MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

OF THE

Eastern Baptist Association

OF

NOVA SCOTIA,

Held with the Baptist Church at North Sydney, C. B., Saturday,

Monday and Tuesday, July 9th, 11th and 12th,

with the Circular Letter, &c.

CHRISTIAN MESSENGER OFFICE, 1881. RETURNING.

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MINUTES.

NORTH SYDNEY, C. B., Saturday Morning, July 9th, 1881.

The Nova Scotia Eastern Baptist Association assembled in its Thirty-first Annual Session at North Sydney, C. B., at 10 o'clock, A. M., July 9th, 1881.

Religious services were conducted by the Moderator, Rev. J. E. Goucher. All present realized the presence of the Master, and felt the sweetness of the communion of saints.

During these services the Clerk prepared the List of Delegates, which, at the call of the Moderator, was presented:

LIST OF DELEGATES.

North Sydney,—Rev. J. W. Bancroft, Deas. Alexander Moore, James Armstrong, Jas. Munn, Brethren A. G. Musgrave, and G. H. Dobson.

Mira Bay,—Rev. J. C. Spurr, Dea. John Nicholl, and Bro. Charles Spencer.

N. E. Margaree,—Dea. Lauchlin McDonald, Brethren James W. Tingley, (Lic.), John Marple, Jas. G. McDonald, and Stephen Tingley.

Lower Economy,-Rev. G. F. Miles.

Great Village,-Revds. M. P. Freeman, and T. B. Layton.

Upper Londonderry,—Rev. M. P. Freeman.

River John,-Rev. C. H. Martell.

Central Onslow, -Rev. C. H. Martell

Antigonish,—Rev. L. M. Weeks.

Lower Stewiacke, -Bro. Alex. Sutherland.

Cow Bay,-Rev. J. C. Spurr, and Bro. R. D. Rice.

Sydney,—Rev. F. A. Kidson, Deas. Thos. Armstong, Colin McKinnon, Brethren Charles K. Harrington, (Lic.), Charles R. King, and C. H. Harrington.

Truro,-Rev. J. E. Goucher.

Homeville,-Rev. J. C. Spurr.

Little Glace Bay,-Rev. J. C. Spurr.

Brookfield,-Bro. J. W. Stevens.

Portaupique,-Rev. G. F. Miles.

Central Association,-Rev. E. M. Saunders, and Dea. S. Selden.

P. E. Island Association, - Rev. D. G. McDonald.

Invited,-Brethren J. M. C. Saunders, and Spencer Giffin.

Rev. M. P. Freeman, and Bro. R. D. Rice were appointed Secretaries, Bro. G. H. Dobson was appointed Treasurer, and Bro. A. Sutherland Assistant Treasurer.

The ballot having been taken for Moderator for the current year, the Rev. G. F. Miles was declared elected.

Prayer was offered by Rev. T. B. Layton.

The following Committee of Nomination and Arrangement was appointed :- Revds. J. W. Bancroft, F. A. Kidson, J. C. Spurr, C. H. Martell, J. E. Goucher, L. M. Wecks, Dea. Jas. Armstrong, Brethren A. G. Musgrave, and Chas. R. King.

The Committee on Nomination and Arrangement retired, and,

after brief consultation, presented their Report in part.

The session closed with prayer by Bro. A. Sutherland.

Saturday—Afternoon Session.

The afternoon session opened at 2.30 o'clock.

Prayer was offered by Bro. Jas. W. Stevens. The Moderator nominated the following Committees, which were

adopted: TO EXAMINE AND READ LETTERS.—Revds. John E. Goucher, E. M. Saunders, and Bro. C. K. Harrington, (Lic).

On QUESTIONS IN LETTERS.—Revds. T. B. Layton, C. H. Martell, and Bro. Jas. Stevens.

ON CIRCULAR LETTER.—Revds. J. C. Spurr, F. A. Kidson, and Bro. C. R. King.

The following additions to Committees were moved and carried, which, with those previously appointed and now prosent, stand as follows:

On Missions.—Revds. M. P. Freeman, John E. Goucher, D. G. McDonald, Dea. Thos. Armstrong, and Chas. K. Harrington, (Lic).

ON EDUCATION.—Revds. E. M. Saunders, J. W. Bancroft, Dea. S. Selden, and Bro. Geo. H. Dobson.

ON TEMPERANCE.—Revds. G. F. Miles, J. C. Spurr, Brethren R. D. Rice, and A. G. Musgrave.

On Sabbath Schools.—Revds. F. A. Kidson, D. G. McDonald, Dease S. Selden, and Lauchlin McDonald.

On DENOMINATIONAL LITERATURE.—Revds. C. H. Martell, John E. Goucher, E. M. Saunders, and L. M. Weeks.

Report in part of Committee on Nomination and Arrangement:

1. Time of Meeting.-They recommend that the morning service commence at 10.00 o'clock and close at 12.00; that the afternoon session commence at 2.30 and close at 5 o'clock; that the evening session commence at 7.30 o'clock.

2. That a prayer-meeting be held each morning from 9.15 to 10.00 o'clock.

3. They further recommend that this afternoon be occupied with the reading of Letters and general business.

SABBATH APPOINTMENTS.

