

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

HELD AT

NEWPORT, N. S.

SATURDAY, MONDAY & TUESDAY, 24th, 26th & 27th JUNE, 1854.

TOGETHER WITH THE

Circular Letter, &c.

HALIFAX, N. S.:

PRINTED AT THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER OFFICE.

1854.

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The Association
Tupper, Mr.
Rev. Dr. Cr.
brother J. W.
Treasurer.

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Burton—R
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Cornwallis
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Cornwallis
brother D. Ly

MINUTES
OF THE
CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

SATURDAY JUNE 24, 1854.

The Association met at 2, P. M. Called to order by Rev. C. Tupper, Moderator for last year. Prayer by Rev. T. S. Harding. Rev. Dr Cramp was chosen Moderator; Rev. S. T. Rand, Clerk; brother J. W. Hartt, Assistant Clerk; and brother James Mosher, Treasurer.

Brethren C. Tupper and A. Stronach were appointed a Committee to examine the letters; and brethren N. Viditoe, J. V. Tabor and O. Chute, to read them.

The brethren Geo. Dimock, Bancroft, A. Stronach and N. Viditoe 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 Statistics of the Churches belonging to this Association.

LIST OF DELEGATES.

Aylesford, Upper—Rev. C. TUPPER.

Bridgewater—Rev. J. V. TABOR, Brethren Obadiah Parker, Wm. Newcomb, and John Mader.

Burton—Rev. JACOB ALLEN.

Chelsea—Rev. J. V. TABOR, and brother Wm. Faulkner.

Chester—Rev. S. W. DEBLOIS, and Deacons John E. Melvin and John Bezanson.

Cornwallis First—Rev. A. S. HUNT; and brethren Joshua Ellis, Henry Eaton, Wm. H. Thorp, Thos. Elder, and John Marsters.

Cornwallis Second—Rev. W. CHIPMAN, Dea. A. Parker, and brother D. Lyons.

Cornwallis Third—Rev A. STRONACH, Deacons Able Strong and C. R. Bill.

Falmouth First, (Hantsport)—Rev. P. A. Shiels, Brethren John Marsters, Edwd. Davison, G. B. Sanford, and Ezra Churchill.

Falmouth, Second—Brethren Peter Payzant, and David Shaw.

Halifax, Granville Street—Brethren J. W. Nutting and John Ferguson.

Halifax, North—Brethren P. D. Lavers and D. McPherson.

Hammond Plains, Second—Brother Wm. Marsman.

Horton, First—Rev. T. S. HARDING, Rev. Dr. CRAMP, Deacon Simon Fitch, and Brother J. W. Hartt.

Horton, Second—Brethren C. Eaton and R. Westcott.

Indian Harbour—Rev. J. C. Hynd.

Jeddore—Brother James Thomas.

Kempt—Rev. B. VAUGHAN, Brethren Joseph Marsters, Joseph Coldwell and Wm. Francis.

Long Point, (Cornwallis)—Rev. Wm. CHIPMAN.

Lunenburg—Brother Paulus Longille.

New Germany—Brother David Lantz.

Newport—Rev. GEORGE DIMOCK, Rev. J. BANCROFT, Brethren Oliver Dimock, Joseph Dimock, Levi Dimock and Thos. Sanford.

Preston—Rev. J. ALLEN, J. Crawley.

Rawdon—Rev. J. BANCROFT, Deacons Francis Parker, W. C. Casey, and Wm. Whittier.

LIST OF DELEGATES

Halifax, North—Rev. C. T. Turner.
Bridgetown—Rev. J. V. Tabor, Brethren Obediah Parker, Wm. Newcomb, and John Menden.
London—Rev. J. V. Tabor.
Halifax—Rev. J. V. Tabor, and Brother Wm. Langdon.
Rawdon—Rev. S. W. Tabor, and Deacons John E. Aldrich and John Harrison.
Cornwallis First—Rev. A. S. Hunt, and Brethren Joshua Ellis, Wm. H. Hunt, John Ellis, and John Marsters.
Cornwallis Second—Rev. W. C. Harrison, Dea. A. Parker, and Brother D. Lyons.

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 Barss, J. J. Skin
 Wm. Davidson

STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES.	INCREASE.		DECREASE.		Died.	TOTAL.
	Baptized.	By Letter.	Dismissed.	Removed.		
Aylesford, Upper	12	4				86
Bridgetown	4	4	8			45
Burton Church, New Guysboro' Road			1		1	43
Chester	7	1				335
Cornwallis, First	5	4		4	2	269
Cornwallis, Second		3			4	287
Cornwallis, Third			3			34
Dartmouth (no letter)						153
Falmouth, First (Hantsport)		2			1	7
Falmouth, Second				3		172
Halifax, Granville Street				5	5	140
Halifax, North	7	1				41
Hammond Plains, First (no letter)			6			51
Hammond Plains, Second			5	10		235
Horton, First		1				171
Horton, Second			8	2		45
Indian Harbour	32	2	1		1	51
Jeddore	15	5				97
Kempt					2	14
Lawrence Town (no letter)					2	29
Long Point						47
Lunenburg	5		28		1	70
Margaret's Bay	2		1			42
New Germany	6	1	2	3	2	123
Newport					1	165
Preston				2		83
Rawdon	1			1	2	34
Sherbrooke, East (no letter)		1	2			33
Sherbrooke, West (no letter)				4		41
Windsor, (no letter)						28
Windsor Road & Sackville, (no letter)						42
Chelsea						28
La Have						28
	96	27	12	63	34	20
				25		3232

The Church at LaHave, recently organized, applied by letter for admission into the Association; the application was referred to the Committee on questions in letters.

The following brethren, on being invited by the Association, took their seats among the Delegates, viz.: Rev. N. Vidito, Messenger from the Western Nova Scotia Association, Rev. O. Chute, French Missionary, Rev. H. Ross, Gaelic Missionary, bro. A. Thorp, Agent of the Nova Scotia Tract Society, and brethren, J. Chase, J. W. Bars, J. J. Skinner, T. H. Vidito, D. W. Welton, W. H. Troop, Wm. Davidson and Mayd Parker.

