

MINUTES
OF THE
THIRD SESSION
OF THE
CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
OF NOVA SCOTIA.

HELD AT
HALIFAX, N. S.

SATURDAY, MONDAY & TUESDAY, 25TH, 27TH & 28TH JUNE, 1853.

TOGETHER WITH THE
Circular Letter, &c.

HALIFAX, N. S.

PRINTED AT THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER OFFICE.

1853.

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MINUTES
OF THE
CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

SATURDAY, JUNE 25th.

THE Association met at three P. M. Prayer by Brother T. S. Harding. Brother Tupper was chosen *Moderator*; Brother Dr. Cramp, *Clerk*; Brother R. McLearn, *Assistant Clerk*; and Brother Chase, *Treasurer*.

Brethren Chase and Hartt were appointed a Committee to examine the letters; and brethren Hall and Tabor to read them.

The brethren Crawley, Miller, McLearn, and Selden were appointed a Committee of arrangements.

The letters from the Churches were then read, from which the following list of Delegates was obtained, and also the table showing the state of the Churches.

LIST OF DELEGATES.

Aylesford, Upper.--Rev C. TUPPER.

Bridgewater.--Rev. J. V. TABOR.

Burton Church. Brethren J. Barron, and A. Johnston.

Chester.--Brethren J. E. Melvin, B. Corkum, and I. Hume.

Cornwallis, First--Rev. A. S. HUNT, A. M., Deacon E. Harris, and Brethren J. Ellis, and L. Woodworth.

Cornwallis, Second--Rev. Mr. CHIPMAN, Deacon Parker, and brother D. Lyons.

Cornwallis, Third.--

Falmouth, First, (Hantsport).--Rev. P. A. Sheils.

Halifax, Granville Street--Rev. Dr. CRAWLEY, and brethren Nutting, G. Creed, Selden, Evans, Coppin and Fraser.

Halifax, North--Rev. W. MILLER, and brethren D. McPherson, T. McLearn, Wm. Wiswell, and W. Wentworth.

Hammond Plains, First—Rev. N. BAKER, and Brother D. Thompson.

Hammond Plains, Second—Brother J. Thomas.

Horton, First—Rev. T. S. HARDING, Dr. CRAMP, and brother Hartt.

Indian Harbour—Brethren J. C. Hurd, and J. Launiz.

Jeddore—Brother J. Thomas.

Kempt—Brother J. Marsters.

Lawrence Town—

Long Point—Rev. Mr. CHIEPMAN, and Deacon A. Parker.

Lunenburg—Rev. B. TAYLOR, and brother P. Longille.

Margaret's Bay—Brother J. C. Hurd.

New Germany—Rev. R. S. MORTON.

Newport—Rev. G. DIMOCK, and Rev. J. BANCROFT.

Preston—Brother J. Thomas.

Rawdon—Rev. J. BANCROFT, Deacon F. Parker, and brother T. Knowles.

Sherbrooke, West—Rev. R. S. MORTON.

Windsor Road, and Sackville—Rev. N. BAKER, and brethren F. Webber, and D. Ellis.

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The newly formed Church at Chelsea applied by letter for admission into the Association: the application was referred to the Committee on Questions in letters.

Delegates from other Associations were then invited to a seat. Brother Martell, delegate from the Eastern Nova Scotia Association took his seat accordingly. The following brethren were also in like manner invited, and took their seats:—Brother Gillpatrick, Agent of the American and Foreign Bible Society; brother Obed Chute, delegated by the Western Nova Scotia Association, as Agent for the French Mission; brother Chase, brother R McLearn, brother Hugh Ross, brother Hall; the brethren J. Judson Skinner, R. Philp, and Elisha Budd DeMill, *Licentiates*; brother Ferguson, brother Ackhurst, brother Falkner, of Chelsea and brother Asahel Woodworth, of Lower Stewiacke.

The Committee of arrangements reported, and their report was adopted.

The following Committees were appointed:

On Temperance—Brethren Selden, McLearn, Asahel Woodworth, James Coppin, and Corkum.

To examine the Circular Letter—Brethren W. Chipman, and Nutting.

On the Bible Cause—Brethren Gillpatrick, Ferguson, Hall, George Dimock, and Abel Parker.

On Sabbath Schools and Bible Classes—Brethren Hart, Bancroft, Shiels, Tabor, Evans, Falkner, and Robinson.

On the Christian Messenger—Brethren Miller, W. Chipman, Ross, Baker, Tupper, and Francis Parker.

On Home Missions—Brethren, Martell, Morton, Taylor, Lyons, Joseph Marsters, McLearn, Philp, Hurd, and Thomas.

On Foreign Missions.—Brethren Hunt, G. Dimock, DeMill, Crawley, Whittier, Elisha Harris, Skinner, and Levi Woodworth.

On Union Societies—Brethren McPherson, Bancroft, Chase, David Ellis, Isaac Hume, Adam Durland, and Knowles.

On Questions in Letters—Brethren McLearn, Chipman, Chute, and Tupper.

On Education—Brethren Tupper, Crawley, Cramp, Nutting, Melvin, Marjell, Hunt, Miller, Hall, Hart, Selden, and Chase.

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On the French Mission—Brethren Chute, Creed, Shiels, D. Lyons, and B. W. C. Manning.

Prayer by brother Gillpatrick. Adjourned.