North Sydney—11 A. M. Rev. E. M. Saunders. 7 P. M. Rev. D. G. McDonald.

Sydney—11 A. M. Rev. D. G. McDonald. 7 P. M. Rev. L. M. Weeks.

Upper North Sydney-3 P. M. Rev. G. F. Miles.

North West Arm—11 A. M. Rev. T. B. Layton. 7 P. M. Rev. G. F. Miles.

Sydney Mines-3 P. M. Rev. M. P. Freeman.

Boularderie-3 P. M. Rev. F. A. Kidson.

Addresses before the Sabbath School at North Sydney at 3 P. M., by Revds. J. E. Goucher, E. M. Saunders, Dea. S. Selden, and Bro. Colin McKenna.

5. Your Committee would recommend that the Associational Sermon be preached on Monday morning by Rev. J. E. Goucher, to be followed by the reading of the Circular Letter; that the Report of the Committee on Education be presented Monday afternoon, to be spoken to by Revds. E. M. Saunders, C. H. Martell, and others; that the Report of the Committee on Missions be presented on Monday evening.

After reading of the Letters from the churches, the Clerk presented a letter from the Chairman of the Committee appointed by Convention "to take into consideration the advisability of printing the Minutes of the different Associations in the Year Book," which, after being read, was laid upon the table.

Bro. Miles gave notice of a resolution he intended to offer on

the subject.

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The session closed with prayer by Bro. S. Selden.

Saturday-Evening Session.

A social service of a deeply interesting nature was held in the

vestry in the evening, conducted by Rev. G. F. Miles.

The Association have learned with regret the death of a sister of Rev. C. H. Martell, and the consequent necessity of his absence, as also the absence of Rev. J. C. Spurr from the services of the Association on the Sabbath, in consequence of the funeral at Glace Bay.

Monday-Morning Session.

The Monday morning session was opened at 10 o'clock.

The Annual Sermon was delivered by Rev. John E. Goucher, from John xv. 7,—Theme: Constant abiding in Christ, and its relation to successful prayer.

The Moderator having taken the chair, prayer was offered by

Rev. C. H. Martell.

The Minutes of previous session were read and approved.

Rev. J. C. Spurr, chairman of Committee on Circular Letter, reported that they had examined the Circular Letter written by Rev. J. J. Armstrong, and recommend that it be read.

The reading of Letters was resumed.

The time having arrived for closing the session, it was resolved to extend the time for the reading of the Circular Letter, which, in the absence of the writer, was read by Rev. T. B. Layton.

On motion, the Circular Letter just read was laid upon the table. It was moved and carried that Rev. J. E. Goucher be requested to furnish the excellent Sermon just preached for publication in the Christian Messenger.

Motion for adjournment having been carried, prayer was offered by Rev. J. C. Spurr, and the session closed, after singing by the

choir.

Monday-Afternoon Session.

Opened with singing the 636th hymn, and prayer by Rev. L.

M. Weeks.

Moved that the Circular Letter be taken up for discussion, and, after slight amendment, it was moved and passed that the Letter be adopted, and published in the Minutes of Association, and in

the Christian Messenger.

The Moderator having stated that the sum of \$400 had recently been placed in the hands of the Board of Infirm Ministers' Fund by the executors of the estate of the late Widow Lynds, of Truro, for the relief of ministers in the N. S. Eastern Baptist Association, and that four members of the Board had become personally responsible for the proper expenditure of the fund, the following preamble and resolution were passed unanimously:

Whereas, Several br thren of the Board of Infirm Ministers' Fund have given their obligation to the executors of an estate, making themselves responsible for the fulfilling of the requirements of the

legatee;

Therefore Resolved, That this Association commend the action of these brethren, and that the following brethren constitute the Board of the Infirm Ministers' Fund: Revds. D. A. Steele, G. F. Miles, J. E. Goucher, M. P. Freeman, C. H. Martell, and Deas. Moses Lowe and Wm Read; and that the Board be instructed to hand over the funds entrusted to them, in accordance with the resolution of last year, so soon as they are satisfied that the Board of the Convention, appointed for that purpose is duly prepared to receive the trust.

The Report of the Committee on Education was then presented by Bro. S. Selden, chairman. It was moved by Rev. John E. Goucher, and seconded by Rev. C. H. Martell, that the Report be adopted. The motion was spoken to by Revds. E. M. Saunders, C. H. Martell, D. G. McDonald, J. E. Goucher, J. W. Bancroft, M. P. Freeman, and Dea. S. Selden. After a most interesting discussion, the motion passed. (See Appendix A). It was then

Resolved, That the effort being made by the Governors of the College to raise the endowment of a Theological Professorship of \$20,000 by the hands of Rev.Dr. Crawley and Rev. Dr. Welton is heartily approved and highly recommended to the friends of Education in this Association.

The Report of the Treasurer of the Board of the Infirm Minis-

ters' Fund was read and adopted. (See Appendix B).

Bro. R. D. Rice, Assistant Secretary, having stated that it was necessary for him to leave for home, Bro. Charles K. Harrington,

(Lic.), was chosen Assistant Secretary.

