

MINUTES

OF THE

NOVA-SCOTIA

Baptist Association,

HELD AT

HORTON, N. S.

JUNE 24th, and 25th,

1822.

Saint John, N. B.

PRINTED BY HENRY CHUBB, AT HIS OFFICE, MARKET SQUARE.

1822.

MINUTES, &c.

MONDAY, JUNE 24, 1822.

1st. Introductory Sermon by Elder T. S. HARDING, from Heb. xii. 28, 29, "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably, with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire."

2d. The Associated Ministers and Messengers took their seats. After prayer by Elder E. MANNING, Elder J. MUNRO was chosen Moderator, Elder C. TUPPER, Clerk, and Elder W. ELDER, Assistant Clerk.

3d. Read the Letters from the several Churches.

N. B. The names of Ordained Ministers are printed in SMALL CAPITALS; of Licensed Preachers in *Italics*. Ministers whose names are thus marked, (*) were not present. Churches from which we had no information at this Session are designated by this mark (+); vacant Churches by a — dash.

Churches.	Elders and Messengers.	Added	Dismissed	Excluded	Died	Total
Lower Granville,	DAVID HARRIS,					25
Wilmot and Upper Granville,	THOMAS ANSLEY, } William Bent, } Asaph Marshal, }				3	71
Cornwallis,	EDWARD MANNING, } William Chipman, } Holmes Chipman, } Benoni Sweet, } William Cogswell, }	2			1 1	124
Newport,	LEVI WOODWORTH, } STEPHEN EATON, } GEORGE DIMOCK, } James Higgins, } James Gordon, } Benjamin Sanford, } James Sanford, } Joseph Bradshaw, } John Masters, } James Masters, }		3	1	1	88
Onslow,	JAMES MUNRO,	2				41
Clements,	Abel Chute, } Israel Potter, Jun. }	Res. 18.	51	1		104
Halifax,	JOHN BURTON,* } John Masters, }	10	3	2	3	308

Churches

Amherst,

Nictau,

Chester,

Lunenburg,

Digby Neck†

Horton,

River Philip and Westchester,

Windsor,

Annapolis,

Ragged Islands,

Hammond's Plains

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Churches.	Elders and Messengers.	Add.	Dis.	Exc.	Died	Tot.
Amherst,	SAMUEL M' CULLEY,* } ...			1		14
Nictau,	Philip Freeman, } THOMAS H. CHIPMAN, Caleb Shaftner, William Bishop, Samuel Eliot, } ...					114
Chester,	Isaac North, Stephen Taylor, JOSEPH DIMOCK, } ...					
Lunenburg,	John Bezantson, } ...	3	9	6	1	155
Digby Neck,	Peter Corcum, } ...					
Horton,	ROBERT DAVIS,* } ...					35
	PETER CRANDALL,* } ...					120
	Peter Bishop, Samuel Bishop, Daniel Lockhart, } ...	1				61
River Philip and Westchester,	Ezra Read, Simon Fitch, Frederick Fitch, } ...					
Windsor,	CHARLES TUPPER, ...			2		37
	DAVID NUTTER, } ...					
	Allan Young, } ...	8				33
Annapolis,	Joshua Smith, Josiah Fuller, WILLIAM ELDER, } ...					
	Thomas Spurr, } ...	2	1			13
Ragged Islands,	Major Chipman, } ...					
Hammond's Plains,	William Homes, } ...					44
	G. RICHARDSON, } ...					
	James Melvin, } ...					28
	David Webber, } ...					
		32	15	13	8	1401

N. B. The two last named Churches were added at this Session.

4th. Voted, that this Association recommend to the Churches of which it is composed, to write their Letters as short and comprehensive as conveniently they can; avoiding digressions from their proper object.

5th. That the Circular Letter, prepared by Elder GEORGE DIMOCK, be received.

From Corresponding Associations received as follows:

Associations.

Lincoln
Bowdoinham,
Cumberland,

Messengers.

Elder RICHARDSON,

Minutes.

Minutes.

Adjourned till 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

TUESDAY, JUNE 25.

6th. Prayer Meeting at half-past 5 o'clock.

7th. Agreeably to appointment, Elder RICHARDSON, Messenger from the Lincoln Association, preached from Isaiah lv.

1st "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money."

8th. The following question was proposed by the Church at Cornwallis; Would it be considered for the glory of God, and the health and peace of Zion, for any one Church in this connexion to proceed to ordain any Candidate for the Gospel Ministry without calling a Council from sister Churches, where such Council could with conveniency be procured? Answer. We conclude that though we admit the right of every Church of Christ to choose its own Officers, yet it appears to us highly improper for any Church, travelling in an associated capacity with others, to proceed to the Ordination of a Minister without the advice and assistance of sister Churches. We would also recommend to Churches and Ministers to be careful not to recommend any man as a Preacher with whose character they are not well acquainted. We would also advise Ministers, Churches and private Christians, in this day when error in principle and immorality in practice so much prevail, not to receive or encourage any man in the character of a Preacher who is not well recommended for soundness in the faith and practice of the gospel.

