

MINUTES
OF THE
NOVA-SCOTIA
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT WILMOT, ANNAPOLIS CO.

ON THE

24th, 25th, & 26th JUNE, 1839.

TOGETHER WITH
The Circular Letter, Missionary Notices,
&c. &c. &c.

HALIFAX :
PRINTED AT "THE NOVASCOTIAN" OFFICE.

1839.

The introduc
chap. 23d and 2
Prayer was offer
the former Mod

Elder T. S. H
Clerk, and bro.
Crawley, and J.
Chase and J. Fe

The following
questions as sho
J. Dimock, I. E.
G. Dimock, and

Elder David C
invited to take a
New Brunswick,

The Letters fro

The Messenger

MINUTES, &c.



MONDAY, June 24th, 1839.

The introductory Sermon preached by Bro. Pryor, from 1 Cor. 1 chap. 23d and 24th vs. A collection was taken in aid of Missions. Prayer was offered by bro. Viditoe, in the absence of Elder Harding, the former Moderator.

Elder T. S. Harding was appointed Moderator, bro. W. Chipman, Clerk, and bro. J. W. Nutting, Assistant Clerk. Brethren E. A. Crawley, and J. Pryor, were appointed to read the Letters, and J. Chase and J. Ferguson, to examine them.

The following persons appointed a Committee to report on such questions as should be submitted to the Association, viz :—Elders J. Dimock, I. E. Bill, W. Burton, E. Manning, T. S. Harding, G. Dimock, and E. A. Crawley.

Elder David Chase, Messenger from the N. B. Association, was invited to take a seat with us, and bre. Burpe and McConnel, from New Brunswick, and bro. W. Beckwith, from Maine.

The Letters from the Churches were read.

The Messengers being seated, the following Minutes were taken:

STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

[The names 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, † ; and vacant churches distinguished by a dash ——— ; Churches from which no information was received are returned as they stood last year.]

CHURCHES.	MINISTERS AND MESSENGERS.	ADDED.			Total	Contributions in aid of the Mis. fund.		
		By Baptism Restored.	By Letter.	Dismissed Excluded		Died	£	S.
Annapolis and Upper Granville	J. CHASE Dea. S. Morse ‘ M. Chipman ‘ B. Fellows	2	46	12	150	4	15	0
Lower Granville	J B COGGSWELL J J Woodworth Dea. R Quin ‘ B Reid	12		2	112	3	16	9
Wilmot	N VIDITOE Dea: A Sanders ‘ W Sharp ‘ S Jackson ‘ H Chesley ‘ P Bent ‘ S B Chipman ‘ A Marshall	34	1	3	258	4	6	8
Newport Onslow	G DIMOCK	2		1	105	1	13	6
1st Clements	Doct. D Lynds *J. POTTER, Sen. *I. Potter, Jun. A Chute	1		1	100	2	10	0
† Lunenburg	H Chipman, Jun M PARKER Dea. Mader I E BILL	6	30	8	187	2	2	0
Nictaux	Dea. S Taylor ‘ C Shafner ‘ T Bishop Bre. W Randall ‘ J Shattner ‘ A M Gidney	1			29	1	15	3
1st Digby Neck	J E Delap W Trus	1	8	2	399	11	11	1
		2	1		49	1	7	6

† See the Report of the Committee relative to this church.