The Committee on Nominations and Artangements reported, asking that the Report of the Committee on Missions be read and laid on the table, and that this evening a Public Missionary Meeting be held, the speakers to be Revds. D. G. McDonald, G. F. Miles, J. C. Spurr, Bro. C. K. Harrington, (Lic.), and others; and that to-morrow morning the Reports on Sabbath Schools and Denominational Literature be read, and other business taken up.

The Report of the Committee on Missions was then read, and

laid on the table for future discussion.

Closed with prayer by Rev. J. E. Goucher.

Monday-Evening Session.

In accordance with the previous arrangement, a Missionary Meeting was held in the evening.

The meeting was opened with music by the choir, and prayer by

Rev. J. W. Bancroft.

The minutes of the previous session having been read and approved, the Moderator introduced the Rev. D. G. McDonald, of Charlottetown. Addresses were also delivered by Revds. John C. Spurr, Geo. F. Miles, E. M. Saunders, Brethren C. K. Harrington, (Lic.), and Lauchlin McDonald. The addresses were of a thrilling character, and the gracious influence of the meeting must long endure. The choir sang the 887th hymn, Rev. F. A. Kidson offered prayer, and this most deeply interesting session of the Association closed with the benediction by the Moderator.

Tuesday-Morning Session.

Meeting opened by the singing of the 481st hymn, and prayer

by Bro. J. W. Tingley, (Lic).

The letter of Bro. Woodland respecting the printing of the Minutes of Associations ond Convention in the Year Book having been discussed, it was

Resolved, That this Association declines to express any opinion on this matter until some definite plan be laid before the body.

The Secretary having been appointed last year to look after the church at Pictou, and to report, stated that he had attended to that duty, and that he finds that church has no existence in the place at the present time, there being but four persons in the town who had been in connection with the church, and no religious service held amongst them. It was accordingly

Resolved, That the report of Bro. Freeman be adopted, and the name of the church is dropped from the list of churches of this Association, with the lipe that the brethren and sisters remaining will see it their duty to connect themselves with the New Glasgow or

with some other Baptist church, as they may prefer.

Moved that Bro. Charles R. King audit the account of the

Treasurer of the Association.

The Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools was presented by Rev. F. A. Kidson, and spoken to by Revds. D. G. McDonald, C. H. Martell, E. M. Saunders, Dea. S. Selden, and passed. (See Appendix C).

Rev. C. H. Martell presented the Report of Committee on Denominational Literature. Remarks were made by Revds. E. M.

Saunders, L. M. Weeks, and D. G. McDonald.

The time having arrived for adjourning, a vote for extension of time for 15 minutes was taken, and, after further remarks by others, the Report was adopted. (See Appendix D).

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the sum of \$10.00 be given to Rev. M. P. Freeman in consideration of his continuous services as Secretary of this Association.

The session closed with prayer by Bro. C. K. Harrington.

Tuesday-Afternoon Session.

The session opened with singing, and prayer by Bro. Lauchlin

McDonald

Bro. Miles presented Report on Temperance. It was spoken to by Revds. M. P. Freeman, D. G. McDonald, Bro. Alexander Sutherland, and the Moderator and passed. (See Appendix E.)

The following resolution was read:

Resolved, That while we rejoice in the passing of the "Scott Act" in so many of our Counties, and the success attending it where it is enforced, that as an Association of Baptists we cannot rest satisfied short of a total prohibition of the curse of strong drink.

After some discussion, resolution passed.

The Treasurer presented his Report, which was adopted.

The Secretary presented Bro. S. Selden's bill for printing.

Motion passed that it be paid.

Bro. Martell, for the Committee on Questions in Letters, reported that a question had been propounded by the Church at Amherst Shore in their letter to the Association. It was

Resolved, In reply to the question from the church at Amherst Shore the Association does not feel warranted to enter into its merits for the purpose of giving a direct reply, but would refer the church in question to the Word of God to direct them in this matter.

Moved that the Treasurer of this Association be requested to pay over the moneys received for the various benevolent objects to the Rev. Dr. Day.

Report of Committee on Nomination and Arrangement was

presented as follows:

Recommended that the next meeting of the Association be held with the Baptist Church at Pugwash on the 2nd Saturday in July, 1882, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

That Rev. J. C. Spurr preach the Associational Sermon, and that Rev. M. P. Freeman be his alternate; and that Rev. J. W. Bancroft write the Circular Letter.

That the following be the Committees for the year ensuing:

On Missions.—Revds. D. A. Steele, J. E. Goucher, and J. C. Spurr.

ON EDUCATION.—Revds. C. H. Martell, and J. W. Bancroft.

ON DENOMINATIONAL LITERATURE.—Revds. H. Bool, and G. F. Miles.

On QUESTIONS IN LETTERS.—Revds. T. B. Layton, and J. J. Armstrong.

On Temperance.—Revds. L. M. Weeks, and F. A. Kidson.

ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.—Revds. M. P. Freeman, and D. McLeod.

On Nomination and Arrangements.—The Pastor of the church at Pugwash.

That this evening a sermon be preached by Rev. G. F. Miles, to be followed by addresses.

Report adopted.

Resolved, That the thanks of the Association be tendered to the brethren and friends of North Sydney who have so kindly entertained the delegates during this session of the body.

Also resolved, That thanks be tendered to the choir for their services.

