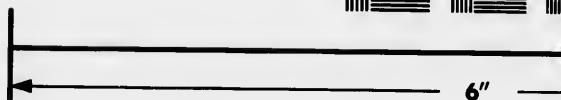
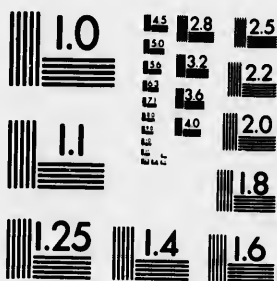
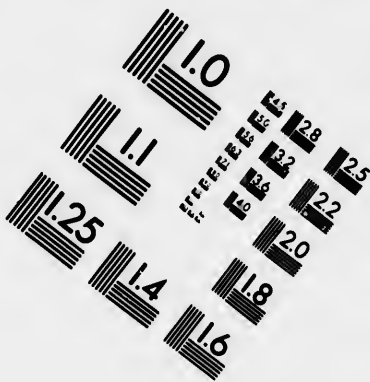


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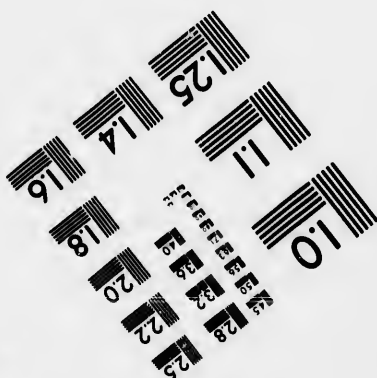


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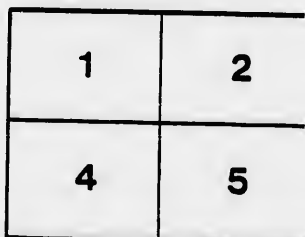
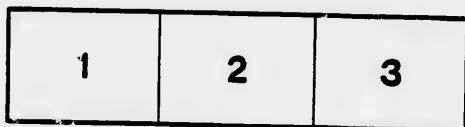
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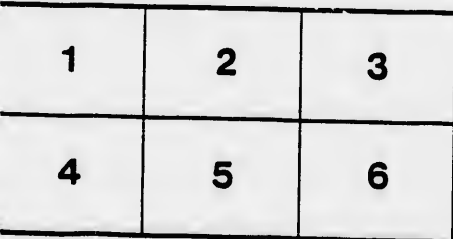
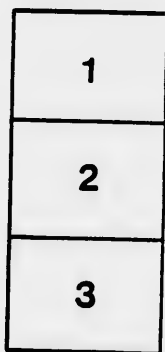
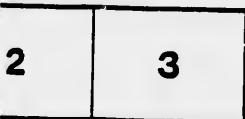
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Nova-Scotia Baptist Association.

The ASSOCIATION of the Baptist Churches in Nova-Scotia was constituted at a Meeting of a number of the Ministers and Brethren from different Churches, in Granville, in the County of Annapolis, on the first Monday after the 20th of June, A. D. 1800, after having carefully examined, approved and adopted the following principles, and Rules, viz :—

- 1. That such a combination of Churches is not only prudent, but useful; as has been**

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RULES

W. W. W. W.

OF THE

Nova-Scotia Baptist Association.

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## RULES Of the Association.

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### RULE 1.

The Nova-Scotia Baptist Association shall consist only of Messengers chosen and sent by the Churches ; such Messengers to be the Ministers of the said Churches, and such other judicious brethren as the respective churches may select; and also such other prudent Brethren of like faith and order as the Association at the time of its being held may invite to sit in Council with them. The expenses of the Messengers to be borne by the Churches that send them.

### RULE 2.

With their Messengers, the Churches are to send Letters addressed to the Association, in which mention should be made of the names of the Messengers, and their authority to act for the Churches ; of the state of the Churches ; their peace and harmony ; their increase by Baptism, or letters dismissive or commendatory, from other Churches; their diminution by death, excommunication, or dismission to other Churches ; and their present number of Members. If any questions are to be put to the Association, any difficulties to be stated, advice to be asked, or business of

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1. That such a combination of Churches is not only prudent, but useful; as has been

proved by the experience of many years in England and America. Some of its most obvious benefits are :—Union and Communion among the several Churches—maintaining more effectually the faith once delivered to the Saints—obtaining advice and counsel in cases of doubt and difficulty, and assistance in distress ; and in general, being better enabled to promote the cause of God.

2d. That such Association is entirely consistent with the independence and power of particular Churches, because it pretends to no other powers than those of an advisory Council; utterly disclaiming all superiority, jurisdiction, coercive right or infallibility.

3d. That an Association should consist of men of prudence, judgment, and knowledge, particularly in the Scriptures,—such men alone being the proper persons to represent communities, which profess to hold the Scriptures as their only rule of Faith and Practice, in matters of religion ; and which have a right to expect that every advice, opinion or direction they receive from an Association, should be scriptural ; it being necessary that such persons should be skillful and expert in the laws of God, as Counsellors are in the laws of the land ; for this is the ground of the Churches' application to them.

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### Of the Association.

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any kind to be proposed, the same must be set forth and expressed in such letters.

### RULE 3.

All matters at the Association are to be determined by the suffrages of the Messengers composing the body, except such as are plainly determinable by scripture, which are never to be put to the decision of votes. All that speak are to address the Moderator, who is to take care that none be interrupted while speaking, and that no other indecorum take place.

### RULE 4.

The Churches are to be received into the Association by petitions, setting forth their faith and order ; their desire to be admitted, and willingness to conform to rules of the associated body ; when a petition is presented, and the matter is ready for a vote, the Moderator shall state the question, and the suffrage being given in favor of the application, the Moderator shall declare, that such a Church is received into the Association, in token of which, he is to give the Messengers from the Church, the right hand of fellowship, and desire them to take their seats in Council.

### RULE 5.

The Association is to meet annually on the first Monday after the 20th of June, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon ; and to continue in Session until business is finished.

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It is to be opened with Divine Worship, after which a Moderator and Clerks are to be chosen; the letters from the Churches are then to be received and read; the names of the Messengers to be taken down, and business to be attended to, and minutes thereof made. A Circular Letter from the Association to the Churches is to be prepared, signed by the Moderator and Clerk, and submitted to the meeting for their approval, in order to be printed in the Minutes: The Minutes of the Association to be printed forthwith, and distributed to the respective Churches:—They are to contain the state of the Churches, as reported in their letters; when, and by whom, vacancies are to be supplied; who is to preach the next Association sermon; and whatever else may be useful for the Churches to know.

#### RULE 6.

Connections to be formed, and Correspondence to take place between this Association and other Associations in England and America, by annual letters or messengers to them, and from them to us.

#### RULE 7.

The Faith and Order of this Association to be expressed in a Confession of Faith, the same as set forth by upwards of one hundred Congregations in Great Britain, in the year 1687, and adopted by the Association



of Philadelphia in 1742. Some of the leading principles in which are as follows : —The imputation of Adam's sin to his posterity ; The inability of man to recover himself ; Effectual calling by Sovereign Grace ; Justification by imputed Righteousness ; Immersion for Baptism on profession of Faith, and Repentance ; The Congregational mode of worship and discipline ; and the independence of Churches, and reception of members upon evidence of sound conversion.

#### RULE 8.

If any Church belonging to the Association cease to comply with its rules for *three* succeeding years, in not sending Messengers, letters, or money to assist the support of necessary expenses, such Church shall be dropped from the Minutes, and considered as not belonging to the Association, unless peculiar circumstances shall appear to explain or justify such omission.

FINIS.

