

MINUTES
OF THE
THIRTY-THIRD ANNIVERSARY
OF THE
HALDIMAND
REGULAR BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT CRAMAHE

ON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, JUNE 25th AND 26th, 1851.

TOGETHER WITH THE

CIRCULAR LETTER.

NEWMARKET, C.W.
PRINTED BY G. S. PORTER.

1851.

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MINUTES.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25th, 1851.

1. — The Introductory Sermon was preached by Eld. Holman, from Rev. v. 11 and 12.

After which Eld. Wm. Lacey was appointed Moderator, and Bro. Milton Ewing, Secretary; and I. E. Howd, Assistant Secretary.

2. — A Committee of Arrangements was appointed consisting of Deacons Falkner, Chard, Merrill, Bellamy, Ostrom, and Starr.
Adjourned for one hour.
Benediction by Moderator.

3. — Met at half-past two according to appointment.
Prayer by Eld. Snyder. Constitution read by Moderator.

4. — Read the Letters.

5. — Resolved. That Elder Wait be appointed to visit the Church in Murray, and ascertain their state, and their reasons for sending no letters the last two years; — to report thereon at the next meeting of the Association.

6. — Resolved. That the Report of Elder Hurlbut, in relation to the Church in Clarke, be received; and also a vote of thanks be tendered for his services.

7. — Resolved. That the Delegates from the Grand River and Western Associations, with visiting Brethren, be invited to a seat in this Association.

8. — The Committee of Arrangements reported as follows, viz.: Elder Fulton to preach to-morrow morning at Eleven o'clock; after which he will present the objects and claims of the American Bible Union.
Elder Leach to preach at two o'clock.
Elder Snyder to follow.

9. — Resolved that the word *may*, be substituted in place of the word *shall*, in the 8th article of the Constitution.

10. — Resolved. That the Association bear with the Church in Mariposa another year; and that Elder Holman and Deacon Doolittle be a deputation to visit them, and report at the next meeting of the Association.

11. — Resolved. That Elder Pyper be appointed to visit the Yonge Street Church to ascertain their reasons for not corresponding with the Association; and report thereon next year.

12. — Resolved. That Elder Hurlbut visit the Church in Clarke, and report as above.

13. — Resolved. That Elders Wait, Fulton, Holman, and Snyder, with the writer, be a Committee to examine the Circular Letter, and report to-morrow.
14. — Resolved. That the above Committee, with Elders Lacey and Howd, be a Committee to draft resolutions.
15. — Resolved. That Elder Wait be our Corresponding Secretary in the place of Elder Davidson, removed.
16. — Resolved. That a Fund be created, by collection, for defraying the incidental expenses of the Corresponding Secretary, and that Deacon Bradley be Treasurer.
17. — Resolved. That Elders Lacey and Gibson be our delegates to the Eastern, Western, and Grand River Associations.
18. — Resolved. That the next meeting of this Association be held with the Second Baptist Church in Markham, Providence Chapel.
19. — Dea. J. J. Miller gives notice, that next year he shall move to have the time of the meeting of the Association changed from the fourth Wednesday and Thursday in June to the fourth Friday and Saturday in the same month.
20. — Resolved. That Elder Wait preach the Introductory Sermon, and that Elder Lacey be his alternate.

Adjourned until to-morrow morning at nine o'clock.
Prayer by Elder Gibson.

THURSDAY, JUNE 26th.

Met according to appointment.

Prayer and praise by Elder J. I. Fulton; after which the Committee appointed to examine the Circular Letter reported satisfaction with the same; after which it was read before the Association.

21. — Resolved. That the above Letter be received and printed with the minutes.
22. — Resolved. That Elder Holman write the Circular Letter for next year, and that Elder Wait be his alternate.
23. — Resolved. That it shall be a standing rule of this Association that any Member from any Church of this Association shall be a Delegate to any of the Associations with which we correspond, whose name shall be inserted in the minutes as a Delegate of the Haldimand Association.
24. — Resolved. That this Association authorize its corresponding Secretary to send, annually, a copy of its minutes to the Corresponding Secretaries of the Associations with which we correspond.
25. — Whereas, during the past Associational year, God has removed from our midst, by death, one of our justly venerated Pioneers in the Gospel Ministry, Elder Washington Christian, of Toronto, whose labours have been abundant and successful in various parts of our Zion, therefore, Resolved. That this Association offer their sincere sympathy to his afflicted family, and also express their high estimation of him as a man of God, and Minister of the Gospel of Christ, by seeking to imitate his example and virtuous life.