Also resolved, That thanks be tendered to Captain Beatty, of the S. S. Neptune, and to the Railway authorities, for their kindness in conveying delegates at reduced fares.

Moved and carried that the Secretary of this Association be directed to secure the printing of 1200 copies of the Minutes of this Association, reserving the usual number of copies for use at the next session of the body.

The Report on Missions was read and adopted. (See Appendix F). The following brethren were appointed delegates to the Convention to be held in Yarmouth in August next: Brethren George Dobson, T. M. King, William Faulkner, L. C. Layton, and T. R. Black

It was moved and carried that any brethren of this Association attending any of the other Baptist Associations during the year be empowered to act as delegates from this.

The session then closed with prayer, and benediction by the

Moderator.

Tuesday-Evening Session.

Rev. G. F. Miles delivered an impressive discourse from John xii. 26, and was followed by Revds. John E. Goucher, and E. M. Saunders.

On motion of Bro. Martell, the Association adjourned to meet with the church at Pugwash, on the second Saturday in July, 1882, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

GEORGE F. MILES, Moderator.

M. P. FREEMAN, Clerks. R. D. RICE,

CIRCULAR LETTER.

TESTIFYING FOR CHRIST.

THE ANNUAL LETTER FROM THE N. S. EASTERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, TO THE CHURCHES OF WHICH IT IS COMPOSED.

Published in "Christian Messenger" by Special Request of the Association.

Dear Brethren,-

In this our Annual Letter we wish to call your attention to the great duty and privilege that belong to Christian churches, to give

testimony for Christ.

The sources from which this testimony is to be drawn, are principally twofold, the Scriptures and Christian experience. The Scriptures supply the great and all-commanding treasury of testimony to Christ. "Search the Scriptures," said the Great Teacher; "for in them ye think ye have eternal lite; and they are they which testify of me." "To Him," says the Apostle Peter, "give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins." And the Apocalypse declares, "The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Prophecy is full of Christ.

But the history contained in the New Testament affords testimony of the most reliable, complete and precious character concerning Christ,-His incarnation and mission, His life and death, His resurrection and ascension, His divinity and glory. John the Baptist was sent of God "to bear witness to the light," and he testified that Jesus "is the Son of God, the promised Messiah," "the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." The Apostles were eye-witnesses of His miracles and majesty; of His humiliation and death; they saw and heard Him, and believed in Him; and conversed with Him repeatedly both before and after His Their opportunities to become acquainted with Him resurrection. were perfect and almost infinite. They were, therefore, witnesses fully competent to declare to the people all that they had seen and heard in connection with His person and work, His life and doctrine, His death and resurrection.

And they were divinely commissioned to be "witnesses" for Him "both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaris, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth,"—that salvation is possible through Him alone,—that "His blood cleanseth from all sin,"—that access to God can be had only through Christ's atonement and

mediation.

Now one great purpose and office of the Church of God is to bear testimony to Christ, and the power of his grace; that church which the Apostle Paul declares to be "the pillar and ground of the Truth," as it is in Jesus, can prove true to its character only as it shows forth, exemplifies and supports that "truth" in the spirit of faith and love. The church is to testify from age to age that Christ is "the way, the truth, and the life," the only and all sufficient "mediator between God and men."

A Christian church is a society, company, or collection of regenerate souls, baptized on credible evidence of their faith in Christ acting together in obedience to His commands for their own edification, the promotion of His kingdom and the maintenance of the truth in the world.

It is through receiving the gospel testimony concerning Christ that sinners are justified before God and saved. Great consequences depend, therefore, on the faithful performance of this duty by the church. And every church is required to bear testimony to Christ.

There are several ways in which this can be done, and none of them superfluous or unnecessary, for God is the author of them all.

1st. By providing and maintaining, according to God's ordinance, an earnest, faithful, Christian ministry to proclaim and expound the gospel in the community. The ministry is appointed and called of God for the work of publishing and setting forth the truth as fully, clearly, and forcibly as possible, both to the church itself, and to all to whom access can be had. The ministers of Christ are required to "declare the testimony of God" concerning His Son in the flesh and the glorious work accomplished by his humiliation and death; and by sustaining them in the performance of this great duty the church is bearing testimony for Christ.

2nd. In maintaining, and in faithfully and devoutly attending the public worship of God. In a community the church testifies to the truth, excellence and glory of Christianity, and calls attention to the claims of God on all men for recognition, reverence and acknowledgement. Incalculably good results to individuals and to society generally results from having Christian worship statedly carried on among them in the spirit of faith and hope through Christ.

3rd. Testimony can be given to Christ by a church keeping in their full integrity and due order the ordinances which have been appointed by the Lord Jesus for his kingdom and to be observed to

the end of time.