CHURCH

River Philip

Horton

Windsor

1st Cornwallis

Rawdon

Upper Granville Mountain

Parrsborough

Hammond Plain Chester

Amherst

Antigonish

Port Medway Sissiboo

2nd Cornwallis

1st Yarmouth

Waterford
1st Halifax
1st Aylesford

STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES.	MINISTERS AND MESSENGERS.	ADDED.					Total	Contributions in aid of the Mis. fund.				
		Restored	By Baptism	By Letter	Dismissed	Excluded					Died	
New Albany	Dea. D Whitman N Marshall			1	5		45	£	S	D		
Liverpool	S T RAND Bro. J Cobb		1	1		1	94	3	0	0		
Brookfield	T DELONG Bro. J Kempton Z Freeman		5			3	78	1	0	0		
†Tryon & Bedeck	_____						59					
†Sydney, C B	_____						22					
2nd Clements	*H SAUNDERS Dea. B Potter S Rice						62	0	10	0		
†Little Forks	_____						28					
Bryer Island	W JACKSON Dea F Potter						38	3	1	10		
Ragged Island	_____						108	1	0	0		
Falmouth	J STEPHENS		6			2	90	1	17	7½		
Westchester	Bro A Rushton J B Barnaby		3	1		1	40					
†Guysborough	H HULL						43					
Granville Street } Halifax. }	Dea. J W Nutting Bro. J W Johnston J Ferguson		1	4	1	2	2	157	9	0	0	
†Mabou	_____						10					
†Tracadie	_____						38					
†Windsor Road	_____						35					
†Sherbrooke	_____						23					
†Baddeck	_____						13					
Stewiacke	R Hamilton J Newcomb					1	25	0	15	0		
†Margaret's Bay	_____						14					
†Economy	_____						12	0	5	0		
Jeddore	*J SKERRY						30	1	0	10		
Three Rivers, PEI	*J SHAW					1	35	0	5	0		
East Point	*J SHAW		2	1		1	59	0	5	0		
†Canso	_____						10					
3rd Cornwallis	A. STRONACH Dea. A Strong Bro. W Parish		1	63	1	1	8	1	214	2	9	0½
Wilmot Mountain	*R CUNNINGHAM W Restine		2	3	1	3	1	78	0	16	4½	

CHURCH

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Springfield Dalhousie	A Kendall G Harris				1		17	
†Margaree 2nd Yarmouth	*H HARDING A V DIMOCK A Crosby J Patten W Harris		2 4		5 1		235	6 8 11
Long Island †Charlotte Town, P E Island 2nd Aylesford	E STRONACH Dea. O Parker J Tupper M PARKER Dea. T Rice W Newcombe W Morton				1		36	
Bridgewater	Bro. J Denton	3	19 4	1			58	2 15 8
2nd Digby Neck		2	4		1		14	0 8 1½
Bay of Islands Indian Harbour					1 2		35	0 17 6
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☞ The last two churches were added this year, and a brother appointed by the Association, received the right hand of fellowship, in their behalf.

It is requested that in future each church will refer to the former Minutes, before forwarding their letter to the Association, in order that their statement may agree with the printed table of the last year. In consequence of the neglect of this, the total number as stated in the letters from 19 of the churches, is incorrect. The Clerk has made the number in all these cases to conform to the Minutes of the last year.

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Adjourned till 4 o'clock.

Met in accordance with appointment.—Prayer by the Moderator. The Circular Letter was read and adopted.

Resolved, That bro. Nutting superintend printing the Minutes, and that 900 copies be printed.

Resolved, That bro. J. E. Bill be our Messenger to the N. B. Association, and that he receive £5 for his services.

Resolved—That the annual meeting this year be held at Newport, on the first Sabbath after the 20th September, and that a similar meeting be held at Onslow the week following.

Resolved—That the monthly concert of prayer for the heathen, be recommended to be observed in our churches.

Resolved—That the former officers of the Missionary Board be continued.

Resolved—That brother Pryor prepare a resolution expressing the respect of the Association for the memory of our late lamented brother, James Munro.

Resolved—That the next Association be held at Liverpool on the first Monday after the 20th June, and that bro. T. S. Harding preach the introductory sermon, and in case of failure, bro. Burton.

Resolved—That bro. J. Chase, write the Circular Letter.

Resolved—That in the absence of the Treasurer, brethren A. V. Dimock, J. Chase, and A. Marshall, receive the monies to be paid in aid of Domestic Missions at eight o'clock to-morrow morning.

Resolved—That it be earnestly pressed upon the attention of the respective churches, ministers and members connected with this Association, to carry into effect the resolutions which were formerly passed in favor of Sabbath Schools, and for forming a general union to effect the all important objects of those institutions; and that, inasmuch as the report made by the Committee appointed in 1837, for forming such union, was not carried into effect at our last Association—therefore, that bro. John Chase be added to such committee, and that they do take measures as soon as possible to proceed with the duties imposed on them by such appointment.