On Lord's day the brethren T. S. Harding, Martell, and Hunt, preached; and collections were taken for the Domestic Mission; the brethren Cramp, Chipman, and Gillpatrick preached at Granville Street; and the brethren Gillpatrick, Baker, and Cramp, at Dartmouth. Brother Hall preached in the new Methodist Church, Grafton Street, and in the Methodist Church, Brunswick Street. Brother Shiels also preached in the last mentioned place.

MONDAY, June 27th, 1841 A. M.

Brother Martell read 2 Peter 1, and prayed.

The introductory sermon was preached by Dr. Cramp, from Jeremiah 6. 16. A collection was taken up for the Domestic Mission. Prayer by brother Bancroft.

The reading of the letters was continued.

The Committee on the *Christian Messenger* reported.

REPORT ON THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER.

The Committee on the *Christian Messenger* beg leave to report:—That they highly appreciate that paper, are very much satisfied with the manner in which it is conducted, and feel deeply sensible of its importance, as an instrument, in promoting the cause of God, and the interests of the denomination. They hope that the brethren throughout the Province will continue to give it their cordial support, and use their influence to extend its circulation.

The Committee tender their sincere thanks to the Editors, for the able and prudent manner in which they have conducted it.

J. MILLER, Chairman.

Addresses were delivered by the brethren Hunt, T. S. Harding, and the Moderator. The Report was then adopted.

The Committee on Questions in letters reported.

REPORT ON QUESTIONS IN LETTERS.

The Committee on Letters report,

That they recommend that the appeal of the brethren at Preston be referred to the Missionary Board, in hope that they will appoint a Missionary of some age and experience to spend one two or three weeks at Preston, to adjust if possible the difficulties amongst the brethren there, and if needful to ask the assistance of brethren Crawley and Miller. And they recommend the brethren at Preston to concur in the advice of the appointed and authorized Missionary.

The Committee in reviewing the application of the Chelsea Church for admission to this Association under the consideration that a Committee has already been appointed by the Western Association to look into affairs in that district do not recommend the reception of that Church at present, but recommend that a Committee be appointed by this Association to meet with our brethren—the Committee of the Western district, to assist in making needful arrangements for Christian harmony.

The Committee on the subject adverted to in the Lunenburg letter, recommend, that whilst the commission to minister is broad, embracing the whole world, still we think it is a want of christian courtesy which must produce alienation and discord, for one brother to establish preaching stations in districts under the ministerial charge of another brother, unless invited by the Pastor and Church, to do so.

On the appeal of the Cornwallis Church in favor of Colportage, we recommend some systematic arrangement to carry it out.

On the appointment of the next Association, the Committee recommend that it be held at Newport, in accordance with their request of last Association, sanctioned now by the wish of the Pastor.

R. McLEARN, *Chairman*.

Addresses were delivered by the brethren Ferguson, Crawley, and Harding, and the further consideration of the Report was deferred till the afternoon session.

Prayer by brother G. Dimock. Adjourned.

3. P. M.

The consideration of the Report of the Committee on questions in letters was resumed. The brethren McLearn, G. Dimock, Barron, Hunt, Tabor, Taylor, Chipman, and Melvin, offered observations on it. The Report was then adopted. The Brethren, Crawley, Miller, and McLearn were requested to act as a committee, to meet a council appointed by the Western Association in reference to the Church at Chelsea.

The subject of Colportage was referred to the Domestic Missionary Board, in order that a plan of Colporteur operations may be formed, and carried into effect under the superintendence of the Board.

It was resolved, That the next Association be held at Newport—Dr. Crawley to preach the introductory Sermon—Brother A. S. Hunt to be his alternate.

The following Committee of arrangements was appointed :—

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Brethren G. Dimock, and Bancroft, and Deacons Joseph Dimock, Levi Dimock, Thomas Sanford, Oliver Dimock.

Dr. Cramp was appointed to write the Circular Letter.

Dr. Crawley was appointed a Delegate to the Eastern Nova Scotia Association, and that the sum of £2 be allowed for expenses. Dr. Cramp to the Eastern New Brunswick Association, and brother Hunt to the Western Nova Scotia Association.

The following brethren were appointed Delegates to the Convention, viz.,—Brethren Johnston (Hon. J. W.), Nutting, J. W. Barss, A. Parker, and M. Beckwith.

Resolved,—That the Minutes be printed at the *Christian Messenger* Office;—that Dr. Crawley and brother Nutting be requested to superintend the printing;—that the expense of printing the Minutes be paid out of the Domestic Mission Fund; and that the sum of £8 be allowed for the same.

The Committee on Temperance reported.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

The Committee on Temperance beg leave to Report

That they hear with much pleasure that the "Maine Liquor Law" has been adopted in several of the States of the Union, and that a law, similar in some respects, has been passed in New Brunswick, and is now coming into operation. They regret that in many parts of our Province Intemperance is gaining ground, and; with the increase of the population and wealth threatens the most ruinous consequences, which calls for the utmost exertions of all the friends of Temperance. They unite with the brethren of the Western Association in recommending that, one Sermon at least, on the subject of Temperance, be preached in each of the Churches of this Association during the year.

The Committee also recommend that we use our strongest efforts to prohibit by legal enactments, the sale and manufacture of ardent spirits, both by petition, and by the legitimate exercise of the elective franchise.

