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MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

African Baptist Association

OF

NOVA SCOTIA,

HELD AT CORNWALLIS, WITH THE PINE WOOD CHURCH,

Saturday, Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 5th, 7th and 8th,

1885.

HALIFAX, N. S.:
NOVA SCOTIA PRINTING COMPANY,
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RULES OF ORDER.

I.—The following Rules shall be read by the Secretary at the commencement of each Annual Session of the Association.

II.—At the commencement of each Session the minutes of the preceding one shall be read and approved, and of the last before the final adjournment.

III.—Each meeting of business shall be commenced and closed with prayer.

IV.—At each Annual Meeting the letters from churches shall be handed to the clerk, after which the roll of delegates shall be formed and brought before the notice of the Moderator.

V.—From this list the officers of the Association shall be formed.

VI.—The first letter read shall be from the senior Church, and next accordingly.

VII.—No subject shall be discussed without a motion first made and seconded, and no person shall be allowed to speak on any subject more than twice, unless by consent of the Association, and must at all times address the Chairman first.

VIII.—Motions made and lost shall not be recorded on the minutes except ordered by the Association.

IX.—All resolutions shall be presented in writing.

X.—The Committee of Arrangements shall, in addition to the Order of Business, provide, recommend and devise means and plans for the promotion of the Association.

XI.—When any Church is received in the Association, the Chairman will give to the pastor of said Church the Right hand of Fellowship.

XII.—No delegates shall leave the Association while in Session without permission of the same.

MINUTES.

FIRST SESSION.

CORNWALLIS, Saturday, Sept. 5th, 1885.

THE AFRICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION convened this day at 3 p. m., in its thirty-second anniversary. Rev. A. W. Jordan in the chair. The Moderator announced that the time had arrived for business, when prayer was offered by the Rev. A. Bailey. Singing, the 106th Hymn, and reading of the Scriptures from Ephesians, third chapter, after which the rules of order were read.

The letters from the churches were handed in, and the list of delegates prepared, as follows:—

LIST OF DELEGATES.

Halifax—Rev. A. W. Jordan; Deas. Jos. Flint, W. Johnstone, a
P. E. McKerrow; E. Flint, Jacob Flint.
Hammond Plains—D. Anderson.
Preston 2nd—Dea. Joseph Smith.
Cornwallis—Dea. B. David.
Digby Jiggins—Dea. P. Buttler.
Weymouth—Dea. T. Langford.
Yarmouth—Rev. F. R. Langford.
Fundy Section—Deas. Charles Pomp and George Pomp.
Bear River—Dea. P. Hawkins.
Falmonth—Rev. John A. Smith.
Africville—Dea. James Brown.
Beech Hill—Rev. A. Bailey.

OFFICERS ELECTED FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

REV. A. W. JORDAN,	Moderator (re-elected.)
REV. F. R. LANGFORD,	Assistant.
P. E. MCKERROW,	Secretary.
W. JOHNSTONE,	Assistant.
JOSEPH FLINT,	Treasurer.

Voted, that the Rev. James Johnson, of Windsor Plains, have a seat in council with the Association.

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Committee on Arrangements—Revs. A. W. Jordan, A. Bailey, F. R. Langford, N. F. Drayton, and Jno. A. Smith.

Com. to Examine and Read Letters—Deas. W. Johnson, T. Langford, and the Secretary.

Com. on Temperance—Revs. N. F. Drayton, F. R. Langford, and Bro. D. Anderson.

Com. on Missions—Revs. A. Bailey, Jno. A. Smith, and A. W. Jordan.

Com. on Sabbath Schools—Dea. B. David, Rev. N. F. Drayton, and P. E. McKerrow.

Com. on Education—Revs. A. W. Jordan, F. R. Langford, and the Secretary.

Com. on Finance—Rev. A. Bailey, Deas. W. Johnston, B. David, and Dea. T. Langford.

Committee on Arrangements retired, and afterwards returned and reported as follows: That this Session close at 5 p. m., and that a prayer and conference meeting be held at 7 o'clock this evening. That there be early morning prayer meeting during the whole of the Association. That the Morning Sessions commence business at 9.30, close at 12 noon. Afternoon Sessions commence at 2 o'clock, close at 5 o'clock. Missionary Meeting on Monday evening, commencing at 7.30, close at pleasure.

SUNDAY APPOINTMENTS.

Rev. James Johnson, of Windsor Plains, invited to preach at 11 a. m.

Rev. A. W. Jordan, preach at 3 p. m., the Association sermon.

Rev. F. R. Langford, at 7 p. m.

Committee further recommended that Monday morning's first business be devoted to the reading of letters, to be followed with the various reports in their turn.

That the Afternoon Session be given to the reading of the Circular Letter, and whatever unfinished business from the forenoon session.