Baptism represents in figure the most important facts and doctrines of the gospel, the death, burial and resurrection of Christ, and testifies of Him as the crucified, risen and glorified Lord. Believers in Christ are the scriptural subjects of this sacred ordinance, according to the New Testament; for without faith it is impossible to please God by any outward ordinance or service whatever; and immersion, the form prescribed and sanctioned by the same authority, and significant, as it is, of the most precious

truths of Christianity and facts of Christian experience, and adapted to impress them on the mind and set them forth before the world, must be maintained. Christ's law will not bend to man's option or The Lord's Supper exhibits Christ's death, and testifies in the most impressive and touching manner, His infinite love in dying for us; its purpose is to bring Him before us, and to awaken, deepen and perpetuate in us the most grateful and loving remembrance of Him. The communion is thus to be observed in the church, and to show forth "Christ's death till He come" to judge the world. The faithful administration of these ordinances in conne tion with the truth of the spirit's power and operation is of the greatest importance to the extension and purity of Christ's kingdom in the world. The Apostle John speaks thus :- " This is He that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. And it is the spirit that beareth witness, because the spirit is truth. For there are three that bear witness, the spirit, the water and the blood, and these three agree in one."

The spirit of God, the water of baptism and the blood of atonement agree in their testimony that Christ is the Son of God, the

head of the church, and Saviour of sinners.

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4th. The most convincing and unanswerable testimony can be given for Christ by holy, consistent christian living, by true piety maintained according to the teaching and example of the Lord, in all the movements and acts of the church. The Great Teacher called his disciples "the light of the world," and commanded them to impart light in the way just mentioned; "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father that is in heaven."

5th. By carrying out a truly Christian discipline among its members, one in agreement with the command and spirit of Christ, for its own welfare and the good of souls, a church can bear testimony for Christ. The Apostle Paul in writing "to the churches of Galatia" directs them thus:—"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye that are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye

one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."

6th. Beneficent Christian efforts for the moral and spiritual welfare of mankind, earnest labours direct or indirect, for the enlightenment and renovation of sinful humanity, directed simply from love to Christ, and desire for the salvation of sinners, is the most convincing testimony for Christ, the divinity of His religion and the power of his gospel to make men unselfish, benevolent, and God-like.

The preaching of "the gospel of the kingdom" of Christ "in all the world" by the Christian Church, is declared by the Lord himself to be "for a testimony unto all the nations; and then shall the end come." A true missionary church is one that testifies for

Christ to the perishing, at home and abroad.

7th. The social meetings of the church for Prayer and Conference afford calls and opportunities to the brethren to give testimony for Christ by declaring facts relating to Christian experience as known in their own personal history. The Christian warfare is in its progress so various and changeful in incidents and trials, victories and rejoicings, so fruitful in the evidence it affords of God's faithfulness and love, power and grace, that Christians have in themselves a spiritual revelation and history whose lessons of caution and courage, comfort and joy, faith and hope may be communicated with much profit; and to the honour of the Redeemer. These meetings should be utilized by Christians to testify from their own experience that "the Gospel is the power of God to the salvation of the soul.

8th. By means of Sabbath Schools, Churches and Christians can bear testimony to the youth of the community that the religion of Christ is most valuable and necessary, and worthy of the serious and earnest attention of all, and that all, old and young, should seek to obtain the rich spiritual blessings it proffers to mankind. The Testimony of Parents and Teachers, thus given in the spirit of love and fidelity is adapted to impress the youthful mind with the excellence and glory of true piety according to the glorious gospel of

God.

9th. Much may be done at home in the domestic circle and among friends by personal efforts to present the truth to their minds and consciences, to win them to Christ and the kingdom of heaven. Even the humblest and most retiring Christian can bear testimony for Christ in this way. Confessing Christ in word, and by submitting to his ordinances and obeying his commands, is giving testimony concerning Jesus in a practical manner, and is adapted to impress those who hear our words or observe our conduct. "With the heart man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." No one should be ashamed of the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ; and he that believeth it and holds it fast hath life and peace for ever. A living church, one in fellowship with Christ, and holding forth the words of truth and grace is a great blessing in any community and must exercise an influence highly beneficial to society.

The testimony of a prayerful, pure, joyous, shining Christian life, tells powerfully for Christ, and in favour of the Gospel; and must prove of incalculable value for the spiritual good of men. It repels doubt and helps to extinguish unbelief, and to fortify faith in Christianity as Divine. Infidelity and Scepticism have not yet forged the chains of an argument which can resist or demolish the logic of a holy, christian life. Such a life is a potent and unanswerable testimony for Christ and Christianity. This testifying for Christ greatly benefits the church, and strengthens the individual members;—leads them to study and prayer; and it becomes also a means of reaching and convincing others that Christ is able to save to the uttermost all that come unto God through him; and what is more; such faithful and loving allegiance as the discharge

of this great duty implies, greatly honours the Lord Jesus before men.

It is feared there is not in our churches generally the faithful, earnest testimony given for Christ, which true, deep, powerful Christian experience and consecretion demand and prompt. A return to a more simple, apostolic, intense Christian life, and a warmer and fuller expression of it both among ourselves and to others is very desirable, and indeed necessary to a more faithful discharge of the great duty we are urging and which the churches and every Christian are called upon to perform for Christ and the gospel. "Ye are my witnesses," saith the Lord. "He that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat? saith the Lord."

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ty 38 ıe n ils V-30 e, st la in et ie nor al 80 to nd ge An essential characteristic of the Church of Christ as pourtrayed in the Apocalypse, is holding the testimony of Christ and giving forth that testimony for Him. Light and purity in them, and energetic service on their part for Christ and his kingdom, and cousequent aggression on the kingdom of darkness, awaken the enmity of the evil one; a sure sign that they are Christ's, for the enemy of God and the Church knows his own, and will not seek to destroy them. "And the Dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ;" but in vain; "the gates of hell shall not prevail against" the Church of Christ. "And they overcame him ("the accurser of the brethren") by the blood of the Lamb, and the word of their Testimony.