The Committee also recommend that the request of the President of the Halifax Temperance Society respecting a public Temperance Meeting be complied with, and that the following be the order of arrangements:

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Bancroft.

ADDRESSES—1st,—Rev. Dr. Cramp on the importance of the Temperance cause.

2nd,—Rev Mr Harding, Temperance, its claims on the Church.

3rd,—Rev Mr Tupper, Temperance and the Christian Ministry.

4th,—Rev Mr Gilpatrick of Maine, The Maine Liquor Law.

5th,—Rev A S Hunt,—Early training in Temperance.

Gth.—Rev Wm Hall,—Prayer to God essential to success.
Benediction.

S. SELDEN, *Chairman*.

The brethren Hunt, Selden, and Crawley offered some observations, and the Report was adopted.

Resolved.—That a Committee be appointed on the use of Tobacco, consisting of the following brethren:—Abel Parker, Chase, Crawley, Baueroft and Manning.

The Committee on Foreign Missions reported. Addresses were delivered by the Brethren Crawley, Hunt, Chipman, Cramp, Gillpatrick, and McLearn; and the Report, after some modifications, was adopted.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Resolved.—That, we regret that brother Arthur Crawley has tendered his resignation, and equally regret that there should be a necessity for such resignation, still we feel bound to recommend the Board to accept the resignation and follow our brother with our prayers. And until our Convention is in a position to send out two Missionaries according to their resolution we recommend that a portion of our funds be appropriated to the Am. Miss Board, to assist them in the great and benevolent work of sending the gospel out to the Heathen. In the mean time, we shall be greatly gratified in receiving from brother Crawley either directly or through the American Board of Missions, such Missionary intelligence as will tend to keep up a Missionary spirit amongst our Churches, in connection with the Missionary labours of our esteemed young brother, and thus promote Missionary contributions.

And further, inasmuch as since the last meeting of the Association our beloved Missionary bro. Burpe has been called to his everlasting rest, this Committee respectfully recommend to the Association to record their sympathy with our Churches, and more particularly with our brother's bereaved widow and children in the loss they have sustained, and to express their trust that under the able management of the Board of Missions and the superintendence of the Convention, whom that Board represent, all that is proper will be done for the purpose of making such provision for the future sustenance of this bereaved family, which may be considered to be the duty of our churches.

And lastly, that the Association be recommended to urge on our churches their continued aid, if possible increased contributions towards the maintenance of Foreign Missions.

All which is respectfully submitted.

H. S. HUNT, *Chairman*.

Prayer by the Moderator. Adjourned.

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Prayer by brother Morton.

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The Committee on Home Missions reported.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

The Committee on Home Missions beg to Report as follows :
Your Committee regard the Home Missionary enterprise as one of vital importance to the Baptist denomination and the cause of Christ in this Province. It alone can supply the spiritual necessities of a very great number of our fellow beings in this Province, bound to the bar of God with us. The spiritual destitution among the people inhabiting the South and Eastern Shores of this Province only needs to be known in order to excite sympathy and stimulate to action for their supply. And in connection with the wants of those souls, we beg to call your attention to the fact that important benefits have hitherto resulted from that institution. It is a well known fact that many of our ministers now actually engaged in the cause of the Saviour are seals to the Domestic Missionaries of Nova Scotia. In consideration then of the perishing condition of our fellow beings, and the advantage to be derived to the cause of the Redeemer by an increase of ministers, we would urge upon this Association the necessity of adopting some well matured plan of proportionate adaptation to the circumstances and demands of the destitute among us. Your Committee therefore hope that the Domestic Missionary enterprise will receive an additional impetus from the combined efforts of our churches, and beg to suggest that a permanent Mission be established at certain points and sustained at least for one year, hoping and believing that such Missions would be but a light charge on the funds of the Board.

A. MARTELL, Chairman.

The brethren Martell, Ross, Crawley, Morton, and MacPherson addressed the meeting. The Report was adopted.
The Committee on the French Mission reported.

REPORT ON THE FRENCH MISSION.

The Committee on the French Mission report as follows :
That in N. S. proper there are alone 15,000 Catholic French, enshrouded in deep darkness, and upon whom in but a very partial degree has ever arisen the light of life, and from whom in their perilous perishing condition sounds forth the cry, "Come over and help us."

It no longer remains a problem to be solved, whether the Romanist, bound in chains of error and superstition, can be approached, rescued and saved. The history of Missions among them for the past 20 years, both in Europe and America, demonstrate the feasibility of efforts for their liberation from priestly power and thralldom, and their emancipation into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Your Committee are happy in being enabled to state that now, among our so long neglected Acadians, the Missionary is going forth, and that positive and promising efforts are being made for the amelioration of their condition, for their enlightenment and salvation.

That during the past year, commencing Sept., 1852, many thousand pages of Evangelical Tracts, and a good number of Bibles and Testaments have been disseminated among them. They can further give the encouraging assurance that among this people are now those who with diligence and earnestness are searching that blessed word, the entrance of which giveth light, and which maketh wise unto salvation.

They would urge upon the attention of all the friends of this cause, the pressing importance, yea the absolute necessity of opening free schools as soon and as extensively as possible among that people, that thus knowledge and truth, by every possible variety of means, may be scattered broad cast among them.

