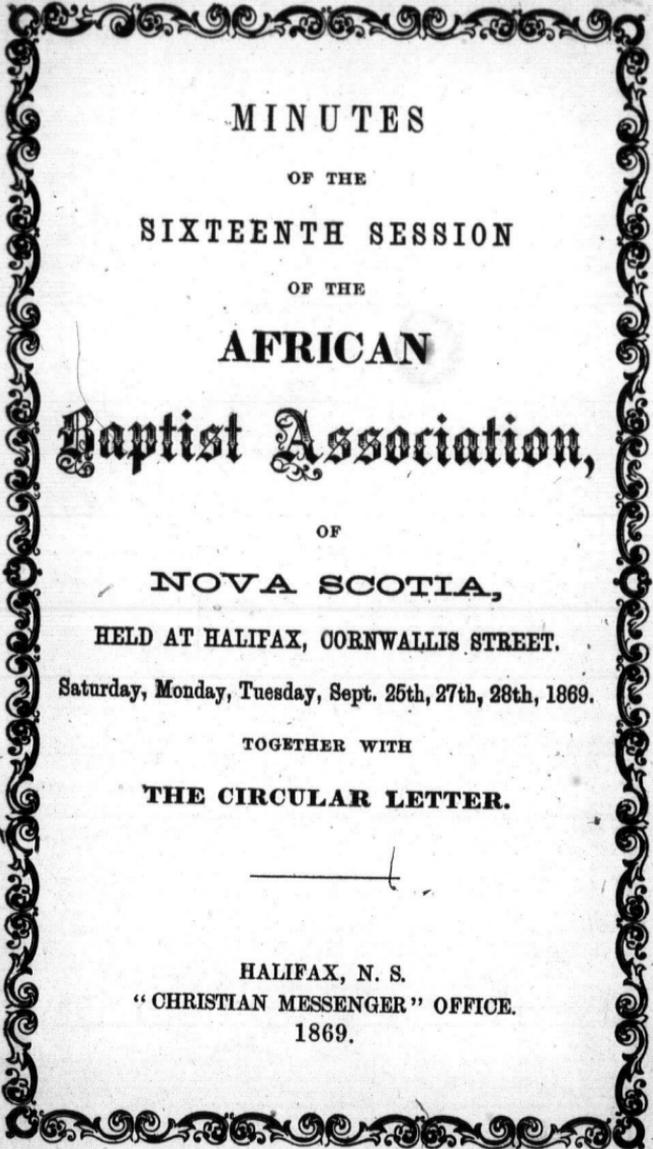


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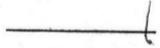
MINUTES
OF THE
SIXTEENTH SESSION
OF THE
AFRICAN

Baptist Association,

OF
NOVA SCOTIA,
HELD AT HALIFAX, CORNWALLIS STREET.

Saturday, Monday, Tuesday, Sept. 25th, 27th, 28th, 1869.

