

MINUTES

OF THE

NOVA-SCOTIA

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

HELD AT

WILMOT, N. S.

JUNE 26TH, 27TH AND 28TH,

1826.

TOGETHER WITH THEIR CIRCULAR AND CORRESPONDING LETTERS;
PROCEEDINGS OF THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY, &c.

SAINT JOHN :

PRINTED BY J. T. YOUNGHUSBAND, CORNER OF PRINCE WIL-
LIAM AND CHURCH STREETS.

1826,

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MINUTES, &c.

MONDAY, JUNE 26, 1826.

1st. Introductory Sermon by Elder JAMES MUNRO, from 1st Cor. 3d chap. 6th verse—"It is God who giveth the increase." The sermon was peculiarly appropriate and interesting, and was followed by several warm addresses, after which Elder J. DIMOCK read his Missionary Journal, and Elder DAVIS made a statement of his Missionary labours; when a collection was taken for Missionary purposes, amounting to about £13.

2d. The Ministers and Messengers composing the Association, took their seats. After prayer by Elder MANNING, Elder JOSEPH DIMOCK was chosen Moderator; Elder WM. DAVIS, Clerk; and Elder J. MUNRO, Assistant Clerk.

3d. Read the Letters from the Churches.

N. B. In the following table, the names of Ordained Ministers are printed in SMALL CAPITALS; those of Licensed Teachers, in *Italics*; Ministers whose names are thus marked, were not present. Churches from which we had no information at this session, are designated by this mark (+); vacant Churches by a dash (—).

Churches.	Elders & Messengers.	Added....	Dismissed...	Excluded	Died....	Total....
Lower Granville,	Edward N. Harris, } Roger Guin, }	16	1			50
Upper Granville†	THOMAS ANSLEY,					60
Cornwallis,	E. MANNING, } Wm. Cogswell, }	6		1	4	263
Newport,	Stephen Mills, } GEORGE DIMOCK, } ..	1		1	1	51
1st. Clements,	James Mosher, } ISRAEL POTTER, } Edward Morgan, } John Chute, }	8		1	2	103
Onslow,	Thos. Chute, jr. } J. MUNRO, } Abraham Newcomb, }	2	1			47
2d Clements,	Francis Miller, }	14		1	2	38
Halifax,	Charles Tucker, } *J. BURTON,	20			10	317
Amherst,	*SAMUEL M' CULLEY,	5				18
Nictau,	T. H. CHIPMAN, } Dea. Bishop, } Dea. Whitman, }	5		1	3	13
Chester,	Shippy Spurr, } JOSEPH DIMOCK, }	5			1	13
Lunenburg,	Daniel Dimock, } John Maden, } ..	4	2	1		4
Digby Neck,	Valentine Smelsen, } *PETER CRANDALL, ...	27	6	3	1	63
Horton,	THEO. S. HARDING, } Alex. M'Phail, } Frederick Fitch, } Simon Fitch, }	8			1	9
River Philip, & Westchester,	(+) -----					3
Windsor,	Allan Young, }				2	3

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Dismissed...	Excluded	Died....	Total....	Churches,	Elders & Messengers.	Added...	Dismissed...	Excluded	Died....	Total....
1			50							
			60	Annapolis,	Wm. ELDER, } Thomas Spurr, } Major Chipman, } John Whitman, }					13
1	4	263								
1	1	51		Hammond's Pl's.	GEO. RICHARDSON, } Peter Wilson, } Nathan Ellis, }	2	1			34
1	2	103		Little Fork,	_____ } Peter Mills, }					31
				Chute's Cove,	_____ } Sylvanus Snow, } Shippy I st , }		1			17
1	2	38		Rawdon,	_____ } N. East Arm, }	2	1			24
				Sydney,	_____ } JOHN HULL, }					9
10	317			Parsborough,	_____ } _____ }					11
18				Antigonishe,	_____ } John Whidden, }					8
1	3	130								
						125	12	10	27	1634

N. B. The three last Churches were received this session.

4th. Read and accepted the Circular Letter, prepared by Elder MANNING.

