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MINUTES

TAKEN AT THE

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,

IN UPPER CANADA,

HELD AT TRAFALGAR, JUNE, 1838.

Toburg;

PRINTED BY S. P. HART,

At the Trades' Printing Office.

MDCCLXXXVIII

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MINUTES

TAKEN AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE,

*Held at Trafalgar, June 20, 1738.**Question 1st.—What Preachers are admitted on Trial?*

George D. Greenleaf,	Thomas Webster,
Richard Beal,	Ira Bently,
Edmund S. Furman.	

Question 2nd.—Who remain on Trial?

William Bird,	John H. Sills,
Christopher Thompson,	Henry H. Johnson,
Baruabas Brown.	

Question 3rd.—Who have been received into full connexion?

William E. Norman,	Leonard D. Salisbury,
Joseph H. Leonard,	Michael Davy.

Question 4th.—Who are the Deacons?

Those marked thus * were Ordained the present year.

Carroll Sutherland,	Henry Giltmore,
Nathan Parks,	William E. Norman,*
Michael Davy,*	Leonard D. Salisbury,*
Francis Bird,*	Joseph H. Leonard,*

Question 5th.—Who are the Elders?

John W. Byam,	David Culp,
John H. Huston,	Charles Pettis,
Benson Smith,	Thaddeus Lewis,
John Baily,	James McNally,
James Richardson,	Philander Smith,
David Griffin,	Jesse Owen,
George Turner.	

Question 6th.—Who is the general Superintendent?

John Reynolds.

*Question 7th.—Who have Located this year?—None.**Question 8th.—Who are the Supernumeraries?*

David Griffin, Philander Smith.

Ques. 9th.—Who are the Superannuated Preachers this year?

David Culp.

Ques. 10th.—Who have been expelled from the Connexion?

Jehiel Savage.

Ques. 11th.—Who have been suspended from the Ministerial functions?

Joseph Daily.

Question 12th.—Who have withdrawn from the Connexion?

None.

Question 13th.—Who have removed the last year?
Joseph Gatchell, Daniel Picket.

Question 14th.—Were all the Preachers chargeters examined?
This was strictly attended to.

Question 15th.—Who have died this year?
James Powley, Andrew P. Shorts.

Question 16th.—What are the numbers in Society?

Thames and Gosfield.	75
London	161
Malahide	80
Long Point	175
Dumfries	117
Nelson	279
St. Catharines	103
Niagara	213
Yonge Street	272
City of Toronto	21
Brighton	419
Belleville	394
Hallowell	363
Bay Quinte	441
Waterloo	331
Elizabeth Town	358
Augusta	325

Total 4177
Total last year 3522
Increase this year 655

Question 17th.—Where are the Preachers stationed this year?

NIAGARA DISTRICT JOHN BAILY, P. E.
Niagara Circuit—Henry Gilmore,—one to be supplied,
Camburg, Leonard Salsbury Edmund S. Furman,
Nelson, Francis Bird, Thomas Webster,
Yonge Street, George Turner,
Whitby, Corral Sutherland,
Dumfries, Barnabas Brown,
Blenheim, John H. Huston—-one to be supplied.
Long Point, Jesse Owen,
London, William Bird—-one to be supplied,
Thames, Charles Pettis Ira Bently,
Malahide, Richard Beal,

BAY QUINTE DISTRICT, BENSON SMITH, P. E.
Augusta Circuit—Joseph Leonard—-one to be supplied,

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Elizabeth Town John W. Byam James McNally,
 Waterloo John Sills—one to be supplied,
 Bay Quinte Nathan Parks Christopher Thompson,
 Hallowell Thaddeus Lewis—one to be supplied,
 Belleville Michael Davy George D. Greenleaf,
 Brighton William E. Norman Henry H. Johnson,
 James Richardson Conference Missionary.

David Perry left without a Circuit at his own request.

Caleb Sweazy left without a Station.

Question 18th.—*When and where shall our next Conference be held?*

Wessel's Chapel on the Hallowell Circuit, on the first Wednesday in September 1839.

The following is a Model for a Constitution, of the
 Auxiliary Societies.