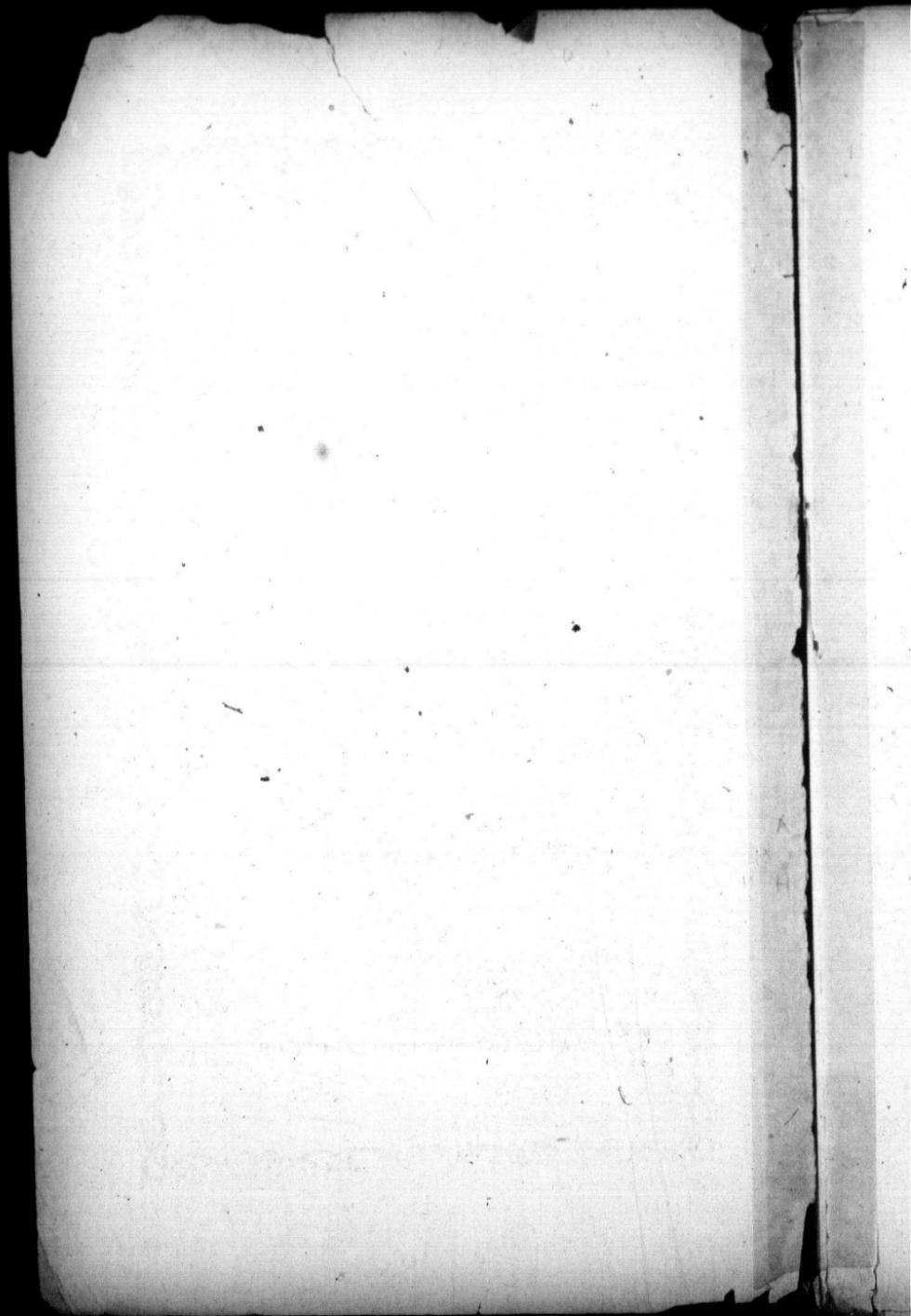
TOGETHER WITH
THE CIRCULAR LETTER.



HALIFAX, N. S.
"CHRISTIAN MESSENGER" OFFICE.
1869.

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ARTICLES
OF
FAITH AND PRACTICE.

PART FIRST.—ARTICLES OF FAITH.

ARTICLE 1.—There is but one only living and true God, who is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

2. There are three persons in the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, who are but one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

3. The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, are the Word of God, in which he hath given us our only rule of faith and practice.

4. God, who is infinite in knowledge, and perfectly views all things from the beginning to the end, hath fore-ordained that whatsoever comes to pass, either by his order or permission, shall work for the eternal glory of his great name.

5. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that in them are; and he upholds and governs all things by the word of his power.

6. God made man in his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness: and made with him a covenant of life, the condition of which was perfect obedience.

7. Man being left to himself, soon fell from that happy and glorious estate, in which he was made, by eating the forbidden fruit, by which he brought himself and all his posterity into a state of death.

8. Man being thus dead, his help and recovery are wholly in and from God.

9. God the Father hath chosen a great multitude of the human family, which no man can number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, and given them to his

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Son in the covenant of grace, that he might redeem them from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works; which is the only foundation of salvation for lost and helpless sinners; and thereby the ministers of the Lord are encouraged to preach the gospel to every rational creature; because, the purpose of God, and the infinite value of Christ's atonement, secure the increase and establishment of Christ's kingdom, so that the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

10. Jesus, the eternal Son of God, hath come, and taken on him our nature, and in that nature hath yielded a perfect obedience to the law which we have transgressed, and suffered death for our sins, and hath brought in a complete and everlasting righteousness, and hath risen and ascended to the right hand of God, and ever liveth to make intercession for us.