26. — Whereas the American Baptist Home Missionary Society is still affording its friendly aid in sustaining the cause of Christ in Canada, by aiding feeble Churches, and in other ways promoting the interests of religion in this Province, therefore,

Resolved. That this Association cordially recommend that society to the liberal support and friendly co-operation of the Churches which we represent.

27. — Sermon by Elder J. I. Fulton, from Luke xxiv, 47th verse.

28. — Whereas it is the duty of the Churches to give to the world the Word of God purely translated, therefore,

Resolved. That we recommend the American Bible Union to the support of our Churches and Pastors, as an appropriate medium through which they may perform the above work.

29. — Resolved. That we, as an Association, become auxiliary to the American Bible Union, by the payment of our funds, and the appointment of a Delegate and Treasurer to meet them at their annual meeting, to represent us in that body.

30. — Resolved: That Elder Wm. Lacey be our Delegate to the Meeting of the American Bible Union.

31. — Resolved. That we recommend the Agent of the American Bible Union, Elder J. I. Fulton, to the confidence and co-operation of the Churches of this Association.

Adjourned for half an hour.

Met agreeable to appointment.

32. — Sermon by Elder Wm. Leach from Rev. x, 9 v., followed by a Sermon by Elder A. Snyder, from 1 Cor., iii, 22 and 23 verses.

33. — Whereas the connection of Church and State has ever been a source of great corruption, prejudicial to the cause of truth, and offensive to the author of the Gospel, and whereas we believe that the support of the Gospel Ministry should be voluntary and uncontrolled by civil authority, and whereas we believe that the appropriation of the Clergy Reserve Lands for that purpose is a violation of our rights as citizens, therefore,

Resolved. That we, as an Association, desire the appropriation of the Clergy Reserve Lands for the purpose of secular education.

34. — Resolved. That Eld. I. E. Howd superintend the printing of the Minutes.

35. — Minutes read.—Resolved. That they be accepted.

Elder Holman took the chair.

A vote of thanks was presented to the Moderator for his services.

A vote of thanks to the Church for their kind hospitality during the session.

Prayer by Elder J. I. Fulton.

Adjourned, to meet next year with the Second Church in Markham, Providence Chapel

Associational collection, 8s. 10½d. A. Bible U do, £1 4s. 4½d.

Thus closed the Associational Session: one of peace, unity, and brotherly love.

MILTON EWING, *Secretary.*
I. E. HOWD, *Assistant.*

STATISTICS OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES AND CLERKS.	MESSENGERS,	Baptized	Recd. by Letter.	Restored.	Died.	Dis. by Letter.	Excluded.	Total.
<i>Whitby—</i> Jesse Starr	Elds. Holman and Gibson; and Dea. Jesse Starr.				5	8	8	114
<i>Reach—</i> Dan. D. Honeywell	Eld. William Hurlbut; Ephraim Honeywell.	1	2	2		1		31
<i>Mariposa—</i>	No Letter.							31
<i>Yonge Street—</i>	No Letter.							31
<i>1st Toronto—</i> Wm. H. Harris.	Elder Derby.	1	114	3	1	15		51
<i>1st Markham—</i> John B. Miller	Dea. Jacob J. Miller.	2		2	3	6		94
<i>Hallimand—</i> Platt Hinman	Eld. Lacey; Deas. Doolittle and Merrill.	1		2	5			144
<i>Cramahoe—</i> John Bellamy	Dea. D. Reddick; Thos. Richards and John Bellamy.				1			15
<i>Murray—</i> John Coyderman	No Letter.							25
<i>Brighton—</i> John Cummins	Silvester Rouse, & Aaron Turney.					1		23
<i>Sidney—</i> F. D. Falkner	Eld. Wm. Geary; Dea. S. Falk- ner, and John Turner.	4						38
<i>Thurlow—</i> M. Ross	Dea. Ostrom; Bro. M. Ross.				1	6		34
<i>Rawdon—</i> Philo White	Dea. Chard, Henry Smith, Nehe- miah Hubbell, and Lewis Mack.							52
<i>Clarke—</i>	No Letter.							24
<i>Pickering—</i> George Strachan	Dea. Robert Vardon, Dougal, and Mc Intyre.	3				6		70
<i>Bond St., Toronto.</i> John Carter	Eld. James Pyper.	45	18	5	2	13		103
<i>Newmarket—</i> Joseph Mc Master	Eld. I. E. Howd.	23				4	2	40
<i>2nd Markham—</i> Wm. Ratcliffe	Bro. Ebenezer Cook.	1	3	1	6			74

Total 1081
No. last year 1046
Increase 35

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The Messengers of the Churches of Christ, composing the HALDIMAND ASSOCIATION, to the various Churches which they represent, send Greeting.