5th. Read and accepted the Corresponding Letter, prepared by Elder R. DAVIS.

6th. From Corresponding Associations, received as follows:—

Associations.	Messengers.	Minutes.
Lincoln and Eastern Maine, }	Elder Wm. Allen,	Minutes.
Snowdoinham and Cumberland, }	Elder David Nutter,	Minutes.
New-Brunswick,	_____	Minutes.

7th. Voted That our Messenger to the New-Brunswick Association, be instructed to confer with that body on the subject the religious Publication mentioned last year.

8th. Adjourned till to-morrow morning, at 10 o'clock.

TUESDAY, JUNE 27.

Prayer Meeting at 6 o'clock—a solemn and refreshing session.

9th. Met according to appointment, and, after a sermon by Brother JOHN HULL, proceeded to business.

10. *Voted*, That Elder THOMAS ANSLEY be our Messenger to the New-Brunswick Association; and that he be allowed £4 for that service.

11. That Elder J. MUNRO be our Messenger to corresponding Associations in the United States; in case of failure, Elder JOHN HULL; and that £10 be allowed for that service.

12. That our next Association be held in Chester, on the first Monday after the 20th of May, 1827; and that Elder G. DIMOCK preach the introductory sermon; in case of failure, Elder DAVIS.

13. That Elder WM. ELDER write the Circular, and Elder J. DIMOCK the Corresponding Letter.

14. That it be recommended to our Churches to observe the 25th of December next, as a day of Thanksgiving, and the 1st of January, as a day of Fasting and Prayer; and also the evening of the 1st Monday in every month, as a time of Special Prayer for the enlargement of the Redeemer's Kingdom.

15. That Elder WM. ELDER superintend the printing of the Minutes; and that 600 copies be printed.

16. That our cordial thanks be given to the public, and to benevolent societies and individuals who have afforded pecuniary aid to the funds of the Society.

17. That the Moderator present our thanks to the inhabitants of Wilmot, Granville, and Annapolis, for their special kindness and hospitality during the present session; and also to the choir of singers, for their attention and services.

18. That Elders MANNING, HARDING and MUNRO, and Brethren HOMES CHIPMAN, WM. CHIPMAN, WM. COGSWELL and SIMON FITCH of Horton, be our Committee for Missionary purposes, and that Brother WM. COGSWELL be Treasurer.

19. That our yearly meeting shall be held at Horton the year, on the first LORD'S day after the 20th of September.

20. That the following letter, received from Brother JAMES STEVENS, be inserted in our Minutes; and that the Missionary Committee be requested to form a plan for carrying the benevolent purpose proposed in it into effect; and that they report at the next session.

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Dear Brethren in the LORD JESUS CHRIST :

Permit me to address you on a subject that has for some years past borne with weight on my mind. When I was led out to make a profession of Religion, as I trust by the sweet influence of the Spirit of God, I considered it my indispensable duty to make a full surrender of myself, Soul and Body, Name and Estate. When I first went into the world, to settle myself in the affairs of life, Providence placed my lot in the woods, where, by perseverance and industry, I was enabled to procure a comfortable supply of the necessaries of life, and to lay the foundation of an estate for my children, after I have gone the way of all flesh, which may make them comfortable as to the things of time, if they make a wise improvement thereof. At the same period of time that I went into the world to take an active part, some of my dear Brethren, who were not disobedient to the Heavenly Call, went into the Ministry, feeling a sense of the great worth of precious and immortal souls, that must exist through the wasteless ages of eternity, in the name of their Lord and Master to warn them to flee from the wrath to come. They no doubt felt a necessity laid upon them, and a "Woe is me if I preach not the Gospel." They have spent their time and strength, and some are advanced in the decline of life; and as Mr. Benedict has expressed so much of my mind in his general observations, I will borrow his language, as I should mar the subject, were I to attempt to mend it— "Ministers who have long borne the burden and heat of the day, who have exhausted the energies of their nature in the service of their brethren, who have sacrificed every worldly consideration to be incessantly engaged in the service of the sanctuary, are too often abandoned in the decline of life, by those very Churches they have been the instruments of building up, and shifted off to seek their living among their children and relatives, among sympathetic people of the world, or wherever they can find it. If the laws of nature and of God bind children to provide for their parents when they are old, what obligations are imposed on the children of the church, to comfort and support their spiritual fathers while tottering down the declivity of age! But for this duty, (and almost every other where money is in question) many plead inability. But I have, for the most part, no belief in this plea. Many, it is true, are poor, but there is among our brethren abundance of worldly substance, which they are treasuring up for their heirs. When they came into the church they professed to

