

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

HELD AT FIRST PRESTON CHURCH,

ON

Saturday, Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 24th, 26th and 27th.

ALSO THE
CIRCULAR LETTER.

HALIFAX:

PRINTED BY W. CUNNABELL,

1864.

A
286M

H NS A

MINUTES.

Preston, Saturday, September 24, 1864.

The Association met, pursuant to adjournment, with the First Preston Church.

SUNDAY, 25th.—The Rev. James Thomas preached from 122d Psalm, followed by Revs. Benson Smithers, G. Neal, Brothers Dize, Wright, and a number of others.

Met again at 4 o'clock. Rev. James Thomas read the 5th chapter of 1st Peter and lectured from the same; followed by Brethren Henry Bailey and E. Carvery.

7 o'clock. Preaching by Brother J. Wright, from 2d chapter Revelations, latter clause of 7th verse; followed by a number of the Brethren.

MONDAY, 26th.—Ministers and Delegates met at 9 o'clock A. M. Prayer by William Peters. The Rev. Benson Smithers was chosen Moderator; J. R. Thomas, Secretary; Rev. James Thomas, Treasurer.

To Examine Letters, Brothers J. Wright and A. Emerson.

To Read the Letters, Rev. James Thomas and Brother Joseph Evans.

On Questions in Letters, Brethren John Collins, George Dize, and G. Thomas.

On Home Mission, Brethren William Peters, T. Wright, Thomas Jones, S. Manigo, Thomas Crawley, John Thompson, Sampson Williams, Charles Glasgow, Joseph Smith sen. and Joseph Smith jr.

On General Business, E. Carvery, Peter Brown, David Brown, G. Greenwood, and Isaac Johnson.

Moved and Seconded, That Brother White take a seat in counsel with us.

Moved and Seconded, That the Letters from the various Churches be read; from which a statistic was found.

State of the Churches. Increase and Decrease.

Churches.	Baptized.	Received.	Excluded.	Removed.	By Letter.	Died.	Total.
1st Preston,	2	4	3	0	0	1	92
2d Preston,	0	0	0	0	0	1	75
3d Preston, New Road,	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
Dartmouth,	0	0	0	0	0	6	15
Halifax,	0	0	0	0	1	2	88
Beach Hill,	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Campbell Road.	0	0	4	0	0	0	9
Hammond Plains,	3	2	0	0	0	1	54
Horton,	0	0	0	0	0	0	25
Cornwallis,	0	0	0	0	0	0	28
Granville Mountain,	1	0	0	0	0	3	46
Bear River,	0	1	0	0	0	0	27
Digby Joggins,	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
Weymouth,	0	0	0	0	0	0	22
Yarmouth,	0	0	0	0	0	0	38
Liverpool,	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
	6	7	7	0	1	8	574

Adjourned for 10 minutes. Met pursuant to adjournment. The Introductory Sermon was preached by the Rev. James Thomas, from the Gospel according to John, 1st chapter, latter clause of the 46th verse—"Come and see." Exhortation by Rev. George Neal. Prayer by Brother J. Meadows.

Afternoon Session.—Prayer by Brother T. Wright. Moved and Seconded, That Brothers J. Meadows and R. Cooper take a seat in counsel with us.

Resolved, That the Association be held with the Granville Mountain Church on the last Saturday in September, 1865; and that the Rev. Henry Jackson preach the Introductory Sermon, Rev. Benson Smithers his alternate.

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

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

Moved and Seconded, That Brothers George Neal and Henry Bailey be received as candidates for Ordination,—a counsel being chosen to consider the propriety of setting them apart.

Resolved, That George Neal be ordained as an Evangelist, and that Brother Henry Bailey be deferred.

Seven o'clock, P. M.—Preaching by Brother Meadows, from 1st Corinthians, 13th chapter, 13th verse. Exhortations and singing alternately, until about 12 o'clock.

TUESDAY, 27th.—Met at 9 o'clock, A. M. Prayer by Brother E. Carvery.

Voted, That each Church make a collection once a month, for Missionary Fund, to be forwarded on to the Association. Adjourned for a few minutes.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Rev. James Thomas read a part of 3d chapter 2d Corinthians, 3d chapter 1st Timothy, 2d chapter 2d Timothy, 4th chapter 2d Timothy, and spoke from the same; after which Brother Neal gave a brief account of his conversion, and his call to the Ministry. Various questions being asked the candidate, and answered satisfactorily, an appeal was made to the audience if there was any objection against the candidate now before them. None appeared. An unanimous vote was carried to proceed with the ordination. A solemnity filled the house while our Brother kneeled, and hands being laid on, the ordination prayer was offered up by the Rev. James Thomas. All the congregation at the close said Amen. The right hand of fellowship and charge being given to the candidate, the business of the Association was brought to a close. We joined hand and hand and sung the Doxology. Prayer being offered up by Rev. Benson Smithers, our Brethren separated, to meet with the Granville Mountain Church on the last Saturday in September, 1865.



