

MINUTES

OF THE

Nova-Scotia

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT

CHESTER, N. S.

25TH & 26TH JUNE,

1827,

TOGETHER WITH THEIR CORRESPONDING AND CIRCULAR
LETTERS, MISSIONARY PROCEED-
INGS, &c.

Halifax, N. S.

PRINTED BY J. H. WHITE.

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N. B. Ordained
Ministers not present
marked [†] Vacant

MINUTES, &C.



Monday, 25th June, 1827 : 10 o'clock.

FIRST, Introductory Sermon by Elder George Dimock, from Heb. vii, 26—"For such an High Priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled; separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens." The Sermon and following Addresses were interesting, appropriate, and warmed with heavenly zeal.

Elders J. Dimock, T. S. Harding, J. Monroe, and G. Dimock, made short statements of their Missionary Labours and successes; after which, took a collection; the which when added to the collection of Lord's Day, together with some private Donations, amounted to *L12 17 3*.

2d. The Ministers and Messengers took their seats, and after prayer by Elder J. Dimock, Elder J. Monroe was chosen Moderator, and Elder J. Dimock, Clerk, and Brother Wm. Chipman, Assistant Clerk.

3d. Read Letters from the Churches, and took the following Breviat.

N. B. Ordained Ministers' names are in Capitals. † Licensed Ministers in Italics.—
Ministers not present are marked [*] Churches from which no information was received marked [†] Vacant Churches distinguished by a dash —

CHURCHES.	MINISTERS AND MESSENGERS.	Restored.	Added.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Died.	Total.	
†Lower Granville.	_____	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Upper Granville.	THOMAS ANSLEY } John Sanders }	-	-	-	-	-	50	
Cornwallis.	EDW. MANNING } Holmes Chipman } William Chipman } William Cogswell } James Newcomb } John Cox }	-	2	3	4	6	253	
Newport.	GEORGE DIMOCK } James Mosher } Stephen Dimock } Joseph Dimock }	-	3	-	-	-	53	
1st Clements.	* ISRAEL POTTER } <i>John Austin</i> } George Harris }	-	1	-	2	-	102	
†2d Clements. Onslow.	JAMES MONROE } Samuel B. Archibald }	-	4	-	-	1	51	
Halifax.	* JOHN BURTON } ROBERT DAVIS }	-	8	-	-	35	280	
Nictaur.	* TH. H. CHIPMAN } Isaac Whitman } Obed Parker }	-	3	-	1	5	21	
Lunenburg.	Paulus Langel } Ferdinand Hubly } George Hubly }	-	-	-	6	-	40	
†Digby Neck. Horton.	* PETER CRANDAL } TH. S. HARDING } Alexander M'Phail }	-	-	-	-	-	63	
River Philip, West Chester. }	_____ }	-	-	3	2	1	26	
Windsor.	_____ }	-	-	-	-	1	37	
Annapolis.	Ricnard Brothers, * WILLIAM ELDER }	-	-	-	-	-	13	
Hammonds Plains.	G. RICHARDSON } David Webber } Nathan Ellis } John Hubly } John Hubly, jun. } Peter Wilson } John Moser } John Boutilier }	-	-	-	-	-	34	
†Little Forks. Chutes Cove.	_____ } _____ }	-	-	-	3	2	1	31 10

CHURCH

Rawdon.
N. W. Arm
Sydney.
†Parrsboroug
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CHURCHES.	MINISTERS AND MESSENGERS.	Restored.	Added.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Died.	Total.
Rawdon.	<u> </u>	-	4	-	2	1	24
N. W. Arm, } Sydney. }	<i>R. M'Learn</i>	}	-	-	-	-	-
	JOHN HULL						
†Parrsborough. } Antigonish. }	<i>Hezekiah Hull</i>	}	-	-	-	-	-
	<u> </u>						
Chester.	Gardner Hulbert	}	-	-	6	-	-
	<i>William Burton</i>						
	JOSEPH DIMOCK						
	<i>John Bezanson</i>						
Amherst.	Anthony Vaughan	}	1	-	-	5	3
	John Smith						
	Leonard D. Geldert						
	CHARLES TUPPER						
Ragged Island.	JOHN CRAIG	}	-	4	-	-	-
†Sissiboo.	William Holmes						
Burdeque, Pr. } Edward Island. }	ENOCH TOWNER						
	<u> </u>						
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N. B. The last named Church was added this Session.

