

MINUTES

OF THE

NOVA-SCOTIA

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT CHESTER,

ON

MONDAY, TUESDAY, & WEDNESDAY, 25th, 26th, & 27th June,

1838.

TOGETHER WITH THE

Circular Letter, Missionary Notices, &c. &c.

HALIFAX:

PRINTED BY JAMES SPIKE, PRINCE AND BARRINGTON STREETS.

1838.

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THE

BAPTIST CHURCH

OF

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PRINTED BY JAMES GIBBS, BRIDGE AND MARKET STREETS

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MINUTES.



MONDAY, JUNE 25th, 1838

The introductory sermon was preached by Elder E. BILL, (Br. WILLIAM CHIPMAN being indisposed,) from Zechariah iv. 7. *Who art thou, O great Mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the head-stone thereof with shouting, crying, Grace, grace, unto it.*

A collection was taken in aid of Missions.

Prayer was then offered by brother W. CHIPMAN, former Secretary, in the absence of Elder C. TUPPER, the Moderator of the preceding Association.

Elder T. S. HARDING was appointed Moderator, brother W. CHIPMAN, Clerk, and J. W. NUTTING, Assistant-Clerk, Brethren I. E. BILL, and JOHN CHASE were appointed to examine, and S. T. RAND and J. FERGUSON to read the Letters. The following brethren were appointed a Committee to report on such questions as should be submitted to the Association, viz:—Elders T. S. HARDING, E. MANNING, W. CHIPMAN, I. E. BILL, J. MUNRO, C. RANDALL, G. DIMOCK, N. VIDITOE, S. T. RAND, G. RICHARDSON, D. HARRIS, E. A. CRAWLEY, and J. CHASE; and brethren M. CHIPMAN, J. W. NUTTING, Dr. VAN BUREN, Dr. LYNDS, and H. CHIPMAN.

Elders T. W. SAUNDERS, Messenger from N. B. Association, and F. W. MILES from N. B., E. A. CRAWLEY, D. HARRIS, A. V. DIMOCK, and E. STRONACH; and brethren Z. FREEMAN and J. MUNRO, were invited to take a seat with us.

Brethren J. FERGUSON and A. V. DIMOCK were appointed to receive the monies.

The Letters from the Churches were read.

The Messengers being seated the following Minutes were taken—

STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

[The name of ordained Ministers are in SMALL CAPITALS; Those of Licentiates in *Italics*; Ministers not present, marked with an Asterisk*; Churches from which no information was received, marked †; and vacant Churches are distinguished by a dash (—) Churches from which no information was received are returned as they stood last year.]

CHURCHES.	MINISTERS AND MESSENGERS.	ADDED					Total.	£ s. d.			
		Restored.	By Baptism	By Letter	Dismissed.	Excluded.					
Annapolis and } Upper Granville } †Lower Granville	J. CHASE - - - -	0	2	4	5	1	4	114	3	10	6
	Dea. M. Chipman										
	*J. B. COGSWELL							103	3	10	2
Wilmot - - - -	J. Woodworth - -										
	N. VIDITOE - - -		1		2	3	1	228			
Ist Cornwallis - -	E. MANNING - - -										
	J. COGSWELL - - -		3		6	5	1	219	3	6	7
Newport - - - -	Dea. H. Chipman										
	G. DIMOCK - - -										
	J. Mosher J. Anthony		1					111	3	18	9
	O. Dimock J. Mars- ters										
Onslow - - - -	J. MUNRO - - - -			1	1			100	5	1	11
	Dr. Lynds I. Smith										
Ist Clements - -	*I. POTTER SENR.	3	1		2	2		162	12	8	
	I. Potter Junr.										
Lunenburg - - -								84	2	3	9
Nictaux - - - -	I. E. BILL - - - -										
	Dea. C. Shaffner and J. Porter - -		1		2	2		397	7	4	7
Digby Neck - - -	J. E. Delap - - -				3		2	47	1	10	0
River Philip - -			2	1		1		35	0	4	2
Horton - - - -	T. S. HARDING - -										
	*J. PRYOR - - - -										
	J. Stephens - - -		8	7	3		4	375	21	16	3
	S. Richardson - -										
Windsor - - - -	†S. Armstrong - -										
	*R. M'LEARN - - -		8					50	1	9	5
Rawdon - - - -	J. Burgess - - - -										
	F. Parker - - - -					19		27	0	16	3
†Up. Granville } Mountain - - - }								122			

