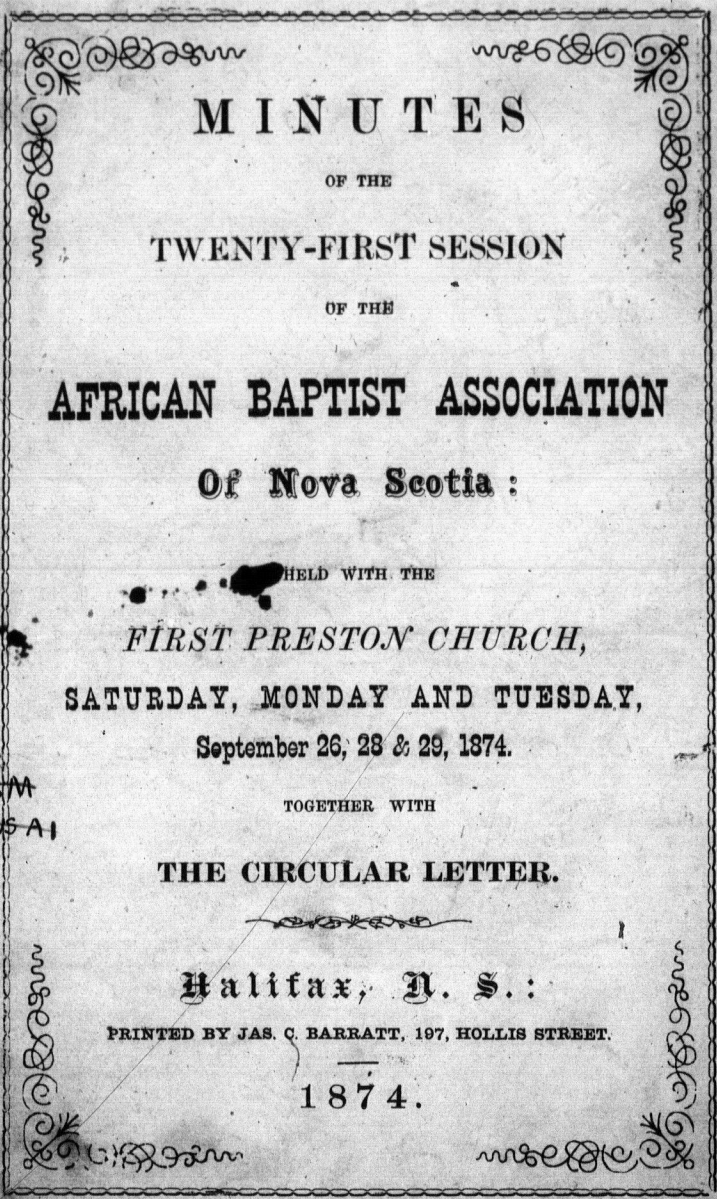


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MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

OF THE

AFRICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Of Nova Scotia :

HELD WITH THE

FIRST PRESTON CHURCH,

SATURDAY, MONDAY AND TUESDAY,

September 26, 28 & 29, 1874.

TOGETHER WITH

THE CIRCULAR LETTER.

