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MINUTES

OF THE

NEW-BRUNSWICK

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

HELD AT

Fredericton, N. B.

JULY 8TH AND 9TH,

1822.

SAINT JOHN:

PRINTED BY HENRY CHUBB, AT HIS OFFICE, FRONTING THE MARKET-SQUARE.

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MINUTES, &c.

MONDAY, JULY 8, 1822,

1st. Introductory Sermon by Elder EDWARD MANNING, from the 2d Chapter of the *Epistle to Titus* and 14th verse, which excited much interest.

2d. Elder E. MANNING was called to the Chair, and addressed the Meeting in a very impressive manner on the occasion of our assembling together to form an ASSOCIATION.

3d. A plan of the Association was read by the Chairman, and signed by the Elders and Messengers of the several Churches.

4th. Chose Elder THEODORE S. HARDING, *Moderator*; Elder D. DUNBAR, *Clerk*; Elder CHARLES MILLAR, *Assistant Clerk*.

5th. Elders E. MANNING and J. MUNRO, Messengers from the Nova-Scotia Baptist Association, presented to our Moderator, the Right Hand of Fellowship, acknowledging us as a Sister Association; and then took their seats with us.

6th. That Elder J. MUNRO preach a Sermon this afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock.

7th. Met pursuant to adjournment, and Elder J. MUNRO preached from Romans 14, 19.

8th. Read the Letters from the several Churches.

N. B. The names of Ordained Ministers are in SMALL CAPITALS. The Ministers' names with this mark* were not present. Churches who have no stated Pastors are distinguished by a dash _____

Fredericton,

Waterbury.....

Saint John,.....

Prince William

Wakefield,.....

Norton,.....

Nashwalk.....

Salsbury,.....

Mirimachi,.....

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Elder RICHARD

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Elders and Messengers.</i>	<i>Added</i>	<i>Dismissed.</i>	<i>Excluded</i>	<i>Died</i>	<i>Total</i>
Fredericton,.....	THEODORE S. HARDING, } Amasa Coy, } William Wilmot, } ...	2		2		45
Waterbury.....	Jarvis Ring, } ELIJAH EASTABROOKS, }					26
Saint John,.....	David Curry, } RICHARD SCOTT, }	5	8	5		65
Prince William,.....	D. DUNBAR, } L. HAMMOND, } Barker, } Parent, }	8	1	1		46
Wakefield,.....	Young, } William West, } G. Spurr, Deacon, } Brethren Neal, } Mallary, }	14		2		48
Norton,.....	Cole, } Hannah, } Everett, } Francis Pickle, }	12	1	1		31
Nashwalk.....	John Manzor, }	8		2		48
Salsbury,.....	JOSEPH CRANDALL,*	2			1	58
Mirimachi,.....	CHARLES MILLAR, } James Tozer, }	46	3	1		52
Madamkesway,.....	Jared Tozer, } Henry Boone, }	14	1	2	1	33
St. Mary,.....	Jonathan Smith, } SAMUEL DENSMORE,					32
Oromoco,.....	Benjamin Foster, } Benjamin Glazier, }					17
		111	14	16	2	501

N. B. The two last named Churches have joined the Association, for the first time, this year.

9th. Voted, that a Correspondence be opened between this Association and some of our Sister Associations in Great-Britain, and that Elders R. SCOTT, D. DUNBAR, C. MILLAR, D. JAMES, and Brethren J. M. Wilmot, W. Wilmot, and Jarvis Ring, be a Committee to carry the same into effect.

10th. That the said Committee correspond in the first place with a Committee appointed by the Nova-Scotia Association for the same purpose.

11th. That this Association consider themselves a Missionary Society for extending the knowledge of Salvation throughout this Province, and that the following Elders, and Brethren, compose the Missionary Committee for the ensuing year, viz. Elder RICHARD SCOTT and J. M. Wilmot, St. John; Elder E.

EASTABROOKS, Waterbury; Deacon *F. Pickle*, Norton; Deacon *B. Foster*, Oromocto; Elder T. S. HARDING, W. Wilmot, and Jarvis Ring, Fredericton; Elder S. DENSMORE, St. Mary; Elder C. MILLAR, Mirimachi; Elder D. DUNBAR, St. Georges; Elder J. CRANDAL, Salsbury; Elder L. HAMMOND, Prince William; Deacon *J. Eastabrooks*, Kingsclear; Elder D. JAMES, Cardigan; Deacon *J. Manzor*, Nashwaik; Deacons *J. Smith* and *J. Boone*, Madamkesway; Deacon *G. Spurr*, Wakefield.