That Tuesday morning, Reports on Temperance, Education, Sabbath Schools, and Finance, be heard, and that the Association finally close its business, and that collections be taken at all the sessions to assist in defraying expenses.

SUNDAY SERVICES.

Preaching at 11 a. m., by Rev. James Johnson, from 1st Epistle of John, 5th chapter, 17th verse, "All unrighteousness is sin : and there is a sin unto death." Opening prayer offered by Rev. N. F. Drayton ; closing prayer by Rev. A. Bailey ; Benediction by the Moderator, Rev. A. W. Jordan.

3 p. m.—Preaching by Rev. A. W. Jordan, Moderator, (the Association sermon), from II. Cor., 4th chapter, first clause of 5th verse, "For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord." At this meeting was followed a Service of Song, which was happily spent. Benediction by the preacher.

7 p. m.—Preaching by Rev. F. R. Langford. Reading Scripture) from Isaiah 55th chapter. Text from 4th chapter John, 13th and part of 14th verse : "Jesus answered and said unto her, whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again. But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give them shall never thirst." Opening prayer by Dea. Johnson ; closing prayer by Rev. Jno. A. Smith ; Benediction by Rev. N. F. Drayton.

SECOND SESSION.

Monday, September 7th, 1885.

Met at 9.30 a. m. for business, in usual form. Prayer and singing. Roll of delegates called; absentees noted. Minutes of last session read and approved.

The Committee on Letters report was laid on the table for discussion.

The Committee on the History of the Association did not report in full, in consequence of some absent information.

On motion, the following resolutions were passed unanimously :

" *Whereas*, the Chairman of said Committee living at such inconvenient distances from many of said Committee,—

" *Resolved*, That the names of those who are more convenient be substituted.

" *Also Resolved*, That the work be gotten up with as much dispatch as possible, and at as low a figure, thereby enabling every member of each church to procure a copy, at a cost not exceeding ten cents.

" *Further Resolved*, That the proceeds of the sale thereof, after paying expenses, be appropriated to the funds of the Association."

The Committee on Constitution asked for an extension of time.
Passed.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools reported very touchingly.

The Committee on Education reported, which was listened to with marked attention.

The Committee on Temperance reported.

The Committee on Missions reported.

The Delegates to the various Associations reported.

The Delegates to the Convention held at Amherst reported at length.

The various reports were adopted.

Adjourned after prayer by Rev. Jno. A. Smith.

THIRD SESSION.

Monday Afternoon.

Opened with prayer by Dea. B. David. Roll of delegates called. Minutes of last session read and approved.

The report of the Committee on Letters was discussed at length.

On motion, the Circular Letter having been read, was ordered to be printed in the Minutes.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Dea. B. David be delegate to the Central Association; Rev. F. R. Langford to the Western; and Rev. A. W. Jordan to the Eastern. Also, to be delegates to the Convention—Revs. A. W. Jordan and A. Bailey, Deas. W. Johnstone and P. E. McKerrow.

Voted—That Rev. A. Bailey preach the Association sermon, and Rev. F. R. Langford his alternate.

Voted—That four hundred copies of Minutes be printed, and the Secretary attend to the printing of the same.

Voted—That Rev. A. W. Jordan write the Circular Letter.

Voted—That the Association accept the invitation of the Yarmouth County Church at Greenville, to hold the Association next year (1886), meeting on the first Saturday in September.

Voted—That the Finance Committee's report be brought forward at the forenoon session on Tuesday.

On motion, it was unanimously *Resolved*, That Mr. P. Innes, General Manager of the W. & A. Railway, have a hearty vote of thanks for passing delegates over his road at reduced fares.

Also, the same expression of gratitude to the editor of the *Western Chronicle*, for publishing the proceedings of the Association free of charge.

While in session, a note was received from the Women's Temperance Reform Club, informing the Association that a woman, not at all interested with any one of the Association, had planted her standard of intemperance nearly opposite the church, and with her bewitching charms was trying to delude the young and ignorant, and requesting that she be removed at once.

A committee was appointed to wait upon her, who stated to her that it was outside the pale of common decency, and all that was good and Christianlike, for her to attempt anything of the kind.

She unhesitatingly refused to move, but flourished her weapons of intemperance, and told the committee that the law of the Town upheld and supported her in her illegal traffic. The committee returned to the Association, and reported in substance the above. The Association then waived its business, for half an hour of fervent prayer to Almighty God that "mammon" might not prevail over his people,—when remorse of conscience compelled her to take her flight, and in accordance with the words of the Psalmist, "The wicked fleeeth, and no one pursueth."