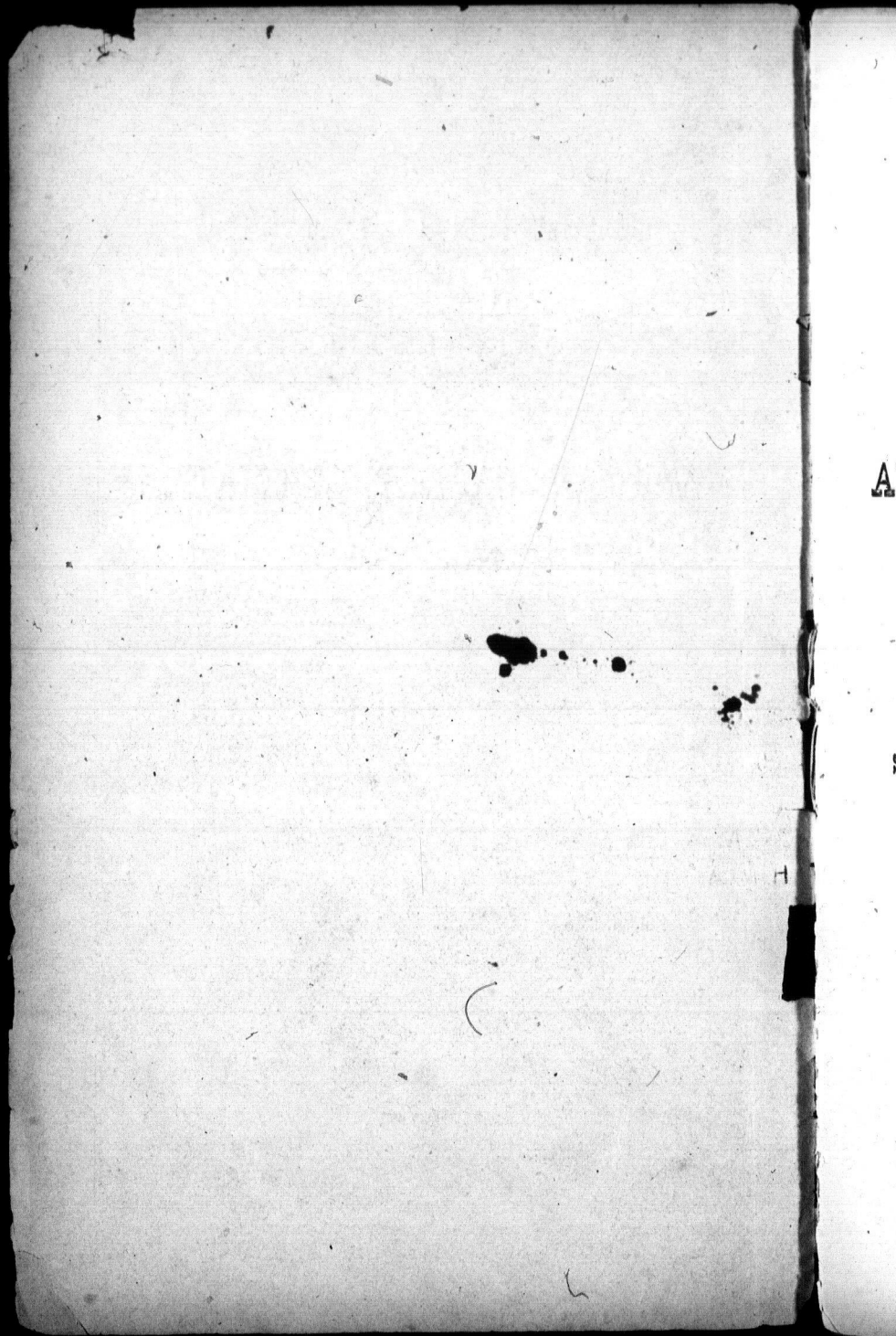
Halifax, N. S. :

PRINTED BY JAS. C. BARRATT, 197, HOLLIS STREET.

1874.