CHURCHES

Parrsborough
Hammonds P
Chester - - -

Anherst - - -

†Antigonish - -

Port Medway - -

Sissiboo - - -

2nd Cornwallis

Ist Yarmouth - -

†Waterford - - -

Ist Halifax - - -

Aylesford - - -

New Albany - - -

Liverpool - - - -

Brookfield - - - -

†Tryon & Bedeque

†Sydney C. B. - -

2nd Clements - - -

†Little Forks - - -

Bryer Island - - -

†Ragged Island - -

Falmouth - - - -

Westchester - - -

†Guysborough - - -

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STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES.	MINISTERS AND MESSENGERS.	ADDED.					Total.	£ s. d.		
		Restored.	By Baptism	By Letter	Dismissed.	Excluded.		Died.	£	s.
Parrsborough - -			1				26			
Hammonds Plain							23			
Chester - - - -	J. DIMOCK - -									
	D. W. Dimock - -									
	J. Smith M. Hutt									
	D. Dimock A. Wal-	4	6		7	3	223	3	10	34
	ker J. Melvin J.									
	W. Beckwith - -									
Amherst - - - -	*S. M' CULLEY - -									
	*C. TUPPER - - -		4	1			30	1	11	3
†Antigonish - -										
	J. WHIDDEN - -						29			
Port Medway - -	T. H. PORTER - -									
	Dea. T. M'Vicar -	1			3		42	1	15	0
Sissiboo - - - -	C. RANDALL - - -									
2nd Cornwallis -	W. CHIPMAN - - -		5	1	2	3	116	2	15	0
	J. J. Van Buren &			2			186	1	19	44
1st Yarmouth - -	A. Skinner - - -									
	*H. HARDING - -									
	*W. BURTON - - -	92	3				383	1	5	0
†Waterford - - -										
1st Halifax - - -							52			
Aylesford - - - -		29	21			2	177	1	5	0
	E. MARSTERS - -									
	Dea. S. Welton C.									
	Baker Z. Roach } 1	1			3	1	203			
	& R. Wilson - - -									
New Albany - - -	T. DELONG - - -									
	Dea. D. Whitman } .						49	0	17	2
Liverpool - - - -	S. T. RAND - - -									
	Wm. Starrett - - -	3	1		2		93	7	10	0
Brookfield - - -	T. DELONG - - -									
†Tryon & Bedeque		1	1		2	1	76	1	2	0
†Sydney C. B. - -							59			
2nd Clements - -			3				22			
†Little Forks - -	*H. SAUNDERS - }	1	4			3	62	0	6	0
Bryer Island - - -							21			
	*W. JACKSON - - -									
†Ragged Island -	J. E. Delap - - - }	2	1				38	1	10	0
Falmouth - - - -							108			
Westchester - - -	L. Lockart - - - }	5	1		1		86	0	16	9
	W. Ralston - - - }									
	N. Webb - - - - }	25					37	0	10	14
†Guysborough - -										
	*H. HULL - - - - }						43			

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STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES.	MINISTERS AND MESSENGERS.	ADDED.			Dis- missed.	Ex- cluded.	Died.	Total.	£ s. d.			
		Restored.	By Bap- tism	P- v Letter					£	s.	d.	
Granville Street } Halifax - - - }	E. A. CRAWLEY } Dea. J. W. Nutting } J. Ferguson - - }	.	14	23	.	5	1	157	13	12	5	
†Mabou - - - -		.	.	.	.	.	.	10			
Tracadie - - - -		3	9	.	.	.	1	38				
†Windsor Road -		.	.	.	.	.	.	35			
Sherbrooke - - -		.	.	.	1	.	.	23	0	7	3½	
†Baddeck - - - -	* McQuillen - -	.	.	.	.	.	.	13			
Stewiacke - - - -	G. RICHARDSON - -	.	1	.	.	.	.	26	1	11	1½
St. Margaret's - } Bay - - - - }	J. Hubly - - - - }	.	.	.	.	1	1	14	1	9	10½
†Economy - - - -		.	.	.	.	.	.	12			
Jeddore - - - -	*J. SKERRY - - - -	1	.	2	.	4	1	30	1	1	3	
†Three Rivers - } P. E. Island - }	*J. SHAW - - - - }	.	.	.	.	.	.	36			
†East Point - - -	*J. SHAW - - - -	.	.	.	.	.	.	57			
†Canso - - - -		.	.	.	.	.	.	10			
3rd Cornwallis -	A. STRONACH - - -	.	.	2	6	3	1	159	2	0	0	
†Wilmot Mountain	*R. CUNNINGHAM -	.	.	.	.	.	.	73			
Tusket & Argyle	*J. LENT - - - -	1	21	1	.	.	2	78				
Wellington - - -	M. PARKER - - - -	.	.	.	.	.	.	37	0	4	6
Springfield - - -		.	.	.	.	2	.	17			
Dalhousie - - - -	T. DELONG - - - -	.	.	.	.	.	.	24	1	2	6
Margaree - - - -		.	.	.	.	.	.	31			
2nd Yarmouth -	*P. D. Lavers - - }	.	4	.	3	.	.	31				
†Long Island -	*H. HARDING - - -	5	39	1	.	.	.	235	2	5	0	
†Charlotte Town } P. E. Island - }		.	.	.	.	.	.	37			
2nd Aylesford -		.	.	.	.	.	.	13			
	E. STRONACH - - }	.	.	.	.	.	.
	Dea. O. Parker T. } Tupper J. Randall }	.	.	.	.	.	.	33	2	0	0
Bridgewater - - -	M. PARKER - - - -	.	.	.	.	.	.
	Dea. J. Hicks T. } Rice W. Newcomb }	.	.	.	.	.	.	9	0	9	6
2nd Digby Neck -		.	.	.	.	.	.	38	1	4	10
	J. E. Delap - - - }	.	.	.	.	.	.
		49|335|55|			42|64|32|			5608|				

The last three Churches were added this year and their Messengers received the right hand of fellowship from the Moderator.

* It will be found that in some instances the state of Churches will not correspond with the former Minutes after making the additions and subtractions. This error has not originated with the Clerk. It is desirable therefore, in future, that great care be taken to give a correct statement in the citters.

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FROM CORRESPONDING ASSOCIATIONS

Received as follows:

MESSENGER.

New-Brunswick - - - - THOMAS W. SAUNDERS.

Resolved,—That Brother Nutting superintend the printing of the Minutes, and that 1200 copies be printed.

Resolved,—That Brother T.S. Harding be our Messenger to the N. B. Association, and that he receive £4 10 for his services. The Circular Letter was read and adopted.