CONSTITUTION FOR THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

- ARTICLE 1st. This association shall be named the Missionary Society, auxiliary to the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Upper Canada.
- 2nd. The object of this Society is to assist the Annual Conference, more effectually to extend the Missionary labours throughout Upper Canada and elsewhere.
- 3rd. The business of the Society shall be conducted by a President, Vice President, Secretary and Managers, who shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Society.
- 4th. Members at all Meetings of the Board of Managers, and at all Meetings of the Society shall be a quorum.
- 5th. The Board shall have authority to make Bye-Laws to regulate its own proceedings, fill up vacancies that may occur during the year, and shall report its transactions and the state of its funds to the Society at its Annual Meetings, a copy of which shall be forwarded to the Corresponding Secretary of the Parent Institution as soon as possible.
- 6th. Each Subscriber paying or upwards annually shall be a member.
- 7th. The funds of the Society, after deducting the necessary incidental expenses, shall be subject to the order of the Treasurer of the Parent Institution, for the purpose expressed in the second Article of the Constitution.

- 8th. The President, Vice Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer, shall be 'Ex-officio' members of the Board of Managers.
- 9th. At all Meetings of the Society and of the Board of Managers, the President or in his absence the Vice President, or if both be absent, such members as shall be chosen for the purpose shall preside.
- 10th. The Annual Meeting of the Society shall be held on the in each year:
- 11th. The Minutes of each Meeting shall be signed by the Chairman.
- 12th. The Constitution shall be subject to such alterations, as may be made by the Society at their Annual Meetings.

Dated at 18

OFFICERS.

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| John Reynolds | President. |
| Philander Smith, | } Vice President's. |
| David Culp, | |
| George D. Greenleaf, | Secretary. |
| John Bialy, | Treasurer. |
| Joseph H. Leonard, | } Managers. |
| Francis Bird, | |
| Thaddeus Lewis, | |
| John Huston, | |
| Benson Smith, | |
| Jacob Fisher, | |
| Nathan Jacobs, | |
| Simon, Delong, | |
| Peter Fisher, | |
| Sylvester Skinner. | |

MEMBERS.

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| George Turner, | William Bird, |
| Michael Davy, | John Sills, |
| Carroll Sutherland, | James Richardson, |
| Barnabas Brown, | John W. Byam, |
| Jesse Owen, | Leonard Salsbury, |
| Henry Gilmore, | William E. Norman, |
| Nathan Parks, | David Griffin, |
| Henry H. Johanson, | Edmund S. Furman, |

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Obituary.

IN giving this notice of the life, last illness, and triumphant departure of our lamented brother, we very much regret that owing to circumstances entirely beyond our control, we are not able now to give so precise an account of the events of the early part of his life, and the various things connected with his conversion to God, as what we could wish, for our own, and the greater satisfaction of his relatives, as well as those who have not had a personal acquaintance with him.

Brother JAMES POWLEY was born in or about the year 1783, on the banks of Lake Ontario, where the town of Oswego now stands, under no other covering than the broad canopy of heaven, while his parents were emigrating to the wilds of Canada. After living without hope and without God in the world for nearly 36 years, he was happily emancipated from the thralldom of sin and brought to enjoy the liberty of the children of God. Very soon after his conversion, his ardent desire for the salvation of others, prompted him zealously and unremittingly to engage in calling sinners to repentance. The Church soon after granted him an Exhorters License, upon which he improved until 1827; when, having been approved of by the Church, he was licensed a Local Preacher. Four years after his eligibility to Deacon's orders, he received ordination; he was zealous and active in his capacity until 1834, when he was received by the Conference held at Yonge Street as an Itinerant Preacher. In the year 1835 he was ordained Elder, and appointed, in conjunction with brother JOHN BAILEY, a Delegate to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States, held at Cincinnati, Ohio.

He laboured with faithfulness and assiduity up to the time of his last illness—the *quick consumption*—occasioned by his having been thrown from his horse and his excessive ministerial labours on the circuit. Brother POWLEY preached his last discourse at a school house in Farmersville, to a large, attentive and much affected congregation from, *Let me die the death of the righteous and let my last end be like his.* During the following week he visited brother PIRLANDER SMITH, at his residence a few miles distant.—On his return from that place homeward he was taken more severely ill and felt apprehensive that, although within 3 miles of his family, he should not survive to see them. About this time he was visited by his colleague, brother H. JOHNSON, who found him much exercised with pain and very low, but happy in Him who doeth all things well. Brother JOHNSON said, brother