give up themselves and all they had to the Lord; but when called on to deal out of their substance for the support of the cause, their contributions are not like the rich who cast into the treasury, but literally like the widow's two mites. Let the rich retrench their superfluities, let the poor double their economy, and let all conduct as if they believed they were stewards of the manifold Grace of God, and under an awful responsibility for their stewardship. The neglect of aged Ministers is a lamentable evil; but that of the widows and children of those that are gone, is, if possible, greater. An old servant of God, with his venerable hairs, will be remembered, and will be comforted by some of the compassionate sons of nature, if the churches neglect him; but the widow and the fatherless are in danger of being entirely forgotten. There is the lonely consort of the man who was once zealously engaged in the service of God, but who was taken away in the meridian of his days. She was once respected and happy; her house was the resort of Ministers and christian friends, in whose prayers she was always remembered; but now these for whom she toiled like Martha, pass her by. The churches have nothing to spare of all their stores for her comfort, and, with her tender and fatherless babes, she is left in a wide world, forsaken and disconsolate. I cannot refrain from weeping while I write."—I have for some time been looking for this subject to be brought forward, by some one who was more able to take an active part, at some of the yearly meetings of our churches, in order that something might be done. I have thought that if the Association was to recommend a subscription to be forwarded in all the churches, and amongst the friends of the Baptists yearly, in a few years something considerable might be collected into a fund, and a Committee might be appointed to superintend the business. I have thought that if the money could be put out to interest, it would be well, for I have no idea of money lying dormant; but some difficulty arises on account of security for the principal, and the punctuality of the payment of interest. So I must leave it to your superior judgment, in what way it may be conducted; but to do something in this matter is an indispensable duty incumbent upon us, as a body of professing Christians. There are the Methodists, and a number of other denominations, that make liberal provision for their worn-out Servants in the Ministry, as also their bereaved widows. And shall the Baptists of Nova-Scotia live in the neglect of so important a duty? I

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Lunenburg.....

am glad to hear that many of our Sister Associations in America have established funds for this purpose. Let us, dear Brethren, go and do likewise. And may the LORD, who giveth liberally, afford unto us that wisdom that comes from above, that we may, on all occasions, promote those things that shall ultimately prove for the glory of GOD, and beneficial to our fellow men. This is the humble desire and prayer of one who would subscribe himself a fellow traveller with you, to the Heavenly Jerusalem.

JAMES STEVENS.

Rawdon, September 28th, 1825.

The Missionary Society has employed as Missionaries during the past year—

Elder ROBERT DAVIS, 12 weeks,
Elder JOSEPH DIMOCK, 16 weeks.

The reports made by those Brethren, and by several others, prove the necessity of Missionary labours; and also give very satisfactory proof that their labours, and those of others who have gone before them, have not been in vain in the LORD. Many places are very destitute of the preaching of the gospel, and the people are desirous of hearing, and also willing to contribute to the support of the Missionary, that the burden may not altogether rest upon the society. The above Brethren received considerable sums during their last tour; but, as we have not the particulars, they cannot be here inserted.