The Committee of arrangements reported and their Report was adopted.

The following Committees were then appointed:

ON TEMPERANCE:—

Brethren Rand, Hunt, Mosher, Bezanson, and C. R. Bill.

TO EXAMINE CIRCULAR LETTER:—

Brethren Tupper and Hunt.

ON THE BIBLE CAUSE:—

Brethren Chute, Vidito, Shaw, Newcomb, G. Dimock, T. Elder, W. Chipman.

ON SABBATH SCHOOLS AND BIBLE CLASSES:—

Brethren Tabor, Elder, O. Parker, Bazanson, D. McPherson, J. Ellis, Lavers, Hartt, Davison.

ON THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER:—

Brethren, Tupper, Hunt, M. Parker, John Melvin, H. Ross, W. Chipman.

ON HOME MISSIONS:—

Brethren R. Morton, Lantz, H. Eaton, Shaw, D. Lawson, Longill, J. Mader, A. Strong, Bancroft, Tabor, Rand, Shiels, Hurd, J. Allen, J. Crawley.

ON FOREIGN MISSIONS:—

Brethren DeBlois, Vidito, Ross, Hunt, Wm. Davison, Joseph Marsters, B. Vaughan, E. Churchill, Mosher, W. Thorp, Aaron Thorp.

ON THE FRENCH MISSION:—

Brethren Chute, Rand, Charles Skinner, Shiels, Stronach, C. R. Bill, O. Parker.

ON UNION SOCIETIES:—

Brethren Wm. Chipman, A. Parker, Lyons, B. Sanford, Patillo, J. J. Skinner, W. H. Troop, D. McPherson, Z. Chipman.

ON QUESTIONS IN LETTERS:—

Brethren Dr Cramp, Tupper, W. Chipman, Vaughan, Vidito, Rand, Bezanson, Ellis, M. Parker, Strong, A. Parker.

ON EDUCATION:—

Brethren Dr Cramp, Hartt, Vidito, Hunt, T. H. Vidito, D. Dimock, G. Dimock, Hurd, Bill, Barss, Nutting, Ferguson.

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TO PREVENT THE HURRYING OF THE BUSINESS OF THE ASSOCIATION:
Brethren W. Chipman, Elder, Tabor.

ON THE USE OF TOBACCO:—
Brethren A. Parker, J. Mosher, G. Dimock, Rand, Edw. Davison, N. Vidito, Shields.

ON THE GELIC MISSION:—
Brethren H. Ross, Chute, Rand, Shields, D. Lyons, John Marsters, J. W. Barss.

ON TRACT DISTRIBUTION AND COLPORTAGE:—
Brethren Hunt, Thorp, Tabor, D. Shaw, Elder, Dr Cramp.

ON THE OBSERVANCE OF THE SABBATH:—
Brethren DeBlois, Barss, Elder, W. Davison, F. Parker, L. Dimock.

Prayer by Bro. Rand. Adjourned.

On Lord's day the brethren T. S. Harding, Dr Cramp, and Tupper, preached, and collections were taken for the Domestic Mission. The Brethren N. Vidito, Hunt, H. Ross, Stronach, and Hurd, preached in meeting houses in the vicinity.

MONDAY, JUNE 26: TEN O'CLOCK, A. M.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. A. S. Hunt from 1 Thes. v. 21: "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." A collection for Home Missions was taken up after the Sermon.—
Prayer by Brother Vaughan.

The reading of letters from the Churches was resumed.

The Committee on Temperance Reported. (See Appendix A.)

Addresses were delivered by Brethren Rand, W. Chipman, Vidito, Chase, and the Moderator.—The Report was adopted.

Brethren Edwd. Davison, Sanford, and Shields of Hantsport, and brethren Eaton and West Cott of Second Horton requested permission to leave, which was granted.

Prayer by Brother Chase. Adjourned to meet at 3 o'clock, P. M.

THREE O'CLOCK, P. M.

Prayer by Brother Tupper.

The Committee on the Circular Letter reported. It was read and approved, and ordered to be printed in the Minutes as usual.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools Reported. (See Appendix B.)

After an address by brother T. Elder the Report was adopted.

The Committee on the Christian Messenger Reported. (See Appendix C.)

Addresses by brethren Tupper, Hunt, Chipman, Coldwell and Vidito. Report adopted.

The Report on Home Missions was presented by the Committee. (See Appendix D.)—Addresses were delivered by brethren Harding, Tabor, Morton, Rand, O. Parker. The Report was adopted.

On motion of C. R. Bill, Esq., it was

Resolved, That a subscription be circulated in order to liquidate the debt on the Home Mission Fund.

The subscription was accordingly opened, and the sum of about £40 was subscribed on the spot, and nearly all paid down.

The Committee on Foreign Missions reported. (See Ap. E.)

After addresses from Brethren Hunt, Vidito, and Bars, the Report was adopted.

The Committee on the Gaelic Mission reported. (Ap. F.)

Brother H. Ross delivered an address, and the Report was adopted.

The Committee on the Observance of the Sabbath reported. (Ap. G.) Report adopted.

The Committee on the Bible Cause submitted their Report.—(Ap. H.) Report adopted.

Resolved, That the meeting of the Ministers and Delegates take place at nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

Prayer by Brother A. Thorp.—Adjourned.

TUESDAY, JUNE 27.

Met at 9 o'clock pursuant to adjournment; opened by singing, and Prayer by Father Harding.

The Committee on Union Societies submitted their Report.—(App. I.)

Addresses from Brethren Tupper, Elder, and others. Adopted.

The Committee appointed to devise the best means of expediting the business of the Association presented their Report. The Report was adopted. (App. J.)

Resolved, That Brethren Vidito, Hunt, and Rand be a Commit-

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tee to revise Article 4 of the Constitution of this Association:—said Committee to report this afternoon.