4th. Voted that whereas the Ragged Island and Sissiboo Churches were omitted in our Minutes last year, by inadvertency, they be restored; and a Note of apology inserted in our Minutes; and that Brother GEORGE DIMOCK be requested to write an apology to them. Also, we acknowledge the receipt of 9*l.* at the yearly meeting in Lunenburg, instead of 5*l.* as was stated in the last Minutes.

Adjourned until to-morrow morning, 10 o'clock.

Prayer Meeting, 6 o'clock,

Met according to appointment; Sermon by Elder HARDING, Col. II. 10. "And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power."

5th. Read a Letter from Sister Eliza A. Chipman, in behalf of the Female Mite Society, accompanied with a Donation.

6th. Read a Letter from Pictou, requesting Missionary Labours, 12 Lord's Days in a year; and gave information of 15*l.* raised by them to support said Mission.

7th. Read and accepted the Circular Letter, prepared by Brother ELDER; and appointed Brethren J. Bezanson, W. Chipman, A. M'Phail and Elder MANNING to add a Note, recommending a suitable method for a Church to adopt, to support a Minister of Jesus Christ agreeable to the Gospel.

8th. Read and accepted the corresponding Letter, prepared by Elder J. DIMOCK.

9th. From corresponding Associations received as follows:

<i>Associations.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Minutes.</i>
Lincoln and Eastern } Maine. }	_____	_____
Bowdoinham & Cum- } berland. }	_____	_____
New-Brunswick.	J. MARSTERS.	Minutes.

10th. Voted that Elder ROBERT DAVIS and ALEXANDER CRAWFORD, be invited to take a seat with us in Council.

11th. Appointed Elder CHARLES TUPPER, Editor of the Nova Scotia and New-Brunswick Baptist Magazine, on the part of this Association; and Resolved, that he be remunerated for his trouble; and that this Association become responsible for the expence of the Publication, and share equally the Loss or Gain with the New-Brunswick Association; and that our Missionary Committee settle with the Editor, &c.

12th. Appointed Brother G. RICHARDSON our Messenger to the New-Brunswick Association; and voted that he receive 5*l.* for that service.

13th. Voted that our next Association be held at the Baptist Meeting House in Horton, on the first Monday after the 20th June next; that Elder TUPPER preach the Introductory Sermon, and in case of failure, Elder DAVIS.

14th. Voted to recommend to our Churches, the 25th December next, as a Day of Public Thanksgiving; and the first Day of January next, as a Day of Fasting and Prayer; and the evening of the first Monday in every month, as a time of Special Prayer.

15th. Appointed Elder E. MANNING to prepare our Circular Letter for next year, and Brother J. MONROE, our Corresponding Letter.

16th. Voted that our cordial thanks be given to Benevolent Females, and other Societies and Individuals, for their aid afforded to Missionary Funds.

17th. Voted that our hearty thanks are due to Dr. T. M'Culloch, of Pictou, for his services rendered our Society and Churches, when in Britain, and that our thanks are due to the benevolent Ministers and others in Edinburgh, who through Dr. M'Culloch, supplied us with a valuable Collection of Books; and desire Elder MANNING to present the same in a Letter to Dr. M'Culloch, and to request the Doctor to forward a bill of expences attending the Circular by him printed for that purpose, and for binding some books that were in sheets, &c. to the Missionary Committee for liquidation.

18th. Voted that the Books be equally divided among the Churches composing this Association; and that each pay an equal part of the above expence to the Missionary Committee; unless any Church shall choose to return the Books to said Committee, instead of paying the expence.

19th. Voted that Elders E. MANNING, J. DIMOCK, G. DIMOCK, J. MONROE, C. TUPPER, T. S. HARDING, and Brethren S. Fitch and R. M'Learn, be appointed a Committee, to meet and con-

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fer with a Committee appointed by the Presbyterian Synod for Civil Purposes, &c. on the first Wednesday in October, 10 o'clock in the morning, at the Baptist Meeting House in Windsor.