The condition of the colored people in the vicinity of Halifax, having been brought to the notice of the Association, by several brethren personally acquainted with their wants, Resolved therefore, that the Clerk do address a letter to them assuring them that the Association deeply feel for their condition, and will aid them as soon as in their power, and that the subject be now referred to the Missionary Board. A collection was then taken towards affording them missionary aid, which amounted to £7 12s.

The committee appointed at the last Association to address an appeal to the churches of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, on the subject of the establishment of a Foreign Mission, and the increase of home missionary operations, having prepared such appeal, the same was read, and it is therefore

Resolved—That the same be printed in the Christian Messenger.

Adjourned until to-morrow, 10 o'clock.

Tuesday morning, met according to appointment. Prayer by the Moderator.

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Resolved—That Brother Garrison, Messenger from the Hancock Association, State of Maine, be invited to take a seat with us.—Bro. G. presented Minutes from said Association.

The business of the Association was then adjourned, when the Nova Scotia Baptist Education Society met, public notice having been given to that effect to the members of the Society. The Secretary then read the report of the Executive Committee for the past year, when the following resolutions were passed.

1. *Resolved*—That this Society receive and adopt the Report now read.

2. *Resolved*, That in consideration of the respectable character of the Queen's College, as compared with other Colleges in the Province, of the large amounts contributed to its support, and of the principle on which the Legislature has acted in regard to other Institutions, this Society consider the claim for Collegiate Privileges, made in behalf of the Queen's College, as founded in common justice, and feel it therefore their duty to urge this claim unremittingly on the attention of the Legislature; and that, for this purpose, the Petition now read and addressed to the Honourable House of Assembly and Her Majesty's Council, be signed by the Ministers and Messengers of all the Churches.

Also, that each of the Churches, together with the congregations connected with them, be recommended, and earnestly requested, to address distinct and separate petitions to the Assembly and Council, requesting their concurrence with the prayer of the Petition now read.

3. *Resolved*, That this Society being now incorporated by an act of the Legislature, passed at its last session, whereby it becomes necessary to attend carefully to the order of its constitution, all members of the Society are requested to pay particular attention to the conditions on which membership is obtained and preserved, namely, by the regular payment of the sum of 20s. every year. And that the Agent be requested, in his visits through the country, to call particular attention to the same circumstance.

4. *Resolved*, That Mr. Bill, Mr. Johnstor, Mr. Pryor, and Mr. Nutting, be a committee to frame such bye laws and regulations as may be required, in conformity with the Act of Incorporation, and for more fully carrying into effect the objects of the Society.

5. *Resolved*. That, whereas the sum of £250 is required to sustain the Queen's College on its present footing, with the addition of £300 for the maintenance of a third professor, and also the further sum of £300 for the erection of such further buildings as are absolutely necessary, and £150 for the purchase of philosophical Apparatus, *Resolved*, That in the opinion of this Association, the Churches composing its body ought to raise, for the above purposes, a sum equal to 2s. 6d. for each of their members—which measure this Association now strongly recommend, and they do now earnestly request the ministers and leading men in the churches and congregations, to assist the general agent in carrying this object into effect.

6. *Resolved*, That the Executive Committee, on framing any fu-

ture act to Incorporate the Queen's College, be instructed to take care that the same conform to the terms and requirements of the Act by which this Society is now incorporated, in order to secure the needful connection and correspondence between the two.

7. *Resolved*, That this Society, approving of the proposed act for incorporating the Queen's College, as published in the Christian Messenger, do now adopt the same as the basis of any future act which may be proposed to the Legislature—and do hereby empower the executive Committee on their behalf, to make any further application to the Legislature which they may think necessary, in order to obtain the passage of the said act, and hereby give them authority to make such modifications of the same as in their judgments may become needful.

8. *Resolved*, That inasmuch as this Society regard the interests of Education, as closely combined, in Divine Providence, with the advancement of civil prosperity, good morals, and true Religion, they warmly recommend the College and Academy at Horton to the prayers, as well as the sympathy and aid, of their brethren throughout these Provinces.