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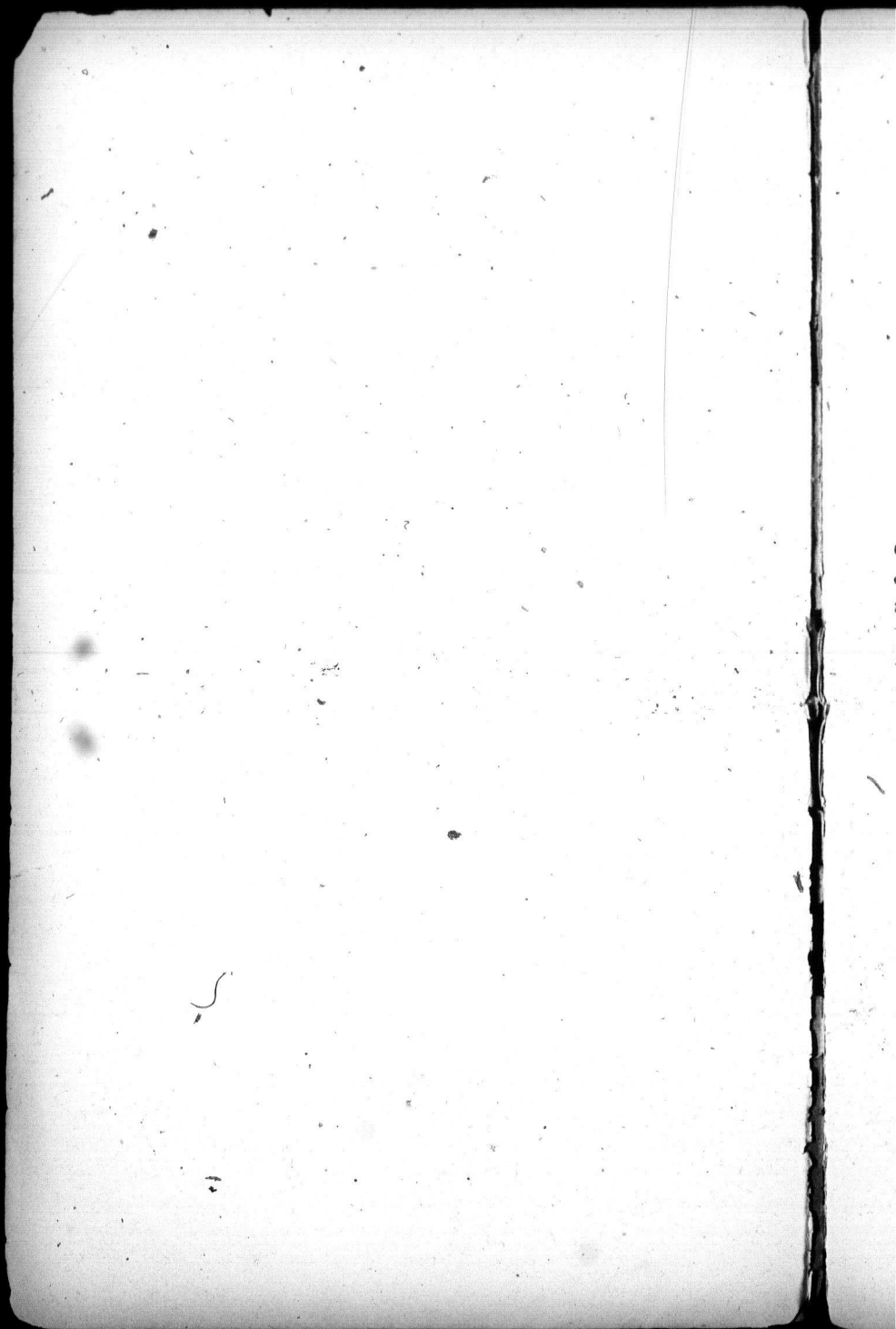
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MINUTES.

PRESTON CHURCH,

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1974.

THE Association met with the First Preston Church, pursuant to adjournment, and was called to order by the Rev. James, Thomas, Chairman. After singing, prayer was offered by the Rev. James Wilmot; the Rev. James Thomas read the Third Epistle of John and commented briefly upon the same.

The Secretary made out the following

LIST OF DELEGATES.

