

MINUTES
OF THE
TWELFTH SESSION
OF THE
AFRICAN
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
OF NOVA SCOTIA.

HELD AT GRANVILLE MOUNTAIN CHURCH,

ON

Saturday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 30th.

Oct. 2nd, 3rd, and 4th.

ALSO THE

CIRCULAR LETTER.

HALIFAX:

PRINTED BY W. CUNNABELL

1865.

A
286M
H NSA

MINUTES
OF THE
TWELFTH SESSION
OF THE
AFRICAN
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
OF NOVA SCOTIA.

HELD AT GRANVILLE MOUNTAIN CHURCH,

ON

*Saturday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 30th,
Oct. 2nd, 3rd, and 4th.*

ALSO THE

CIRCULAR LETTER.

HALIFAX:

PRINTED BY W. CUNNABELL.

1865.

334393

MINUTES
OF THE
AFRICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Granville Mountain, Saturday, September 30th, 1865.

The Association met, pursuant to adjournment, with the Granville Mountain Church, SATURDAY, 3 P. M. Our Yearly Conference commenced by singing and prayer. Rev. James Thomas read the 4th chapter of Ephesians, and spoke from the same,—followed by all our Ministering Brethren, and a great number of our Brethren and Sisters. Truly we had a good time, and, as was said by some present, we were well paid for our long journey.

SUNDAY, October 1st.—Met at half-past 10, A. M. Preaching by Rev. George Neal, from St. Mark, 16th chapter, 16th verse,—followed by Rev. James Thomas and Rev. Henry Jackson.

Met again at half-past 2, P. M. Preaching by Brother Eppy Carvie, from Genesis 22d chapter, 7th verse,—followed by Revs. Henry Jackson and James Thomas. After which we went down to the Bay of Fundy, singing the praises of God as we moved slowly to the water, where five converts put on Christ, by Baptism by Rev. Benson Smithers and Rev. Henry Jackson. We had a good time at the water.

Met at half-past 6, P. M. Preaching by Brother Edward Jackson, from Romans, 6th chapter, 22d verse,—followed by Rev. James Thomas and a number of Brethren.

MONDAY, 2nd.—Ministers and Delegates met at 9 A. M. After singing and prayer, the Association being called to order, Rev. Benson Smithers was chosen Moderator; J. R.

Thomas, Clerk; Rev. James Thomas, Treasurer; to examine Letters, Rev. George Neal, Brother Peter Hawkins; to read the Letters, Rev. James Thomas and Rev. George Neal; on Questions in Letters, a Committee of the whole; on Home Mission, Brethren William Peters, Daniel Brown, Thomas Jones, S. Manigo, John Thompson, Samson Williams, Charles Glasgow, Joseph Smith sen'r. and Joseph Smith jr. Adjourned for ten minutes.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Rev. Henry Jackson preached the Introductory Sermon, from Isaiah, 52d chapter, part of the 1st verse—"Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem." Followed by the Rev. Benson Smithers and Rev. James Thomas. Adjourned.

Met at half-past 2 P. M. Preaching by Brother Henry Bailey, from Romans, 1st chapter, 17th verse,—followed by Rev. Mr. Martin. We again went to the Baptismal Waters. Rev. Benson Smithers baptized one convert, who had been previously received. We had a happy time.

Met at half-past 6 P. M. Preaching by the Rev. Mr. Sailor, from Isaiah, 28th chapter, 16th verse,—followed by the Rev. James Thomas and several of the Brethren. This closed Monday's proceedings.

TUESDAY, 3rd.—Met at 9, A. M. Prayer by Brother E. Jackson.

Resolved, That we hold one meeting with closed doors on Wednesday. Several of our Brethren spoke of the large field for Missionary labour, and how careful the Churches should be to provide of their substance for the Missionary. Adjourned for 10 minutes.

Met pursuant. Prayer by Brother Johnson. Rev. James Thomas preached from the Psalms, 67th chapter, 1st verse. Adjourned.

Met pursuant at half-past 2 P. M. Prayer by Brother Charles Roan.

4

Resolved, That the Letters from the various Churches be read; from which statistics were found.