Resolved,—That the Annual Meeting this year be held at Nictaux, on the first Sabbath after the 20th Sept. ; and that a similar meeting be held at Digby Joggins, on the first Sabbath after the 15th of October.

Resolved,—That the names of individuals, and Churches who have contributed in aid of the Burman Mission, to be inserted in the Minutes.

Resolved,—That the amount received in aid of Domestic Missions from each Church, be inserted on the same page opposite the state of such Church.

Resolved,—That the subject of the division of the Association be referred to the select Committee.

Resolved,—That this Association do hereby fully approve of and confirm the resolutions passed at the last Association in favor of the publication of the Christian Messenger, and do warmly recommend it to the denomination and the public, as well calculated to spread abroad and maintain the principles of Gospel truth, and that it be urged upon members of Churches and all other friends of religion throughout the Province, to give it their utmost support, by endeavouring to enlarge its circulation.

Resolved,—That as the Messenger is specially under the patronage of the Association and the Missionary Board, and there is every reason to believe that if well supported it will be the means of producing a considerable amount of pecuniary benefit to the Missionary Funds. It is Resolved, that all persons who are in arrears for their subscriptions for the past year, be particularly requested to pay up the same, as it is not expected or intended that any risk should be incurred by the conductors of the paper or any responsibility thrown upon them as respects its management.

Resolved,—that in addition to the names already pledged for guaranteeing the Missionary Board against any ultimate loss upon the publication, as many other names as possible for the sum of £5 each be procured at the present Association.

Resolved,—That the Messenger from the N. B. Association and Br. F. W. Miles be requested to bring a similar subscription

Total	£	s.	d.
57	13	12	5
10			
38			
35			
23	0	7	3½
13			
26	1	11	1½
14	1	9	10½
12			
30	1	1	3
36			
57			
10			
59	2	0	0
73			
78			
37	0	4	6
17			
24	1	2	6
31			
55	2	5	0
77			
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9	0	9	6
8	1	4	10

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before the coming Association in that Province, and to procure as many subscribers as possible towards the support of the Christian Messenger.

And although it is evident, by the statement now made of the number of subscribers and the expenses incurred, that if the subscriptions for the last and the present year, should be paid in, they will not only pay off all the expenses of the paper, but will leave a considerable sum at the disposal of the Board of Missions, yet, that unless they are so paid, much difficulty and embarrassment will ensue; it is therefore resolved that all our Ministers and Missionaries be requested to take a direct and personal interest in forwarding the circulation of the Messenger, and also in enforcing upon the local agents, the necessity of their taking a personal and individual concern in the collection of the subscriptions within their several districts, and using constant and persevering endeavours to prevent the accumulation of arrears.

Resolved,—That the Missionary Board do hereafter, hold one of their meetings, at 10 o'clock, on Saturday morning, before the meeting of the Association.

Resolved,—That the monthly concert of Prayer for the Heavens, be recommended to be observed in our Churches.

Adjourned till 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Preaching at six o'clock this evening, Tuesday 26th June, by Br. A. Stronach.

The Association then met. Prayer by Brother Stevens.

The business of the Education Society was then taken up, and Brother Nutting made the following report which was adopted.

The managing Committee of the N. S. Baptist Education Society have to state to the Society that since the last Association at Yarmouth, its agents, officers, and friends have been using their utmost endeavours to collect the subscriptions towards the liquidation of the debt on the Academy. That about one-half of the amount of subscriptions have been received, and the debt reduced since the last Association, from £1600 to nearly half that amount, and there is no reason to apprehend but that the remaining subscriptions will with few exceptions be forthcoming.

That owing to the serious indisposition of the Rev. Richard McLearn, the zealous agent of the Society, the collection of subscriptions are in some measure interrupted, but that there is every reason to believe that before another year expires, so large a sum will be collected as shall enable the Committee very nearly, or quite to discharge the remaining amount due.

The Seminary has been conducted with its accustomed success and ability by Mr. Pryor, the principal, and contains as large a number of pupils as have ever yet been under instruction there. The Boarders including five or six young men studying for the Ministry, are upwards of thirty.

The Committee has lately engaged the services of Mr. Thos.

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Soley as an Assistant, in whose capacity to fill that office they have formerly had ample experience.

The Examination of the pupils at the Academy which took place on the 20th inst., was highly satisfactory, and the Committee feel confident that the Institution will bear the most favorable comparison with any other place of Education in the Province, and that it is continuing to rise in the estimation of the Community at large; in proof of this, they have satisfaction in stating that the annual grant of £300 has been continued by the Legislature with great unanimity in all its branches.

The Committee have used every exertion in their power for some time past to procure a suitable person to fill the office of Mathematical Professor in the Institution, and to share the labours with Mr. Pryor in other branches, but owing to various circumstances have as yet been unable to succeed on this side the Atlantic. They have however, lately opened a correspondence with the Mother Country, and have the best hopes that they may very shortly obtain a supply for this highly important situation.

A full report will be published as soon as the collection of Subscriptions shall have been completed.

Whereupon it was *Resolved*,—That this Society in view of the necessity of advancing the means of enlarged Education at Horton Academy request the Committee to renew and press their endeavours to obtain a competent Instructor in the higher branches of Mathematical and Scientific learning, and pledge themselves to his competent support.

Resolved,—That a vote of thanks be presented to Brother McLearn for his past services in favor of the Education Society, and that he be requested to continue his exertions until the object is accomplished.