DEAR BRETHREN,

In accordance with our custom we send you our Annual Epistle. We have chosen for our theme, "The duty of the Churches to disseminate Bible truth in the destitute parts of this Province."

When the Blessed Redeemer was upon the earth he established *The* system of truth, commonly called the Gospel of the Son of God: to bring its immunities within the reach of mortals he led a suffering life, and died an ignominious death. In the days of his humanity he prayed his Father thus, "Sanctify them through thy truth, thy Word is truth."

The duty of the Churches of Christ to disseminate Bible truth appears *first*, in the fact that God has revealed himself to the world as a "God of Truth;" and enjoined the duty of dissemination upon us in the language of the Apostle Paul, "speaking the truth in love." Jesus, "the Truth," has ascended on high; he lives to intercede for us; we live to act as the "Stewards of the manifold Grace of God:" there is to us no other name given, no hope but in Christ as revealed in the Gospel.

Are we deeply impressed with the fact that, when a "Spirit ascends to God" its destiny is for ever sealed for *weal* or *woe*? Could we but cast aside the veil of futurity and see the eternal impress of sorrow, or our ear catch the wail of a lost soul, methinks we would chide our cold hearts, and discover a just anguish o'er the fact of our deadness and apathy. At the expiration of the "Witness for the truth," the booming of the severed rocks,—the mourning sun,—the secret recesses of the tomb,—exhibited a sympathy with the sufferer; yet the dying love of Jesus for poor sinners calls upon us in a tone that "wakes the echoes of eternity." We sleep on! the faithful word declares "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, to give an account for the deeds done in the body, whether they be good or bad!" *Comparatively*, we heed it not. Great God!!!

Our duty appears—*second*—in this fact;—when God spoke peace to our souls we vowed to prove faithful to our trust. We have proved *recreant* to our vow. We consecrated our all to Him who bought us with his blood; we have "kept back part of the price." As a proof of this, *witness* ye, Backwoods of Canada! *witness* our neighbours and friends! *witness* thou barren soul! are we not guilty? "Be astonished, ye heavens, and be ye horribly afraid, be ye very desolate, saith the Lord, for my people have com-

Excluded.	Total.
8	114
1	31
	31
	31
15	51
6	94
	144
	15
	25
	23
	38
	34
	52
	24
	70
	193
	40
	74
1081	
1046	
35	

mitted two evils; they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water."

But has the obligation ceased? "Ye are my witnesses saith the Lord," "Be thou faithful unto death," is the response of the unerring Word. Why then are not the "wilderness and solitary places made glad; why does not the desert bud and blossom as the rose?" The reason is revealed in this fact: we have been too long expecting the end without the use of the means! The Church that is the vehicle of Divine truth hath tarried beside Babel's cheerless stream. The "Day Star" arises! the rays of the "Sun of righteousness" stream to the zenith! Arise!! let us be up and doing while it is yet called to-day." May God forgive our past negligence, and give us grace for time to come.

We now notice, briefly, a few means to be used.—*First*, seek for a unity in the body; a unity of action. While every Church of Christ is, and ought to be, independent in its organization, yet there is a unity for the accomplishment of any great end; which is very right and desirable. Unity is strength. The great reason why we are not more successful in the diffusion of truth is owing to the fact that separate interests have divided us. We look upon a *written or preached* Gospel as being the chief means of bringing the world to a knowledge of the truth. "How shall they hear without a Preacher, how shall they preach except they be sent." Missionaries, Colporteurs, Bibles, Books, and Tracts, all require money to render them efficient; by continuous labour or extensive circulation. But the Churches are small! True. But co-operate, and it is accomplished.—[For a proposition, see *Christian Observer*, Vol. 1, No. 5, p. 72.]

Form Domestic Mission Societies: if not able as a Church, join with others. Toronto has led the van; arise and follow; if you cannot do what you would, do what you can. The Gospel was sent to you; "Freely ye have received, freely give." "To do good, and communicate, forget not, as with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

Second. Bow before God in your closet, and there pray him to bless the means used; you then can do so consistently. Thus will your spiritual strength be renewed. God will bless you as individuals; bless you as Churches; increase your numbers; increase your ability to do good; and bring about the day when "The knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth as the water doth the face of the deep." Thus having usefully passed the day of life, the dawn of eternity will be pleasing; and when the Judgment Throne shall appear, hear the welcome voice of Jesus say, "Well done thou good and faithful servant, thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

"Oh! that each from his Lord, may receive the glad word,
Well and faithfully done,
Enter into my joy, and sit down on my throne!"

AMEN.