Ministers of the N. S. Eastern Baptist Association.

and annual to the	NAME.	Place of residence.	Date of Ordination.	Place of Ordination.
	G. F. Miles J. J. Armstrong J. C. Spurr A. Freeman . 4. M. P. Freeman . 1. H. Eagles D. McKeen J. W. Bancroft C. H. Martell H. Bool J. R. Skinner F. A. Kidson John E. Goucher Samuel Thompson Edwin Clay, M. D. D. W. C. Dimeck T. B. Layton Obed Chute	Upper Stewiacke	1842 1854 1875 1878 1869 1876 1867 1859 1852 1851 1841 1872 1850 1880	Wolfville. Newcastle, N. B. Greenville. Cow Bay. Melrose, Guysboro Co Bedeque, P. E. I. Kempt, Hants Co. River Hebert. Wyindsor. Onslow. Coatbridge, G. B. Andover, N. B. Gagetown, N. B. Westbrook, Cumb. C. Pugwash. Chester. Musquash, N. B. Wentworth. Tracadie. Isaac's Harbor.
61		Antigonish Guysboro'		Aylesford. Caledonia, Queens C
6				Carleton, St. John, N.
	F. U. WEUKS	Parrsboro'	1876	Carleton, St. John, N.

LICENTIATES.

Arthur Chute, Great Village.
Ed. G. Sibley, Lower Stewlacke.
James Morrison, Onslow.
C. K. Harrington, Sydney.
J. C. Archibald, Upper Stewlacke.
Caleb Huntington, Grand Mira, C. B.
Wm. McKenzie, West Bay, C. B.
Jas. W. Tingley, Margaree.

APPENDIX.

(A)

Report of Committee on Education.

The Institutions of learning founded at Wolfville more than half a century ago continue to enjoy, by the blessing of God, a high degree of prosperity. During the past year sixty-three (63) students have attended the classes in the College; fifty-nine (59) the classes in Horton Academy; and about the same number of young ladies have attended the Acadia Seminary.

The Rev. Drs. Crawley and D. M. Welton have given instruction in Theology in some of its subjects to most of the young men studying for the ministry. Two young men completed the full course.

Your Comittee commend these schools to the confidence of the denomination for the following considerations:—We have received them as a heritage from the fathers, by whose devoted prayers and labours they were established. Their usefulness is now apparent not only in our denomination but in the country and world generally. Again and again they have received signal manifestations of the Divine favour, especially in the succession of wonderful revivals of religion enjoyed in them, commencing with their earliest history. The prospects for further usefulness were never brighter, and the means of keeping them in a high state of efficiency were never more abundant.

In regard to the agitation favoring that unexplained and impracticable proposed "Consolidation," your Committee recommend the continuance of our Institutions, free and independent; and that in the future as in the past they be kept under the control of the Baptist denomination. The buildings, lands, and endowments, given in sacred trust, and the importance of keeping in our own hands the appointment of the instructors of our young men and young women, unite to make it impossible for the Baptists to entertain a proposal to change the present conditions and relations of Acadia College.

S. Selden, Chairman.

(B)

Infirm Ministers' Board in acct. with W. M. Read, Treasurer.

Constitution of the Consti	
1880. Dr.	
June 30.—Cash in Savings' Bank	
-00+	\$196 36 6 95
June 30.—Interest to date	
	\$203 51
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Jan'y. 3.—Cash paid T. B. Layton	
June 11.— " taxes, the Dickson property at Truro	
Postages o 38	61 40
Balance in Savings' Bank	\$142 11
MRS. LYNDS' LEGACY FUND.	
7881 DR.	L
June 28.—Cash received from the estate of the late Sara Lynds, Truro	n \$400 00
Cr.	
June 11.—Expenses to Truro to collect the money\$ 3.79 28.—Cash paid T. B. Layton	,
J. J. Armstrong	53 75
June 30.—Balance cash in hand	\$346 25

(C)

Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools.

Your Committee are firm in the conviction that this department of our work as an Association demands more attention and labour than our churches in general bestow upon it. The work of training up the young in the way they should go has been shown to be all important, by the promise attached to such labour in the Sacred Scriptures: "When he is old he will not depart from it." Your Committee believe that the true definition of a Sabbath School, is—the church, with all they can influence, gathered together on the Lord's Day for the study of His Word. This being the case, your Committee would urge upon all the members of our churches, the obligation resting upon them to be present at the Sabbath School, either as teachers, or formed into Bible Classes for the mutual study of the Word of God.

Respectfully submitted,

F. A. KIDSON, Chairman.

(D)

Report of Committee on Denominational Literature.

Your Committee on Denominational Literature would hail with joy the Revised Version of the New Testament, and recommend it to all within the limits of this Association. That it is a work of the best scholarship and consecrated talent of our, age is evident from the names and work of the revisers who have labored so diligently in giving us the book. Notwithstanding the many changes made in translation, it retains the old flavor and the purely Biblical style. Many of the difficult passages are made plain, and the marginal readings are of immense importance.