Resolved,—That the former Committee and Officers of the Education Society be continued, and that Brethren C. Tupper, R. McLearn, and I. E. Bill be added to the Managing Committee.

The business of the Association was again resumed, when several additional letters from Churches were read.

Resolved,—That this Association do deeply feel the loss we have sustained in the death of our venerable friend, the late Rev. John Burton, whose praise is in all the Churches; as likewise that of the Rev. Peter Crandal of Digby Neck, and the Rev. John Craig of Bagged Islands, three aged Ministers who have long been members of our Association, and who, in one year, have left the walls of our Zion, to receive a crown of life.

The subject of Foreign Missions was introduced, when several of the brethren addressed the meeting, and it was *Resolved*, That this Association having taken into serious consideration the lamentable condition of the heathen world, the consequent imperative duty of Christians to send them the word of life, the especial command of the Saviour, "Go ye into all nations" &c.,

and the pecuniary pressure suffered at the present time in the funds of the Missionary Societies in America, therefore, solemnly, and as they trust in the love and fear of God, do now propose to their sister Association in New Brunswick to form a United Society for the maintainance of Foreign Missions.

And inasmuch as Christians in these Provinces owe not only means but men to so holy and divine a cause, and some there may be, secretly desirous of devoting themselves to this blessed work, who are deterred, from the want of suitable preparation and means, and inasmuch also as this Association is assured that a Missionary proceeding from the bosom of the Churches in these Provinces, would tend greatly to increase Christian sympathy and effort, as well as to revive and encourage any other benevolent undertaking in which the Churches are engaged; it is further

Resolved,—That this Association request that of New Brunswick to form themselves into such Foreign Missionary Society and to unite with them in pledging themselves and the Churches to the adequate education and maintainance of some one suitable person as a Missionary in some foreign field so soon as one possessed of suitable character shall be found in the judgment of such Committee as the United Society may name for this purpose.

Resolved,—That Brethren Saunders, the Messenger from New Brunswick, Brother T. S. Harding, our Messenger to the N. B. Association, and Brother F. W. Miles be a Committee to consult with the N. B. Association on the means of forming a Union of the two Provinces for the purpose of raising funds and devising means for sending the Gospel to the Heathen.

Resolved,—That a Committee be appointed to meet and confer with the N. B. Association in relation to said subject, and provided they approve of our plan that they be empowered to form a Constitution and carry the same into effect, and that brethren Crawley, Nutting, Bill, McLearn, and Chipman be the Committee.

Resolved,—That Brethren E. A. Crawley, J. Dimock, and W. Chipman be a Committee to address an appeal to the Churches of N. S. and N. B. on the subject of their duties in respect to the establishment of a Foreign Mission as well as the increase of their Home Missionary operations, and the continued maintenance of such a system of Education as will tend to support these benevolent undertakings, to which the Churches are so loudly called.

The condition of the coloured people in various parts of this Province having been brought to the notice of this Association, and especially, the loss they have sustained in the death of their late aged friend and pastor the Rev. John Burton, and the claims they have on the Baptist denomination in this Province to watch over their spiritual condition. It is therefore

Resolved,—That the Churches be urged to make such immediate enlargement of their contributions to the Home Missionary funds as will enable them to provide a Missionary who may permanently devote his time and labours to the instruction of the

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Whereas the sum of nearly one hundred pounds remains due for the printing of the N. S. and N. B. Baptist Magazine, which is chargeable on the Missionary Boards of N. S. and N. B., and which sum is now called for by the printer.

Resolved,—That the General Agent of the Magazine be requested to furnish the Secretary of the Association with the names of the local agents in both Provinces who are indebted to the Missionary Board or in whose districts any subscriptions remain unpaid, in order that the Secretary may make personal application for the amounts due.

Resolved,—That the Secretary furnish our Messenger to the N. B. Association with a memorandum of the sums due for the Magazine in that Province, in order that their Association may be enabled to take such measures as they shall deem proper for the collection of the same.

Resolved,—That this Association recommend that the Missionary Board advance to the Editors of the Magazine the sum of £35 towards payment of the amount still due.

Resolved,—That the attention of the N. B. Association be particularly called to the above resolutions.

Resolved,—That the former Officers of the Missionary Board remain, and that Brother Ferguson be added to the Board. Adjourned to 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Meeting at 6 o'clock, Brother Stevens preached.

Met according to adjournment at half-past ten, Wednesday, June 27. Prayer by Brother Harding Porter.

Brother Marsters appeared before the Association in compliance with the resolution of the last year, when

Brother Marsters having made such acknowledgments and explanations as on a full and careful examination of the whole case are satisfactory to this Association; and this Association trusting that Brother Marsters is penitent so far as he is sensible of having committed indiscretions,

Resolved,—That he be restored to fellowship with this Association; and that they do at the same time feel themselves solemnly called on to express their disapprobation and abhorrence of those indiscretions of manner which have led to the present difficulty.

The reports of the Select Committee as follows were read and severally adopted.

1.—That the Letter from Hammond's Plain Branch of the 1st Halifax Church, be read.

2.—In reply to two Letters written from the members of the Church at Lunenburg,

The Committee recommend the following decision: That inasmuch as the Church at Lunenburg have expressed their desire to submit to this Association, and the only influence which the Association can exert in cases of contention is to tender their

advice by counsel or otherwise, and in case parties refuse compliance with such advice to withdraw fellowship from them; and inasmuch as the Council formerly appointed recommend the appointment of a second Council for further inquiry into the facts of the case, Resolved, that Jos. Dimock, Wm. Chipman, Silas T. Rand, Harding Porter, John Chase, and N. Viditoe—be a Council for such purpose and the Association affectionately admonish the contending brethren of the duty of compliance with the Christian advice of the Council now named.