- HALIFAX:—Rev. James Thomas, J. R. Thomas; Deacons, Charles F. Biddle, Richard Simons; brethren, John Spriggs, P. E. McKerrow, Joseph Flint.
- PRESTON, 1st:—Deacon John Brooks; brother Geo. Carvery, Lic.
- PRESTON, 3rd, (New Road Settlement):—Brethren James Downey, Lic., James Smith, Junr.
- HAMMOND PLAINS:—Brethren Daniel Goffican, Lic., David Anderson, Thomas Anderson.
- BEECH HILL:—Rev. Alexander Bailey; Deacon Joseph Hamilton; brother Robert Hamilton.
- CAMPBELL ROAD:—Brother William Howe.
- CORNWALLIS:—Brethren Samuel R. Walls, Lic., John Smith.
- DIGBY JOGGIN:—Rev. James Wilmot; Deacon Peter Butler.
- HORTON:—Rev. James Thomas.
- BRIDGETOWN:—Rev. James Thomas.

After which the following officers were elected:

- Chairman,—Rev. James Thomas (re-elected).
Assistant Chairman,—Rev. James Wilmot.
Secretary,—Rev. J. R. Thomas (re-elected).
Treasurer,—Deacon C. F. Biddle.

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The following Brethren were appointed a Committee of Arrangements, viz.: Deacons Charles F. Biddle, Peter Butler; brethren George Brown, and the Secretary.

The Committee made the following Report:—

That there be three services to-morrow, Sunday, viz.: At 11 o'clock, a. m., and 3 and 7 o'clock, p. m.

That a collection be taken after each service for the benefit of the Association.

That the times of meeting be as follows:—

Morning Sessions from 9 o'clock, a. m. to 1, p. m.

Afternoon “ “ 3, p. m. to 5, p. m.

Evening “ “ 7 to 10 o'clock.

Moved by Deacon John Brooks, seconded by Brother Daniel Goffican, and

Resolved:—That the Report of the Committee on Arrangements be received and adopted.

The Rev. James Thomas gave an account of the requests submitted to the Council, for the Ordination to the Ministry of Brethren George Carvery of First Preston Church, and Samuel R. Walls of Cornwallis Church, and after some discussion upon the same it was—

Resolved:—That these brethren be examined by the Ministering Brethren, and afterwards in public, and if the questions as to their religious sentiments are answered satisfactorily, and in accordance with our Faith and Order, then said brethren to be publicly ordained in accordance with the requests of the Churches above named, to-morrow, at 3 o'clock, p. m.

Voted: That all meetings be opened and closed with prayer.

The Chairman made the following appointments for the Sabbath:—

At 11 o'clock, a. m.—Preaching by brother Samuel R. Walls, and George Carvery, Licentiate.

At 3 o'clock, p. m.—Preaching by the Rev. James Wilnot and Rev. Alexander Bailey.

At 7 o'clock, p. m.—Preaching by Rev. J. R. Thomas and others.

Adjourned. Prayer by Brother Daniel Goffican, Licentiate.

SUNDAY SERVICES.

10 O'CLOCK, A. M.

Preaching by Brother Samuel R. Walls, from Proverbs xiv. 32; followed by Brother Geo. Carvery.

3 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Preaching by the Rev. James Wilmot, followed by the Rev. Alexander Bailey; after which the Candidates for Ordination, Brethren George Carvery and Samuel R. Walls, were examined publicly (they having been previously examined by the Brethren in the Ministry), as to their religious sentiments of our Faith and Order, and gave sufficient satisfaction as to the same. The Rev. James Thomas offered the imposing ceremony prayer (after the laying on of hands). The Right-hand of Fellowship was given by the Rev. Jas. Wilmot on behalf of the Churches, and on behalf of the Association by Rev. J. R. Thomas. The Charge to the Candidates and Churches by the Rev. James Thomas.

7 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Preaching by Rev. J. R. Thomas from Hebrews ix. 13, 14; followed by Revs. S. R. Walls, James Wilmot, Brother John Smith and others. Singing, speaking and praying until eleven o'clock, when the anxious Congregation was dismissed.

MONDAY MORNING SESSION,

SEPTEMBER 28: 9 O'CLOCK, A. M.

Prayer by Brother James Downey, Licentiate.

The Minutes of the previous session read and approved.