The Committee on Questions in Letters, Reported. (See App.K.) The Report was adopted.

The La Have and Chelsea Churches were received into the Association, and the Moderator presented to the delegates the right hand of fellowship.

It was, resolved, That the Association meet next year with the Third Cornwallis Church—That Dr Cramp preach the Introductory Sermon, and that Brother W. Chipman be his alternate.

That Brother S. W. DeBlois write the Circular Letter.

That the Committee of arrangements consist of the following brethren: A. Stronach, Able Strong, and Samuel Sweet.

It was Resolved, That Revs. S. W. DeBlois and C. Tupper, be delegates to the Eastern Nova Scotia Association—that Brother Aaron Thorp be delegate to the Eastern New Brunswick Association; and that Brother J. Bancroft be the delegate to the Western Nova Scotia Association:—Also that to defray expenses, Brother DeBlois receive £3,—Bro. Bancroft £1 10s, and Brother A. Thorp, £2.

The Committee on the French Mission Reported. (See App.L.) Brother O. Chute made interesting observations on the success of this Mission, and the Report was adopted.

Resolved, That the Churches of this Association be requested to take up collections on behalf of the French Mission, and that Brother Tupper be requested to call the attention of the Churches to this subject by an article in the Christian Messenger.

The Committee on Education Reported. Report accepted.—(App. M.)

Resolved, That the business of the Association be suspended, and that the Education Society now hold its usual Annual Sitting.

The Rev. T. S. Harding, President, in the Chair.

The Annual Report was read by the Secretary, Rev. A. S. Hunt, A. M.

The Treasurer, Rev. J. Chase, presented a statement showing that the financial affairs of the Society were in a healthy and encouraging condition.

The Brethren Tupper, Barss, Chase, Hunt, C. R. Bill, Dr Cramp, and W. Chipman delivered addresses on the occasion.

Resolved, That the officers of the Society be re-appointed.

The Association resumed.

It was Resolved, that the Brethren Simon Fitch, J. W. Barss, Mayhew Beckwith, C. R. Bill, and Hon. J. W. Johnston, be delegates from this Association to the Convention.

Resolved, That the Minutes of this Association be printed at the Christian Messenger office; and that Brother Nutting be requested to superintend the printing; that the expense of printing be paid out of the Domestic Mission fund; and the sum of Eight Pounds be allowed for the same: the sum to be proportionally increased should the minutes exceed 24 pages.

After prayer by Brother Morton; adjourned.

TUESDAY, THREE O'CLOCK, P. M.

After singing, and prayer by the Rev. Dr Crawley, the business of the Association was resumed.

Voted that Dr Crawley, having just reached the Association, take a seat with us.

The Committee on Tract distribution and Colportage Reported. (App. N.)

The Report was adopted.

The following Preamble and Resolution relating to the republishing of the Articles and Covenant passed:

ARTICLES AND COVENANT.

Whereas the Western Association has requested the co-operation of the Central and Eastern Associations in the re-publishing of the Articles and Covenant mutually adopted, with such slight verbal corrections of the last edition as may be requisite:

Resolved, That we accede to their request; and that Dr Cramp and Rev. C. Tupper be appointed to make the needful corrections, and submit them at the sessions of the Associations next year; and that such churches as desire to obtain copies be requested to forward money to pay the expense of printing; each church to receive in proportion to the amount sent.

Resolved, That the following brethren compose the Domestic Missionary Board for the current year:—T. S. Harding, Dr Crawley, Dr Cramp, J. W. Barss, J. Stevens, A. Stronach, W. Chipman, P. A. Shiels, Wm. Johnson, W. H. Troop, C. Tupper, C. R. Bill, and A. S. Hunt: and that Rev. J. Chase be Treasurer, and Rev. A. S. Hunt be Secretary of the Board; and also, Resolved, that the meetings of the Board be held in Wolfville.

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The Report of the Committee appointed to revise Article 4, was presented and adopted.

On motion of Dr Crawley, it was

Resolved, That the Association still deeming the Mission to Picton to be one of great importance, recommend the Domestic Missionary Board to take such means in aid of that Mission as they may deem advisable.

The Committee on the use of Tobacco, submitted their report.— (App. P.)

Addresses from Brethren Rand, A. Parker, Tupper, Father Harding, Jas. Mosher were listened to. The Report was adopted.

Resolved, That the business of the Association be suspended, and that there be a meeting of the Tract Society.

Association resumed.

On motion, again suspended, and the Education Society resumed to pass the following Resolution;

Resolved, That the following brethren be appointed a Financial Committee, viz.: J. W. Barss, S. Fitch, Wm. Johnson, and A. S. Hunt.

The Association again resumed its sitting, and passed the following Resolution:

Resolved, That the cordial thanks of this Association be presented to the Baptist Church and Congregation and other friends in Newport, for their kindness and hospitality during the present session.

The Union Hymn was then sung with cheerful heart and voice, and followed by prayer by the Moderator; and after a session of great harmony and interest, the Association adjourned to meet with the Third Cornwallis Church, on the first Saturday after the 20th of June next.

J. M. CRAMP, Moderator.
S. T. RAND, Clerk.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

DEAR BRETHREN:—

We propose to address you this year on a subject of considerable interest to our Denomination. It is *Church Discipline*.

The Christian Church was instituted by our Lord for the purpose of cultivating, maintaining, and extending true godliness. In order to the accomplishment of this purpose, their attention to the precepts and exhortations of the Saviour and his Apostles is absolutely necessary; nor can success be scripturally hoped for unless believers united in fellowship are taught to "observe all things, whatsoever the Lord has commanded." The first and chief requisite to church purity is the exercise of vigilance to prevent the introduction of members who do not possess personal religion. If we are negligent in this respect, our security is gone, our glory has departed. If, on the other hand, we are scrupulously observant of the Master's directions in this matter, we shall bear in mind that in order to the preservation of piety there must be kept up in the churches an unremitting obedience to every statute of the Law-giver, a submissive regard to every indication of his will. Such indications are not admonitions or advice; they are commands—they are laws,—and they cannot be disregarded with impunity.