3.—In reply to the question from the Church at Westchester, The Committee recommend the Association to advise the Westchester Church that Mr. Barnaby has been excluded from membership with the Newport Church on account of various serious irregularities, since which he never has manifested repentance. And that this Association believing him to be unworthy of their Christian confidence solemnly recommend their brethren to withdraw their fellowship from him and not to continue to recognize him as a Christian Minister.

In reply to the Petitions from certain individuals connected with the Church at Aylesford, Nictaux, and Wilmot,

Inasmuch as these petitions appear to proceed from private individuals, members of various Churches, and not from the Churches themselves, the Committee recommend them to be dismissed for irregularity: and although the Association doubtless would not preclude a private member aggrieved by his Church from seeking the Christian counsel of this Body in a proper manner, this Committee would respectfully recommend the Association to express strongly their disapprobation of the practice of private persons without the knowledge and approbation of their respective Churches and Pastors, intermeddling in the affairs of neighbouring Churches and getting up petitions to the Association on party questions.

In relation to the division of the Association, the Committee recommend that no division at present take place.

Resolved,—That the next Association be held at Wilmot on the 1st Monday after the 20th of June, and that Brother Pryor Preach the introductory Sermon and in case of failure, Brother E. A. Crawley.

Resolved,—That Brother S. T. Rand write the circular.

Resolved,—That the 2nd Church at Aylesford be received into the Association, as recommended by the Select Committee.

The Committee appointed to more fully organize a Union in relation to Sabbath Schools reported. The subject was deferred for the present.

Resolved,—That the thanks of this Association be presented to the Church at Chester, the congregation and other benevolent friends, for their hospitality and kindness during this session, as also for their various liberal contributions for religious purposes.

Meeting concluded by prayer. At 6 o'clock, Brother S. T. Rand preached.

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CIRCULAR LETTER.

DEAR BRETHREN,

THROUGH the tender mercy of our Covenant God and Father, we are permitted again to address you, and in so doing we beg leave to call your attention to the importance of exercising an impartial discipline in the several Churches composing this Body. By discipline, we mean that mode of treatment towards offending members which the word of God distinctly points out. God has been pleased not only to establish his Church here on earth: but he has also given a code of laws in his word, by which that Church is to be regulated and governed. These laws in his Kingdom are to it, what the laws of a State are to a nation. The laws of a nation may be pure and wholesome: but if trampled upon with impunity, and transgressors permitted to go on unpunished, consequences the most disastrous to the peace and prosperity of the nation must inevitably follow. So with the Kingdom of the Redeemer on earth, if those who are its subjects are suffered to violate its holy principles, and disregard its divine mandates, without meeting the admonitions and the censure of the Church, what may we expect, but envyings, and strife, and discord, and every evil word and work amongst us. A Scriptural discipline is one of the great bulwarks of our Zion, for when offenders are dealt with as the Gospel directs, it serves as a beacon to others and awakens a spirit of watchfulness and prayer on the part of the members generally, that they may be preserved from those evils which have befallen their offending brethren, and perhaps separated them for ever from the communion of the saints. The word of God may be faithfully preached, the ordinances regularly administered, and members rapidly increased: but if discipline be neglected all is tending to desolation, and although we may imagine that all is prosperous and healthy, yet there is a disease fastening itself upon the vitals, which if permitted to work its natural course must terminate in ruin.

In looking for the cause of those serious evils with which some of our once flourishing Churches are at present infected, and which have arisen like a moral pestilence amongst them, to disrobe them of all their beauty, to wither up all their comforts, and to blight all their hopes as regards the future, are we not naturally led to the conclusion from what we know of the conduct of many of the professors of our holy religion, that they have had their origin, in part at least, in a most woeful neglect of the administration of the wholesome laws of Church discipline? It may be that the door has not been carefully closed against all such as cannot give Scriptural evi-

dence of their union to Christ. It may be that in times of religious excitement we have been too anxious to multiply our numbers, and that we have taken tears and zeal, apparent penitence and enthusiastic joy, for genuine religion, and when persons thus influenced have succeeded in entering the hallowed door of the Church, they are placed in circumstances in which they will be likely to do much harm. They may appear to run well for a season: but they will sooner or later evince their love to the world and their hatred to that holy self-denying course which the Bible inculcates; and when they do so, if not properly disciplined, they become factious, perhaps succeed in gaining a party, and in the end bring disgrace and misery upon themselves, and upon the Church which has received them.

Again, we observe, if discipline be neglected, what distinguishes the Church of God from the world? If for example a man can be decidedly covetous in his heart, and manifest that he is so, by shutting his hand against the poor and against all the religious institutions of the day, or by refusing to do what he ought for the support of the Gospel at home and abroad, or if he can indulge in habits of intemperance year after year, and join with the multitude that do evil in works of darkness and sin, if he can grind the face of the poor, and deal unjustly with his neighbours, or if he can employ his time and talents in blowing up the coals of strife and division amongst his brethren, and can still retain his seat in the Church of God; where, we again ask, is the line of discrimination between the Church and the world? And with what propriety can we speak of the Church of Christ, as being made up of lively stones, of spiritual subjects, who are crucified to the world, to its affections, and its lusts? Alas, dear brethren, if such individuals be allowed to approach the holy communion of the Redeemer, we become a reproach and a by-word to all around us, and instead of being dignified with the exalted title of the light of the world, and the salt of the earth, we might more properly be called the synagogue of Satan, and a cage of unclean birds. Can we with confidence look up to heaven and implore the divine blessing, while such unholy "Achans" are in the camp? May we not rather tremble with fear and dread, lest the curse of him that troubled the Camp of Israel, should fall with tremendous weight upon us. If there be any one sin more likely to grieve the Holy Spirit than another, and deprive us of his reviving, converting, and sanctifying influences, surely the neglect of a faithful discipline on the part of the Church must be the one.