The committee appointed last year to investigate the church property, in conjunction with Dea. Hawkins, at Bear River, reported that the cost of repairing said building would not be any advantage to the members, in consequence of the distance to the majority of them; but would recommend the sale of said property, and with the proceeds thereof purchase a place more convenient to the resident members of the church.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

"Your committee beg leave to report, that we regret the youth of our land do not appreciate the advantages of education as they ought, and more especially the aspirants for the Ministry. Your committee regard education as one of the strongest and most helpful auxiliaries to a nation's civilization. We recommend that the Pastors of the churches urge the parents, showing the necessity of giving their children the advantages the common schools afford.

"Your committee are glad to know that Horton Collegiate Academy and Acadia College are open to our young people. We hope many will avail themselves of the opportunity of the literary training to be obtained there. Our Baptist College at Toronto is

also open to train our young men for the Ministry. We hope the day is dawning when we shall see many of our young men in these Colleges. One young man is now pursuing studies at Horton Academy, with the Ministry in view. Your committee wish to record their thanks to Almighty God for what has been done for the Race in our own Dominion, as well as in the United States and elsewhere.

"A. W. JORDAN, *Chairman.*"

COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE.

"It is with very great pleasure that your committee beg to report that the past year has been one of which to bless Almighty God for in the temperance cause. Many of the young men who have been led to know and love Christ, were once lovers of the intoxicating cup, but now shun its path. Another feature of rejoicing is that, since we last met as an Association, a Temperance Reform Club has been organized by Rev. Dr. Armstrong, with this church, and it is in a flourishing condition. Its membership consists of both old and young, and a marked amount of good is accomplished by it.

"When we look back and see the evil intemperance has created among our people everywhere, and in this country particularly, we thank God for the promoters of this Reform Club, and we wish it God speed, and recommend every delegate on his return home to try and establish in his church a Temperance Reform Club, that it might stand out to the rising generation as a beacon light to the church door of the living God.

"N. F. DRAYTON, *Chairman.*"

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

"Your committee on Sabbath Schools are somewhat cheered in seeing the gradual additions to the various schools in the Association. In watching the progress that has been made in this direction, the results are encouraging; but it should not be forgotten that a mere mechanical proficiency is not all that is necessary. It is the training of both mind and heart that is essential to the high standard of the school, which is the garden of the church.

"Bible study pursued with that humble reliance upon the guidance and illumination of the Spirit of God, must bring forth fruit fit for the Redeemer's kingdom, without which no method of

Scriptural study can avail anything. It should lead the scholar to the heart of the Word of God, in its bearings upon the human soul, in character and conduct, both in youth and manhood, trusting that from the valuable information received in the schools, valuable souls will be saved and added to the churches of the living God; by thoroughly drilling into their minds the doctrine of baptism by immersion, letting them understand the matter well, and be obedient to God's own Son's command.

"P. E. McKERROW, *Chairman.*"

COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS.

"Your committee beg leave to submit the following report:— Having discussed at length the objects of missions in the home field, do acknowledge there is ample room for renewed efforts. Many of the churches are destitute and suffering daily for the preached Word. Your committee were somewhat disappointed with the reports from the brethren who did missionary work with the pastorless churches this year. We believe they did their work faithfully and well, yet the results have been exceedingly small. We do hope that strenuous efforts will be put forth to increase a zeal for the Master's cause among us. In the foreign field, we are glad to know that a deep interest is now being manifested among our colored people in the United States.

"The Congo field offers religious inducements to our people. There are millions in that far-off land perishing for the Gospel of the blessed Lord. Our young men have heard the cry, and are offering themselves to battle against the great evils of superstition and ignorance. In Nova Scotia a member of this Association has offered himself for service in the field. Your committee recommend that this Association interest itself more deeply in this subject by aiding to the support of a missionary there.

"On behalf of committee,

"JNO. A. SMITH, *Chairman.*"

Delegates to the Convention reported at length, manifesting the kindness shown them by the good people of Amherst, through the intercession of Rev. Bro. Steele and members of his church, which, to their belief, is only second to none in the Province among the denomination. As for the choir, too much cannot be said in praise of their singing, which added much to the solemnity of the occa-

sion The melodious tones of the organ, which is ably presided over by Bro. Black, who seems as though his very soul is moved at the touch of the keys, did all he could to make the devotional part of the service what it was,—a perfect success.

On Sabbath morning, Dr. Clark, of McMaster Hall, preached an able sermon to a large and attentive audience, on the subject of the true sense of the word "Knowledge." In the afternoon, the Rev. G. O. Gates, of Moncton, preached the Convention sermon to a similar audience, as well did the Rev. A. P. McDiarmid, of Ottawa, at night. All of the services were well attended, and the sermons ably handled.