Powley, we have laboured hard together on the circuit.' He replied, 'Yes, dear brother; but our labour on earth is about to close, yet our reward is sure in Heaven. To another of his ministerial brethren, who visited him on the Monday preceding the Sabbath on which he died, after a short conversation and prayer he said, 'Glory to God, Brother Lewis, all is well, all is well; my way is clear, my way is clear.' To sister L. who now approached his bedside, he observed, taking her by the hand, 'we have nothing to grieve for, all is well, all is well.' Among other things, he also, with great exertion, said to brother P. Smith, who came in about 15 minutes before he expired, 'my salvation is near'; and then fell asleep without a groan or a struggle, on Sunday, February 25, 1838; to wake no more until the morning of the first resurrection. An appropriate address was delivered by brother P. Smith to the neighbours and friends convened in the evening of the same day, from 2 Tim. iv: 7-8. As he had during his illness made a request to have his remains interred in the Waterloo burying-place, accordingly on Monday all that remained of our deceased brother was conveyed to a house near the place of interment; on Tuesday it was committed to its kindred dust, after a sermon by brother J. W. Byam, from Rev. xiv: 13, to a crowded audience, who deeply sympathized with the bereaved and much afflicted relatives. Brother Powley in life sustained an unblemished character, both as a Preacher and Christian; and was most eminently useful in promoting that cause in the which he fell—the cause of God. Many souls, doubtless, will appear in the day of Eternity, as bright stars in the crown of his rejoicing. May our last end be like his.

The ruthless hand of death has swept

Our brother, much lov'd, away;

But when a few more days he's slept

We'll meet him in Eternal day.

It becomes our painful duty to record the death of another of our brethren,—ANDREW PRINGLE SHORTS, died at Richmond, September 17th 1837.

It is to be regretted that we are not in possession of a full detail of the incidents connected with the life and departure of this worthy brother. We have been compelled to write this notice from what facts we could glean from the evidences within our reach. Some 17 or 18 years ago he embraced religion, during which time he lived an exemplary and devoted life, and was for many years an Exhorter. Two years previous to our last Conference, he was licensed a local Preacher; at the last Conference, was

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received as a travelling Preacher, and appointed to the Waterloo Circuit. At the commencement of his Itinerancy he was taken sick, and compelled to abandon the field of his labours; an extract of a letter written by him to brother Byam, shews him to have been aware of his end; it was written on Tuesday the 12th and reads:—

Brother Byam, According to our appointment made at camp-meeting, I was coming on the circuit in 4 weeks from that time. I made all possible arrangements and got my business so far accomplished that I should doubtless in a few days have been with my Brethren in the great work to which I have been called. But my blessed Master had something else for me to suffer in bodily afflictions. I have been taken with an inflammation in my bowels, and on consulting my best friends, they pronounce my case hopeless, and my disease past cure. This was my opinion also. I went to the Lord and gave myself to him; and while I committed myself into his hand, I found such a heavenly consolation, it is impossible for me to describe. Glory to God for such sweet openings of Eternal Joy! I feel happy in calling to remembrance the goodness of God. It sweetens my soul, and I can say with the Apostle, "for me to live is Christ and to die is gain." Amen.

We do not remember to have heard of any of our Brethren possessing and exercising stronger faith than did brother Shorts. A Correspondent who gave a notice of his death in the *Union Herald*, says:—

"On Friday, he called his friend, to his bed, and spoke to the Doctor. Do you think that I will get well? The reply was, I think you will not. How long do you think it will be before I die? The reply was, we cannot tell, but we think it will not be long. He then said, I feel the hand of death upon me? Is not my finger nails turning blue? The reply was no. He said, he was satisfied his friends had done their duty, and now I wish to give some direction concerning my Funeral. He then specified how he would have his funeral conducted, and wished they would get a head stone with the following epitaph chized upon it,

The sweet remembrance of the just;
Shall flourish when he sleeps in dust.

After he had given these instructions, he appeared to be resigned to the will of God. His soul was filled with joy, and he would often acknowledge the goodness of God, and appeared to be waiting for his departure.

**TO THE MEMBERS OF THE METHODIST
EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CANADA.**

BELoved BRETHREN :

Those to whom are assigned the arduous and responsible duties of the Ministry among you, being assembled in their annual Conference, beg leave to address a few words, expressive of their brotherly affection and tender regard for your welfare.