How imperatively does the word of God urge us to this duty. As for example, "A man that is a heretic after the first and second admonition reject." Titus iii. 10. "We command you brethren in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly.—2 Thes. iii. 6."

"But now I have written unto you, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner, with such a one no not to eat.—1. Cor.

v. 11." "ed together to deliver that the sp xiv. 5." to thee as other passa are sufficient Church di positive inj Again, w important measures as possible the In cases rule, Mat. x the one agr labouring with fishing the in bly with exa spirit of hard What might been taken, n of the Church observed and with him, in b there the matt take one or tw obstinate, and liberty to tell i resort. In su better to suffer Again where instance as secr ministration of and worldly disp tor, or the adv Church may ha not admonish an ingly in the disc and again, "If a ual restore such might have saved separated them fr Flagrant offend a departure from or an attempt to s of the authority of only for the Chur offences have bec

v. 11." "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, to deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.—1. Cor. xiv. 5." Again, "If he neglect to hear the Church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican.—Mat. xviii. 17." Many other passages upon the same subject might be quoted; but these are sufficient to show that we cannot neglect the administration of Church discipline without trampling upon the most plain, and positive injunctions of the sacred testimony.

Again, we observe, that in the discharge of this painful and all important duty, we should be exceedingly careful to adopt such measures as the word of God will justify, and as will preserve if possible the unity of the Church.

In cases of private injury how frequently is the Saviour's golden rule, Mat. xviii. 15. violated. One member offends another, and the one aggrieved instead of going to his offending brother, and labouring with him in love as the Gospel directs, goes about publishing the injury to his brethren, and perhaps to the world, probably with exaggerations; this comes back to the offender's ear, a spirit of hardness is excited, and the difficulty greatly increased. What might have been settled in a few minutes had proper steps been taken, now becomes such an evil as all the piety and wisdom of the Church cannot remove. But let the Saviour's directions be observed and let us go alone to the offender and pray and converse with him, in brotherly affection and kindness; if he give satisfaction, there the matter must for ever die: if he refuse, let us as directed take one or two more of the brethren with us, and if he still prove obstinate, and will not comply with what is just, we are then at liberty to tell it to the Church: but this should always be the last resort. In such a case we should do well to remember that it is better to suffer than to do wrong.

Again where persons are known to neglect their duty; such for instance as secret or family prayer, conference meetings, or the administration of God's word and ordinances, or to indulge in a vain and worldly disposition. In such cases the admonitions of the Pastor, or the advice of the Deacons and leading members of the Church may have the desired effect of reclaiming them. If we do not admonish and advise when occasion calls for it, we fail exceedingly in the discharge of our duty. "Exhort one another daily," and again, "If a brother be overtaken in a fault, ye that are spiritual restore such an one in the spirit of meekness." A timely caution might have saved many whose repeated transgressions have finally separated them from the Church.

Flagrant offences, such as adultery, fornication, drunkenness, or a departure from any of the fundamental principles of the Gospel, or an attempt to sow discord amongst brethren, or a wilful rejection of the authority of the Church, are to be treated differently. It is only for the Church to know from undoubted authority, that such offences have been committed; and she is called upon to arise at

once, and in the exercise of that power with which Christ has invested her, to expel the delinquent from her fellowship. "Put away from yourselves that wicked person." "Let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican." "To refuse to do so, is to retain a viper in our bosom, and to expose the whole body to be thrown into an unhealthy state by the infection arising from a diseased member."

In all cases of discipline, the Church should be guided by a spirit of faithfulness and impartiality. Here the rich and the poor, those who are high in office, in talent, and influence; and those who occupy the most humble seats meet together. All share in equal privileges, all are governed by the same laws. Hence, we can scarcely imagine any thing more displeasing to the Almighty, or a greater infringement upon the rights of his people than to judge partially in dealing with transgressors.

If a man have influence in the Church, whether that influence arise from his riches, his talents, or his office; if he pursue a course in opposition to the requisitions of the Gospel, so much greater the injury done to the cause of piety, and so much more the necessity of convincing him of the error of his ways. Take for example the Deacon of a Church. Suppose him to be moral and temperate, and to have much apparent zeal in the cause of God: but he is known to be decidedly covetous. He leaves his Minister to suffer for the necessary comforts of life, when he has it in his power to relieve him: he shuts his bowels of sympathy towards the poor of the flock, and withholds his hand from all those religious institutions which are combining their efforts for the spread of the Gospel and for the salvation of the world. Now, if he escape proper rebuke or discipline, what is the consequence? Why so far as his influence extends, he inspires others with the same unholy principle by which he is actuated, and the contamination extends from one to the other, until the Church of which he is a member, becomes the very seat of selfishness, and appears as a blot upon society. Or suppose the Deacon to be guilty of those vices which are disgraceful to the Christian name, the effect is still more ruinous, unless he be called to a strict account for his conduct. But let him be reclaimed or put away from the Church, and like Lot's wife, he is held up as a warning for others.