11. The Holy Ghost, and he only, can and doth make particular application of the benefits of the atonement made by Christ to every elect soul.

12. The Spirit of God applies the benefits of this atonement, by convincing us of our sinful, lost, and miserable condition; and then discovering the glorious Saviour, as he is exhibited in the gospel, in his suitableness and sufficiency, and enabling us to embrace him with our whole souls, by which he is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.

13. The life of religion consists in the knowledge of God and conformity with him in the inward man, which necessarily produces an external conformity to his commands, and brings us to live in obedience to his holy will in all our ways, and in our several places and relations.

14. True believers, being united to Jesus Christ, shall never perish, but live and reign with him for ever. They have communion with God, and by his Spirit they are united with each other, and have communion one with another, whereby they are made partakers of each other's gifts and graces.

15. The first day of the week, commonly called the Lord's Day, is the Christian Sabbath.

16. God hath appointed the ordinance of civil government for defending the poor as well as the rich, in their civil

rights, without infringing upon the consciences of any, or attempting to dictate or govern in the worship of the eternal God, which belongs only to Jesus Christ the great Lawgiver and Head of his church.

17. There will be a general resurrection, both of the just and the unjust, and God hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness, by Jesus Christ; and will reward every man according to his works; and when the wicked shall be sent away into everlasting punishment, and the righteous received into life eternal.

PART SECOND.—CONCERNING A VISIBLE CHURCH OF CHRIST, AND ITS DISCIPLINE.

1. A particular visible Church of Christ, is a number of his saints, by mutual acquaintance and communion voluntarily and understandingly covenanting and embodying together, for upholding and promoting the worship and service of God, to show forth his declarative glory, and for their own edification.

2. Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Christ, to be continued until his second coming, and the former is requisite to the latter; that is to say, those are to be admitted into the communion of the church, and to partake of all its ordinances and privileges, who upon profession of their faith, have been baptized, that is, immersed, in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

3. Since none but true believers can rightly partake of the ordinances, therefore the door of the church should be carefully kept against all such as cannot give scriptural evidence of their union with Christ.

4. A church thus gathered has power to choose, and by elders to ordain those officers that Christ hath appointed in his church, viz.—Bishops or Elders, and Deacons; and also to depose such as walk contrary to the rules of the gospel; and to discipline their members, though in some such cases it may be convenient and profitable to request the advice of neighbouring churches of Christ.

5. A Bishop or Elder hath no more power to decide any case or controversy in the church than any private brother; yet they, having superior gifts for teaching and ruling, ought to

exercise and improve the same for the benefit of the church; and the church ought to be subject to the gifts bestowed on the minister from the Lord, while he is rightly administering in his place, whose place it is to lead in the actings of the church, and to administer the ordinances of the gospel, and to devote himself to the work of teaching, warning, rebuking and exhorting the people, publicly, and from house to house.

6. The Deacon's office or work is to take care of the poor, and to have the oversight of the temporal affairs of the church, and to minister at the Lord's table.

7. Every believer is commanded to be faithful, to improve every gift and talent which is bestowed on him; in order to which, there ought to be such a gospel freedom that the church may know where every particular gift is, that it may be improved in its proper place, and to its right end: viz. the glory of God and the good of his people; and the church ought to be subject to such improvements.

8. There is a mutual obligation between minister and people; the former, to administer in things religious and spiritual, according to the gifts God has given; the latter, to communicate of their temporal or worldly substance for his comfort and support, and that by an equality as nearly as can be ascertained, that one may not be burthened and another eased. But this is not to be effected by force or compulsion, or by the sword of civil power; but it is to be a free-will offering, agreeably to the Scriptures of truth. And every member deficient in this matter ought to be disciplined by gospel rule, as for any other breach of covenant, or neglect of performing christian duty.

THE COVENANT.

We do now, in the presence of the great all-seeing, and most glorious God, and before angels and men, give up ourselves to the Lord Jehovah, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost and avouch Him this day to be our God, our Father, our Saviour, and our Leader, and receive him as our portion forever.

We give up ourselves to the Lord Jesus Christ, and engage to adhere to him as the Head of his people in the cov-

enant of grace, and rely on him as our Prophet, Priest and King, to bring us to eternal blessedness.