On Monday, the Missionary Meeting was held, and spoken to by Dr. E. M. Saunders, who seemed not to be himself at all, but was almost seraphic in his expressions. He was closely followed by Rev. J. W. A. Stewart, who outlined the work done by William Carey, the consecrated cobbler, the pioneer of foreign mission work in India, who, a little less than one hundred years ago, was on the ocean bound for the far East, to accomplish great work for Jesus. There are now 80 Protestant missionary societies, with 6,000 missionaries. Baptists were the first movers in this foreign mission enterprise. The rev. gentleman stated there is only one way to stop the living stream of the church's power,—we may freeze it up. England, he said, as well as America, are alive to missionary work. Canada is waking up. The Baptists of Ontario and Quebec contributed \$12,000. He recommended to continue the good work begun, until the great end is gained. The speaker fairly electrified the audience with his eloquence, and sat down amidst great applause.

Dr. Ellis, of Baltimore, one of America's morning stars, said the Church of Christ to-day faces no fact comparable to the great mission work. He regretted that the needs and requirements of the mission field could not be brought nearer than they are, by which more sympathy could be felt for the perishing heathen in far off India. Although he admitted more had been done in the last 100 years than in the previous 1700 centuries in spreading the knowledge of Jesus Christ, two things were requisite, consecration and personal effort in order to effect the object in view. His remarks were interspersed with some very interesting anecdotes, which were well received.

The two missionary brothers, Churchill and Sanford, also gave very interesting accounts of real missionary life in Burmah, and informed the audience that although at times the way seemed dark

and dreary, the path strewn with obstructions of various kinds, yet when they looked away from their work and looked right to Jesus for guidance, the crooked road would be straight, the rough path smooth, and hilly way level. They were both anxious to return as soon as their health was renewed, to work again with renewed vigour for their great Lord and Master. They unitedly wished the audience to understand that the winning over from heathen darkness to God's true light was a great work, and would urge young brethren and sisters to think of the work. No efforts put forth in the name of Jesus fail. With a fine missionary hymn splendidly rendered by the choir, closed one of the most interesting meetings of the Convention.

The reports having been all handed in were adopted, and on motion, voted to be published in the minutes. Adjourned with prayer by Dea. Johnston.

7 P. M. MISSIONARY AND TEMPERANCE MEETING COMBINED.

After singing a hymn, prayer offered by Rev. F. R. Langford, the speakers for the evening were Revs. A. Bailey, Langford, Drayton, Johnson, Smith and A. W. Jordan, Deas. David, Johnson and McKerrow.

The Moderator made a brilliant speech regarding the Foreign Missionary field, inasmuch as we have done nothing for Foreign Missions it was not too late to make a commencement, as the mission which once blazed in Africa had somewhat subsided, yet he fully believed that the missionary angel was passing over from Asia to Africa. "Lott Carey," the pioneer missionary to Africa, was a Virginian by birth of African descent; he became converted in the early part of this century, having heard a sermon preached on the conversation that took place between our blessed Master and Nicodemus, he was deeply impressed, he straightway made a resolution to learn to read, which he did rapidly, which gave him a taste for missionary life, and in 1821 sailed for Sierra Leone, Africa. His career was short but effective, being at times priest and chieftain—his obstructions were numerous, oftentimes coming from unexpected sources. The Colonization Society proved most disastrous to his advancement, having to war both with the enemy of souls as well as that of civilization, it was up-hill work. He met his death by accident, and nothing now remains to mark his resting place but the usual piece of marble stone. The speaker impressed his hearers very much on this theme of Foreign Missionary work, which he hoped that the brethren present would use every effort

possible and stir up that missionary spirit, let it be great or small. He informed us that the Congo field was now open to the world, and why should there not be young men in this very meeting decide to go there and labour for God,—he had offered himself to go, and he wanted to see others do likewise.

The theme of Temperance was dwelt upon at great length, many waxed eloquent in the matter. The privilege was granted to three sisters, who spoke admirably on the question at issue, showing the great influence that women have either for good or evil. Let none of us say, "I have no influence," for in some way or another we are all influencing those with whom we daily come in contact. Let us watch that none of us cast a stumbling block in the path of others by influencing them in any way to take strong drink, which is sending thousands of our fellow creatures down to a drunkard's grave. A paper was read by one of the speakers, which showed a man in a drunken fracas had killed his wife, and when put in jail felt horror stricken over the thought of what would become of his poor wife, when she heard that he had committed murder. Tell me, says he, does my wife know of it? Your wife! was the reply. Why it is your wife that you have murdered. The man fell like a log on the floor, unconscious of what he had done until told by a friend. If christian women would nobly stand up as did these three sisters, and raise their voices against the drink traffic wherever they go, they will be using an influence the greatness of which eternity alone will reveal, and a just recompense will be their reward.

Singing was indulged in for quite a while after the speakers had finished. A most happy and enjoyable evening was spent—many of the good people of Kentville were out and attended the meeting; many sought admission but could not obtain the same. Closed with benediction by Rev. Drayton.