Again take for example the Minister of the Gospel, who is still higher in office, and who is expected to exert much more influence than any other member; and suppose him to violate any of those principles of Christian charity, temperance, or holy living, which ought ever to adorn and beautify his character, shall he be suffered to go on in his course without the decided disapprobation of his brethren? Surely not. His transgressions whatever they be, are greatly aggravated by the responsibility of his holy calling, and by the fact that he is to be an example to the flock. What might have appeared trivial in a private member, in him becomes a glaring evil; and it must be presumption on the part of the Church, and an abomination in the sight of a pure God, to pass by the offence of

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such an one because he is high in office: it is the most weighty reason why he should be called to a strict account. A man may speak with the tongue of men or Angels: if his life and conversation do not comport with the requirements of the Gospel, he is a stain upon the Ministerial office, and a stumblingblock in Zion; he is a curse to the world, and unless he repent and reform, should be separated from the holy fellowship of the household of faith.

Again, in the discipline of the Church, we should seek to free ourselves as much as possible from all that party spirit, which frequently arises from the ties of natural relationship. If the delinquent be a brother, a sister, a father, or son, we should judge as impartially as if he had no connexion with us. We must remember that the welfare of the delinquent, as well as the glory of God demand that we should be faithful.

In all cases where the nature of the offence does not call for immediate exclusion, every means that the Scriptures will justify, such as prayer, admonition, exhortation and reproof, should be employed for the restoration of a fallen brother, and the Church ought not to expel so long as there are any just grounds to hope that the offender may be reclaimed.

When called to the painful duty of excommunication, we should be freed from every thing like party zeal or revengeful passions, and act from a sincere desire to maintain the rights of the divine administration, and the purity of the Christian religion. The Church ought to feel that it is an awfully solemn act, and should never be approached without the utmost caution, deepest humiliation, and earnest prayer. She must remember, that in the solemn decision, she is inflicting that awful penalty, which the great head of the Church has annexed to the violation of the sacred laws of his Kingdom. A penalty that effects not so much the temporal relations and privileges of the transgressor, as his immortal concerns. This act receives additional importance from the consideration that it is to be performed in the "name of Jesus Christ," and when Scripturally administered it is in fact, the voice of the Son of God speaking through his own body, the Church, and saying to the delinquent, depart from my spiritual Temple, depart from my ordinances, depart from all the joys and consolations of Christian fellowship and communion; and unless the blood of sprinkling be applied to cleanse and to pardon, it is a fearful prelude of his final separation from all that is good and holy at the last day.

It may be asked how are we to deal with excluded persons? We answer, so far as we understand the Scriptures upon this subject, our conduct towards them is to be of such a character as to make them feel that the censure of the Church of God is upon them, and that they have no right whatever to any of the privileges of the Gospel Kingdom, so long as they remain impenitent. "Let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican." Mat. xviii. 17. "With such an one no not to eat." 1 Cor. v. 11. "But our prayers must ascend to the throne of God in their behalf ;

we must admonish and reprove them, and exhort them in the spirit of kindness to return to the Shepherd and Bishop of their souls; and when they shall manifest repentance to the acknowledgment of the truth, we should restore them to our affections and to the Church of God.

In conclusion, dear brethren, permit us to exhort you as individuals and as Churches, so to conduct yourselves through your earthly pilgrimage, as to give no occasion to those who desire it, to reproach that precious cause, which you have espoused, and "Let your light so shine before men that others seeing your good works may glorify your Father who is in Heaven."

[The following text is extremely faint and largely illegible, appearing to be a continuation of the sermon or a related address.]

- Bill, Rev.
- Bancroft, I
- Bishop, Sa
- Crandall, E
- Caswell, R
- Chipman, R
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- Crawley, Re
- Dimock, Rev
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- Fitch, Simon
- Ferguson, M
- Harding, Re
- S
- J.
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- James W
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- " Theodore
- " William C
- " David Ha
- " James Mu
- " John Pryc
- " I. E. Bill,
- " William B
- " R. McLea
- WIL
- Rev.
- Rev.
- J. W. NUT
- Rev. E. A

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Dr. The Baptist Association in Account with

1837		£	s.	d.
July 15	To T. S. Harding, his tour to the South shore six weeks. - - -	£ 9	0	0
	Expenses - - - - -	0	11	0
	Received in aid. - - - - -	8	0	0
	Postage. - - - - -	0	1	2
	Error in Money from last Association. - - - - -	0	16	1½
August	Mr. Doyle, Tour to Petite and Kempt shore, (1836,) 20 days -	4	5	0
	Received in aid. - - - - -	1	11	8
	For Minutes. - - - - -			
	Elder Parker, Tour, Cape Breton, 15 weeks. - - - - -	22	10	0
	Expenses, - - - - -	4	0	0
	Received in aid. - - - - -	7	3	8
	Elder T. S. Harding, Tour to the Eastward, 12 week. - - - - -	18	0	0
	Expenses, - - - - -	1	7	9
	Received in aid. - - - - -	17	12	7
	Elder G. Richardson, Tour, Cape Breton, 13 weeks. - - - - -	19	10	0
	Received in aid. - - - - -	8	7	5½
1838	Elder J. Skerry, Tour, Eastward Halifax, Balance due him. - -	12	11	0
Jan.	Also for loss on St. John Money, -	0	5	6
	Elder D. Harris, Tour to Halifax and vicinity, 12 weeks. - - -	18	0	0
	Expenses, - - - - -	0	8	9
	Received in aid. - - - - -	7	14	6
	Elder M. Parker, Tour to Ragged Island, &c. &c., 8 weeks. - - -	12	0	0
	Received in aid. - - - - -	4	0	0
June	Elder T. S. Harding as Messenger to N. B. Association. - - - - -	4	10	0
	Elder E. Stronach, Tour to Kempt, 6 weeks. - - - - -	9	0	0
	Recd. in aid, 40s. Given the Board 20s.3	0	0	0
	Elder J. Dimock in part his Tour Cape Breton. - - - - -		8	3
	Loan to the Editors Baptist Magazine. - - - - -		35	0
		138	15	5
	To Balance in hands of Treasurer this 6th July, 1838. - - - - -	107	7	2½
		£ 246	2	7½

William A.