We are expressly commanded to "withdraw ourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly." He may be "disorderly" in various ways. He may be irregular in his attendance at the meetings of the church for worship or mutual edification. He may neglect his duty and privileges, grieve his brethren, and offend the Redeemer, by absence from the Lord's table. He may indulge in slander and contention, thus breaking the bond of love. He may violate the laws of his country, so as not to pay "tribute to whom tribute is due, custom to whom custom." Or he may fall into open worldliness and sin, cast off the restraints of his profession, and become as other men. All these are manifestations of "disorderly" conduct, demanding the exercise of wholesome discipline. That discipline may be diversified in kind and degree. One man is to be "restor-

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ed in the spirit of meekness"; another is to be "saved with fear, plucking him out of the fire". It may be sufficient in some cases to "warn them that are unruly"; in others, the "wicked person" must be promptly "put away." But in all cases discipline is to be faithfully administered, or the very existence of our churches will be in peril.

Brethren, this is a subject of no small importance. We fear that some churches in this province are comparatively careless in regard to it, and that their low state is to be traced to that carelessness.—Allow us, therefore, to suggest a few considerations which may be adapted, by the divine blessing, to "stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance", and thereby to produce salutary effects.

Let us be mindful of our allegiance to the Great Head of the church, the only King in Zion. It is not at our option whether we will keep his statutes or not. We have no power, either to add to or to diminish. We are under the most solemn obligations to obedience. In no other connection can we reasonably expect prosperity. Our professions of reverence and love are mere hypocrisy if we fail to do the Lord's will, and they will assuredly expose us to his just displeasure.

Of whom, according to the New Testament, should a church of Christ be composed? Ought it not to consist of persons who give credible evidence of "faith in the Lord Jesus, and love to all the saints,"—whose hearts are brought under the influence of gospel truth, and whose lives exhibit unmistakable proof of consistent devotedness? But if, when those who have professed all this go astray from the paths of holiness, their names are still retained in the church book, and no notice is taken of their evil conduct, but their membership is continued from year to year, is not a severe blow aimed at the purity of the church? Do we not expose that divine institution to the scoffs of its adversaries? And will not the unrighteous compromise, thus publicly sanctioned, open the way to still greater laxity of principle and of government?

Besides this, it is needful that we should be reminded of the peculiar claims advanced by our Denomination. We have uniformly protested against the admixture of the worldly with the pious in the christian church. Our separation from all other bodies of professing christians is founded on the views which we hold on this subject. We are, therefore, specially bound to the maintenance of church purity. If the reins of discipline are held slackly by us, we

shall not only experience all the injurious consequences arising therefrom among ourselves, but we shall also bring upon the Denomination the reproach of fickleness of purpose and abandonment of the high vantage ground on which our standard is planted.

Let us next advert to the sad results of remissness. It is impossible to neglect or disobey any of the injunctions of the Head of the church without suffering loss. The blessedness of christian fellowship can be but very imperfectly enjoyed in a community where the salt has in part "lost its savour". Efforts put forth by the more spiritual and lively among them will be continually neutralized by the benumbing influences of worldly-mindedness; and if those whose "hearts' desire and prayer to God" for their countrymen is "that they may be saved" attempt to speak to them in the name of the Lord, they may expect to be taunted with the inconsistencies of their fellow-members, and the ancient proverb will be recited in their hearing, "Physician, heal thyself."—A state of things so deplorable will be contemplated by inquirers with distress and surprise; a stumbling-block will be placed before them which will not be easily removed; their ardour will be damped, their hopes disappointed, and they may be driven to seek elsewhere a more congenial home, where, though the outward observances of the church are but partially honoured, the spiritual atmosphere is clearer, and love glows with a brighter flame. Meanwhile, the progress of the declining church is still downward, and that with accelerated speed; the number of the faithful becomes less and less, and the body more and more corrupt, till at length it resembles the "whited sepulchre, which indeed appears beautiful outwards, but within is full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness." Then, there is no "cloud and smoke by day", or "shining of a flaming fire by night". The "glory" has vanished away, the "defence" is removed, for the Lord has said, "I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence."

We trust, dear brethren, that consequences so calamitous will never befall any of the churches belonging to this Association: but that, forewarned of the danger, and earnestly desirous of avoiding it, they will "keep that which is committed to them", and transmit to the next age, a profession unsullied by godless tampering with the principles and practices of apostolic times. There is need, however, as all will admit, of unceasing watchfulness, lest the en-

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In conclusion, permit us to offer a remark or two on the manner in which discipline should be administered. That there should be a strict accordance with the law, in all cases in which the law is clearly set forth, requires no argument; it is equally obvious, that if in any instance an express statute is not to be found, the general directions of the New Testament are to be followed,—and all bible christians are prepared to maintain that the laws and directions of the book of God are amply sufficient for the purposes of church government, without any aid from human tradition.

It is also desirable to observe, that promptitude and impartiality are of essential importance. Delay in dealing with offences induces suspicion that they are connived at, or that the church is careless of its purity; and that suspicion will be greatly strengthened if the offender should happen to be a man of wealth and influence.—There is absolute equality in the church of Christ: all the members have equal rights, and all are alike amenable to the church's authority and jurisdiction. "One is your master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren".

While the laws of the Saviour are to be executed with stern impartiality, let it be ever borne in mind that the severity of justice is to be tempered with meekness and love. Each one is to "consider himself, lest he also be tempted"; and all must remember that the design of discipline is not vengeance, but restoration. It is our duty to vindicate the holiness of Christianity, and to bear our testimony against all manner of evil; but the erring, fallen brother should see that if it be even necessary to separate him for a time from the family, the severing stroke is inflicted with reluctance and grief, and that all will hail with joy the return of the erring one.

Finally, brethren, let us study with all diligence the laws of the kingdom, and show our loyal attachment to the king by carrying them into effect in the spirit of righteousness and love. And may God grant to all the churches of this Association a plentiful effusion of his Holy Spirit, that "walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost" they may be "multiplied"—Amen.