FOURTH SESSION.

Tuesday Morning, September 8th, 1885.

Met, opened with prayer by Bro. E. Flint. Minutes of last session read and approved. The Finance Committee reported quite a falling off in finance.

Therefore resolved, that in view of the brethren who performed missionary work during the past year, and there being a balance due, and in consequence of the present financial depression of the

country, and the Association not being in a position to liquidate said account;

Therefore resolved, that each church pledge themselves that a special collection be taken, as soon as convenient, and forwarded to the Secretary so that said indebtedness might be liquidated before the next Association. Passed unanimously.

On motion, the Secretary was requested to place himself in communication with the railway and steamboat authorities for delegates attending the next Annual Association, to be held at Greenville, Yarmouth County.

Resolved, that the thanks of this Association be heartily tendered to the members of this church and the friends of the settlement for their hospitality extended to the delegates and friends who attended the Association, and especial commendation to Deacon David and Brother John Gibson, who were most incessant in their labours in making it a success.

Accounts audited and found correct.

The minutes of this session read and approved.

The Association closed finally by singing the doxology. Prayer by Rev. A. Bailey. Benediction by the Moderator, to meet with the Greenville Church on the first Saturday in September, 1866.

P. E. McKERROW, *Secretary*,

P. O. Box 496.

DIGEST OF LETTERS TO THE AFRICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

AFRICVILLE.—Dear brethren, during the past year it seemed as though a spiritual dearth had taken place and that the presence of the Holy One had left us, but just behind a frowning providence their stands a smiling face,—four by immersion, and four restored from their backslidden state,—pray for us brethren that the sheaves might be brought in. Our meeting house is somewhat out of repair, but we are making an effort to make it comfortable, that our preaching and prayer-meetings might become more interesting. May you have a glorious time and that good might result from your Association. We have a fine Sabbath-school with a staff of good, godly workers for teachers; pray for us, brethren. The school in connection with this church have had much to rejoice over, four of its number made a public profession of their faith as it is in Christ Jesus, and were buried with Him in baptism on the shores of Bedford Basin.

BEAR RIVER.—Beloved brethren, this little church for quite a while had almost lost its visibility, but through the mercies of an all-wise God we are still striving to keep up. We have no pastor, but have had some of the ministering brethren to come among us and break the Bread of Life. We have no addition to report, death has been here and taken away one to prove the realities of a future existence. Our dear brother, Deacon Hawkins, keeps the prayer and conference meetings well together and the spirit of the Master comes and blesses His children. We pray you may have a joyous time at our Association.

BEECH HILL.—Dear brethren, although death has been in the land and has taken away its wanted numbers, we feel thankful to Almighty God that our membership remains undisturbed. We have had no new additions but hope for a revival of grace in our hearts. Wishing you a good and pleasant time at the Association.

CORNWALLIS.—Through the mercies of an all-wise providence we are again spared to meet in Association. After a lapse of ten years many have been the changes from earth to heaven; during the past year we have had no conversions, hence no additions, one has been removed by death, but we hope by God's grace to flourish for we intend to run the race that is set before us. With our

Temperance Reform Club as a bulwark around us we hope to come off victorious in our Master's cause, praying for a good and precious time at all of the meetings.

DIGBY.—Dear brethren, although pastorless we are still clinging to the cross of Jesus, as we expect to receive the crown. We have occasional preaching by Rev. Langford, our prayer meetings are numerous attended, with an interesting Sabbath-school, which cheers our inmost soul at times. During the year death did not forget us but took away three of our number. Our dear brother Harris, a useful man, but we know our loss is his eternal gain, pray for us brethren that God's grace may ever hover around us.

FALMOUTH.—Dear brethren, this year has not been one of spiritual prosperity, yet we continue to praise His holy name. We have had no deaths in our ranks, for which we feel thankful to Almighty God for his mercies towards us, remember us when times go well with you. Hoping that you might have a good and blessed time. Our pastor gives us the labor that he engaged for, and we believe that he is faithful in his work.

FUNDY SECTION.—Brethren of the Association, again have we to thank our heavenly Father for sparing our unprofitable lives to see another year's gathering. We have no new additions. Our pastor has labored faithfully and well, and we are still watching and waiting to see the results. Death has passed us by.

GREENVILLE.—Dear brethren, our Church still holds her own; although we have had no baptisms yet we believe that God will in his own time favour Zion. We have had some powerful sermons preached by Rev. Aaron Cogswell, a father in Israel, and also by our pastor. Our prayer-meetings are well kept up; we have a good Sabbath-school under the supervision of Mr. Farrents who is most attentive with his staff of teachers. May you have a precious time at the Association, for we hope as a church to have a good time next year should you accept the invitation.