9th. Read and received the Corresponding Letter, prepared by Elder T. ANSLY.

10th. Voted, that the Printing of our Articles of faith and covenant be deferred for the present; as we wish to avoid expense, for the furtherance of the Missionary cause.

11th. That Elder W. ELDER, be our Messenger to Corresponding Associations; and that he receive the usual sum, viz. £10.

12th. As Elder W. ELDER could not consistently attend the Meetings of the New-Brunswick Baptist Association, Elder J. MUNRO was appointed in his stead. It was also agreed, that if Elder MANNING's health should not admit of his going, Elder HARRIS should supply his place.

13th. That our association be holden at Clements, next year, on the first Monday after the 20th of June.

14th. That Elder DAVID NUTTER preach the Introductory Sermon; in case of failure, Elder GEORGE DIMOCK.

15th. That Elder E. MANNING write the Circular Letter; Elder J. DIMOCK the Corresponding.

16th. That the 25th of December be observed as a day of thanksgiving.

17th. That the 1st of January be observed as a day of fasting and prayer for the spread of the gospel.

18th. That the same Committee for Missionary exertions be continued, viz. Elders E. MANNING and D. HARRIS, and brethren Thomas Chipman and William Chipman.

19th. That Brother Wm. Cogswell be our Treasurer.

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sence of the Lord,

20th. That Elder E. MANNING superintend the Printing of the Minutes—500 copies to be printed.

21st. That this Association recommend to the Church at Clements, in answer to their request, to appoint a day, call a Council from sister Churches, and if Brother POTTER appears ripe for Ordination, to set him apart to the sacred work of the Ministry.

22d. That our Churches be requested to observe the evening of the first Monday in every month, as a time of united and special prayer for the advancement of the cause of God both in Heathen and Christian Lands,

23d. That a vote of thanks be inserted in the Minutes to the Mite Societies, and others who have aided in the Missionary cause. Also, that it be recommended to all the Churches in this connexion to imitate such laudable examples; and to each Minister to use his endeavours to advance this good work.

24th. From statements made by those who were employed as Missionaries during the past year, it appeared that their labors had been owned and blessed of GOD.

25th. Voted, that Elder E. MANNING be employed to write a Letter, stating the distressing circumstances of Elder W. ELDER, and recommending him to the benevolence of those among whom he may travel in the United States, and elsewhere.

26th. Voted, that thanks be given to the Church and Congregation at Horton, for their kindness and hospitality during the present Session.

The Society has employed as Missionaries, in the course of the past year,

Elder ROBERT DAVIS, 6 weeks,.....	£12	0	0.
Elder DAVID NUTTER, 5 weeks,.....	10	0	0.
Elder JAMES MUNRO, 1 week,.....	2	0	0.
Elder EDWARD MANNING, 1½ do.....	3	0	0.

The following sums were received, at this Session, in aid of Missions :

From the Mite Society at Windsor,.....	£9	19	3
Ditto, Chester,.....	1	10	0
Ditto, Bear River,.....	1	5	0
From the Church and Congregation at Annapolis,.....	4	4	9
Donation from Lunenburg,.....	2	6	7
Received and forwarded } From Ragged Islands,.....	4	1	3
by Elder R. DAVIS, } Do. Liverpool,.....	0	14	8½
} Do. Port Medway,.....	1	7	6
Collections at Association, Horton,.....	9	15	6
Donation from a Friend at Halifax,.....	1	0	0

£36 4 6½

The Session was, to many, a time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The Ministers and Messengers of the Nova-Scotia Baptist Association, convened at Horton, June 24th and 25th, 1822, to the Churches which they represent, wish Grace, Mercy and Peace, through him that hath loved us.

BELOVED BRETHREN IN THE LORD.

GOD, of his infinite mercy, hath been pleased to favor us with the return of another anniversary season; and likewise with the privilege of addressing you in our Annual Epistle. Although we cannot fully comprehend, nor clearly describe to you, the fulness of that love which the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called his children, and enjoy the privilege of the sons of God, yet we desire to call your attention to trace the blessed streams of heavenly love to the sacred fountain from whence they flow. We shall find them all to centre in a God of love.

Let us turn our attention to meditate upon that love, the everlasting love of God the Father, as it dwelt in the eternal mind, and divinely moved his sacred Majesty in the glorious arrangement of that mysterious, great, eternal plan of creation, providence and grace, in such a way as should bring the highest honor to his exalted character, sweetly harmonize with all the divine perfections, and secure eternal felicity to all the objects of his grace. Let us view the divine love as gloriously displayed in the execution of this wondrous plan, agreeable to the perfections of infinite wisdom, in the creation of an innumerable multitude of angels and men, which should show forth his praise, and manifest his declarative glory in heaven and in earth. And when a part of the angelic world, and all the human family, had broken heaven's righteous law, and revolted from their God, how was divine love made known in securing the rights of deity, establishing heaven's righteous claims, and consigning the rebellious angels to everlasting chains under darkness, where they are reserved unto the judgment of the great day; yet restoring fallen man, through the merits of a glorious Redeemer. This everlasting love of God the Father set apart his own Son, Immanuel, as the head of his people, their Saviour and Redeemer; and gave their persons to him before the world was; and, in the fulness of time, gave him to die for them, that he might redeem them from the curse of the law, and become their propitiation and ransom.