And finally, they would recommend to all the faithful, that earnest, importunate and unceasing prayer be made to the throne of Infinite Mercy, that it may please the prayer hearing and prayer answering God, to shed down his richest blessings upon this rising Mission, so that he or they who go forth weeping, bearing precious seed among our beloved Acadians, may ere long return again with rejoicing, bringing their sheaves with them.

O. CHUTE, Convener.

The brethren Chute, Shiels, Martell, and Bancroft, addressed the meeting. The Report was then adopted. A collection was made for the French Mission. Prayer by bro. Hunt.

TUESDAY, 10, A. M.

Prayer by brother Martell.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools and Bible Classes reported.

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS & BIBLE CLASSES.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools and Bible Classes beg leave to report.

That your Committee are much gratified to learn from the annual Epistles from most of the Churches comprising this Association, that their Sabbath Schools are in a flourishing condition.— They would heartily recommend continued and increased exertions in a cause which must exercise the most powerful moral and religious influence upon our youth. As no Sabbath School can prosper without a sufficient number of teachers, and as a deficiency in this respect is widely felt, your Committee would urge the importance of Bible classes as a means of increasing the efficiency of teachers, and also of furnishing religious instruction to more ad-

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All which is respectfully submitted.

P. A. SHIELDS, *Chairman.*

The Report was adopted.

The Committee on the Circular Letter reported, recommending its adoption. The letter was read, received and adopted, and ordered to be inserted in the Minutes.

Public worship then commenced. Prayer by brother Taylor. Father Harding preached from Ephes. ii. 13. The Moderator briefly addressed the meeting. Prayer by brother Miller.

The Committee on Education reported.

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

The Committee on Education beg leave to submit the following report.

Your Committee do not deem it necessary to dilate on the value of sound learning, imparted in a manner adapted to promote the interests of truth and piety. The high estimation in which it is extensively held by very many of our brethren and friends in these Provinces, is clearly evinced by the liberal contributions that have been made towards the Endowment of Acadia College—an Institution which has been deservedly cherished by our people with feelings of warm attachment, and which they are manifestly resolved to sustain.

Its present state being set forth in the C. M. of the 23rd inst., it is not requisite to repeat it here.

It affords your Committee much pleasure to be able to state, that the favourable prospect of securing the Endowment of the College, has operated most advantageously upon the interests of our excellent Academy, now under the able and judicious management of our esteemed brother Hartt, aided by competent assistants. The number of pupils has been much augmented of late; and this is obviously to be attributed in a great measure to the cause now assigned.

Your Committee also rejoice to be able to add that about £9,000 have been already secured with comparatively little exertion. It must be manifest however, to all, that the most strenuous effort must still be needed in order to complete the collection in as short a time as possible, of the sum of at least £10,000 out of the £12,000 subscribed, so as to fulfil the pledges given to subscribers, and to put the College at as early a period as possible into actual possession of the funds which are essential to its healthy action, and to render impossible so disastrous a calamity as the failure of a measure so important to the welfare and credit of our denomination.

It is further needful to observe that as in collecting so large a sum as £10,000 or £12,000 some failures must reasonably be anti-

icipated, it must be borne in mind that in addition to the care of collecting there ought unremittingly be added that of increasing the amount subscribed, both for the purpose of guarding against failures as also to acquire a fund as ample as possible for the purpose of putting the College on such a footing as will satisfy the reasonable anticipations of all its friends.

All which is respectfully submitted.

CHARLES TUPPER, *Chairman.*

Addresses were delivered by the brethren Cramp, Crawley and Ross. The Report was adopted.

The Association suspending its sitting, and the business of the Education Society was conducted. Rev. Charles Tupper, Vice-President in the Chair.

The Annual Report was read by the Rev. A. S. Hunt, A. M.—Rev. J. Chase, the Treasurer, presented a favourable statement of the finances of the Society. The Report was received and adopted.

Addresses were delivered by the Rev. Dr. Crawley, Rev. J. Chase, Rev. A. S. Hunt, and Rev. A. Martell.

The following Resolutions, proposed by Dr. Crawley, and seconded by Rev. J. Chase, were then passed.

1st, *Resolved*,—That the arrangement which has placed Acadia College under the superintendence of the Convention ought not to be regarded as releasing this Society from its obligation to labour in the cause of Education generally, that besides the Academy which still remains its peculiar care, a wide and important field of usefulness calls for its efforts in arousing the attention of the people to the duty of educating the rising generation in all useful branches as has been heretofore its practice. In endowing and maintaining distinct chairs of instruction, either in connection with the College or Academy, or without any such connection as may be most practicable; in maturing and effectuating the wisest financial regulations, and in suggesting and if possible carrying out such measures from time to time as in the judgment of the Committee will best tend to promote the great ends of Education in the ministry and among the people.

2nd, *Resolved*,—That while this Society reverence most highly and cherish most affectionately the early pioneers in our denomination, as well as any other of our beloved and esteemed brethren whom circumstances have compelled to enter into the ministry with limited previous preparation, they are at the same time fully assured that the time is come when as a general thing a cultivated mind ought to be earnestly desired as a needful qualification for the pulpit; but that in order to this it is indispensable that our Churches generally be brought to feel that it is their duty to afford by such measure of contribution as God enables them, to make the

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means whereby our pious youth called to preach may become cultivated, and so to sustain the pulpit that when possessed of the high advantages of education, our cultivated youth may not be driven from the country to seek in another region such reasonable support as is no more than a just recompense for the labours of such men; and as is indispensable to enable them to furnish themselves with books and other literature to such extent as will enable them to keep pace with the rapid improvement of the present age.