We do not consider it a perfect translation by any means, and some of the changes made may appear unadvisable. But it will give a fresh impetus to the study of God's Word. It will enable the average man to read out more directly, without explanation or comment, the mind of the Spirit in its original utterance. It is calculated to tighten the grasp of Divine truth on every fair-minded man. It is evidently the best English blade ever put in the hand of the English soldier.

Your Committees would suggest that great care be taken in the selection of books, especially for the young. Each book should be read by some competent person before being placed in the hands of the child. In our day you cannot tell the nature of a book from its title-page or its cover, any more than you can read the character of a man from his name or his clothes. Give not the young a serpent in a book when they are asking for truth, morality, and spirituality.

Your Committee would call attention to the circulation of a good, wholesome denominational literature, and recommend the purchase of books that will stamp Divine truth on the heart, and teach them, as the New Testament does, how to follow Jesus and His Apostles in church life.

Your Committee desire to make honourable mention of the Christian Messenger, and bespeak for it universal patronage, until the Baptist Convention of the Maritime Provinces takes different action in respect to a denominational paper.

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Respectfully submitted, C. H. MARTELL, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Temperance.

Your Committee on Temperance report they are sensible that the work is uphill and hard, and every obstacle is being put in the way of success by the enemies of the Temperance Reform; still there seems a degree of hope as witnessed by the success that has attended the effort to bring the Scott Act into force in a number of Counties in the Province. Friends of Temperance are being greatly encouraged at the opposition manifested by the rum-seller to the said law, giving good evidence of its grip and power to accomplish the work so much needed all over the land.

With the united energies of God's people, and the consistent, steady, and persistent work of the various organizations of Temperance bodies, we may yet hope to free the people from one of the greatest calamities that has ever cursed an enlightened community.

GEO. F. MILES, Chairman.

(F)

Report of Committee on Missions.

Your Committee feel that it ought to be sufficient to refer the churches to the commission of Christ to His disciples. By that, every child of God is authorized and required to seek the salvation of men, irrespective of race, condition, or clime. The obligation of the church cannot cease while there remains a sinner to be reached by the gospel, or until Christ shall Himself return. From this service there can be no return, and he who does not go, nor cheerfully give his money to send others, nor pray for their success, cannot be a true disciple.

We are not to neglect the *Home Field*. Provision is made for that, but we must not be forgetful of the wide wastes needing spiritual culture beyond our borders.

Your Committee, while thankful for the blessings that have attended our efforts at home, are still impressed with the belief that we, as a denomination, are not doing what we might. Many of our weak churches are at present without pastoral oversight. There are inviting fields on every hand that we ought to enter, and that we might successfully occupy. Our Home Mission Board is doing what they can to overtake the work. The Secretary writes: "Grants have been voted for upward of 50 different fields, which means to aid about 90 of our weak churches. The expenditure of the Board for the year will be about \$5,000; perhaps it may need more. The receipts thus far are only a little above \$2,000." We

need more men and more money. The Lord owns the gold and silver, but too many of the stewards are unfaithful.

The care of God in preserving the lives of our missionaries, and the success attending their work in India, calls for thankfulness and awakens hope. Few mission fields can show so much fruit for the same term of labour. We would say to them: "Brethren, you are doing well, we trust in your fidelity, and we trust in God to bless you."

Your Committee regret the severance of Brother and Sister Armstrong from the service of our Board, and we trust that the difficulties which have caused the resignation of Bro. Armstrong may be overcome, and that our Brother and Sister may return to India, and spend their lives there in winning souls to Christ in connection with the Baptists of these Provinces.

It is a matter of devout thankfulness to God that our highly esteemed Bro. Hutchinson has offered himself as a Foreign Missionary, and it is to be hoped that he may have a long and successful life in labouring, as an additional worker, among the Teloogoos.

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Respectfully submitted,

M. P. FREEMAN, Chairman.

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Treasurer's Account

OF MONEYS FOR BENEVOLENT OBJECTS RECEIVED AT THE N. S. EASTERN BAPTIST ABSOCIATION HELD WITH THE BAPTIST CHURCH AT NORTH SYDNEY, C. B., 1881.

Churches.	Convention Fund.	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions.	French Mission.	Ministerial Education.	Infirm Ministers.	Acadía College.	Endowment Fund.	Total.
			A 0 00			\$0 45			\$ 6 33
Amherst Shore									15 00
Brookfield			0 05	40 45	An 001	0 221	\$2 25		9 00
Cow Bay, C. B		3 60			● 0 22½				12 00
Goose River									2 00
Goshen									43 19
Great Villags	43 19								13 00
Greenville									23 00
Guysboro' and Manchester	23 00								
Hawkesbury	5 00								5 00
Homeville		4 00	1 50			1 00			7 00
Little Glace Bay		2 50	1 50			0 50	0 50		5 00
Lower Stewiacke			12 75				0 25		21 75
Maccan									13 00
Mira Bay									6 69
Pugwash									7 10
Sydney, C. B									25 00
Tracadie									2 00
									23 30
Upper Londonderry									1 00
West Brook									1 30
Westchester			1 00						7 25
Wallace River									4 00
Williamsdale and Millvale									24 70
Collections									1 00
J. S. Ingraham						0 50		\$10 00	10 00
C. Jost, Guysboro'								\$10.00	
~	9195 90	998 65	\$30.2 4	40 9	80 22	84 67	\$3 50	\$10 00	\$288 6
Less paid Minutes, Letters To Rev. M. P. Freeman	, Postag	e, &c	•••••	••••			10	00	62 50

Audited and found correct, Chas. R. Kine, Auditor.