We acknowledge our everlasting and indispensable obligations to glorify God, by living a holy, righteous and godly life, in this present world, in all our several places and relations; and we engage by the assistance of the Divine Spirit, to improve our time, strength, talents, and advantages, to his glory and the good of our fellow men; promising, by Divine help, to walk in our houses as becomes those professing godliness, and to train up those under our care in the ways of religion and virtue.

We also give ourselves to one another in covenant, promising to conduct ourselves towards each other as brethren in Christ, watching over one another in the love of God, *reproving, rebuking, admonishing one another for good, as occasion may require; and if we at any time know that any of the members of the church are guilty of immoral conduct, we will not expose them by tattling to others, but will faithfully labour with them, according to the direction of our Lord, that sin may be put away from among us, and that iniquity may not be harbored in the church,* and to watch not only against the most gross evils, but also against all foolish talking, and jesting, which are not convenient; vain disputing about words and things which gender strife; disregarding promises, and not fulfilling engagements; tattling and backbiting, spending time idly at taverns or elsewhere, and vain and unnecessary conversation on the Lord's day, and whatsoever else is contrary to sound doctrine, according to the glorious gospel of Christ, promising to hold communion together in the worship of God, and in the ordinances and discipline of his church, according as we are, or shall be, guided by the Spirit of God, in his word; expecting that he will further and more gloriously open his word and the mysteries of his kingdom: applying to the blood of the everlasting covenant for the pardon of our many errors, and praying the Lord to prepare and strengthen us for every good work, to do his will, working in us that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

MINUTES.

HALIFAX, Saturday, September 25th, 1869.

Met at 2 o'clock, P. M.

The Sixteenth Session of the African Baptist Association, met, pursuant to adjournment, and was called to order by the Chairman; after singing, prayer was offered by the Rev. Geo. R. Neal; the Rev. Jas. Thomas read the cxxii. Psalm, and lectured briefly from the same, followed by the ministering brethren and others.

The Articles of FAITH and PRACTICE of the Association were called for and read.

Adjourned.

Evening Session, 7 o'clock, P. M.

Preaching by the Rev. Jas. E. Jackson, from 1st. Peter 2nd. chapter 1st. clause of 7th verse; followed by several of the Brethren. Adjourned.

Sunday Services, Sept. 26th.

11 o'clock, A. M. Preaching by Bro. Daniel Goffican, from 3rd. chapter St. John 8th verse; followed by Brothers Geo. Brown, Jas. Downing; Revds. Jackson and Neal; Brother Polote, and others.

3 o'clock, P. M. Preaching by Bro. Alex. Bailey, from Psalm 137th, 1st. and 2nd. verses; followed by Brothers M. R. Freeman, C. Roan, I. Williamson; Rev. George R. Neal, and others.

7 o'clock, P. M. Preaching by Bro. J. R. Thomas, from 20th Psalm, 2nd. clause of 5th verse; followed by Revds. James E. Jackson, Jas. Thomas; Brothers Polote and McPherson.

Monday Morning Session, Sept. 27th.

9 o'clock, A. M. Prayer by the Rev. George R. Neal.

The Minutes of the last Association were read, and unanimously adopted.

In behalf of the 1st. Preston-Church, the Chairman was requested to make a verbal report, respecting the delegation that was sent from this Association to said Church, which report being stated, was received and passed unanimously.

Verbal reports from the various delegates, respecting the condition of their Churches, were received and passed.

Resolved, That this Association would recommend the Halifax Church, when having it in their power, to enlarge their building, it being too small to afford ample accommodation for the increasing congregation.

Voted, That the Rev. George R. Neal be Moderator of this Association.

A Committee to examine the Letters from the various Churches was appointed, viz. :—

Revds. Jas. Thomas, George R. Neal, J. E. Jackson; Brothers M. R. Freeman, Chas. F. Biddle, and J. R. Thomas.

Voted, That all the Members from the Sister Churches have a seat in counsel with us.

Adjourned for 10 minutes. Prayer by Bro. Smith.

11 o'clock, A. M. Met pursuant to adjournment. The Rev. James Edward Jackson preached the INTRODUCTORY SERMON, from 2nd. Kings 7th chapter 3rd. verse, latter clause:—"Why sit we here until we die;" followed by Revds. George R. Neal, and James Thomas.

Adjourned.

Afternoon Session.