On Tuesday afternoon the Revs. James Thomas, George Neal, three Deacons and a number of Brethren proceeded to the New Road Settlement to organize a Church there, according to their request, which had been duly considered by sister churches. The Rev. James Thomas read appropriate passages from the divine Scriptures of truth, and addressed the brethren from the same. Hands being joined in hands, the organization prayer being offered up by the Rev. George Neal, right hand of fellowship was given by Rev. James Thomas to Deacon Joseph Smith sen'r. in behalf of the newly organized Church.

On Wednesday morning might be seen, at almost every dwelling and on the road side, friends taking the parting hand,—highly satisfied and pleased with their visit, and the proceedings of the Association.

Ministers, Licentiates, Deacons, Counsellors, &c.

1st Preston—Rev. James Thomas, Rev. George Neal, (Evangelist); Licentiates, John Collins, Thomas Saunders, James Downing, G. Brown; Deacons, James Slaughter, David Brown, Thomas Crawley; Counsellors, Peter Williams, John Thompson; Door keeper, John Brooks; Clerk, Joseph Evans.

2d Preston—Rev. Benson Smithers; Deacons, Charles Glasgow, Sampson Williams, Peter Craney, 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; Licentiates, Henry Bailey, Eppy Carvery; Deacons, William Barratt, Peter Brown; Counsellors, Daniel Gross, Thomas Connix, John Simmons, Joseph Cox, Henry Smith; Door keepers, Alexander Bailey, John Spriggs; Clerk, J. R. Thomas.

Beach 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, Alexander Emmerson, Stephen Manigo, Frederick David; Clerk, Daniel Goffican.

Horton—Deacon, Daniel Doalman.

Cornwallis—Deacons, Daniel Taylor, Peter Butler.

Granville Mountain—Rev. Benson Smithers; Deacons, Edward Dixon, William Peters.

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

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

Weymouth—Rev. Henry Jackson; Counsellors, James Lankford, Peter Woodard.

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

Liverpool—Deacon, John Fells; Counsellors, James Wade, Robert Eley.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

Dearlly Beloved Brethren,

It has often been affirmed by the gloomy and melancholy, that there is no happiness in this world. That there is no substantial happiness without the enjoyment of God in experimental and practical religion, is a real fact. The un-sanctified pleasures of the world are vain and empty. And, in short, the soul that knows not God, finds all things vanity and vexation of spirit. But the true Israel of God, who live under his approving smiles, are truly happy. Let us point out the sources of their happiness.

The first source of happiness to Israel in the wilderness,

was their deliverance out of the land of Egypt, and out of the house of bondage; in allusion to which, it is said, "O! people, saved by the Lord!" And all the people of God are now happy in a salvation from the guilt and tyranny of sin. They were in captivity and bondage, but Jesus has proclaimed liberty to the captives, and they are now free from the law of sin and death. "Happy is that people that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people whose God is the Lord." And all the people of God are in this case, having received the spirit of adoption, whereby they cry, Abba Father. The children of Israel were happy in the desert of Arabia, in a rich supply of all their real wants. The Lord "had rained down manna upon them to eat," and had given them of the corn of heaven. Man did eat angel's food: "he sent them meat to the full." And are not the people of God now happy in a competent supply of all their wants? They have sufficient food and raiment. They have the bread of life. And it is said by a holy Apostle, "My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory, by Jesus Christ." What more can they desire? They want not the luxuries of life, but having food and raiment, they are therewith content. Israel was happy in the protection of Almighty God. He was the shield of their help, and underneath were the everlasting arms to bear them up. They had many enemies, but "the God of Jerusalem rode upon the heaven in their help, and in his excellency on the sky." And is he not now the defence of his people? Is his arm shortened that it cannot save? He still loves his people; watches over them for good, and guards them safely on every side. The special presence of God, and his holy worship, were sources of happiness to Israel. They saw him in the cloud and in the pillar of fire; His glory rested on the tabernacle, and they enjoyed high felicity in humble and devout approaches to his Divine Majesty. Religious adoration in the temples of the Lord, is now a source of happiness to the people of God. When they approach his presence, where his name is recorded they can adopt the language of pious David: "A day in thy courts is better than a thousand."

Israel wandered in the wilderness, but they were happy in a prospect of Canaan. Their enemies, who depended on the strength of their high places, set them at defiance; but the Lord said, "They shall be found liars unto thee, and thou shalt tread upon their high places." The true Israel have now the promised land in view, the heavenly Canaan, where their present happiness will be perfected for ever. There "they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

The happiness of God's people is widely different from that which the world offers to its deluded votaries. They eat, and drink, and sleep; they follow fashions and amusements; and they are called happy. But are their hearts at rest? Good men may be found in poverty and in affliction, but they have inward joys which are unknown to the world and pleasing hopes beyond the grave. They are begotten again "unto a lively hope, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away." The people of God, having tasted the pure pleasures of religion should pity the world that lieth in wickedness. God has done much for them; and they should do what they can for others. Two things should principally occupy their attention: First, to find the way to heaven themselves; and, secondly, to take as many with them as they can. We conclude, in the words of David, "Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God." Dear Brethren, may this happiness be ours while we live, and when we die, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen and Amen.