Resolved,—That the officers of the Society be re-appointed.
The Association resumed.

It was proposed that the following brethren constitute the Domestic Missionary Board for the present year, viz.:—Brethren W. Chipman, A S Hunt, C R Bill, W Johnson, Dr S Fitch, Abel Parker and Joshua Ells, and all Pastors of Churches in the Association; and that the Board be located at Canar, Cornwallis.

The hour of adjournment having arrived, the further consideration of the Resolution was postponed till the afternoon session. Prayer by Dr. Crawley. Adjourned.

3, P. M.

The consideration of the Resolution respecting the Domestic Missionary Board was resumed, and the resolution was passed.

Brother C. R. Bill was re-appointed Treasurer of the Domestic Missionary Board.

The Committee on Union Societies reported.

REPORT ON UNION SOCIETIES.

This Committee knowing how desirable it is to sustain the various objects in which we as a denomination are engaged, and considering the Union Society as the most efficient means that we can employ, do therefore recommend that our ministers and deacons interest themselves in the business of the Union in their respective churches, and that the ministers employed as missionaries to serve destitute churches, respectively attend to the business of the Union—and we further recommend that stated meetings of the churches and congregations be held for the furtherance of these objects—and we further recommend that a suitable agent be employed to labour in behalf of the objects embraced in the Union Society when and where it shall be found desirable and practicable.

We also recommend that the following Resolution be passed:
Resolved,—That the high esteem and respect in which our departed brother Dr. A. F. Sawers was so generally and deservedly held, calls for a special tribute of affectionate regard from this Association, especially considering, that principally from his suggestion and exertion, the Union Societies which have done and are still likely to do so much good, were first introduced into our body.

It is with the deepest regret therefore, that we deplore the loss the Baptist Churches have sustained in the sudden removal of our beloved brother, and we sincerely sympathize with the afflicted family and friends in this heavy bereavement.

The brethren Martell, T S Harding, Baneroff, W Chipman, Hall, Nutting, Miller, addressed the meeting, the three last mentioned with especial reference to the late Dr. Sawers. The Report was then adopted.

The Committee on the use of Tobacco reported.

REPORT ON THE USE OF TOBACCO.

The Committee on the use of Tobacco report. That having carefully observed the ruinous effects which the use of Tobacco has on the human system, in secretly and effectually undermining and destroying the constitution, your Committee would earnestly recommend to every lover of the souls of their fellow men, and more especially to the ministers of the gospel of salvation, to raise their warning voice against a habit that is so filthy in its appearance and ruinous in its effects, in order that the rising generation may receive timely caution and escape the grasp of so fatal an enemy.

ABEL PARKER, *Chairman.*

After addresses by the brethren Gillpatrick, Parker, Martell, Rose, Nutting, T S Harding, and Chase, the Report was adopted.

The Committee on the Bible Cause reported.

REPORT ON THE BIBLE CAUSE.

The Committee upon the Bible Cause in their report, beg leave to say to the good brethren and churches of this Association, that in their opinion, the providence and spirit of God call loudly and imperatively upon them for increased efforts to thrust the sickle of Bible truth into the whitened fields which are opening wider and wider before us. To such a call we do not well to turn a deaf ear. In such a work we must not be idle, but with our might do what God has thrown upon our hands. Your Committee therefore propose the following resolution:

Resolved, That we will continue, and if possible increase our efforts to aid in publishing and circulating the Scriptures, in all languages, and in all foreign lands. All which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES GILLPATRICK, *Chairman.*

The brethren Gillpatrick, Chase, Hunt, Martell, Cramp, Chipman, Dimock, and Nutting offered observations on the subject. The Report was then adopted.

Brother McLearn proposed the following preamble and resolution.

Whereas the Roman Catholic Gaelic population in the Island of

Cape Breton, of great spirit accessible by do appoint a Mission, to raise the field, and the population of the

Resolved,—That as this Mission and prayers, and ed to take charge

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Cape Breton, of more than twenty thousand persons are in a state of great spiritual darkness, and whereas they are a people that are accessible by us as a denomination,—Resolved, that this Association do appoint a Missionary Agent to co-operate with the Eastern Association, to raise funds necessary for the cultivation of this important field, and to carry the gospel to the Roman Catholic Gaelic population of that Island.

Resolved,—That Elder H. Ross be recommended to the Board as this Missionary agent, and that he be sustained by our sympathy and prayers, and that the Domestic Missionary Board be requested to take charge of this Mission.

After observations by the brethren McLearn, Martell, Hunt, and Nutting, the preamble and Resolution were passed.

Resolved,—That the Churches of this Association be recommended to take collections on behalf of the French Mission on the second Lord's day in September next.

Resolved,—That the Churches of this Association be recommended to take collections on behalf of the Home Mission on the second Lord's day in December next.

Brother Martell proposed the following preamble and resolution.

Inasmuch as it has been recommended in the Report of the Committee on Home Missions, that the Missionaries be sustained at certain points in this Province for at least one year,—Therefore Resolved, that we offer our aid to the Eastern Association for the purpose of establishing a mission at Pictou, as we deem it an important station for Missionary labour.