Voted: That the Brethren from sister Churches be invited to a seat in Council with us.

The following Committees were then appointed:
viz. :—

TO EXAMINE LETTERS:—Deacons Charles F. Biddle, Peter Butler; Brother Daniel Goffican, Licentiate; Rev. S. R. Walls.

FINANCE AND AUDIT:—Revs. A. Bailey, S. R. Walls; Deacons John Brooks, Richard Simons; Brethren William Johnston, Joseph Flint.

Voted: That the Secretary read the letters.

Adjourned for ten minutes. Met pursuant to adjournment.

The Rev. James Wilmot preached the Introductory Sermon from First Corinthians xiv. 8: "For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle."

Prayer by Brother John Smith. Adjourned.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

3 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Prayer by Brother David Anderson.

The Minutes of previous Session read, corrected, and approved.

The Committee appointed to Examine the Letters from the Churches Reported as follows:—

That they have performed the duty assigned them, and recommend that the letters be read publicly.

The Report of the Committee was adopted, and the Letters were then read: many of them containing valuable information respecting the Missionary services performed by the Rev. James Thomas and other Brethren, and asking the Association to continue the same among the Churches.—The Rev. James Wilmot reported in reference to the Bear River Church, which he had visited, and that he had received an application from eight of the members of said Church to ask this Association to continue their recognition of them, as they did not wish to withdraw themselves from our connection.—It was thereupon

Resolved: That the request of the Brethren from Bear River

be granted, and that the Rev. James Wilmot communicate the same to them.

Voted: That the Rev. J. R. Thomas write the Circular Letter.

Voted: That we procure 200 copies of the Minutes, and that 15 copies be reserved for the use of the Association.

Voted: That the Secretary superintend the printing of the Minutes.

Voted: That the Rev. J. R. Thomas preach the Introductory Sermon, and that Rev. S. R. Walls be his alternate.

Voted: That the Association be held next year (*D. V.*) with the Cornwallis Church, by request.

Prayer by Deacon John Brookes. Adjourned.

7 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Preaching by the Rev. Alexander Bailey, from St. Luke xv. 18: followed by Brethren George Brown, John Williamson, and James Downey, Licentiates; and others.

TUESDAY, MORNING SESSION.

SEPTEMBER 29. 9 O'CLOCK, A. M.

Prayer by Brother Daniel Goffican, Licentiate.

The Minutes of the previous Session were read and approved.

A discussion on Home Missions was entertained, and speeches delivered on the subject by the Revs. James Thomas, J. R. Thomas, S. R. Walls, James Wilmot, George Carvery and Alexander Bailey, and Brother John Smith.

The Rev. J. R. Thomas moved the following Resolution, which was seconded by the Rev. George Carvery, and adopted:—

That all the Ministering Brethren foster the interest (to the best of their ability) among the people of their charge, to further the Missionary cause in our connection.

The Rev. S. R. Walls offered the following preamble and Resolution in reference to the alteration of time of holding the Annual Session. The same was

seconded by Brother John Williamson, and, after some discussion as to the advisability of such a change, was adopted :—

Believing that it will tend to the further opening up of the resources of this Association, by allowing those who are now hindered from attending our sessions, owing to the season the same are now holden, being inconvenient, especially to the farmers, therefore,—

Resolved.—That this Association now alter their present stated times of meeting to that of the last Saturday in August.

Moved, seconded and

Resolved.—That the thanks of this Association be tendered to the members and well-wishers of the First Preston Church, for their kind hospitality, in so generously entertaining the Ministers and Delegates.

The Secretary thereupon communicated the same to the Rev. George Carvery, Pastor of the Church, in a short speech, Brother Carvery responding in a very pleasing manner.

It was then moved, seconded and

Resolved.—That the thanks of this Association be tendered to our Chairman, for the zealous and ardent manner in which he so ably conducted the proceedings of this present Session.