The following sums have been received since last session, for the expenses of the Association, and for Missionary purposes:—

Lower Granville.....	£1	5	0
Upper Granville.....			
Cornwallis.....	£6	7	0
Female Society in the neighbour- hood of Mr. Thos. Lovet....	1	0	0
Newport.....	1	5	6
1st Clements.....	1	7	8
Onslow.....	0	5	0
Halifax.....			
Amherst.....	1	13	3
Nictau, for last year.....	£4	5	0
present year.....	2	12	0
Chester.....	7	3	3
Lunenburg.....	5	8	3½

Digby Neck.....	1 13 11
Horton, including £1 for last year.....	3 4 4
Windsor.....	3 2 0
Annapolis, for last year.....£1 11 6 }	2 16 8
present year..... 1 5 2 }	
Hammond's Plains.....	1 15 0
Chute's Cove.....	0 11 3
Rawdon.....	0 8 3
2d Clement's.....	0 19 0
Little Fork.....	1 1 6
From the yearly meeting held at Lunenburg, last year, }	5 3 3½
Collection at Wilmot, at the opening of the session, }	
A friend, by Elder Manning, 5s. ; Do. by Elder Dimock, 5s. }	0 10 0
	£57 2 2

The Missionary Brethren should furnish the Clerk of the Association with a written account of the number of weeks they have spent on Missionary service, and the sums they have received : for want of this, their receipts cannot be here acknowledged.

Requests having been made for the ordination of Brethren JOHN HULL and EDWARD N. HARRIS, they gave a statement of their religious experience, doctrinal views, call to the Ministry, &c. The Council, after due deliberation, concluded to ordain Brother HULL ; but, on account of the youth and inexperience of Brother HARRIS, thought it best to defer his ordination, though well satisfied of his piety, call to the ministry, &c. Adjourned till Wednesday, 10 o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28.

Met according to appointment, for the ordination of Brother HULL.

- Sermon by Elder R. Davis,
- Questions by Elder J. Munro,
- Charge by Elder T. H. Chipman,
- Consecrating prayer by Elder Manning,
- Right hand of fellowship by Elder Nutter,
- Concluding prayer by Elder Hull.

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The whole of the services were solemn and interesting, and a numerous assembly appeared heartily to join with the Associated Brethren in wishing success in the name of the LORD to our young Brother.

Brother HULL is a native of the eastern part of the Province, and has been engaged in preaching four or five years, and has been made the instrument of good to many. He was at his first entrance upon the Ministry a Pædo-Baptist, but has lately embraced the principles of adult baptism, and was baptised by immersion, together with several of the people among whom he laboured, by one of our Missionary Brethren.—After joining with united heart and voice in singing "From whence doth this union arise," &c. we seperated, with mingled feelings of joy and sorrow; sorrow on account of present seperation, and in prospect of future trials; but joy that we had met under such happy circumstances here, and that we looked forward to a re-union in a better world, where the assembly shall never break up, the voice of joy and thanksgiving never cease.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The Ministers and Messengers composing the Nova-Scotia Baptist Association, assembled at Wilmot, South Meeting House, June the 26th and 27th, 1826, to the Churches they represent, send Christian Salutation.

DEARLY BELOVED BROTHERN—

Having been favoured with another agreeable anniversary meeting, hoping that we have the glory of our dear LORD JESUS, and your spiritual prosperity always at heart, we feel it to be a duty and privilege to address this i a perfect Circular to you. We choose that it should be upon the Love of GOD to his people, and their Love to him in return. But, Brethren, we are lost with wonder when we turn to this sublime subject. Well might an Apostle say, that it 'passeth knowledge.' O the heighths and depths of the love of the Triune GOD! Indeed it is infinite, for so all the attributes of Deity must be. As such, a perfect knowledge of it, by us finite creatures, is not attainable. But some things, as expressions of it, are given us to behold. It is our opinion that all creation is an expression or stupendous display of the love of the adorable GOD. This world in particular, where he meant that his SON should become incarnate, in whom all his attributes should concentrate, and