And again, let us consider the divine love still looking forward to the purchased inheritance, which is the flock of God which he hath purchased with his own blood. Although for a time they are scattered upon the barren mountains, (1st Pet. ii. 25) yet is his providential care over them; and at the time appointed of the Father, he calls them *with an holy calling*; (Matt. xx. 6. Rom. viii. 28—30.) for, having loved

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them with an everlasting love, therefore with loving-kindness doth he draw them, (JER. XXXI. 3.) and by creating them in Christ Jesus unto good works, or implanting holy and divine principles in their souls, (EPH. ii. 10.) makes them an holy people, that shall show the praises of him who hath called them out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Wherever this heavenly love is shed abroad in the heart, it new creates the mind, and sweetly attracts the soul to God. Love draws, and the soul runs after, and is ever pointing homeward toward its sacred centre, which is the heavenly rest. Whenever this divine principle is implanted in the mind it inclines the soul to yield implicit obedience to all the precepts of heaven, according to the words of our Lord, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." In vain may any conclude they are under the influence of divine love, while they do not have respect to the well established law of the great King of Zion. Here, brethren, is an infallible criterion for each one to try himself by; for the Apostle says, "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God; (but) he that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son." And again, "This is the love of God, that we keep his commandments." And the true believer finds by happy experience, that in keeping his precepts, great is the recompence of reward. The Psalmist could say, "I love thy commandments above gold, yea above fine gold; therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right. Thy testimonies are wonderful; therefore does my soul keep them. The entrance of thy word giveth light." Whenever divine love exists in the soul, it reigns supremely there, and sets Immanuel on the throne; and it is enough unto the soul that his name be exalted and set on high. When this living principle springs up in the heart, it immediately centres upon God, and all his precious children, who bear his heavenly image.

1st. It fixes upon God with supreme affection, and views him to be the chiefest among ten thousand, and altogether lovely, and admires his glorious character. And,

2ndly. This love embraces all the children of God, for their heavenly father's sake. And this is an evidence, both to themselves and others, that they are the children of God, and disciples of Christ. First, it is an evidence to themselves; for says the Apostle, "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. And, secondly, it is an evidence to others; for our love and attachment to the precious children of God, is an evidence even to the world that we belong to Christ; as says our Lord, "by this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one for another." So much was this divine principle in exercise among the primi-

tive saints, that, as TERTULLIAN observes, it was noticed even by the Heathens, who seeing the christians meet in the streets, and express their mutual love and affection to each other, would say, "See how these christians love one another." O brethren, whenever this precious grace exists in the soul, it is reciprocal, perpetual and eternal. It springs from the heart of everlasting love, and causes believers to press forward, and pant after their heavenly home.

O brethren, may we ever find this enlivening, quickening and consoling grace, to comfort us in this house of our tiresome pilgrimage. May it support us in the solemn crisis; then will it be our abundant joy, and delightful theme, in the Kingdom of our Father; where gifts shall end, and faith and hope be changed for vision and full fruition, yet love shall neither end nor change, but shall heighten and brighten in the Paradise of God.

This is the grace that lives and sings
When faith and hope shall cease;
'Tis this shall strike our joyful strings,
In the sweet realms of bliss.

Then shall we join with the general Association, and Church of the first-born, which are written in Heaven. Even so, Amen.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

*The Nova-Scotia Baptist Association, to Corresponding Associations, seeking
Christian salvation.*

BELOVED BRETHREN,

THROUGH the interposition of an indulgent God, we have enjoyed one more Anniversary Meeting. The great Head of the Church has always made good his promise; his presence is yet realized in the Churches. The Letters from some have been refreshing to our souls; and this Session, we think, has been owned in a special manner. We rejoice that the Redeemer's Kingdom is hastening, and his glory revealing, through the exertions of the Christian world.

We have cause to lift up our hearts with our hands, and give glory to God, for so good a degree of harmony and brotherly love existing in our Churches. We have experienced some revivals in our Churches, as you will learn by our Minutes. Intelligence received from you has been gratifying; and we solicit a continuance of your correspondence.

And now, wishing grace, mercy and peace may be multiplied among you, through the knowledge of God, and our Saviour Jesus Christ, we subscribe, very affectionately, yours, in the Kingdom of God, and patient waiting for Christ.

JAMES MUNRO, *Moderator.*
CHARLES TUPPER, *Clerk.*
WILLIAM ELDER, *Assist. Clerk.*