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William Allen Chipman, Treasurer. Cr.

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July.	Balance as stated in account rendered.			
Nov.	Cash by Elder J. Dimock, collections at the yearly meeting.	87	9	4
1838	Cash by Elder R. McLearn, a donation from late Mrs. Stout.	3	12	0
Jan.	Cash from Mrs. J. Pryor, Sec. to the Horton Female Mite Society.	38	2	6
March.	Cash 2nd Cornwallis Church, for Minutes and Home Missions.	18	11	11
June.	Do. Annapolis and Upper Granville.	1	19	6½
	Do. Windsor	3	10	6
	A Friend, by Elder J. Chase.	1	9	5½
	Cash from Stewiacke Church.	0	10	0
	Do. Sissiboo do.	1	11	1½
	Do. 2nd Aylesford do.	2	15	0
	Do. Newport do.	2	0	0
	Do. Rawdon do.	3	18	9
	Do. Onslow do.	0	16	3
	By Miss Munro, Mite Society.	0	10	0
	Cash from Horton Church.	4	11	11
	Do. L. Granville do.	3	4	4½
	Do. Brier Island do.	3	10	2
	Do. Digby Neck do.	1	10	0
	Do. 2nd Digby Neck do.	1	10	0
	Do. Falmouth do.	1	4	10
	Do. Lunenburg do.	0	16	9
	Do. Margaret's Bay do.	2	3	9
	Do. West Chester do. 4s. and 6s. 1½d.	1	9	10½
	Do. Sherbrooke do.	0	10	1½
	Do. Nictaux do.	0	7	3½
	Do. 1st. Clements do.	7	4	7
	Do. 2nd Clements do.	0	12	8½
	Do. Port Medway do.	0	6	0
	Do. Dalhousie do.	1	15	0
	A Friend, by Mr. Geo. Harris	0	2	6
	Cash from Brookfield Church	1	0	0
	Do. New Albany do.	1	2	0
	Do. Chester do.	0	17	2
	Do. By Elder Jos. Dimock	2	17	8½
	Do. River Philip do.	0	12	7
	Do. 1st. Cornwallis do.	0	4	2
	Do. 3rd Cornwallis do.	3	6	7
	Do. 1st Yarmouth do.	2	0	0
	Do. 2nd do.	1	5	0
	Do. Wellington do.	2	5	0
	Do. Bridgewater do.	0	4	6
	Do. Liverpool do.	0	9	6
	Collections at the Association.	7	10	0
	Granville Street Church.	8	3	1
	Two Female members of Granville Street Church.	7	12	5
	J. Ed. Starr, Esq. for Home Missions	1	0	0
	Amherst Church for Missions and Minutes	5	0	0
	Received from 1st Halifax Church, Preston,	1	11	3
	<i>Errors excepted.</i>	1	5	6
		£	246	2 7½

WILLIAM ALLEN CHIPMAN, Treasurer.

MONIES

Received by the Treasurer of the Nova Scotia Baptist Foreign
Missionary Society for the Burman Mission.

1837.	Miss Bagnal, P. E. Island, per Rev. Mr. Bill.	£	0	10	0
	Miss Dockendorff “		0	10	0
	Mrs. E. Clarke, “ Rev. J. Chase.		0	5	0
	H. Esson, (proceeds of gold ring) “		0	1	3
	Clarke Young, Esq. Falmouth, Rev. R. McLearn.		1	0	0
	Wilmot Church, per W. A. Chipman, Esq.		2	0	0
	Amherst Church.		2	4	0
	1st Yarmouth Church.		1	17	0
	2nd Cornwallis “		1	0	0
	Mr. E. Davis, Falmouth, per Rev. R. McLearn		1	0	0
1838.	Mr. Ben. Hardy, Clements.		1	0	0
	A Friend, at Minudie, per Rev. C. Tupper.		0	5	0
	A Lady, on reading a Tract on the blessings of Missions, per Rev. J. Chase, for Burman Tract Society.		1	3	4
	A Friend, per “		0	5	0
	Clarke Young, Esq. annual subscription		1	0	0
	1st Aylesford Church, per Rev. A. V. Dimock.		2	0	0
	D. Van Buren.		0	16	3
	2nd Clements Church, per Rev. A. V. Dimock.		1	16	8
	Mr. Geo. Harris, Dalhousie, “		1	0	0
	A Friend. “		0	7	6
	Liverpool Church and Congregation, per Revd. S. T. Rand		7	10	0
	Amherst Church, per Rev. C. Tupper.		2	10	0
			£30	1	0

Remitted to the Treasurer of the American Baptist
Board of Foreign Missions, Boston.

J. W. NUTTING,

Treasurer for Foreign Missions.

Halifax, July 15, 1838.