manifest the most unparalleled display of Eternal Love, in dying the just for the unjust, that millions of the human family might be redeemed by his blood, and thereby to eternity sing, "To him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood," &c. Indeed all the dispensations of Divine Providence, as part of his infinitely glorious plan, all tending to his glory, and working together for the good of those that love him, manifest the love, as well as the wisdom, and power of the great God of Love. But, Brethren, it is in the wonderful plan of Redemption through our Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST, that this attribute of Infinite Love shines with a most luminous blaze. On which account we hear JESUS himself say, "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten SON, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." And the Apostle Paul exclaims with rapture, "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great Love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses and sins."—"By Grace are ye saved." We need only look into the sacred Scriptures with an eye of faith, and there we shall see, as in a glass, such expressions of it, in promises, prophecies, and glorious doctrines, that we will be constrained to say, with an Apostle, "But we all, with open face beholding the glory of the Lord, as in a glass, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, as by the Spirit of the Lord." Now this Love so rich, so free, and infinitely glorious, caused the Apostle to say, "He that spared not his own SON, but gave him up freely, will he not, with him also, freely give us all things?" On which account, he in the strongest language informs believers, "All things are yours, whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come, all are yours, and ye are CHRIST's, and CHRIST is God's." If then, God is so lovely a being, (and most surely he is lovely, beyond our comprehension,) that the Apostle said "God is Love," surely we are under infinite obligations to love him. "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength, and thy neighbour as thyself," says the great Law-giver. Nothing can be more agreeable to a soul a-kin to heaven, than this royal law; it is the very language of the sanctified heart. True Religion, says one, is supreme or holy love to God, manifested or expressed in all proper ways: or, in other words, it is holy love to God, exemplified in a cheerful obedience to all his commands. An Apostle says, "This is the

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love of GOD, that we keep his commandments." As we are now treating of love to GOD, we would not be understood in that vague sense, in which many speak of the love of GOD. For many speak of the mercy and love of GOD only in a general point of view, knowing no more and scarcely that; as if all the human race had it, and could exercise it at pleasure. No, brethren, we speak of those, and to those, that can say from heartfelt experience, "We love him, because he first loved us." "He hath loved me with an everlasting love, therefore with loving kindness hath he drawn me;" or, as cited above, "For GOD, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses and sins," &c. We speak of those who see the purposes of GOD's love and grace to be eternal: "According to his own purpose and grace," &c. "Who are the called according to his purpose." "Because GOD hath chosen us from the beginning unto salvation," &c. This is done in a way calculated to secure the rights of the divine government, and proves that it can be just for GOD to justify the ungodly sinner that believeth in JESUS.—True believers have discovered that they were ruined by the transgression of one, namely Adam, and that there was no other name given under Heaven whereby they could be saved, but by the gift of GOD's eternal love, the LORD JESUS CHRIST. They have felt the love of GOD shed abroad in their hearts, by the HOLY SPIRIT, in a way sovereignly free and infinitely glorious; so that all the powers and faculties of their souls have gotten a new direction, that is, to love the LORD their GOD supremely; that is to say, for his own infinite excellencies. But we would not wish to have you think that supreme love can exist in the breast of man, without a consideration of what GOD is communicatively, or, of good received.—Brethren, we think, where this holy love is shed abroad in the heart, the character of GOD, as revealed in the Scriptures, must be loved and adored; and all Scripture, whether doctrinal, experimental or practical, will be highly, very highly prized. It will be "a light to your feet, and a lantern to your path." It will be "sweeter to your taste than honey or the honey comb." The law of his mouth will be better than thousands of gold and silver. According to this blessed word, you will not only love the LORD, but you will love all that bear his blessed image, and that in proportion to the degree of the Divine image they bear; or as his truth dwells in them, in the love of it, of whatever sect, party, or name they

may be. It does not follow that we are to love all that a child of GOD holds to, or believes, or practices; for they may be erroneous both in principle and practice. But as the children of GOD, they ought to be loved for his sake; and faithfully and kindly helped out of their errors. The sacred principle of holy love or charity, will lead us to love the most enthusiastic characters, or the most hardened blasphemers this side the eternal world of wo and misery, simply as the creatures of GOD, with a pure heart fervently; but it will be the love of pity, not complacency. Very dear Brethren, we have cause, great cause to lament, that we have so little of this holy love and pity for poor sinners in exercise. O let us think much of the love of CHRIST our LORD to sinners, when on the cross—"Father forgive them, for they know not what they do"? O let us think much of his sacred instruction—"I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, and do good to them that despitefully use you, and persecute you." "If thine enemy smite thee on one cheek, turn to him the other also." Remember the martyr Stephen; hear the language of his holy, loving heart, concerning his murderers, while they were massacring him—"LORD, lay not this sin to their charge." "If thine enemy be hungry, feed him; if he be thirsty, give him drink; for in so doing, thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head." The whole law is fulfilled in one word—"Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." This love worketh no ill to any. We know, Brethren, it is this blessed grace of love;