12th. That a Meeting of the Missionary Committee be held at Fredericton once a quarter, i. e. on the last Wednesday in *August, November, February, and May*. And that all the Members who may find it convenient to attend shall have a right to vote—five shall constitute a *quorum*.

13th. That Elder E. EASTABROOKS prepare a Circular Letter to accompany the Minutes; and that the same be read to-morrow and submitted to the Association.

14th. That Elder D. DUNBAR prepare the Corresponding Letter against to-morrow.

15th. That Elder C. MILLAR preach a Sermon to-morrow; meeting to commence at 10 o'clock, A. M.

16. Prayer Meeting to-morrow morning at 6 o'clock.

Adjourned till 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.



Prayer Meeting agreeably to appointment.

Sermon by Elder C. MILLAR, from the 9th chap. of 1st Corinthians, last clause of the 16th verse, "Wo is unto me, if I preach not the Gospel!"

17th. A request from the Church at Madamkesway that a Council of Elders should meet at that place on Thursday the 11th of July, to examine Brother James Boone, as it respects his Doctrinal views and call to the Ministry over that Church. The request was duly considered, and Elders E. EASTABROOKS, T. S. HARDING, C. MILLAR, D. JAMES, S. DENSMORE, and Brethren Jarvis Ring and W. Wilmot, were appointed a Committee to attend to the same.

18. That a vote of thanks be inserted in the Minutes to our dear Brethren Elders E. MANNING, and J. MUNRO, for their able and generous conduct in assisting to form this Association; and that we likewise express our grateful acknowledgements to the Nova-Scotia Association for their condescension in sending these Brethren to aid and strengthen our hands on this occasion.

19th. That the Association be held next year in the City of St. John, on the 2d Monday in July.

20th. Read the Corresponding Letter prepared by ^{Elder} ~~the Rev.~~ D. DUNBAR, and voted that the same be received.

21st. The time allowed Elder E. EASTABROOKS, to prepare

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the Circular Letter being insufficient to enable him to submit it for the approbation of the Association, voted that further time be given, and that Elders T. S. HARDING, C. MILLAR, and Brethren Wilmot and Magee be a Committee to examine the same when prepared.

22d. That Elder D. JAMES be our Messenger to the Nova-Scotia Association next year; and that the sum of *Four Pounds* be given him as a compensation.

23d. That Elder D. DUNBAR preach the Introductory Sermon the ensuing year—and in case of failure that Elder C. MILLAR be expected to preach.

24th. That Brother Jarvis Ring at Fredericton be our Treasurer for the Missionary Fund, during this year, and that the cordial thanks of this Association be voted to Brother J. M. Wilmot, of Saint John, for his faithful labors in that department in times past.

25th. That Elder C. MILLAR write the Circular Letter for the ensuing year.

26th. That Elder D. DUNBAR write the Corresponding Letter.

27th. That the 20th day of October be observed by all our Churches as a day of *thanksgiving*; and the 10th of May as a day of *Fasting* and *Humiliation*.

28th. That in conjunction with the Churches of the Saints, in *Europe* and *America*, a Missionary Prayer Meeting be held in all our Churches on the *first Monday Evening* of every month.

29th. That it be earnestly recommended to those Churches in our Association who have stated Pastors, to attend to the Ordinance of our Lord's Supper, once a month.

30th. That Elder D. DUNBAR superintend the printing of the Minutes, and that 300 copies be printed.

31st. That a District Meeting of the Ministers composing this Association be held at *Wakefield*, on the 1st Sabbath in September next.

32d. Several grievous evils arising from a neglect of proper discipline in the Churches being adverted to, and taken into serious consideration, it was voted that this Association have decidedly resolved to hold no fellowship with any Church that does not strictly observe and maintain, in all cases, those Rules of Church discipline prescribed and enjoined by the word of God.

33d. That the cordial thanks of the Association be presented to the Church and Congregation of Fredericton, for their kindness and hospitality during this Session, and for their handsome Collection, in aid of the Mission.