State of the Churches.. Increase and Decrease:

Churches.	Baptized.	Received.	Excluded.	Died.	Total.
1st Preston,	0	0	8	2	82
2d Preston,	0	0	0	1	74
3d Preston, New Road,	0	0	1	0	16
Dartmouth,	1	0	2	1	13
Halifax,	2	0	0	3	87
Beech Hill,	0	0	0	0	5
Campbell Road,	0	0	0	0	9
Hammond Plains,	0	2	4	0	53
Horton,	0	0	0	2	23
Cornewallis,	0	0	0	0	28
Granville Mountain,	13	0	1	2	56
Bear River,	0	0	0	1	26
Digby Joggins,	0	0	0	0	16
Weymouth,	1	0	0	0	23
Yarmouth,	0	0	0	0	28
Liverpool,	0	0	0	0	17
	17	2	16	12	556

An application being made from the Weymouth Church, also from the Bear River Church, for our Association to be held with them next year—it being warmly contested—and as we could but give it to one of the Churches, it was Resolved, That the Association be held with the Weymouth Church, on the last Saturday in September, 1866; and that the Rev. Benson Smithers preach the Introductory Sermon, and the Rev. James Thomas his alternate. Adjourned for 10 minutes.

Met pursuant. Prayer by Brother E. Jackson. Preaching by Rev. James Thomas, from 67th Psalm, 2d verse,—followed by Rev. Benson Smithers, and several others.

WEDNESDAY, 4th.—Ministers and Delegates met at 9 A. M.

Closed doors. Prayer by Brother George Dize. Some short shots fired, in a few minutes all is calm and tranquil again. The monies from the various Churches were handed in; also the collection taken at the Association.

Voted, That Rev. James Thomas, Rev. George Neal, and Brother J. R. Thomas superintend the Printing of the Minutes.

Resolved, That the Rev. James Thomas write the Circular Letter.

Voted, That Brother J. Wright's Licence to Preach be considered void and null, until this Association receive a better report of him, as regards his conduct as a Preacher of the Gospel.

Resolved, That the Report of the Rev. D. Shaw, which appeared in the Minutes of the Central Association, as touching the people of colour, should not be overlooked; as we believe it was purely from selfish motives that could have induced him to make such wide mistakes. Prayer by Brother Thomas Jones. Adjourned.

Met pursuant at half-past 6 P. M. Preaching by Rev. George Neal, from Acts, 20th chapter, 32d verse,—followed by Rev. James Thomas, Brothers Jones and several others. At the close of the meeting the Doxology was sung, hand being joined in hand—an Emblem of our attachment to each other—prayer being offered by Rev. Henry Jackson, our Association separated to meet with the Weymouth Church on the last Saturday in September, 1866.

It is just to remark that interesting Meetings were held on our way to and from our Association; and our friends, wherever we went, treated us with the best of kindness. Our hearts were cheered and made glad at every station. May the Blessings of God rest on them.

Ministers, Licentiates, Deacons, Counsellors, &c.

1st Preston.—Rev. James Thomas, Rev. George Neal; Licentiates, John Collins, Thomas Saunders, Jas. Downing,

George Brown; Deacons, James Slaughter, David Brown, George Tallow; Counsellors, Peter Williams, John Thompson; Door keepers, John Brooks, William Thomas; Clerk, Joseph Evans.

2d Preston.—Rev. Benson Smithers; Deacons, Charles Glasgow, Sampson Williams, Peter Crancy, Joseph Smith jr.

3d Preston, New Road Settlement.—Deacon, Joseph Smith senior.

Dartmouth.—Rev. James Thomas; Deacons, John Gerry, Charles Roan; Counsellor, Richard Tynes.

Halifax.—Rev. James Thomas; Deacons, William Barratt, Peter Brown; Counsellors, Daniel Gross, Joseph Cox, Henry Smith; Door keepers, John Spriggs, Alexander Bailey; Clerk, John R. Thomas.

Beech Hill.—Rev. Jas. Thomas; Licentiate, Henry Bailey.

Campbell Road.—Rev. James Thomas; Licentiate, Eppy Carvery; Deacon, Allan Dixon.

Hammond Plains.—Rev. James Thomas; Licentiate, Thomas Jones; Deacons, Deal Wiley, Gabriel David; Counsellors, Stephen Manigo, Frederick David; Clerk, Daniel Goffigan.

Horton.—Deacon, Daniel Dolman.

Cornwallis.—Licentiate, Henry Bailey; Deacon, Daniel Taylor; Counsellor, Charles Lindsay.