We also suggest that some proper person be consulted upon the subject, and his labours be secured in that important field if possible.

We further recommend the appointment of a Committee to assist the Eastern Association in carrying out this important measure.

After some observations, the above preamble and resolution were passed.

Resolved,—That the cordial thanks of this meeting be given to the brethren of this city for the hospitality shewn to the members of the Association.

Prayer by brother Gillpatrick. The Moderator pronounced the benediction, and the Association closed.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The Ministers and Messengers composing the Central Baptist Association of Nova Scotia, to the Churches which they represent.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,

How merciful is that God through whose providence we have been preserved another year and permitted again to meet in Association, where all the energies of our denominational Body is stirred up, and every faculty called into action. Here our minds become strengthened and encouraged while we take a retrospect of the last fifty three years, viewing the rise and progress of the Nova Scotia Baptist Association, witnessing the three distinct organizations which have grown out of our denominational tree, having their roots deeply imbedded in the rich soil of God's eternal truth, and growing up under the soul strengthening rays of the Sun of Righteousness, refreshed and invigorated by that word which, drops as the rain and distills as the dew, and here our souls are refreshed while we sit together in heavenly places in Christ, having the word and testimony to instruct us, a prayer hearing omnipotent being to assist us, and the Holy Spirit of wisdom to console strengthen and influence our minds, together with the cheering promise, that he will be with us unto the end, if we observe and teach all things whatsoever the Lord has commanded.

And in presenting you with this our annual Epistle, we would direct your attention to the importance of teaching and observing all things as commanded by the great Head of the Church. What but a strong attachment to divine truth, a love to its divine author, and a strict adherence to the divine command, secured success to that sect that was every where spoken against, while as a Church they were surrounded by the darkness of Heathen superstition and Jewish prejudice. Their light altho' bright may be compared to a little taper, shining amid the gross darkness of night, yet their faithfulness secured the fulfilment of the promise. The light of God's truth prevailed, the penetrating rays of divine grace made their way to hearts filled with enmity against God, and prejudice superstition and the persecuting spirit, fell prostrate before the truth. And to what under God do we as a denomination in these Provinces owe our prosperity, but to the faithfulness of our early ministers and their strict adherence to the word of life. On what then depends our future success, but the strict observance of the divine requirements in the doctrines and ordinances of the Gospel, being clothed with humility, built up in the faith, and led by the spirit of God. If in the early ages of christianity faithfulness secured the blessing, and if the history of the Church from that period to the nineteenth century establishes the same fact, shall not the faithful at this period be blessed. If so, whom shall we fear while we act

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agreeably to our own tenets. (Art. 3rd.)—We believe the Old and New Testaments to be the word of God, in which he has given us one only rule of faith and practice. Thus we rest on the word and testimony with a determination both by precept and example to observe all things whatsoever the Lord has commanded.

We may make a good beginning, stand on gospel ground, organize a church of baptized believers, and yet by neglecting our Royal Chart we may be built up *but not in the truth*. We need not the decrees of the Councils of Nice, or Constance, or of Trent, but we need a "thus saith the Lord."

In the reception of members into our Churches it is desirable that they should be received according to the divine requirement. Here two extremes should be avoided. *First*, that of erecting a standard, expecting all to have such exercises and views of God's justice, goodness and truth, and perplexing the young convert with doctrinal questions. *Secondly*, adopting an opposite course, determining to ask no questions more than to know that the person has a desire to join the Church. Persons may be desirous of connecting themselves with the Church, and yet unable to give a scripture evidence of their union to Christ. Under the gospel dispensation fruit meet for repentance is required. To believe with all the heart. To be always ready to give to every one that asketh of you a reason of the hope that is within you with meekness and fear.

And although some may have very clear views with regard to the way of life and their acceptance with God, and manifest a readiness to tell what the Lord has done for them, others equally pious may doubt the propriety of offering themselves as candidates for baptism, because they cannot relate particulars with regard to time and place of conversion, yet they rejoice in the prosperity of the Church, and mourn when the cause of God languishes.

Shall we go to the Book of God. Altho' Paul apparently delighted in giving a relation of his christian experience, as he did before Agrippa and Felix, yet when buffeted by the enemy and contending in the warfare, he says, "I delight in the law of God after the inward man." (Rom. vii. 22.) And again—"as touching brotherly love, ye need not that I write unto you, for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another," (Thess. iv. 9.) And the beloved disciple observes, "We know that we have passed from death unto life because we love the brethren," (John iii. 14.) God is love! and on this platform all the children of God meet. Our object then should be to ascertain if the applicant has that love, and if so we together may say with the apostle, "We love him because he first loved us." Such appears to be a scriptural evidence of the soul's union to Christ, and we should open no wider door, for the carnal mind is enmity against God, is not subject to his Law neither indeed can be.

In the appointment of office bearers in the Church, it becomes

us to observe the divine requirement, because theirs is an important duty to perform, and God best knows what qualifications are requisite. We need not seek to obtain them from one name or family, but among the followers of the Lamb,—such as best answer the requirement. “Likewise must the Deacons be grave, not double tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre, holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved, then let them use the office of a deacon being found blameless. Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well; for they that have used the office of a deacon well, purchase to themselves a good degree and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.” But when they cease to be blameless, incur not the displeasure of God by retaining them in their office, but remove them and appoint their successors from among the more faithful.

