church depends upon the consecration of its members to Christ, and their earnest untiring efforts to promote the glory of God, accompanied by the influence of the Holy Spirit.

4. A Church may have a talented pastor and a gifted membership; it may like the Church in Corinth, be enriched by the Lord "in all utterance, and in all knowledge," so as to "come behind in no gift," and yet be distanced by other Churches with respect to piety and prosperity.

"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit saith the Lord."

Now, brethren, we have shown to you that something more is needed than correct organization, strict discipline, wealth, and talents, in order that a Church be happy and prosperous. The power of the Holy Spirit alone can sanctify the gifts and endowments of Pastors and Churches.

"Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses unto me, both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth."

We will now consider some of the happy effects which will follow, believing fervent and effectual prayer for the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon our Churches:—

1. There will be an increase of brotherly love.

There is in all our Churches a lamentable lack of this lovely trait of Christian character. Do we mutually esteem others better than ourselves? Is there nothing done through strife and vain glory? Are all striving to provoke each other to love and good works?

These are important questions, and unless they can be answered in the affirmative, there is certainly a deficiency in this important element of Christian character.

How necessary then that we wake up to the importance of special prayer for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon us. Whose genial influences will subdue the evils which mar our peace and retard our spiritual growth, such as, evil surmisings, evil speakings, jealousies, whisperings, and backbitings, envyings, &c.

2. The Spirit's influence will reclaim backsliders.

They are in a pitiable state, they can neither be happy in the world nor in the Church; when they seek the society of worldly men, they are reminded of their former professions, and they are not capable of enjoying the society of God's people. We doubtless have in the neighbourhood of all our Churches, wanderers from the fold of Christ, who cannot be reclaimed by any agency less than that of the Holy Spirit. Through His influence they are brought back from their wanderings, where "there is bread enough, and to spare"

3. Another happy effect of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon our Churches, will be the conversion of sinners, and consequent rejoicing on earth and in heaven.

When the spirit is poured out from on high, the wilderness and the solitary place are made glad, the desert rejoices and blossoms as the rose, the parched ground becomes a pool, the thirsty land springs of waters.

The effects of the gracious outpouring of the Holy Spirit are of such a pleasing character that there is great joy, because the dead are made alive, the blind to see, the deaf to hear, the lame to walk, the dumb to speak, and the lost are found. Hearts that were sad are made to rejoice, countenances upon which lowered brooding melancholy are lighted up with joy, before unknown! habitations filled with darkness, sorrow and despair are filled with light, joy, and hope. Oh! how many desolate homes are made to rejoice, when God pours out the spirit of grace and supplication.

Husbands rejoice over wives for whom they have long prayed, and wives are made to rejoice with exceeding great joy over husbands, for whose salvation they have long besought the Lord. Parents rejoice over their children, because they have become the children of God, and children rejoice over their parents, because they are "begotten again to a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." Friend rejoices over friend, because they together have become the friends of Christ. And neighbours rejoice over neighbours, because they have become "fellow-citizens of the saints and of the household of God."

"Likewise I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

They rejoice when another brand is plucked from the burning because the grace of God is thus magnified.

Brethren, if you desire the salvation of your friends, neighbours, parents, brothers and sisters, that they may be made the heirs of eternal life, seek in earnest prayer the special influence of the Holy Spirit; without whose divine power, they never can become the saved of the Lord.

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CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.—This Association shall be called the “Haldimand Regular Baptist Association.”

ART. II.—This Association shall be composed of such Churches only, as embrace, in substance, the following doctrines:—The being and unity of God; the existence of three equal persons in the Godhead; Divine Inspiration of the Old and New Testaments, as the complete and infallible rule of faith and practice; the depravity and just condemnation of all mankind by the fall of our first parents; Election of grace according to the foreknowledge of God; the proper divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ; the all-sufficiency of His atonement through which believers are justified freely by grace; the necessity of the influence of the Holy Spirit in regeneration; Perseverance of the Saints; Believers' baptism by immersion only; the Lord's Supper, a privilege peculiar to baptized believers regularly admitted into fellowship in our Churches; the resurrection of the body and general judgment; the final happiness of the saints, and misery of the wicked alike interminable; the obligations of every intelligent creature to love God supremely—to believe what God says, and to practise what God commands; and the religious observance of the first day of the week.

ART. III.—The objects of this Association shall be to promote, by correspondence and personal intercourse, unity of faith and practice, fellowship, cordiality of feeling, and union of effort in promoting the interest of the Churches, and the furtherance of the cause of Christ throughout the world.