9. *Resolved*, That the Rev. E. A. Crawley be requested to proceed to the United States, to solicit aid from the friends of education in that country towards procuring Philosophical Apparatus, and for the foundation of a Library for the use of Queen's College, in addition to the subscriptions to be procured for that purpose in this Province.

10. *Resolved*, That the following persons be added to the Board of Directors,—viz. Stephen Chipman, Esq. The Rev. John Chase, Silas T. Rand, William Burton, Wellington Jackson, Nathaniel Viditoe, Joshua E. Cogswell, John B Cogswell, Anthony V. Dimock, T. H. Porter, Hezekiah Hull, John Shaw, James Skerry, Ebenezer Stronach, Abraham Stronach, Thomas Delong, Israel Potter, Jun. Samuel McCulley, Maynard Parker, Caleb R. Bill, Charles Randall, Gaius Lewis, Samuel Chipman, A. McKim, and Alexander M. Upham, Esquires.

11. *Resolved*, That W. A. Chipman, W. Chipman, and David Eaton, be a committee to build an addition to the Boarding House, with leave to add a person resident in Horton, if they deem it necessary.

12. *Resolved*, That the examination of the Pupils in the Academy at Horton, take place on Wednesday preceding the next Association. 5 o'clock, P. M. Adjourned.

The business of the Association was resumed. Prayer by Brother Crawley.

Resolved, That the sums which may be contributed by the Churches, in conformity to the Resolution passed, in aid of the Horton Institution, are requested to be remitted to the Executive Committee on or before the first of October next.

Resolved, That this Association, deeply impressed with the importance of Domestic Missions, and feeling that the numerous and pressing calls for Missionary services during the present session, demand more than ordinary effort: It is therefore resolved that we strongly

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recommend to all our churches to set apart the second Wednesday in September next, as a day of special prayer to the great head of the Church that he will be pleased to raise up more labourers, and thrust them into his vineyard; and that on that day Missionary Sermons be preached by all our Ministers to their respective Churches and congregations,--and contributions be taken up by every Church for the support of Home Missions.

At the close of this resolution Brother Theodore S. Harding proposed being one of forty that would give twenty shilling in aid of domestic Missions. To this proposal twenty-two persons became immediately pledged in like manner. Should any other persons desire to unite in so good an object, they will be pleased to inform the Clerk of the Association as soon as possible.

Resolved, That the female members of the Churches be affectionately recommended to form Penny-a-week Societies in each Church, for Missionary purposes.

Resolved, That Brothers Rand, Bill, Chase, and Crawley, prepare resolutions in reference to the Foreign Missions.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning.

Met on Wednesday morning. Preaching by brother Garrison, from 2 Cor. 5: 11.

The subject of the Foreign Missions being then discussed, the following resolutions were adopted.

1. *Resolved*, That the attention of the Association be called to the consideration of the resolution formed in 1837 in relation to this subject, and inasmuch as a young brother had presented himself as a candidate for carrying the Gospel in accordance with that resolution to foreign lands, therefore

Resolved, That if he, or any other, shall on careful enquiry be found to possess suitable qualifications in such care, the sum of _____ from the monies contributed to the funds of the foreign Missionary Society be employed in completing his education.

3. *Resolved*, That inasmuch as it is now in contemplation to send a Missionary to the heathen from the bosom of our churches, and that the case of a candidate for missionary labour is before the Committee, it be recommended to the churches and to individuals who have been in the habit of devoting monies to the Burman, or any other foreign mission, for the future to appropriate the same to the education and maintenance of such person from amongst ourselves as may be approved of for the purpose.

4. *Resolved*, That the committee already named to communicate with the committee of the New Brunswick Society, be directed to confer with those brethren on this subject, and seek their concurrence.

5. *Resolved*, That the subject of Foreign Missions is warmly recommended to the prayers of the churches and all christians, and especially that ministers of the gospel be recommended to pray the Lord of the harvest to awaken up in the minds of talented and devoted youths, a desire to bear the gospel to the heathen.