\$1.00 received from West Bay Church for Convention Fund after close of Association

\$226 11

Total	Mem, last year.	315 315 315 315 315 315 315 315 315 315
Total	Membership.	30
Non-	resident M'brs.	43.9 9 43.9 9 10.15 10.1
Resid	dent Members.	34
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hes	Date of Organization	8888333 .22 .24266
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* No Letter.

Moneys appropriated during the Year, reported by Churches.

Names of Churches.	Convention Fund.	Home Mission.	Foreign Mission.	Acadia College.	Total.
Amherst Shore. Antigonish Five Islands and Lower Economy. Goshen Guysborough and Manchester. Mabou. N. E. Margaree. Pngwash River John River John Truro. Upper Londonderry Williamsdale and Millvale.	35 50 40 00 44 70 24 00 41 00 140 00	\$15 00 34 00	\$20 45 20 00		\$ 7 00 87 41 35 50 15 00 54 45 40 00 44 70 20 00 24 05 41 00 140 00 4 00

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

Nova Scotia Eastern Baptist Association.

ARTICLE 1st.—This body shall be called the Eastern Baptist Association of Nova Scotia, and shall consist of Delegates representing the Churches of which it is composed, each of whom shall be a member of one of those churches, together with Delegates from Corresponding Associations, not exceeding five from any one Association; and such others as may, by the Association, be invited to sit in council; none but delegates being entitled to vote, and such only as represent churches being elligible to office, or to vote for officers.

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ART. 2nd.—Each church connected with the body may send five Delegates besides its Pastor.

ART. 3rd.—The object of this Association being the cultivation of Christian Union, the promotion of individual godliness, and by mutual consultation, to seek, in the use of Scriptural measures, the extension of the Redeemer's Kingdom—it disclaims all authority over churches, and shall in no case interfere with their internal concerns, or their entire scriptural independency. Yet it may dissolve its connection with any church that, upon sufficient examination, shall be judged by the Association to have departed essentially from Scripture principles or Baptist taith and practice.

ART. 4th.—This Association shall meet at such time and place as it may appoint, and the meetings shall be opened with devotional exercises.

ART. 5th.—The Officers of the Association shall be—a Moderator, who shall preside at all the meetings, nominate all the Committees not otherwise provided for, and perform all the duties naturally connected with such office; a Clerk who shall keep a record of all the business transacted prepare the Minutes for the press, and attend to their distribution; and a Treasurer, who shall receive all the moneys contributed for the purposes of the Association, and dispose of them according to its direction. All the officers shall remain in office until their successors are chosen.

ART. 6th.—The religious sentiments of this body are those expressed in the "Articles of the Faith and Practice of the Baptist Churches in Nova Scotia,"

ART. 7th.—The Association may receive any Church which, by letter, shall apply for admission, and shall give satisfactory evidence of its faith and order, in agreement with the religious sentiments of this body; and each Church belonging to this body shall send annually a letter, containing an account of its history for the year preceding, particularly of its additions and diminutions, with its number then in fellowship,—also, money to assist in publishing the M-nutes. Any Church that for three successive years omits sending any Letter, Delegates, or money, shall be considered withdrawn from the Association, and shall be discontinued from the Minutes, unless sufficient reason may appear to account for the omission, or provided it may appear desirable to make some inquiry, by committee or otherwise, and report at the next meeting of the Association.

ART. 8th.—This Constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members at any annual meeting of the Association.

RULES OF ORDER.

RULE 1st.—At each annual meeting the Letters from the Churches shall be handed to the clerk, who shall retire and make out a list of the delegates -the Moderator meanwhile shall conduct devotional exercises.

2nd .- From the list so prepared the Moderator shall be chosen by ballotno brother shall be chosen two years in succession.

3rd.—The first letter read shall be from the Church with which the Association is assembled.

4th.-No subject shall be discussed without a motion first made and seconded, and no person shall speak on any subject more than twice unless by consent of the Association.

5th.—When any Church is received, the Moderator shall give to one of its delegates the right hand of fellowship.

6th.—At the commencement of each sitting the Minutes of the preceding one shall be read and approved, and of the last before the final adjournment.

7th.—Motions made and lost shall not be recorded on the Minutes except so ordered by the Association.

8th.—All resolutions shall be presented in writing.

9th.—Each meeting for business shall be commenced and concluded with

10th.—The Committee of Arrangements shall, in addition to the provision for the "order of business," provide also for the discussion of the more prominent topics, Education and Missions, by appointing one or more persons to speak upon them. Said Committee shall further recommend the place for the succeeding Association, the preacher of the Associational Sermon, and

the writer of the Circular Letter. 11th.—No delegate shall leave the Association before the business is finished, without permission of the body.

12th.—These Rules shall be read by the Moderator at the commencement of each annual session of the Association.