20th. Voted to continue our former Missionary Committee, viz. Elders MANNING, HARDING and MONROE, and Brethren H. Chipman and W. Chipman, and W. Cogswell as Treasurer; and that Dr. E. Harding be added to the number.

21st. Voted that the Letter prepared by the Missionary Committee, in reply to a Letter of Brother James Stephens, which was printed in our Minutes for last year, be printed in our Minutes this year; and be recommended to our Churches.

N. B. Our Yearly Meeting is to be the first Lord's Day after 20th September, 10 o'clock in the morning, at Nictaur.

22d. Voted our cordial thanks to this Church and to Benevolent Individuals, for their uniform acts of kindness and hospitable friendship, to the Members of the Association, and Spectators, during this Session; also to the Choir of Singers, for their assistance afforded in that part of Worship.

23d. Voted that Elder DAVIS superintend the printing our Minutes, and that 700 copies be printed.

As it is not convenient to send a Messenger to corresponding Associations in the State of Maine, it is hoped the Minutes may be sent as soon as possible.

24th. Concluding Sermon by Elder A. CRAWFORD, from 2d Cor. v. 17.—“If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature.”

We forbear remarks on the success of Missionary Exertions, as the Nova-Scotia and New-Brunswick Baptist Magazine will contain intelligence on that subject.

NOTE.—The Churches are particularly requested to make a distinction between the Monies which they send to defray the expense of printing the Minutes, and sending Messengers to sister Associations; and those which are designed expressly for Missionary purposes.—This distinction is necessary, to enable the Treasurer to make out an accurate account of the receipts and expenditures of the Missionary Society, for insertion in the Magazine. It is hoped that they will be punctual in making up the Minutes Money; as all that remains after defraying the necessary expences, will go into the Missionary fund; while that which is given in aid of Missions, is not to be appropriated to any other use.

DR. **THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY,** *in Account*

1826.	To Paid Elder John Hull, Messenger to the	10	0	0
June 28.	Associations in the State of Maine, U S.			
	" Paid Elder Ainsley, Messenger to the New	4	0	0
	Brunswick Association.			
	" Paid Elder William Elder, on account of	7	7	0
	printing the Minutes of this Association.			
	" Paid Elder Munro, for 5 weeks Missionary	7	10	0
	labours to Parrsborough.			
	" Paid Elder G. Dimock, for 4 weeks Mis-	6	0	0
	sionary labours to Musquidoboit, Shube-			
	nacadie, &c.			
	" Paid Elder Joseph Dimock, balance due	1	19	5
	the past year's services, as Missionary to			
	Island of Cape-Breton, &c.			
	" Paid Elder Manning, on a Missionary tour	1	10	0
	near Liverpool.			
	" Paid Elder Ainsley, on a Missionary Tour	4	10	0
	to Sherbrooke Settlement.			
	" Paid Elder Joseph Dimock, for Missionary	25	10	0
	labours eastward, on the Island of Cape			
	Breton, and Sherbrooke			
	Travelling Expences	2	3	5½
	" Paid Elder Theodore S. Harding, for Mis-	12	0	0
	sionary labours eastward, and in Prince			
	Edward Island.			
1827.	" Paid Elder George Dimock, for Missionary	6	0	0
June	labours at Musquodoboit, Brookfield, &c.			
	" Paid Elder Munro, for Missionary labours	6	0	0
	at Parrsborough, &c. &c.			
	" Paid Elder G. Richardson, Messenger to	5	0	0
	New Brunswick Association, present year			
	" Balance	45	17	4

£145 7 2½

Current with

1826, June

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1827, June 26.

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Current with **WILLIAM COGSWELL, TREASURER.** Cr.