HALIFAX.—Through the boundless mercies of an all-wise providence we have been kept and cared for, our share of trouble has not been withheld from us, but we feel that the refreshing showers of God's grace has far outshone the gloom of darkness that once threatened us. We have lost by death one of our oldest deacons, a good and consistent member of the church. With an addition of six by immersion as a church we are united in effort, and the blessed Gospel is preached to us with much acceptance by our esteemed pastor whose labours have been rewarded. Pray for us, brethren, for a continuation of His love. We also invite the Association to meet with us in the next annual session.

HAMMOND PLAINS.—Dear brethren in Christ, we thank and adore His precious name for preserving our lives to see another Associational year. Although we have had no new members to record, yet we do not feel that the Master's presence has left us. Our pastor's health has not been as good as could be expected yet he has come and preached for us when we did not expect him. Our prayer and conference meetings are kept up. Death has been here and taken away two to the spirit world whom we expect to meet bye and bye in that home over there. We invite the Association to meet with our church, we anticipate a good time, trusting that you will have a good time with the Pine Woods church this year.

PRESTON 3RD.—Dear brethren, surely we can say that the fountain of grace has been opened up to us. Our dear pastor has laboured with us heartily and we with him, cheerfully our labours have been united and God the great Head of the Church has bountifully blessed us. Twenty-eight by immersion have been added to our numbers, we feel to give God all the praise and claim none for ourselves. The destroying angel did not pass us by without placing his chilly hands on three of our number. Yet we rejoice in his love towards us hoping that you will have a blessed time and peace reign over you.

ST. THOMAS CHURCH, PRESTON.—Brethren in the Lord, we greet you once more at our Association. We have not had our spirits revived as some of our sister churches,—no new additions, yet we are striving to do the right. Our meetings have been somewhat irregular, our pastor visits us as often as he can, pray for us that a shower of grace might overtake and bless us in the coming season.

WEYMOUTH.—Beloved brethren in the Lord, through the unlimited mercies of God we are spared as living monuments to meet again once more. We regret to have nothing new to communicate. We are without a pastor, hence we lack much spiritual life. Our prayer and conference meetings are well kept up; our Sabbath-school well attended, and the work goes on fairly. Death has come and taken away one of our brightest stars, we hope, from the testimony he left behind, that he is shining in glory. May you have a good and happy time at your Assemblies.

SABBATH SCHOOLS IN THE ASSOCIATION.

HALIFAX—*Superintendent*—P. E. McKerrow; *Female Teachers*—Miss M. G. Thompson, Mrs. J. Cooper, Miss M. Robinson, Mrs. Felles, Miss Hopkins; *Bible Class*—By the Pastor; *Secretary, Librarian and Treasurer*—J. T. McKerrow; *Scholars Enrolled*—65, average 50.

HAMMOND PLAINS—*Superintendent*—A. Emmerson

AFRICVILLE—*Superintendent*—R. McCaughin; *Assistant*—S. Mosher; *Secretary and Treasurer*—E. M. Murray; *Bible Class*—R. McCaughin; *Intermediate Class (Boys)*—S. Mosher; *Intermediate Class (Girls)*—E. M. Murray; *Primary Class (Mixed)*—Mrs. Murray; *Enrolled*—36, average, 25.

PRESTON, ST. THOMAS CHURCH—*Superintendent*—Joseph Smith.

PRESTON 1ST—*Superintendent*—Rev. C. Carvery.

PRESTON 3RD—*Superintendent*—Rev. G. R. Neale.

WEYMOUTH—*Superintendent*—T. Langford; *Assistant*—James Langford; *Teachers*—Susan Langford, J. Langford; *Treasurer*—John Pleasant; *Average attendance*, 35.

GREENVILLE—*Superintendent*—F. S. Forrents; *Male teacher*—H. H. Saunders; *Female teachers*—Mrs. M. Patton, Mrs. J. Patton, Miss A. Saunders; *Scholars enrolled*—50; *Books in Library*—107 copies.

CORNWALLIS—*Superintendent*—Miss Webtser; *Scholars attending*—25.

DIGBY—*Superintendent*—D. Buttler; *Scholars enrolled*—30.

BEECH HILL—*Superintendent*—*Scholars enrolled*—30; average, 20.

N. B.—The Secretary of each church will please procure from the Sabbath-school a correct statement, and the names of Superintendent and Teachers likewise for publication in the yearly minutes of the Association and a collection to help for mission work.