Granville Mountain.—Rev. Benson Smithers; Deacons, Edward Dixon, William Peters; Counsellors, Daniel Brown, Isaac Cuff.

Bear River.—Rev. Henry Jackson; Deacons, Peter J. Hawkins, Isaac Johnson.

Digby Joggins.—Rev. Henry Jackson; Deacon, Joseph Francis; Licentiate, James Wilmot.

Weymouth.—Rev. Henry Jackson; Counsellor, James Lankford.

Yarmouth.—Licentiate, Edward Jackson; Counsellors, George Dize, David Dize; Deacons, Silas Chandler, James Crawford.

Liverpool.—Deacon, John Fells; Counsellors, Jas. Wade, Robert Wade.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,

Being appointed by our Association to write the Circular, and as it is your desire that the Report of the Rev. D. Shaw, which appeared in the Minutes of the Central Association, touching the coloured population, ought to be replied to, for the satisfaction of our body, and the various friends in this and the Sister Provinces, and the neighbouring Republic,—also for those of our friends across the broad waters, we have many in old England, where the Central Association Minutes are gone, and where many of ours are sent and received annually,—dear Brethren, it appears to me that Mr. Shaw could have had but very little patience indeed, and far from possessing his soul, or he would have been a little more careful how he spoke. We have heard of Churches of the same faith and order, not a hundred miles from us, and although they do not belong to our Body, and if hearsay is to be credited, they have been sadly neglected by the right sort of men, and wickedly imposed upon by others. Mr. Shaw reports about 21 Churches so called, this side of Tracadie, with a membership of between 700 and 800. In looking over the Central Association Minutes, I find 5 Churches belonging to that body, with a membership of 157, mostly all coloured. In the African Baptist Minutes I find 16 Churches, with a membership of 574. Adding 5 to 16 makes 21 Churches; add 157 to 574 will make 731 members, all told. This seems to correspond so far with Mr. Shaw's Report; therefore I presume to think that he had allusion to our body, which was very much uncalled for,—more especially from Mr. Shaw.

I would wish to state, for the satisfaction of our friends, and for the information of the Missionary Board, that we have at present in the field 4 ordained Ministers belonging to our body, whose labours are much appreciated; we have also several Licentiates,—and we have every reason to be thankful to the Giver of all good gifts that we have help from our Ministering Brethren—Baptist, Presbyterian and Methodist—who are oft times found amongst us, faithfully labouring for the good of souls; for which we feel thankful to Almighty God. Mr. Shaw states, in reference to the African Churches, that they have been sadly neglected by us,

and wickedly imposed upon by others. We presume that Mr. Shaw means by the impostors in this case the Ministers of the African Association; but these Ministers have had little or nothing at all to do with that part of the Churches belonging to the Central Association: and therefore, his statement in this respect is unfounded. And what of the manifestations of joy and heart-felt gratitude—were they universal? Not quite,—for when he baptized the Rev. Mr. Allan's Converts, and received them into Mr. Allan's Church contrary to Mr. Allan's wishes, he manifested so much insincerity towards him, that Mr. Allan was disgusted, and experienced no joy at all.

Dear Brethren,—Well do many of you with the writer remember the joy we felt when we listened to the powerful sermons preached by those venerable good men, Fathers Harding, Manning, Robert Davis, George Richardson, and the Dimocks, David Harris, E. Stronach, the Parkers, and the Porters, Ridout, and a great number of others, young and old: we cannot help mentioning Hunt Freeman with the much lamented Grant, and our much esteemed late Pastor Rev. Richard Preston, whose memory we cherish and whose voice seems to sound in our ears while we thus write. All those good men taught us not to do wickedly, but to love God and love one another; and to be careful how we entertain strangers, for thereby angels have been entertained unawares. We regret that too much of those admonitions are forgotten; but we bless God very many of those texts are held in our memory, and fragments of their discourses are reserved with us worth printing in letters of gold. When Rev. Mr. Shaw came amongst us, we treated him as a man of God, although we soon found out that he was a very small preacher when compared to those we had been used to listen to; nevertheless we had been taught not to despise the day of small things. Dear Brethren, let us pray for the Missionary Spirit and not grow large in our own estimation. Let others praise us and not we ourselves. Endure hardships as good soldiers, and the very God of heaven will bless you in this present world, and in the world to come will place the Crown of Glory upon your heads. Amen.