On behalf of the Association,

J. M. CRAMP, Moderator.

CONSTITUTION OF THE CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA.

ARTICLE 1st.—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 may see fit to invite to sit in Council.

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

ART. 3rd.—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. 4th.—At each meeting of the Association the Moderator of the preceding year shall preside till his successor is chosen. The choice of Moderator shall take place by ballot, as soon as a list of Delegates has been prepared, as hereinafter provided. No brother shall be chosen Moderator two years in succession. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside in all the transactions, maintain due order, and nominate Committees unless otherwise ordered by the Association. 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; he also shall remain in office till his successor is chosen.

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 the additions and diminutions within the last year, and generally of whatsoever relates to its peace and prosperity.

ART. 6th.—At each Annual Meeting the letters from the churches shall be first handed in, from which the Secretary shall immediately make out a list of Delegates. The election of Moderator and Secretary shall then take place, after which the letters shall be read. Committees nominated by the Moderator shall not consist of more than five brethren, of whom three shall constitute a quorum. When large Committees are judged desirable, they shall be appointed by the Association, and two-thirds of the number appointed shall be competent to act.

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ART. 7th.—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. 8th.—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 members shall request its continuance and shall engage to enquire into its standing and report at the next meeting of the Association.

ART. 9th.—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. 10th.—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. 11th.—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 1st.—At every sitting, business shall be opened and closed with prayer; and immediately after the opening prayer the minutes of the preceding meeting shall be read and corrected.

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

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

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

RULE 5th.—All resolutions shall be presented in writing.

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

RULE 7th.—These Rules shall be distinctly read from the Chair at the opening of the Session.

APPENDIX.

[A.] REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

The Committee on Temperance beg to Report as follows:

Just one-fourth of a century has elapsed since the crusade against Rum began in Nova Scotia, headed by the Baptists. Some of the veterans who took the field twenty-five years ago are with us to-day. They can contrast the present with the past. They can tell us what they have had to encounter. They remember how they felt, how they trembled; how they prayed—how they hoped—how they feared,—how they laboured. Then, even good men opposed, while bad men railed, cursed, swore, and drank confusion to temperance and temperance men.

Twenty-five years ago a temperance lecture in the pulpit was a thing unheard of; a sermon on the subject on the Lord's-day would not be countenanced by a Baptist congregation, even in a barn.—Every body drank. Nobody, not even ministers, supposed moderate drinking wrong. The people could thus quote their example when they used alcohol as a beverage. Fathers partook of the cup, mothers drank it, little boys and girls tasted, and babies cried for it. How different is the state of society now! Who would have dreamed then that so much would have been accomplished in twenty-five years! Who then thought of a prohibitory law? Who imagined that he would live to see such a law in operation? or to know that such a law would in so short a space be carried in New Brunswick, all but carried in the Nova Scotia House of Assembly, and carried triumphantly through the lower House of Prince Edward Island; and determined on by a large majority of the best and wisest of society every where in these provinces?

A description then of the state of society now, with respect to alcoholic drinks, would have been deemed the extravagance of romance. So many drunkards reclaimed, and afterwards converted to God—so many moderate drinkers rescued—so many temperance organizations—all our ministers, to a man, with their flocks, aiding the work—with so many others—the pulpit and the press all over

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the world uttering condemnation to strong drinks, and stirring society to its depths in favour of abstinence. Yes, we may indeed ask, who would have imagined it?—what but inspiration could have predicted it?

Friends of temperance,—friends of humanity,—friends of God—help on twenty-five years longer! Then comes—the jubilee! Let corresponding exertions be made; similar faith and prayer and persevering effort continued, and the note of victory will be sounded then. Some of us may live to see and celebrate that Jubilee. The late convention in the city of St. John, unherd in with the thunder of a hundred guns, attended by delegates from Halifax to California—ten thousand people in one assembly, addressed by men of the highest order of intellect and moral worth, contrasts beautifully with the events of twenty-five years ago,—a baptist congregation running away from a temperance sermon! Twenty-five years more, and then—we may read these accounts over again on that day.

Animated by all that is past and present and future, we would protest against supineness. Let there be no relaxation. A beginning has been made—a good beginning indeed, but it is only a beginning. All earth, all heaven, all hell, combine their ten thousand voices to urge us onward. Agitate the Maine Law, demand it, have it, carry it into execution. Use every other lawful means to accomplish the object. Take hold of the strength of Omnipotence, and the work is done!

Heaven speed the day.

All which is respectfully submitted,

S. T. RAND, Chairman.

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

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

That your Committee is convinced that Sabbath Schools have been and are of incalculable benefit to the churches sustaining and the youths enjoying the same. That the mind unimbued with religious truth in early age is fearfully subject to the influence of evil examples; and that the power of knowledge ordinarily increases with the period of its enjoyment.

That the Bible is the Law of the Lord, in which all should be instructed, lest they incur its penalties (by violation, and lose its blessings by ignorance.

That, therefore, we would recommend the continued use of Sabbath Schools and Bible Classes; wherever in operation, and where none exist would advise the Christian Ministry and brethren seriously to ask if they are not indeed guilty of neglect of duty in not endeavouring to establish such.)

That they find by the letters that in 14 churches 19 schools in this Association are taking encouraging action, and in some schools respectable libraries are enjoyed. Your Committee recommend wherever practicable, that they be sustained during the whole year, and where discontinued, that some fresh religious reading, suited to the capacity of the youths in every family be furnished, either in the circulation of library volumes, or the cheap religious publications for children now accessible to all.

They further ask of parents their encouragement; and beg that they will not allow their own responsibility to instruct their children in religious matters, to be transferred to the Sabbath School.

In conclusion, your Committee would ask the churches to report more carefully the number of teachers, scholars, and library volumes in every school.

All which is respectfully submitted,

J. V. TABOR, Convener.

REPORT ON THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER.