ART. IV.—This Association shall recognize the power and independence of the Churches, and in no case exercise any authority or jurisdiction over them. Nevertheless, it shall have power to drop from its connection any Church which, in the opinion of the Association, may have essentially departed from the faith, either in principle or practice, and to exclude from a seat in its meetings any minister or delegate, who is manifestly corrupt either in theory or practice; and facts in either case may be ascertained in any way not inconsistent with the rules of the Gospel.

ART. V.—The meetings of this Association shall be held annually, on the last Friday in June, at 10 o'clock, A.M., by their representatives, which are not to exceed five from each Church, at such place as the Association shall appoint.

ART. VI.—The Churches composing this Association are required to send letters to all its meetings, addressed to the Association, expressing the names of their Messengers, the state of the Churches, with their alterations and present numbers.

ART. VII.—Churches shall be received into this Association by letter, setting forth their desire to be admitted, their faith, order, and willingness to conform to the rules of this Association: and on satisfaction and reception, the Moderator shall give the Messenger the right hand of fellowship.

ART. VIII.—Any Church connected with this Association that shall neglect to make an Annual Report at its meetings, for two successive years, shall be visited by a Committee of this Association to enquire into the cause; and if the same neglect be repeated the third year they shall be dropped from the Minutes.

BY-LAWS.

1st. Immediately after the delivery of the Introductory Sermon, it shall be the duty of the Minister that preaches, to call the Association to order for the election of a Moderator, after which the Moderator shall preside, and a Clerk shall be chosen.

2nd. After the choice of a Moderator and Clerk, a Prudential Committee of five shall be chosen to arrange the business of the Association.

3rd. The letters of the Churches shall be read, then the other business, as it may be presented.

4th. Visiting brethren may next be invited to a seat, and may debate on all subjects, but vote on none.

5th. Every speaker shall rise and address the Moderator, and shall have the liberty of moving or seconding any motion, or of speaking on any subject regularly laid before the body, without any interruption, except he depart from the subject, or some explanation be necessary to a right understanding of it.

6th. The Moderator shall have the same right to speak as any other member, provided the chair be filled.

7th. No subject shall be discussed until seconded; if not seconded it shall be considered as lost.

8th. No one shall speak more than twice on the same subject, without special leave from the Moderator.

9th. All personal reflections shall be particularly avoided in the deliberations of this body.

10th. In time of session, all private conversation shall be dispensed with, and undivided attention shall be given to the business of the Association.

11th. Meetings shall ever be opened and closed with prayer.

12th. All questions of order shall be decided by the Moderator.

13th. These By-Laws shall be read distinctly from the Chair immediately after the election of the Officers of each Session.

14th. A Corresponding Secretary shall be elected once in four years, whose duty it shall be to receive and preserve its papers.

15th. Any of the Articles or By-Laws, [excepting Article second of the Constitution,] may be altered at any meeting of the Association by the vote of two-thirds of the members.

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Churches, Clerks, and Post Offices.	MESSENGERS.	Baptized.	Rec. by Lett.	Experience.	Restored.	Died.	Dis. by Lett.	Excluded.	Dropped.	TOTAL.
		<i>J. Didden</i> WHITEBY, (6th Con.); Jos. Holman, Columbus. WHITEBY TOWN : Branch of 6th Con. STIRLING : <i>Woodville</i> <i>Bobcaygeon</i> <i>King</i>	{ Rev. H. Lloyd ; Dea. S. Holman, and Bro. C. Paxton..... { Rev. H. Lloyd ; Dea. E. Doolittle { Rev. W. Lacey.....	..	7	1	2	..
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	Grand Total....	51	39	9	24	13	48	16	96	1111

STATISTICS OF SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

SCHOOLS.	SUPERINTENDENTS.	Teachers.	Scholars.
Claremont.....	G. Bundy.....	..	80
Cramahe.....	Rev. J. Reddick.....	11	75
2nd Cramahe.....	..	8	45
Haldimand.....	J. Holman.....	..	110
Peterboro'.....	D. McDonald.....	14	100
Port Hope.....	Dea. Craig.....	14	70
Toronto, (Bond St.)..	J. F. Lyon.....	36	303
Uxbridge.....	Dea. Smith.....	3	..
West Line of Brock...	..	1	20
Whitby, (6th Con.)...	J. Holman.....	10	53
Whitby, (Town).....	..	6	27
Sidney.....	..	5	70
	Total....	108	953

*** Several of the Churches' made no Report.