A letter was received, during the sitting of the Association, from Sister WEALTHY ANN BLAKSLEE, Secretary to the *Female*

Mite Society in St. John, stating that they had paid into the hands of J. M. Wilmot, in aid of the Mission—

The Sum of,.....	£6	0	0
Received for the same purpose, from the Norton Female Mite Society, by the hands of Brother F. Pickle,.....	}	2	0
And the liberal Collection at the close of the Introductory Sermon, by Elder E. MANNING,.....			
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For this goodly Sum, as the beginning of a *Missionary Fund*, we have abundant cause to bless God; and we have every reason to believe that the united efforts of all our Brethren and Sisters in the Lord, during the present year, will be productive of sufficient means, for sending the Glorious Gospel of the Blessed God to many of the destitute Settlements throughout the Province.

The business of the Association being over, the MODERATOR addressed the Ministering Brethren and the whole Assembly in a very interesting and appropriate manner, and the Session closed with prayer by Elder S. DENSMORE.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The Elders and Messengers of the NEW-BRUNSWICK BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, to the Churches which they represent, who are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called.

DEARLY BELOVED,

FOR the first time, as a separate Association, we address you on those subjects, which belong to our mutual edification. We have had much cause of gratitude to our God, during the time of our assembling together; we believe the prayers of many of his dear people were heard on our behalf, and we may truly say the Master of Assemblies presided in our midst.

WE were much edified and profited by reading many of the Letters addressed to us; while we had much cause for sorrow and lamentation on account of the disordered and sickly state of many of our Churches, which appeared once to run well. If the great Head of the Church was to address us, as he did one of the Seven Churches which were in Asia; not a few, but many things we fear he would have against us. Brethren, let us examine ourselves whether we be in the Faith, or not; whether we have that Faith, which is of the operation of God; and if we have, what is its ground and its effects? Let us beware of the many Counterfeits, which are going abroad in the world, under its specious name. Let us beware of those ringleaders of opposition to the truth of God, who instead of exalting the character of the Lord Jesus, would make man his own Saviour, quarrel with the Divine Sovereignty, decry the doctrines of Grace, and make the Salvation of the Gospel not a matter of Grace, but of Debt: these are they, who with fair speeches, deceive the hearts of the simple, teaching things contrary to the doctrine, which ye have received.

There is another and a deadly error, beloved, against which we would warn you; that is in trusting to certain frames and feelings, making them the criterion of a work of Grace, and the ground of hope before God; too many we fear are carried away by the delusions of that old Serpent, who transforming himself into an Angel of Light, puts darkness for light and light for darkness: Inspiration describes such thus. Behold all ye that kindle a fire, that compass yourselves about with sparks; walk in the light of your fire, and in the sparks that you have kindled. This shall ye have of mine hand, ye shall lie down with sorrow. Ish. 50 chap. 11 v. Let us then be-

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ware of these rocks of fanaticism and antinomianism, while we should equally fear to build our house on the quicksand of cold formality, having the form of Godliness, but denying the power thereof. Need we to observe, that a mistake on what is the ground of a sinner's acceptance with God, is fatal in its consequences, and however right we may be in every thing else, if wrong here, all will be wrong; for however stately and fair the edifice may appear, if the foundation be not sure, it shall fall, and great will be the fall thereof. Let us then be careful that we get on the sure foundation, the chief corner stone, sufficient for the support of all God's elect. In fine, let us not trust to our feelings or our fancies, but to the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ, being persuaded that in him *only* is God the Father well pleased.

WE would next call your attention to the effects of that Faith, which purifies the heart, and works by love, the Apostle James says—"shew me your faith without your works, and I will shew you my faith by my works;" Know ye not Brethren, that Faith without works is dead, being alone. Practical godliness is we fear, too much neglected among us: can it be said of any of us, we say, and do not, and what do we more than others? Brethren let us cultivate a closer walk with God; let us aim in the first place at personal holiness, remembering it is written, "Be ye holy for I am holy."

To you who are heads of Families we would earnestly recommend, to fill that important trust committed to your charge; have you not in degree to fill the office of a Prophet, to instruct? of a Priest, to offer up sacrifice on the great Altar that sanctifieth the gift? and of a King, to see that the commands of him, in whom the whole family in Heaven and earth are named be observed? Let it not be said that the Baptist people neglect to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord: what though we durst not prostitute any ordinance of the Gospel, though we refuse to comply with the Antiscriptural example of other professing denominations of Christians, shall we not be careful both by precept and example to instruct those committed to our charge? let it rather be our determination through grace, like good old Joshua, let others do as they will, as for us and our houses we will serve the Lord.