Let the divine command be strictly observed in setting apart men to the work of the ministry, if we would have the approbation of heaven and secure the enjoyment of the divine presence. Surely it is an important work, a great and glorious work, and will prove either a savor of life, unto life or of death unto death. Hence it needs honesty of principle, humbleness of heart, the willing mind, consistent deportment, faithfulness and decision on the part of the candidate.

As the safety of the flock depends on the character of the shepherd we readily perceive the necessity of a proper selection. But by neglecting to search the scriptures we may be sincere and yet run into error. For instance Christians sometimes have a zeal not according to knowledge,—one talks a great deal about religion and others are delighted with good words, consequently give him much praise and advise him to preach—being upheld by process, but when he comes to receive a public recognition or take the pastorate, it becomes evident that the party is not competent to take care of the Church of God. The flock is scattered instead of being gathered and protected, and seem neither to have been fed nor instructed; hence become an easy prey to the enemy, and the minister is recognized as a disturber of the peace instead of a peace maker; and those that built up are wont to pull down,—all is dissatisfaction and religion becomes a by-word.

The Church of God is represented as a fold, individual members as sheep and lambs. They are spoken of while being in this world, as sheep among wolves. Christ's ministers are under-shepherds, or overseers to watch over and feed the flock. Our Blessed Lord in his last charge to Peter says, feed my sheep. A weighty responsibility rests upon the minister. He has an important and peculiar duty to perform which requires great attention, strong faith and much love. The Apostle in addressing

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the Elders of the Churches, his brethren in the ministry, exhort them, saying, Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint but willingly, not for filthy lucre but with ready mind. And Paul in addressing the Elders of the Church at Ephesus, says, Take heed unto yourselves and to all the flock over which the Holy Ghost has made you overseers, to feed the Church of God which he has purchased with his own blood. Those who are thus made overseers through the operation of the Holy Spirit, possess the requisite qualifications. And as it is the Church of God over which they are to preside, in order to secure the blessing, we should follow very closely the instruction that God has given. The Bishop must be blameless as the steward of God, not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre, but a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate, holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and convince the gainsayers. Paul urged the foregoing duty upon Timothy. "And the thing that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men who shall be able to teach others also." An observance of the foregoing would prevent controversy which would otherwise be likely to arise with regard to the propriety of certain persons entering the ministry, set matters at rest in the Church, and glorify God. Again we are commanded to "lay hands suddenly on no man." Surely the Book of God is a safe guide. It is further observed by the Apostle, "And though I speak with the tongue of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal." Thus are we reminded of the necessity of having the love of God shed abroad in our hearts. Let us not mistake a readiness to communicate for an aptness to teach—the former may consist only in word, the latter gives both precept and example,—conforming to those requirements the Church is blessed,—the Divine presence is felt in her midst. Being united to Christ by living faith they love God supremely and love each other, they love God's word and are being established in the truth, hence lively stones, and are built up a spiritual house, and when one suffers all suffer, consequently an application is made forthwith to the remedy provided, and order and discipline is observed in the Church,—God is honoured, and members are brought to realize their continual dependence. This renders her position safe, and it becomes us to remember that every plant that our heavenly Father has not planted shall be rooted up. We need more Ministers, and we need efficient faithful ministers, and how shall they be obtained but by bringing ourselves to the standard of truth and uniting our supplications at the throne of grace. Where the Church is satisfied with the qualifications of a brother who is desirous of entering the ministry let him be encouraged, and let our prayers ascend to God on

his behalf. If this education is not sufficient, render him all the aid possible by recommending him to attend our Institution, and pursue his studies, or if necessary by sustaining him there for a time, or otherwise supply him with useful books that the man of God be thoroughly furnished. But let us not commence the work of making ministers ourselves, but rather pray the Lord of the harvest that he would raise up and send forth faithful labourers. We are however encouraged when we look back on the past, when the man of Sin so mightily prevailed, and the Church of God appeared like Nebuchadnezzars tree, to have been hewn down and destroyed, yet were the stump of the roots thereof left in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, and being wet with the dew of heavenly grace they budded, sprung forth and bore fruit. Its branches are now spread out over the nations, and we are encouraged by the promise that no weapon formed against Zion shall prosper, and persevering in the observance of all things whatsoever the Lord has commanded we shall find him a present help, yea he will be with us always, even to the end of the world.

CONSTITUTION OF THE CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ART. 1.—This Association shall be composed of Ministers and other Delegates, who shall be members of the churches which they represent, together with Delegates from corresponding Associations, and such other brethren present as the Association shall see fit to invite to sit in Council.

ART. 2.—The Association shall meet at such time and place as may be agreed upon by the body.

ART. 3.—Each Church shall have the privilege of sending one Delegate or more, but no Church shall be entitled to send more than five in addition to their Pastor.

ART. 4.—At each meeting of the Association, the Moderator of the preceding year shall call for a vote for a Moderator, which vote shall be given by ballot: no brother shall be chosen Moderator two years in succession. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside in all the transactions, nominate Committees unless ordered by the Association, and maintain due order. A Secretary shall be chosen whose duty it shall be to record the transactions of the Association, and to furnish a correct copy of the same for the Press.

ART. 5th.—It shall be the duty of each Church to send by its Messengers a letter to the Association giving an account of its state, particularly of its additions and diminutions, within the last year, and generally of whatsoever relates to its peace and prosperity.