The Committee on the Christian Messenger report:

That every year's acquaintance with this invaluable periodical, like that cultivated with a tried and faithful friend, tends to endear it increasingly to them, and to enhance its value in their estimation. Conducted with ability and discretion, and combining gentleness with decision, it has deservedly secured the approbation of persons of candour and discernment generally. That its pages have contributed largely to the dissemination of useful knowledge, is unquestionable. That they have widely diffused interesting and cheering intelligence, and extensively imparted edification and comfort, will be denied by none competent to judge.

It is, moreover, notorious, that they have effected an incalculable amount of good by the aid which they have afforded to the interests of Education, Home and Foreign Missions, and all the other benevolent objects which the denomination is engaged in promoting.

Your Committee, therefore, regard it as a matter of devout thanksgiving, that Providence has hitherto graciously preserved the lives of our worthy and excellent Editors, and enabled them to persevere in their highly useful labours.

In conclusion your Committee would earnestly request the active co-operation of Ministering brethren, and all others, for the sustaining of the Christian Messenger, the success of which is obviously identified with the prosperity of the denomination.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

CHARLES TUPPER, Chairman.

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REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

The Committee on Home Missions beg to report as follows:

That they continue to regard the Home Missionary enterprise as one of unbounded importance, inasmuch as it is the only efficient means for the dissemination of spiritual knowledge amongst the destitute portions of our province. The success that has hitherto attended the indefatigable exertions of its friends, affords abundant encouragement for further perseverance. It is, however, a fact much to be deplored, that vast numbers of the inhabitants of Halifax, Lunenburg, and other counties in our province are still enveloped in spiritual darkness, and destitute of the necessary means to secure the permanent ministry of the gospel. Your Committee being convinced of the comparative inefficiency of a few weeks missionary labour being expended in destitute places, to be again abandoned before anything important is realized, would earnestly recommend that as far as possible permanent missions be established in commanding positions, and especially in the County of Lunenburg, for at least one year; the labour to be performed in destitute localities. And in order to meet the demands of such a vastly important movement, your Committee would further recommend that the pastors of churches, and friends of the Domestic Missionary enterprise generally, would exert themselves to the utmost of their power, to raise the necessary means for its furtherance and support. And lastly, that fervent and importunate prayer be offered to God that he would raise up and send forth faithful and efficient labourers into those important fields already white for the harvest.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

J. C. HURD, Chairman.

[E.]

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The Committee on Foreign Missions Report as follows:

Your Committee are of opinion that the present time of all others seems to call for a missionary spirit in our churches. The success attending the operations of kindred societies; the increased facilities of communication; the awakening of the human intellect as in China, seems to indicate more clearly than ever that "the field is the world."

Under these circumstances, the enquiry forces itself upon us—What should be our course? This question your Committee are not prepared directly to answer.

They feel that the circumstances relating to our own Foreign Missionary operations call for a spirit of prayer, of faith, of love; love for the souls of the perishing; love to Christ, the author of salvation.

They would recommend that the stated contributions be kept up; that the monthly concert for prayer be vigorously and heartily sustained;—that thus an interest may be aroused, and knowledge on these subjects afforded.

Your Committee approve of the course of the Convention in relation to existing arrangements.

They are not prepared to suggest any alteration until the Providence of God shall unmistakably point to its necessity.

STEPHEN W. DEBLOIS, Chairman.

[F.]

REPORT ON GAELIC MISSION.

The Committee on the Gaelic Mission beg leave to report:

Whereas the Gaelic population in the Island of Cape Breton is more than 35,000; 20,000 of whom are Roman Catholics, in a state of great spiritual darkness, and are accessible by us:

Resolved, therefore, That this Association do co-operate with the Western and Eastern Associations, together with those in New Brunswick, in sustaining this Mission, already in progress; and that our churches be requested to take collections for this object the first Sabbath in January; and also that brother R. McLearn be appointed to receive the money from those Associations.

[G.]

REPORT ON THE OBSERVANCE OF THE SABBATH.

The Committee on the Observance of the Sabbath beg leave to Report:

Your Committee feel it incumbent upon them to urge this subject on the attention of the churches.

The violations of the Sabbath by visiting, travelling, and idle conversation, are too common even among church members.

Such desecrations should not be tolerated; and your Committee would recommend that at least once in every year a sermon, having special reference to this subject, be preached from each of our pulpits.

Your Committee would also recommend the Sabbath Alliance and its publications to the attention of the churches.

STEPHEN W. DEBLOIS, Convener.

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REPORT ON THE BIBLE CAUSE.

The Committee on the Bible Cause, Report as follows:

That whereas they believe that the free circulation and use of God's word is a grand lever by which a sunken world is to be raised into a nearness to God and a likeness to him:

Resolved, That we never relax, but rather increase our efforts, in conjunction with all the embattled hosts of God, in execution of the divine mission of putting this, heaven's best gift, into the hands of all earth's sons, that they may learn the truth, and thus be made free.

That the openings of Providence, and the increased thirst for the Word of Life by the teeming millions of earth, conspire to incite us forward in the heaven born enterprise of giving the lamp of life to men benighted, and thus hasten the day when the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth.

All which we respectfully submit,

O. CHUTE, Convener.

[I.]

REPORT ON UNION SOCIETIES.

The Committee on Union Societies would respectfully submit to your consideration the propriety of recommending to the Churches composing this Association as the best method under existing circumstances of promoting Union Societies and of increasing the funds, that the Ministers in each County or Township where it is practicable, should unite in aiding the cause, by holding public meetings in their different localities, and preach to the people on the subject of benevolence, &c., at some early period in the year; and, at such times, take as many subscriptions as in their power, and also that the Churches do appoint collectors to go through the district of every Church and obtain additional subscriptions:—and also in due time collect the amount; and where two or more ministers cannot unite, that the same course be pursued by one—and where there are no pastors over a church, that the leading members of said church aim as far as practicable to accomplish the same object. And also it is very desirable where it can be accomplished, and decidedly the better method, to re-establish and keep up the quarterly meetings for the promotion of the above objects.