WE would next call your attention to the duty of reading the Holy Scriptures; let the word of God dwell in you richly, make it the man of your counsel, the guide of your steps: how shall we be able to give to every man that asketh us a reason of the hope that is within us, *if ignorant of the Scriptures of Truth*? This is that sword of the spirit, which when rightly wielded, will put our enemies to silence and to flight; remember that all Scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction and instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly finished unto every good work.

THERE is another evil that we can by no means sanction among us, as being pernicious and demoralizing in its practice; equally opposed to the Laws of our Country, and our God, that is *Smuggling*. Surely our Brethren need not be informed, that a person carrying on such an illicit practice, is as absolutely a subject for discipline in a Church of Christ as the openly profane.

THERE is yet another evil too apparent among us, and which gives us considerable pain to be under the necessity of taking notice of, that is *neglect in supporting the Gospel*; are not many of your Ministers in such straitened circumstances as to be obliged to entangle themselves too much with the affairs of this world, in order to provide for the temporal wants of themselves and families, thereby greatly hindering their usefulness, paralyzing their exertions, and preventing them from devoting that time to the important work in which they are engaged, as often overwhelms them with anguish, seeing they cannot give themselves wholly to the work, that their profiting may appear unto all men. Surely Brethren we need not remind you, that God has ordained, that those who preach the Gospel should live by the Gospel.

WE would just observe as it respects the Deacon's Office, that their business is not merely to attend to the spiritual wants of the Churches, but ra-

ther to their temporal wants; there should be at least such proportion of the property (of those possessing property) at their disposal, as would enable them to attend to the wants both of their Ministers and of their poor Brethren, that may happen to be in the Church.

We would earnestly recommend frequent Communion Seasons, in those Churches where there are Pastors; this we conceive, should be at least once a month: there is little danger of our too often shewing forth the Lord's death till he come.

You will observe, Brethren, by one of the Resolutions, entered into at our Association, and stated in our Minutes, the absolute necessity there is of observing strict scriptural discipline; remember Holiness becometh the House of God; we should be as anxious to be governed by the Laws of the Lord Jesus, as we are willing to be saved by his merits. Finally Brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise think on these things, and the God of peace be with you. AMEN.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The Ministers and Messengers composing the NEW-BRUNSWICK BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, to Corresponding Associations, send Christian salutation.

DEAR BRETHERN,

AGREEABLY to a Motion unanimously carried at the last Annual Meeting of the *Nova-Scotia* and *New-Brunswick* Baptist Association, we are assembled together at this time, and through the boundless goodness of God our Saviour, are now able to congratulate each other on the formation of the several Baptist Churches in this Province into a new Association.

We have every reason to hope that the interests of the Church of Christ in both Provinces will be more effectually promoted by this measure.

It affords us matter of sincere gratitude to behold the ardour of that zeal, the extent of that liberality, and the vigour of those exertions, that are increasingly manifested in Europe, and in America, for the enlargement of the Redeemer's Kingdom. The harmony which subsists among the great Evangelical Societies—the kindred temper by which they are animated—the many well qualified instruments with which it hath pleased Divine Providence to furnish them—and the surprising success which has already crowned their operations, demonstrate beyond a doubt that the work in which they are engaged is the work of God. We therefore consider that ~~already~~ responsibility rests upon us to take an active part in so glorious a cause. We are surrounded with thousands of our fellow-men who are yet in a perishing condition. Something has been already done by several of our Ministers, to instruct them in the way of salvation, and the gracious tokens of the Divine presence with which some of our Churches have been visited during the past year afford encouragement, and increase our obligations to do much more for the time to come.

We humbly solicit a continuation of your valuable correspondence, which we enjoyed while associated with our brethren in the Sister Province.—Your Messengers and Minutes we shall gladly receive and highly esteem.

PRAYING that the God of all Grace may preserve you and us in the unity of the spirit, and the bond of peace, until union with himself in the regions of bliss shall render our correspondence on earth unnecessary, we subscribe ourselves, very affectionately, your's, in "those ties which nature and time cannot remove."

THEODORE S. HARDING, *Moderator.*
DUNCAN DUNBAR, *Clerk.*
CHARLES MILLAR, *Assistant Clerk.*