Ministers, Deacons and Licentiates

IN THE

AFRICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

- HALIFAX**—Pastor—Rev. A. W. Jordan; Deacons—J. Flint, W. Johnstone, and P. E. McKerrrow; Sexton—C. Cooper; Doorkeeper—E. Flint; Clerk—J. T. McKerrrow; Treasurer—W. Johnstone.
- HAMMOND PLAINS**—Pastor—Rev. A. Bailey; Deacons—G. David, W. Wilson; Councillor—D. Anderson, S. Anderson; Licentiates—J. Jones and A. Jenkins; Doorkeeper—N. Lee; Clerk—A. Emmerson.
- PRESTON, ST. THOMAS CHURCH**—Pastor—Rev. A. Bailey; Deacon—Joseph Smith; Licentiates—Charles Roan, James Downey; Councillors—James Colley, D. Downey, D. Smith, J. Downey, G. Wynder; Doorkeeper—S. Smith; Clerk—Thos. Johnson.
- PRESTON 3RD**—Pastor—Rev. G. R. Neale; Deacons—D. Brown, T. Crawley, J. Dillavey, P. Crawley; Councillors—J. Williams, S. Clayton; Sexton—S. Ross; Clerk—James Thomson.
- DIGBY CHURCH**—No Pastor; Deacon—P. Buttler; Councilor—G. Barton.
- BEECH HILL**—Pastor—Rev. A. Bailey; Deacon—R. Hamilton; Councillor—J. Hamilton.
- WEYMOUTH**—No Pastor; Deacons—James Langford, Thomas Langford; Councillor—Morris Barnes; Treasurer—J. Pleasant; Clerk—T. Langford.
- GREENVILLE**—Pastor—Rev. F. R. Langford; Deacons—James Thompson, Silas Chandler; Councillors—D. Dize, G. Crawford; Licentiate—G. Dize.
- BEAR RIVER**—No Pastor; Deacons—P. Hawkins, F. Ford.
- CORNWALLIS**—No Pastor; Deacons—P. Taylor, B. David; Councillors—John Gibson, G. Ackerson, T. Powell, P. Smith; Clerk—S. Furman.
- FUNDY SECTION**—Pastor—F. R. Langford; Deacons—G. Pomp, C. Pomp; Councillors—S. Pomp, Jacob Simms, James Brothers; Clerk—S. Skanks.
- FALMOUTH**—Pastor—Rev. John A. Smith; Deacon—B. Gray; Councillor—B. Green.
- AFRICVILLE**—Pastor—Rev. E. Dixon; Deacon—J. Brown.
Missionary—N. F. Drayton.

Statistics of the Churches in the African Baptist Association,

For Year ending, 1884.

Name of Church.	Ordained Ministers.		By Letter.	Restored.	Removed.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Died.	Last Report.	Membership.	Non-resident.	Licentiates.	Clerks.
	Name.	Residence.											
Halifax (1st).....	A. W. Jordan.	Halifax.....	6.....	1.....	.....	.....	.....	1.....	225.....	132.....	109.....	.....	J. T. McKerrow.
Preston.....	G. Carvery.	Preston.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" St. Thomas Church.....	A. Bailey.	Halifax.....	.....	3.....	1.....	.....	.....	1.....	48.....	50.....	.....	2.....	Thos. Johnson.
" (3rd).....	G. R. Neale.	Preston.....	.....	4.....	.....	.....	2.....	3.....	83.....	110.....	.....	.....	S. Ross.
Hammond Plains.....	A. Bailey.	Halifax.....	.....	.....	1.....	.....	.....	2.....	74.....	71.....	.....	.....	A. Emmerson.
Beech Hill.....	A. Bailey.	Halifax.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16.....	.....	.....	Robt. Hamilton.
Digby Joggins.....	A. Bailey.	Halifax.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3.....	24.....	21.....	.....	.....	P. Battler.
Weymouth Falls.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1.....	19.....	20.....	.....	.....	T. Langford.
Cornwallis.....	.....	.....	2.....	1.....	.....	.....	1.....	1.....	15.....	13.....	.....	.....	Peter Smith.
Greenville.....	F. E. Langford.	Weymouth.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1.....	1.....	17.....	16.....	.....	.....	W. H. S. Skanks.
Fundy Section.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6.....	.....	47.....	41.....	.....	.....	P. Hawkins.
Bear River.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1.....	23.....	22.....	.....	.....	J. Brown.
Africville.....	E. Dixon.	Africville.....	4.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	24.....	33.....	.....	.....	.....
Falmouth.....	J. A. Smith.	Cornwallis.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2.....	.....	9.....	7.....	.....	.....	.....
Dartmouth.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Horton and Bridge-town.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

1885.—Financial Account of the African Baptist Association.