Prayer by Brother William Dare. Adjourned.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

3 O'CLOCK, P. M.

The Minutes of the previous Session were read and approved.

Finances settled satisfactorily—(see Treasurer's Account.)

Adjourned. Prayer by Deacon Richard Simons.

7 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Preaching by Brother Daniel Goffican, from Matthew v. 17: followed by the Rev. S. R. Walls; after which the whole congregation united hand in hand,

the Doxology was sung, and the Rev. James Thomas offered a very fervent prayer. We seperated to meet with the Cornwallis Church, at Cornwallis, on the last Saturday in August, A. D., 1875.

JAMES THOMAS, *Chairman.*

J. R. THOMAS, *Secretary.*

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STATISTICS.

State of the Church. Increase and Decrease.

| CHURCHES. | ADDED | | | | | | TOTAL. |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|---------|-----------|----------|-------------------|--------|
| | Baptized. | Received. | By Exp. | By Letter | Removed. | Excluded. Died | |
| Halifax..... | 46 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1180 |
| Hammond Plains..... | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 80 |
| Preston,—First..... | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 25 |
| " Third..... | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 |
| Dartmouth..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Beech Hill..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 |
| Campbell Road..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| Horton..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Cornwallis..... | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Bridgetown..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15 |
| Bear River..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| Digby Joggin..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| Weymouth..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| Yarmouth..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20 |
| Liverpool..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Total..... | 54 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 441 |

E. O. P.

J. R. THOMAS, Secretary.

A. B. ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA.

Chairman:—REV. JAMES THOMAS.

Secretary:—REV. JOHN R. THOMAS.

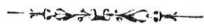
Ministers, Licentiates, Deacons, Counsellors, etc.

- HALIFAX.—Rev. James Thomas, Pastor; Rev. J. R. Thomas, Clerk; Rev. Meritt R. Freeman, Travelling Missionary; Rev. Alexander Bailey, Evangelist; Deacons—Charles F. Biddle, Richard Simons; Licentiates—George Brown, James Downing; Counsellors—Daniel Gross, George Brown, P. E. McKerrow, Joseph Flint; Door-keepers—John Sprigs, Thomas Taylor.
- HAMMOND PLAINS.—Rev. James Thomas; Licentiates—Thos. Jones, Daniel Goffican; Deacons—Gabriel David, William Wilson; Counsellors—David Anderson, Frederick David; Clerk—Alexander Emerson; Door-keeper—Abram Johnston.
- PRESTON, FIRST.—Rev. George Carvery; Licentiate—John Williamson; Deacons—George Tyler, John Brooks; Counsellor—John Williamson; Clerk—George Dare.
- PRESTON, THIRD (*New Road Settlement*).—Licentiate—James Downey; Deacon—James Smith; Counsellor—James Smith, Senr.; Speaker—Henry Cain.
- DARTMOUTH.—Rev. James Thomas; Deacon—John Gerry.
- CAMPBELL ROAD.—Deacon—Benjamin Fletcher, Counsellor—William Howe.
- BEECH HILL.—Rev. Alexander Bailey in charge; Deacon—Joseph Hamilton; Counsellor—Robert Hamilton.
- HORTON.—Deacon—Dennis Doleman; Counsellor—Jos. Webber.
- CORNWALLIS.—Rev. Samuel R. Walls; Deacon—Daniel Taylor; Counsellor—John Smith.
- BRIDGETOWN.—Deacon—Andrew Clements; Counsellor—Frederick Hill; Trustees—Joseph Jackson, Frederick Hill.
- BEAR RIVER.—Rev. James Wilmot in charge.
- DIGBY JOGGIN.—Rev. James Wilmot; Deacon—Peter Butler; Counsellor—William Harris.
- YARMOUTH.—Rev. James E. Jackson; Deacons—Silas Chandler, James 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, William Johnston, Thomas White. FEMALE TEACHERS.—Miss Thompson, Miss E. A. Thomas, Mrs John F. Brown, Miss Anne Barrett, Miss Annie Joseph, Miss R. C. Thomas.