1826,	By Balance in hand, at this date	51 14 7
June	" Cash received per Elder G. Dimock, in aid of his Mission	1 0 0
	" Cash received per Elder Joseph Dimock, in aid of his Mission, and as personal favors	17 0 4½
	" Cash received per Elder Harding, in aid of his Mission	7 0 0
September	" Cash received at the Yearly Meeting in Horton	6 9 2
	" Cash received per Elder G. Dimock, in aid of his Mission	2 0 0
1827,	June 26. " Cash received from Upper Granville church for Minutes money	1 4 ½
	" do. Cornwallis do. do.	2 1 10½
	" " Newport " "	17 0
	" " Clement " "	1 0 0
	" " Onslow " "	4 6
	" " Amherst " "	11 4½
	" " Lunenburg " "	1 0 0
	" " River Philip " "	8 0
	" " Windsor " "	5 7½
	" " Hammonds Plain " "	17 6
	" " Chutes Cove " "	6 6
	" " N. West Arm, Sydney " "	15 0
	" " Parrsborough " "	2 6
	" " Rawdon " "	10 0
	" " Nictaur " "	6 11 4
	" " and Missionary contributions	3 3 4
	" " Chester " "	1 10 0
	" " Annapolis " "	2 9 4½
	" " Antigonishe " "	2 16 11½
	" " Cornwallis Missionary contribution	7 18 9
	" " Do. Female Mite Society	17 0
	" " Onslow Missionary contribution	2 11 6
	" " Amherst " "	3 11 6
	" " Lunenburg " "	3 9 6
	" " Horton " "	10 0
	" " Windsor " "	17 4
	" " Do. Mite Society	1 5 0
	" " Hammonds Plains Missionary contribution	12 17 3
	" " Collection at Chester	

L145 7 2½
45 17 4

By Balance in hand
E. E.

Cornwallis, 4th July, 1827.

WILLIAM COGSWELL.

REPORT

On the Subject of Brother JAMES STEPHENS' Letter of last year.

THE Committee for Missionary purposes of the Nova-Scotia Baptist Missionary Society, having met at Brother Deacon Wm. Chipman's, on Friday, the 4th of May, 1827, on the business appertaining to Missionary concerns, took into consideration the purport of our Venerable Brother James Stevens' Letter to the Association last year, concerning the utility of raising a Fund, in such way as the churches might think best, to be put on Interest, for the express purpose of affording some relief to aged Ministers, who had worn themselves out in the cause of the Redeemer, when they become old and past labour; and to their aged partners before and after their Husbands' death.

In agreement with the vote of the Association, the last year,—We judge it to be the most proper method in the outset, that each Minister in each church of our denomination, appoint a day when an appropriate Sermon should be delivered, and (after explaining the nature of the business, the steps that had been taken by the Association, &c.) that a contribution be taken for said purpose. And that the avails be sent on to the Association, at its next Session, by the Ministers or Messengers for the time being; and it is recommended to choose Trustees to take the aggregate sum, and put it out on interest, where it may be ready whenever said Trustees shall have need thereof, for the relief of such aged Ministers of our denomination, or their Widows, as they in their judgment shall deem suitable claimants. Such Trustees are always to keep regular accounts of all monies, entrusted to their care by the Association, for the purposes specified above: And at all times to be ready to furnish such documents as the Association shall deem necessary: And likewise that said committee give sufficient security, for all Monies entrusted to them, if required.

Or if any church choose by mutual consent, to lay a small tax on each Member, that is to say, one shilling on each male Member, and sixpence upon each female; the amount collected to be sent on as above.

Or if any church prefer circulating a subscription, for the purpose stated above, they are at liberty so to do; so that the Fund be raised and replenished as exigencies may require.

Or if any one that chooses give a particular donation of Land, Money, &c. or any bequest or endowment; that all shall be taken care of by the Committee, appointed by the Association, for the time being; and applied or appropriated, according to the expressed design of the charitable Bodies or Individuals, that contribute in aid of this most benevolent Institution.

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CIRCULAR LETTER.

Beloved Brethren,

The approach of another of our annual meetings, reminds us of our duty of addressing you on the subjects, which are so deeply connected with our present peace and our eternal welfare. The subject to which we would solicit your attention, is, that of the importance of making a suitable provision for the support of a gospel ministry.

We could easily select a subject that would be more agreeable to our feelings, and perhaps to yours ; but we do not think any other subject so necessary to be discussed at the present time. We would therefore wish to lay aside our own feelings, and the personal interest which some of us have in this subject ; and address you simply as those who have obtained mercy to be faithful.