WILLIAM CHIPMAN, Chairman.

[J.]

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EXPEDITING BUSINESS.

The Committee appointed to devise the best means for expediting the business of the Association Report:—
That they know of no better method to promote despatch than to select men the best qualified for Moderator, Clerk, and Assistant

Clerk, and, as at the present time, judicious Committees, on all important objects, and perseveringly to keep closely to each particular object when brought before the body till accomplished, with the allowance of freedom in discussion, and mutual forbearance, and to strive together, not only to expedite business to the best advantage to the interests of the Denomination, but to concentrate all our best efforts to promote the union of all concerned. And in addition, that brevity should be observed in all the public communications, and that no one should engross too much of the time.

The above is respectfully submitted,

WM. CHIPMAN, Chairman.

[K.]

REPORT ON QUESTIONS IN LETTERS.

The Committee have examined the various documents placed in their hands, and present the following Report.

From the Newport and Rawdon letters, and from other communications transmitted to them, they gather that certain differences and difficulties have arisen in those churches, and they recommend that a Committee be appointed to meet the brethren with a view to the removal of the said differences and difficulties; the Committee to consist of, the brethren W. Chipman, J. M. Cramp, A. S. Hunt, Able Parker, Hugh Ross, and S. T. Rand.

The letters received from Preston indicate the desirableness of friendly interposition on the behalf of that church, and the Committee suggest the propriety of requesting the brethren Hunt, McLearn, and Miller to visit the church, for the purpose of assisting in the restoration of order and harmony. They also recommend the Domestic Missionary Board to send a missionary among the churches of the coloured brethren, in compliance with their request.

A question has been proposed by the church at Lunenburg, which the Committee propose to answer by the subjoined resolution:

Resolved, That all churches are independent of each other in matters of discipline, and are not amenable to each other for its exercise; but that in order to preserve harmony, it is generally advisable that no church should receive a member excluded from a neighbouring church without such communication with that church as will prevent the reception of the member from becoming the occasion of unfriendly feeling between the churches.

With regard to the applications from the churches at Chelsea and LaHave, the Committee recommend that they be received into the Association; and they add to the recommendation the expression of their opinion that whenever churches are formed in the near neighbourhood of other churches, care should be taken so to fix the times of public worship as not to clash with each other's appointments.

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The Committee learn that the Third Cornwallis Church sent a request last year for the meeting of the Association there at the present time, but that by some accident the letter did not reach its destination. The delegates from that church have now renewed their request, and the Committee therefore recommend that the Association meet there next year.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. CRAMP, Chairman.

[L.]

REPORT ON THE FRENCH MISSION.

The Committee on the French Mission Report as follows:

That they most heartily bless God that it has pleased him to prompt his people to make an onset on the powers of papal darkness, and rescue from the grasp of the fell destroyer some of his unhappy victims, some of the French papists of Nova Scotia, to lead them from broken cisterns to the fountain of living waters.

That during the period of near two years in which this mission has been prosecuted, many copies of the divine word have been circulated among our Acadians, that some are found among them who are searching the scriptures to know if the things told them by their spiritual guides are so. That a deep conviction possesses the minds of many, that saint and angel worship, that purgatory and penances and masses for the dead are not of God, receive no countenance from his word.

That the publications of the American Tract Society have been largely circulated, and will produce their legitimate results.

Your Committee recommend that unceasing prayer be offered for this mission and the missionary, in his goings forth in the prosecution of his arduous labours of love; that all our churches respond to the call made to them, to aid, by their contributions, as God shall give them ability, in the vigorous prosecution of this mission.

Finally, they would call to the notice of the benevolent public, that a mission house is imperatively needed, for the erection of which a special effort is required on the part of the friends of God and humanity.

All which is respectfully submitted,

OBED CHUTE, Convener.

[M.]

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

As the Annual Meeting of the Education Society will be held during the session of the Association, the Committee have only to

express, as far as regards Horton Academy, the satisfaction and gratitude with which they contemplate the growing prosperity of that Institution.

Acadia College, they are happy to learn, enjoys also tokens of the divine blessing. The arrangements made last year are evidently acceptable to the denomination at large, within the bounds of the Convention, and they are working well in all respects. The Committee report with pleasure the increase of students. During the last year, twenty young men have pursued their studies in the College, the majority of whom are going through the full course. Six of the Academy pupils have matriculated, after a satisfactory examination, and will commence their studies next Term; and five others are preparing for examination, with a view to enter at the same time.

In the Theological Institute, nine candidates for the ministry have received instruction during the year. Most of them are engaged in preaching the gospel on the Lord's days in the surrounding district, and their labours are well appreciated. The Committee beg to remind the churches of the importance of encouraging and aiding young men who are desirous of being engaged in the ministry, and of obtaining instruction preparatory to their entrance on the work.

The Committee are informed that the subscription to the Endowment, on the enlarged scale, is proceeding favourably. The whole amount now secured exceeds £13,000. It is highly desirable that the effort should be continued till the sum reaches £20,000, in order that the Academy may share in the benefit. The Committee rejoice to observe that other Denominations are following Baptist example, and are labouring with success to obtain endowments for their respective Institutions.

The completion of the College Buildings has been rendered a matter of necessity, in order to provide accommodation for the increasing number of students. Some rooms are finished, and have been occupied for several months, the remainder will be finished before the commencement of the Term. Several of our churches have responded liberally to the application made for aid in this undertaking, and the Committee hope that the expenditure will be fully provided for, without incurring any debt.

In conclusion, the Committee congratulate the Association on the encouraging prospects of the great educational enterprise which has cost the Denomination so much effort, and struggle, and sacrifice, and which is worth much more than it has cost.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. CRAMP, Chairman.

[N.]

REPORT ON TRACT SOCIETY AND COLPORTAGE.

The Committee recommend that the new society be designated, "The Nova Scotia Baptist Tract and Colporteur Society."