CIRCULAR LETTER.



TO THE CHURCHES COMPOSING THE AFRICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN:—

We feel thankful to the Lord who, in his infinite goodness and tender mercy hath spared us another year; but when we look back and reflect upon our lack of zeal for the further extension of His great cause on earth among our fellow men, we feel that we are unworthy of the blessings thus bestowed, and are led to cry Lord what have we done to merit thy favor. Oh, Dear Brethren, the work to which we are called is a great work, and deserves more and more of our serious, faithful and zealous attention. We have declared ourselves enlisted under the blood-stained banner of Christ Jesus, and heaven has owned and rejoiced over the prodigal; let us therefore strive diligently to reclaim the fallen and straying.

Cannot you lift your eyes and behold the "God of this world" seeking diligently with all his fascinating enticements to blind the eyes of many a poor-creature, dragging them to utter destruction, ruin and misery. Is not this enough to awaken the energy of every Christian man and woman, and cause them to cry out in the language of the prophet Isaiah—"For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake will I not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth." And while I have the thought of our united assistance in striving for the promotion and establishment of Christ's kingdom here, I do say, Brethren, that the prayers of the righteous will prevail, and his promises are sure and steadfast—firmer than the heavens.

Let us look for a moment at the increase of many of our churches. Halifax appears to have been visited with a great blessing by the conversion of many precious and dear souls. Ah, my Brethren, the many encouraging words we heard from our dear Pastor, the many zealous, ardent and pathetic sermons that were delivered by him, fully establishing in glowing characters our entire dependence on Christ Jesus, and his supremacy over the god of this world; and more his love, kindness and tender mercy towards poor helpless sinners; and still he is ready to save

them by his precious blood, which only can cleanse us, and make us fit subjects to enjoy his favor and blessings forever. Cannot our souls still rejoice in the united efforts of the brethren, in their support in prayer for the continuance of the great and good work. Yes, Brethren, we can exclaim :

“ My soul forsakes her vain delights,
And bids the world farewell :
On things above would fix her sight,
And there forever dwell.”

Are we to be satisfied with the glowing accounts received from the different Churches of God's goodness towards them, in bringing many into his fold? No, Brethren : there is still further desire for our zealously—there are thousands, yea, millions more of our fellow creatures who are still in darkness. Let us “ Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet”, and show poor sinners their transgressions; let us lay hold of the prize, and continue faithfully, steadily, on and on, until satan's kingdom be utterly overturned, and the kingdom of Jesus Christ be fully established upon the ruins thereof. “ For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.”

The unanimity which seemed to pervade the proceedings during the session with the First Preston Church, and the zeal displayed in the deliberations by all the brethren leads us to contemplate the glorious future for which we are striving. We feel assured that our Convention there will be long remembered, and be as “ bread cast upon the waters.” We are thus further assured that these meetings tend to strengthen and encourage us in our onward march, and must necessarily scatter its seed in and among the people who so kindly received us. We cannot drop the thought without expressing our heartfelt gratitude for the kind hospitality shown by the members and well-wishers of the said Church towards the Ministers and Delegates, and the orderly manner in which all seemed to conduct themselves. This also is another proof of the efficacy of prayer strenuously put forth by the brethren.

In conclusion : Let us pray God with one united desire for the further prosperity of the Churches, and the increased zeal of all its members, until all with a united voice exclaim :

“ Religion is the chief concern
Of mortals here below :
May we its great importance learn,
Its sovereign virtues know.”

Address of Chairman of the Association :--

JAMES THOMAS,

Pastor of the A. B. Church,

HALIFAX, N. S.

Address of Secretary of the Association :--

JOHN R. THOMAS,

Care of Thomas & Co.,

Importers & Dealers in Hats. Caps & Furs,

Corner of Barrington and Sackville Streets

HALIFAX, N. S.