3 o'clock, P. M. Prayer by the Rev. Jas. Thomas,

Voted, That the report of the Committee on Examining Letters, be received.

Voted, That the Letters from the various Churches be read, and that Bro. J. R. Thomas, read the same.

The Letters from the various Churches being read, and a request being made by the 1st. Preston Church for the Association to be held with them.

It was therefore Resolved, That our next Association be held with the 1st. Preston Church, on the last Saturday in September, 1870.

Whereas a request being made in the Dartmouth Church Letter, for them to be allowed to sell the ground whereon the old Church stood which was destroyed by fire.

It was therefore Resolved, That if they have the concurrence of their own Church and Trustees, that this Association will corroborate their proceedings.

Voted, That the Rev. George R. Neal preach the INTRODUCTORY SERMON, and the Rev. Jas. Thomas be his alternate.

Voted, That the Rev. Jas. E. Jackson write the CIRCULAR LETTER.

Voted, That whereas a resolution was passed at the last Conference Meeting of this Association condemnatory of the conduct of Joseph Cox, an excluded member of the Church, who published false and defamatory statements respecting our beloved brother the Rev. James Thomas; and whereas we have this day confirmed the action of the Conference in reference thereto, and being desirous of still further marking our disapprobation of the conduct of Mr. Cox, and those who instituted a suit in the Supreme Court against the Rev. James Thomas, endeavouring to depose him from the Trusteeship of the Church in Cornwallis Street in which we worship, and hand the management of it over to a body of persons not recognized by this Association,

Be it therefore resolved, That we do hereby, after full investigation of the whole proceedings, sustain our worthy Pastor, Rev. James Thomas, and vindicate his action in the matter, and we also attest the zeal and fidelity with which he administers to the spiritual wants and necessities of the congregation worshipping in the African Baptist Church, Cornwallis Street, Halifax.

And be it further resolved, That we declare the action of all those who sustain Joseph Cox in his attempt to sow the seed of dissention in our Zion to be criminal in the highest degree and wholly at variance with christian character, and contrary to the precepts and teachings of our Church.

Voted, That the Revds. James Thomas, Geo. R. Neal, and Bro. J. R. Thomas superintend the printing of the Minutes.

Voted, That Brothers Alexander Bailey, Daniel Goffican, and J. R. Thomas receive Letters of License.

Adjourned.

Evening Session.

7 o'clock, P. M. Preaching by the Rev. Geo. R. Neal, from Acts 20th chapter 32nd verse, followed by Brothers Freeman, Jackson, Coleman, and others.

Tuesday Morning Session, Sept. 28th.

10½ o'clock, A. M. Prayer by Brother Downing.

Resolved, That a vote of thanks be tendered to the members and friends of the Halifax Church for their hospitality to the Delegates from the various Churches.

Voted, That the Articles of Faith and Practice and the Covenant of this Association be inserted in the Minutes, and that each Church be taxed for the printing of the same.

Voted, That whereas there are Churches on the Roll of this Association that have not sent in their returns for the past three sessions, *Be it therefore resolved*, That unless they forward their returns to our next Session, action will be taken to expunge such Church or Churches from the Roll, that fail to forward their returns.

Adjourned.

Afternoon Session.

3 o'clock, P. M. Ministers and Delegates met pursuant to adjournment.

Finances settled satisfactorily.

Resolved, That a vote of thanks be tendered to the Rev. James Thomas, (Chairman), for the able manner in which he has conducted the business of this Association.

Resolved, That a vote of thanks be tendered to the Rev. George R. Neal, (Moderator), for the able manner in which he performed his duty.

Resolved, That a vote of thanks be tendered to Brother John R. Thomas, (Clerk), for the able and satisfactory manner in which he has discharged his duty; and a vote of thanks was also tendered to the Rev. Jas. E. Jackson.

Adjourned.

Evening Session.

Preaching by Bro. M. R. Freeman, from 10th chapter St. Mark 47th verse, followed by Rev. Jas. E. Jackson, Brother Gofflean, and others.

Afterwards the whole congregation united hands; an address was delivered by the Chairman, and the Doxology was sung. Prayer being offered up, we separated to meet with the First Preston Church, on the last Saturday in September, 1870.

STATISTICS.

STATE OF THE CHURCHES, INCREASE AND DECREASE.