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They recommend the adoption of the Constitution published in the *Christian Messenger* of March 30, last, with these changes, viz:

Art. 1.—The title to be altered, as above.

Art. 4.—Instead of "a Committee, consisting of twelve members," read, "consisting of at least twelve members."

Art. 5.—For a "Depository"—read, "Depositories."

They further recommend that the society be immediately constituted, and that the following brethren be appointed officers and Committee:—

PRESIDENT:—REV. E. A. CRAWLEY, D. D.

VICE PRESIDENT:—REV. J. M. CRAMP, D. D.

TREASURER:—REV. JOHN CHASE.

SECRETARY:—ISAIAH WALLACE.

COMMITTEE—REV. A. S. HUNT, A. M.

" P. A. SHIELDS.

" J. STEVENS.

MAYHEW BECKWITH.

C. R. BILL.

J. W. BARSS.

SIMON FITCH, M. D.

J. W. HARTT.

D. G. SHAW.

AARON THORP, JUNR.

W. H. TROOP.

Respectfully submitted,

A. S. HUNT, Chairman.

[P.]

REPORT ON THE USE OF TOBACCO.

The Committee on the Use of Tobacco report as follows:

Since the agitation of this subject in our Associations and the Convention, some progress has been made in the right direction. The attention of the people very generally has been awakened to the subject. Many have abandoned the use of tobacco, and we believe that multitudes who have not yet made a successful effort to snap their fetters and be free, have, notwithstanding, become convinced that they are indulging in an evil and pernicious habit.

The Committee recommend that strong action be taken by this Association on the subject. Let it be discussed in a calm, conciliatory, serious manner. Its importance demands it. If we may believe the testimony of the most enlightened physicians the world over, and of men the most enlightened and conscientious, who have faithfully tested it, the use of tobacco is a great national calamity. Let the voice of warning, long and loud continue to

be sounded. Tobacco is a deadly poison. A small piece—a single mouthful—one-third of a “fig”—is sufficient, if chewed and swallowed, to kill instantly the stoutest and healthiest man, who is unaccustomed to the use of it. Taken in the most moderate way, it disturbs the vital functions, it excites and deadens the nerves; it disarranges the digestive powers; it poisons the blood; it maddens the brain;—it unmans the man. It pollutes his breath—defiles his mouth, destroys his teeth, and, when taken excessively, as it usually is when taken at all, it renders him a nuisance—an outrage against decency—a filthy, disgusting, loathsome object, whose presence is offensive to all who are not, like himself, saturated, physically and mentally, with the abominable juice.

Nature lifts up her warning voice against the use of tobacco; and the “voice of Nature” is the “voice of God.” Christianity condemns it, for it enjoins self-denial, and bids us “cleanse ourselves from all filthiness” of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord; to deny “worldly lusts”, and assures us that they “war against the soul.” Our bodies, if we be christians, are the “temples of the Holy Ghost”, and a curse is denounced against those who *DEFILE* the temple of God, by the indulgence of ungodly lusts and unnatural appetites.

Chewing, smoking, and snuffing, are not only injurious, expensive, unnatural, and degrading habits, in themselves, fit only for the savages from whom they were first learned, but they lead directly to innumerable other evil practices.

It is high time for the voice of the church to be raised against this monster vice! We should circulate information on the subject. Christians must not shrink from the self-denial involved. Ministers must lead the way. Let them *preach*, and let them *PRACTICE* against it. Let the young be warned; let the aged be entreated. Let the evil habit be discountenanced—frowned upon—put down.

All which is respectfully submitted,

ABEL PARKER, Chairman.

J. Ferguson
J. W. Nutting
Dr. Parker
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Special Colle
Amounts to

MONIES RECEIVED AT CENTRAL ASSOCIATION, 1854.

CHURCHES.	French Mission.		Missions.		Home Miss.		For Mission		Linn. M. ins.		TOTAL.
	French Mission.	Educa.	Minis.	Educa.	Home Miss.	Educa.	For Mission	Educa.	Linn. M. ins.	Educa.	
First Horton											
First Cornwallis											
Bridgewater			3	3	4	4	11	1	15	10	19
Upper Aylesford			3	4	9	3	19	3	18	3	10
Cheser			12	6	2	6	6	6	9	9	8
Second Falmouth			7	5	1	1	2	1	3	10	8
Lunenburg			1	13	4	1	13	4	3	11	10
Third Cornwallis			2	6	4	2	6	4	5	8	4
North Halifax			2	17	10	2	17	10	10	14	6
New Germany			1	10	7	1	10	7	2	16	10
First Falmouth			1	8	7	1	8	7	1	12	5
Second Horton			1	6	9	1	6	9	6	5	11
Kempt			2	5	2	2	5	2	6	3	12
Newport			2	16	9	2	16	9	1	11	3
Sundry persons, Rawdon			16	9	1	16	9	1	6	5	11
Indian Harbour			7	10	7	7	10	7	1	14	6
Rawdon			10	1	3	10	1	3	2	6	15
Jeddore			7	6	17	7	6	17	2	7	10
Margaret's Bay			7	6	17	7	6	17	2	7	10
Windsor			18	1	13	18	1	13	7	10	4
Second Cornwallis			11	6	3	11	6	3	4	6	10
Long Point			1	11	6	1	11	6	7	10	4
Second Hammond Plains			2	4	9	2	4	9	7	6	10
Burton			1	15	7	1	15	7	3	16	10
Guyborough			12	7	15	12	7	15	1	16	7
Chelsea			12	15	7	12	15	7	1	16	7
La Have			1	12	3	1	12	3	3	16	7
Preston			1	12	3	1	12	3	3	16	7
S. N. Binney			1	12	3	1	12	3	3	16	7
J. Ferguson			1	12	3	1	12	3	3	16	7
J. W. Nutting			1	12	3	1	12	3	3	16	7
Dr Parker			1	12	3	1	12	3	3	16	7
Coll. at Association			1	12	3	1	12	3	3	16	7

Special Collection for Home Mission:

Amounts to

£37 14 2

JOHN CHASE.