"That will make your cheerful feet,

"In swift obedience move;

"The devils know and tremble too,

"But Satan cannot love."

Brethren, we feel concerned for the cause of GOD; we feel concerned for your spiritual prosperity. We know the Grace of GOD, which bringeth salvation, hath appeared unto all men, (Jews and Gentiles,) teaching us, that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world," &c. You are its disciples. How do you progress in the school? Are you growing in Grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD JESUS CHRIST? We know there may be a form, without the power of true Religion. True Christians may be too formal; that is, they may have little but the form, and sometimes too small a share of that. O lamentable! that the children of a King, the King of Heaven, should be groveling here below, fond of these tri-

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fling toys, and not burning with love to the Great REDEEMER, the Church of CHRIST, and the souls of men. Brethren, there can be no true Religion without poverty of spirit. We must feel that we are poor and helpless creatures; we must feel our dependence upon GOD the HOLY SPIRIT, and our need of his immediate presence and sovereign influence. "Without me (says the blessed JESUS) ye can do nothing." But the Apostle says, "I can do all things through CHRIST, which strengtheneth me." O Brethren, we entreat you to pray much for the HOLY SPIRIT, that ye may walk in the Spirit, and pray with the Spirit, and with the understanding also. We pray that you may be enabled to manifest that you love GOD, and are rooted, and grounded, and built up in the great and fundamental truths of the Gospel, by your unwavering love to his holy commandments, as a whole, that is to say, not this or the other precept, but to the whole revealed mind and will of GOD, as a complete rule of duty; that ye keep your hearts with all diligence; that secret prayer, holy meditation, and reading the word of the LORD be duly attended to; that family prayer be never neglected; that prayer meetings be attended in a proper manner; that conference meetings be attended regularly, that as much as possible your seats be filled in the house of the LORD; and that at all times you endeavour to keep a conscience void of offence towards GOD and man.—O that GOD may give you all hearts to make such honorable sacrifices of worldly property for his glory, for the support of the Gospel at home and abroad, as to silence the mouths of gainsayers and the clamours of your own consciences, and bring a revenue of glory to GOD, who is love in perfection, that you all may be perfected in love! To Him we commend you, and to the Word of his Grace.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The Nova-Scotia Baptist Association of Elders and Messengers, sendeth Christian Salutation to Corresponding Associations.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN—

We thank the infinitely exalted JEHOVAH, that we have the privilege of writing to you, whom we highly esteem. We greatly rejoice to hear that the LORD is so wonderfully and

gloriously carrying on His work among you, and fully believe that He will continue to work in the world, according to His eternal purpose, until the Gospel leaven shall leaven the whole earth. With pleasure we can inform you, that our churches are much united in the grand leading and essential doctrines of the Gospel. We have cause to complain of our lukewarmness; nevertheless, the LORD is prospering his work in some of our churches.

The visits of your Messengers have often been refreshing to us—we therefore trust that your profitable correspondence may be continued. May the LORD influence you to pray for us, that our hands may be strengthened. We cannot help supplicating the Throne of Grace for you, who are so dear to us.

In this our annual meeting, the ALMIGHTY has favored us with his Divine presence; and we trust glorified himself among us. And now, Brethren, that the LORD may bless and shine upon you, and accomplish the number of his elect, is the prayer of your unworthy, but affectionate Brethren in CHRIST JESUS.

Signed by order, and in behalf of the Association.

JOSEPH DIMOCK, Moderator.

WILLIAM ELDER, Clerk.

JAMES MUNRO, Assistant Clerk.