CHURCHES.	Baptized.	Received.	Excluded.	Removed.	Died.	Total.
1 Halifax.....	72	7	.....	.....	.....	140
2 Hammond Plains.....	22	4	.....	.....	.....	80
3 1st. Preston	15	6	.....	.....	.....	88
4 3rd. Preston, New Road..	4	4	.....	.....	.....	23
5 Dartmouth	1	1	.....	.....	.....	12
6 Beech Hill.....	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	17
7 Horton.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
8 Cornwallis .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21
9 Granville Mountain.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	46
10 Bear River.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21
11 Digby Joggin.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16
12 Weymouth.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	17
13 Yarmouth.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	27
14 Liverpool.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	17
	119	22	.....	.....	.....	530

Ministers, Licentiates, Deacons, Counsellors, &c.

HALIFAX.—Rev. James Thomas; Deacons William Barrett, Chas. F. Biddle; Counsellors—Daniel Gross, Geo. Brown; Doorkeepers—John Spriggs, Thomas Taylor; Clerk—John R. Thomas,

HAMMOND'S PLAINS.—Rev. Jas. Thomas; Licentiates—Thomas Jones, Daniel Goffican; Dea. Gabriel David; Counsellors—Stephen Manigo, Frederick David; Clerk—Alexander Emerson; Doorkeepers—William Wilson, Abram Johnston.

PRESTON, 1st.—Rev. Geo. R. Neal; Licentiates—Geo. Brown, John Williamson, Merit R. Freeman; Deacons—James Slawters, David Brown, George Taylor, William Deer, Thomas Crawley; Counsellor—John Thompson; Clerk—Joseph Evans.

PRESTON, 3rd.—Rev. George R. Neal; Deacon Wm. Smith.

DARTMOUTH.—Rev. Jas. Thomas; Deacons—John Gerry, Chas. Roan; Counsellor—Richard Tynes.

BEECH HILL.—Rev. James Thomas; Deacon—Alexander Bailey; Counsellor—Robert Hamilton.

HORTON.—Deacons—Daniel Doleman, Dennis Doleman.

CORNWALLIS.—Deacon—Daniel Taylor; Counsellor—Jno. Smith.

GRANVILLE MOUNTAIN.—Deacon—Edward Dixon.

BEAR RIVER.—Deacon—James Johnston.

WEYMOUTH.—

YARMOUTH.—Rev. James E. Jackson; Deacons—Silas Chandler, Jas. Crawford; Counsellor—David Dize.

LIVERPOOL.—Deacon—John Fells; Counsellors—James Wade, Robert Ely.

Sabbath School in connection with the Halifax Church, Superintendent, Charles F. Biddle. Male Teachers—Peter E. McKerrow, J. R. Thomas. Female Teachers—Miss Thompson, and Miss Charlotte Wodehouse.

Sabbath School in connection with the 1st. Preston Church. Superintendent—George Taylor. Male Teachers J. W. Williamson, Thomas Crawley. Female Teacher—Mrs. Mary Ann Grose.

Circular Letter.

THE CIRCULAR LETTER OF THE AFRICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, CONVENED AT HALIFAX, SEPTEMBER 25TH, 1869.

Dearlly Beloved Brethren,—

Another year has rolled around, and carried with it its thousands, to appear before the great tribunal bar of God, yet we are spared as monuments of his tender mercy, and in the midst of the years and deserved wrath he has remembered us, and blessed us ; to the conversion of immortal souls. And though the power of darkness may rage against us, yet God will save his heart's delight, and we can exclaim with the Psalmist : " Though a host should encamp against us, we shall not fear," though war should rise against us, in this will we be confident that God will save his people. With this assurance we should press boldly onwards, and be incessant in our labours to reclaim the erring.

Our hearts have been gladdened, while with deep interest we heard of the workings of Christ with the Church at Halifax, and we pray to God that more may be added to their numbers. Oh that the good work may continue until the whole world be deluged with the knowledge of God, when we shall not say one to another ; " Know ye the Lord, for all shall know him from the greatest to the least."

Finally, may we prove faithful, while we are spared to tread this terrestrial globe, that we may hear the gladdened sound of our Heavenly Father, saying : " Good and faithful servant enter to enjoy the kingdom prepared for thee."