ART. 6th.—When any Church shall desire admittance into this Body, application must be made by letter, and satisfactory evidence furnished of its faith and order; this being done and a vote of acceptance taken, the Moderator shall in behalf of the Association give to one of its Messengers present the right hand of fellowship.

ART. 7th.—When any Church shall neglect to make communications for three years successively, it shall be considered as having withdrawn from us, and shall be dropped from the Minutes, unless two or more mem-

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bers shall request its continuance and shall engage to inquire into its standing and report at the next meeting of the Association.

ART. 8th.—Although as an Association all power over the Churches is disclaimed, so far as respects any interference with their independence and discipline. Yet it is deemed a privilege belonging to the Association for itself to judge of the propriety of receiving or retaining any Church in its connexion.

ART. 9th.—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. 10.—Alterations or Amendments may be made to this Constitution by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any of its regular meetings.

RULES OF ORDER.

RULE 1.—At every sitting, business shall be opened and closed with prayer.

RULE 2.—No member of the Association shall leave the session before the business is concluded, without permission of the Association.

RULE 3.—No subject shall be discussed without a motion first made and seconded.

RULE 4.—No person shall speak oftener than twice on the same subject unless by permission of the Body.

RULE 5.—All Resolutions shall be presented in writing.

RULE 6.—Motions made and lost shall not be recorded on the Minutes except so ordered at the time.

RULE 7.—These rules shall be distinctly read from the Chair at the opening of the session.

NOTE.—In the table shewing contributions for Union Society purposes, no money is reported as received from Burton, 3rd Cornwallis, Dartmouth, Granville Street, or Lawrence Town Churches. A memorandum has since been handed to us shewing the following sums as contributed. Collected in Granville St. Chapel £3 10s. 4d.; J. W. Johnston, £1; Dr. Parker do.; S. N. Binney, do.; J. W. Nutting, do.; J. Ferguson do.; G. Creed, 5s. making £8 15s. 4d., from Granville St. Church for Home Missions.—Eds. C. 11

UNION SOCIETY CONTRIBUTIONS.

CHURCHES.	Ministerial Education.	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Indian Ministers.	Total.
Aylesford, Upper	0 15 0	0 15 0	1 17 9	0 4 0	3 11 9
Bridgewater,	0 16 0	1 17 9	0 12 0	0 4 0	3 9 9
Chester,	0 14 6	1 4 5	1 14 4	0 6 9	4 4 9
Cornwallis, First	2 9 10	5 16 10	2 3 0	0 12 6	11 2 6
Cornwallis, Second	2 4 0	2 9 9	5 2 1	0 11 0	11 6 10
Falmouth, First (Hantsport)	0 19 0	4 4 4	5 19 1	0 19 6	12 1 11
Falmouth, Second	0 15 6	1 19 2	2 3 6	0 12 4	5 10 16
Halifax, North, (Collections)	0 6 3	0 10 0	0 7 6	0 1 9	6 10 6
Hammond Plains, First	0 7 6	0 7 6	0 7 6	0 1 9	1 13 0
Hammond Plains, Second	0 7 6	0 7 6	0 7 6	0 1 9	1 13 0
Horton, First	3 10 4	3 15 0	10 4 4*	0 18 3	18 7 7
Horton, Second	0 4 9	1 16 11	2 16 4	0 2 0	5 0 7
Indian Harbour,	0 4 9	0 7 6	0 5 0	0 17 3	1 0 6
Jeddore,	0 4 0	0 15 0	0 5 0	0 17 3	2 4 5
Kempt,	0 4 0	0 19 0	0 17 3	0 1 0	2 4 5
Long Point,	0 4 0	0 5 0	0 17 3	0 1 0	2 4 5
Lonsburg,	0 4 0	1 17 0	1 10 0	0 1 0	3 7 0
Margaret's Bay,	0 4 0	1 10 0	0 15 5	0 12 6	3 6 6
New Germany,	0 4 0	1 11 6	0 15 5	0 12 6	3 6 6
Newport,	0 4 0	0 6 3	0 6 3	0 3 6	1 15 0
Preston,	0 5 0	1 12 3	0 15 6	0 3 6	2 11 8
Raydon,	0 16 0	0 11 8	0 15 6	0 3 6	3 7 3
Sherbrooke, East	0 2 6	1 10 0	1 10 0	0 3 6	3 7 3
Sherbrooke, West	0 2 6	1 10 0	1 10 0	0 3 6	3 7 3
Windsor,	0 2 6	1 10 0	1 10 0	0 3 6	3 7 3
Windsor Road and Sackville,	0 2 6	1 10 0	1 10 0	0 3 6	3 7 3
	14 16 10	44 10 3	40 13 10	5 0 9	105 1 8

*Including £5 6s 9d. collected at monthly Missionary Prayer meeting.

Treasurer's Account.

Monies Received at the Central Association Anniversary, June 27, 28, 1853.

Union Society Contributions, as per statement, £105 1 8

French Mission, viz. :—First Cornwallis, £3 0 0

North Halifax, (Collection) 2 16 4

New Germany, 0 11 10

Newport, 1 9 1

John McLearn, 0 5 0—8 2 3

Bible Cause—New Germany, 0 9 3

Home Missions,—Chelsea, 0 1 10

Anonymous, 2 10 0—2 11 10

JNO. CHASE, Treasurer.

£116 5 0