Among every denomination of christians, whose ministers are supported by the voluntary contributions of their people, there are, no doubt, difficulties in providing a suitable support for them ; but we apprehend the difficulties on this subject are greater among us, than among any other denomination. If this difficulty arose from a want of means, we would endeavour to submit with patience, and say nothing upon the subject ; but we believe this is not the case ; for although there are not many among us of the rich, the mighty, or the noble ; yet there is a sufficiency, both of numbers and property, for the purpose. Neither do we conceive that it arises from a want of true piety : We trust, that there are as many among us, in proportion to our numbers, who have given themselves and their property to the service of God, as can be found among any denomination of christians. It must then follow, that the principal difficulties arise from a want of right views of the subject ; and this induces us to offer to your consideration the following arguments, in behalf of the practice we would recommend.

The first argument we would advance on this subject, is drawn from the principles of equity and justice : One end for which the great Creator has bestowed upon men their various talents, is, that by a right exercise of those talents, they should provide a suitable support for themselves, and those who are dependent upon them ; consequently, whatever occupation takes up the time and talents of a man, whether of a civil or sacred nature, if for the benefit of his fellow men, it should in point of equity, yield him a suitable support. To this argument the Apostle resorts (1st Cor 9. 7.) when he enquires, " who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges ? who planteth a vineyard and eateth not of the fruit thereof ? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock ? As if he had said, " shall the warrior, the husbandman, and the shepherd, all receive a compensation for their labours, while we are neglected ? shall those who minister to the support, safety and comfort of the body, be entitled to a living, while engaged in those services, and shall not we also be entitled to a support, who contribute to the safety, comfort and well-being of both body and soul in this life, and that which is to come."

Another argument may be drawn from the importance of the office of the gospel minister :—God has appointed the foolishness of preaching, as a means of salvation to them that believe : It is also the most effectual means in His hands of promoting sound morality and practical piety in the heart, the closet, the family, and in society in general.

Again when we consider the bad effects which result from a Minister's having his time and attention occupied in secular affairs, it will convince us of the necessity of having such a provision made for him, as shall free him from worldly cares, and leave him at liberty to serve him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. Every person who is acquainted with the gospel ministry, knows that much depends, under God, upon the spirituality of the preacher : And we generally find, that where exhortations are addressed to Ministers in the N. T. personal religion is the first thing noticed, thus "take heed to thyself, and to the doctrine ;" to thyself first, to the state of religion in thy own heart and life ; and then to the doctrine, and again, be thou an example to the believers, in charity, spirit, faith, purity, &c. and as a means of cultivating religion in their own hearts, and drawing down a blessing upon others, we find the servants of God, both under the O. T. and the new ; resorting to extraordinary seasons of fasting and prayer.—In like manner also, when we read the lives of those who have been eminent for piety and usefulness in modern times, as Brainard, Pearce, &c. we shall find them abounding in this practice, and recommending it by their own experience to all who would turn many to righteousness. But it is evident that where a minister has to support a family, in whole or part, by a temporal calling, his time will be so fully taken up between his business, and the public duties of the ministry, that he will hardly find time for the ordinary duties of religion, in the family and the closet, much less for those of an extraordinary nature. Hence it will be generally found, that religion will languish in his heart and life ; a worldly spirit will prevail against him, his spirits will be depressed, and his heart will sink within him, when he contrasts what he is, with what he ought to be. It appears also to be absolutely necessary, that ministers should give themselves to reading, to meditation, and prayer ; that the word of Christ may dwell in them richly, in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, that they may be as workmen that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth, and enforcing all the counsel of God upon their hearers. But it is evident that where the minister's time and attention are necessarily taken up in temporal things, this cannot be the case ; his mind will be unfruitful, and not having a sufficient variety of matter, he will be frequently obliged to recur to the first principles, and most common topics in religion ; there will be a poverty and sameness in his communications, that will render them uninteresting, both to himself and his hearers. Instead of coming to his people in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ, and as a cloud full of rain, his deficiencies will be painfully evident, both to himself and his hearers. We find Paul exhorting Timothy, to meditate upon divine things,—to give himself *wholly to them* ; and in Acts 6th, we find the Apostles chusing deacons to manage the temporal affairs of the church, that they might give themselves *continually to the ministry of the word, and prayer* ; and if this was necessary when gifts and graces were so liberally bestowed, much more is it necessary in ordinary