		Dr.	Ck.
Printing Minutes, Stationery and Stamps	\$ 20 00		
Allowance to Secretary	10 00		
“ Moderator	10 00		
“ Delegates for Travelling Expenses	49 00		
Cash Balance in hands	33 04		
1884. Cash Balance in hands			\$ 36 54
Less drawn by Rev. N. F. Drayton			4 00
			\$ 32 54
—Interest added			1 26
Cash received from Churches at the Association :			
Halifax, for Mission, \$4.60 ; Letter, \$10.00			14 80
Hammond Plains, “			6 30
Beech Hill, Mission, 50c. ; “			2 20
St. Thomas' Church, Preston, “			4 00
Preston (3rd), “			4 50
Cornwallis, Mission, \$1.07 ; “			4 07
Africville, “			1 43
Digby Joggins, “			7 00
Fundy Section, “			2 30
Weymouth, Mission, \$1.00 ; “			6 51
Greenville, “			5 00
Bear River, “			2 50
Falmouth, “			1 00
			\$ 95 21
Sundry Collections			26 83
			\$122 04

Collection when closing, for Cape Congo Mission...\$ 5 40

CIRCULAR LETTER.

DEAR BRETHREN,—

Another year will shortly pass away into Eternity, since many of us had the great pleasure of greeting each other ; and the grave question stares us in the face, who can estimate the vast multitude that has been called Home to prove the realities of the other world. We thank God for the few that are left among us that can attest to the goodness of a loving Father.

As we glance over this audience the blanks in our midst are quite noticeable, our Blessed Lord and Master has thought fit to call Home our dear Brothers Pleasant and Harris, one from Weymouth and the other from Digby, both of whom were with us last year at our gathering at Digby, participating in the good words and blessed time that we experienced there. They both publicly declared God to be their Father, and Christ to be their Elder Brother, and were often heard earnestly beseeching men to be reconciled to God. As for Brother Pleasant, with his limited education, but few men in the Association could excel him as an exhorter, and it is to be regretted that he did not receive a collegiate education, in order that the latent talent might have been brought out of him, as it was a source of much pleasure to listen to his exhortations. Well might it be said of one of old skulls wears no wreaths, nor marks of honor.

Dear Brethren, I must not dwell too long on one theme, but pass on nearer home, as our Blessed Lord gives us, He takes, and Blessed be His name forever and ever. The stern, grim hand of death has been here and taken some dear to us, and to fill the gap He has added more to His Church than He has taken away. He has told us in the good Book He will not leave us comfortless ; therefore, He has made good His promise in giving more than He has taken away.

Although very feeble in bodily strength, the Master gave us courage to do His work, and with His guidance, and assistance of my members we commenced a series of meetings that were kept up nearly all the winter, the result of which has been very profitable for the church, and, I hope, acceptable for my Redeemer's King-

dom. All of whom I hope to meet around the Great White Throne in Glory ; and if we expect to meet each other we must work, for the Master Himself when upon earth was never idle.

While there are precious souls to be saved we must not sit down with folded arms and say God help us ; but "put your shoulder to the wheel," as you pray, for God helps those who help themselves. Where there is no fuel there will be no flame. We must keep our lamps well fed by grace Divine, the only oil that can make them burn and shine. The Holy Spirit is near and can be easily obtained by all. *Zachariah* saw two olive trees in one of his prophetic visions standing beside the Golden Candlesticks, one on each side of the bowl, and connected with it by golden pipes, through which the tree poured their oil into the bowl. This candlestick represents the church ; these olive trees, Jesus, God's anointed Priest and King ; the golden pipes, the means of Grace ; and the oil, the Holy Spirit. This oil is to be obtained by asking Him, who is always more ready to give than we are to receive. "If ye then know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him."

"Ask and it shall be given."

Brethren, we went to our secret closets and asked God to give us one soul to make glad our hearts and He gave us twenty. Our meetings were kept at fever heat, and although some are ready to criticise and say that many are mere children and will not hold out, I say away with such false accusations. Heaven is made of lambs of the fold. Christ despised none, but He rather said, "Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Battles are fought and won, not by raw recruits, nor untrained soldiers, but by tried veterans. Nelson understood his drill thoroughly as any under his command, hence the necessity of commencing to drill when youth and vigor is on your side, that is the right time to serve the Lord.

The Church of God needs to-day workers within her walls to keep back the force of sin and Satan, and while natural capacity and piety are essential to Christian usefulness, they are not always sufficient without training to master the work at hand.

The veterans are falling, every year their numbers are less ; therefore, our young people should get ready to take their place, they should employ every means to increase their knowledge, to strengthen their Christian life and to give them power to use themselves skillfully and successfully.

In one passage of God's word we are told to go out in the highways and hedges and compel them to come in. What then? Whilst compelling to come in, some who receive the warning voice are of tender years, shall we ask them to wait until they grow older in sin? No. God forbid every man, woman, and child, after having arrived to years of knowing good from evil, ought to be connected with the visible Church, no other position is manly; for if it is possible, it is not honorable for one to draw from Christ the grace required to purify and enoble his character, and then refuse or neglect to own Him as his Saviour before men. "The Lord added to the Church such as should be saved."

GEORGE R. NEALE