The peaceful and promising circumstances under which we are now permitted to meet, and pursue our deliberations for the future welfare of the Church, after the events of the past, so pregnant as they have been with evil, furnish another instance of the peculiar care and Providence of "Him who keepeth Israel"—and serve to confirm the truth of the Divine declaration, that "If we commit our way to the Lord he will direct our steps."—Numerous are the instances in which those who seek our hurt have endeavoured to blast our character, and cause us to be deprived of personal liberty, by false accusations and unfounded rumours; yet so far from effecting their malicious object, the result we trust has been an increased portion of public confidence, and higher estimation of our ministerial character and designs—that—"In simplicity and godly sincerity and not with worldly wisdom, but by the grace of god, we have our conversation in the world." And we trust that while with this simplicity of intention and sincerity of heart we pursue the one object of our calling, He, whom we are and whom we serve, will continue to "hide us in his pavilion from the strife of tongues."—

We have much cause to be thankful to the Great Head of the church for the success with which He has vouchsafed to crown our feeble labours in His vineyard,—Notwithstanding the commotions and distractions of the times, we find a nett increase to the societies under our care of 655 souls during the past Conference year. From the returns just made at the Conference, the whole number of our membership in the Province is 4,177. And we trust that with an increase in numbers, there is also an increase of stability and practical godliness.

Let it ever be kept in mind that the sole design of every proper christian community—the one object of such association, is to rear a "HOLY TEMPLE TO THE LORD," that to this end every part or member must be adapted and arranged, so as to perform its part or fill its place in harmony with the whole—that

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mutual co-operation is essential, none being indifferent or idle. "Let all things be done to edification". It must be obvious, from these considerations, that while "your servants for Jesus' sake," who stand as watchmen on Zion's walls, and called to leave their homes, and families and domestic comforts, to travel far and near, early and late, in the performance of their assigned duties, it is expected that the several orders with which the Church is furnished will not be deficient. Considerable hindrance has often resulted from the too frequent non-attendance of our stewards and leaders at the quarterly meetings; we hope there may be an improvement in this respect in future. Let those very important meetings of our Church, at which much that concerns the peace and prosperity of the circuits is transacted, be punctually attended. Let every officer of the Church duly discharge the special duties assigned him. Let him not accept or retain office without being so resolved, and let every member feel his responsibility to uphold "those who are over him in the Lord," by cheerfully contributing to their necessities and comfort. It must be well known to you all, dear Brethren, that, your Ministers in quitting their several worldly callings and avocations, have cast themselves wholly on your voluntary contributions for the support of themselves and families; and as they cannot subsist and labour without food and raiment, while they look at you alone for the needed supplies, it follows that on you depends, in a great measure, the continuance of an efficient Itinerant Ministry in the Church. Let these considerations therefore have their due weight, and you then cannot be slack in rendering the aid required. Thus then, while the hands of your Ministers will be strengthened and their hearts comforted, you yourselves will "have lack of nothing."

The retrospect of the past, while it presents much, to elate and cheer our spirits, furnishes also, matter of a mournful character in the loss of two of our much esteemed fellow labourers, Brother's Powley and Shorts,—who have fallen in the field, nobly contending for victory, And they did not contend in vain; their triumphant exits furnishes fresh instances of the power of grace and the sufficiency of the principles and practices inculcated among us, to bring off those who truly believe and faithfully follow them, "more than Conquerors through him who hath loved us." While therefore we are called to mourn our bereavement, we are reminded "not to mourn as

"those without hope,"—For a more particular statement of the life and death of these faithful brethren, see the Obituary notices of our Minutes.

To conclude—Suffer dear brethren, the word of exhortation, to "walk worthy of the high vocation wherewith ye are called"—"Walk honestly toward them that are without"—faithfully sustaining and diligently performing the duties of your respective callings, and relations of life, whether in Church or State—As members of the Church of Christ, as subjects of the Government under which we live, as parents and children, husbands and wives, we all have our duties respectively pointed out and enjoined in that sufficient and only rule of faith and practice,—**THE WORD OF GOD.**—Let us adhere closely to this infallible guide, and it will surely prevent us from following those cunningly devised fables and pretended revelations, which, unhappily, in the present day, are leading too many into the darkness, delusion and folly of a wild and fatal fanaticism.

"Finally, Brethren, farewell: Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you."

By order, and on behalf of the Conference;

(Signed) JOHN REYNOLDS, President.

GEORGE TURNER, Secretary,

Trafalgar, June 25th, 1838.

Y.H.B.
22.9.16