6. Whereas, there is a lamentable want of information in our

churches, with reference to the condition of the heathen world, and the present state of foreign missions, we would urge upon our churches to read more and think more upon this subject, and as one means of information, we would warmly recommend the perusal of the Christian Messenger.

The subject of the Christian Messenger was then considered. The Editors having stated that the paper was not in any measure sufficiently sustained with funds to meet the expenses of publication, in consequence of the deficiency in the payment of subscriptions, there being at the end of the year the large amount of upwards of £600 due in the two Provinces,—and it being evident that unless some plan could be devised the paper must be discontinued at the close of the present year, and a call be made upon those individuals who stand pledged, in the event of loss, to make up the deficiency,—a very warm interest was manifested by the meeting in favour of the publication, and the following resolutions were passed:

1. *Resolved*, That the Christian Messenger, in the opinion of this Association, has been ably conducted, and its value deeply felt, and that we must and will sustain it.

2. *Resolved*, That this Association feel a deep and increasing interest in the publication of the paper, as highly calculated to promote the interests of religion and moral improvement in connection with those of the Baptist Denomination, and especially in the bearing which it has in concentrating their present efforts for the advancement of education.

That they see with great regret that the recommendation of the Association to the Denomination at their last meeting for supporting the interests of the publication, has been so little attended to; as nearly the whole amount of the subscriptions for the past year are still remaining due, and although the strongest expressions of satisfaction with the manner in which the paper is conducted, are universally made, yet it is evident that it is absolutely necessary that some efficient mode should be immediately adopted for sustaining an undertaking in which the interests of the denomination are so deeply involved, by collecting the back accounts due, and extending the further circulation of the paper, which, while it has increased in the Province of Nova Scotia, has, from the difficulty of ensuring its regular transmission to many parts of New Brunswick, decreased to some extent in that Province, it is therefore

3. *Resolved*, That the Ministers connected with this Association, do pledge themselves immediately on their return to their respective churches, in conjunction with the several agents of the Christian Messenger in their districts, to urge the immediate collection of the subscriptions due at the end of the past year, and do forthwith communicate to the general agent of the paper in Halifax, whatever facts may come to their knowledge affecting its pecuniary interests, and the most effectual means of ensuring future punctuality in paying subscriptions.

4. *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Board of Missions do furnish each of the Missionaries on their respective tours with special

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instructions in writing, to communicate with the local agents of the paper, and urge them with the least possible delay to collect and forward the past dues, and to act with as much vigour as possible in promoting regular returns of subscriptions.

5. *Resolved*, That bro. S. T. Rand be requested to act as an agent for three months, for the purpose of collecting the amounts now due for the Christian Messenger, and attending to its interests—and that he be requested to take collections in the various churches to defray the expenses of his agency; any balance beyond which will be defrayed from the returns received for the paper. Also, that the local agents be requested to render bro. Rand all the assistance in their power in promotion of his object.

6. *Resolved*, That a letter be addressed by this Association to the New Brunswick Association, communicating the measures now adopted with reference to the Christian Messenger, and urging upon our brethren there to adopt a similar course with regard to the interests of the paper in that Province.

7. *Resolved*, That bro. Bill, our messenger, be requested to explain and enforce the views expressed in the above resolutions at the meeting of the New Brunswick Association, and that our valued brethren now present as messengers from that Association be respectfully and affectionately requested to aid bro. Bill in carrying the objects of their Association into effect.

Whereas the New Brunswick Association made no provision at their last meeting in reference to paying up the sum due for the publication of the Magazine, and the balance being of long standing, and but a small part of the arrears due having been paid in the course of the past year,—This Association do resolve to advance to the Editors the further sum of twenty five pounds for the Printer out of the Missionary funds—and further, that bro. Bill bring the subject before the New Brunswick association, and urge the necessity of some means being adopted by them to collect the arrears due in New Brunswick, and that they be requested to advance a sum not less than £35, to pay the publisher's demand.

Resolved, That bro. Rand's agency also go to the collection of arrears due for the Magazine in this Province.

Adjourned to 4 o'clock.

Met at the time appointed. Prayer by the Moderator. The Select Committee reported as follows:—

The Committee recommend that the following resolutions be adopted, in answer to the question propounded by the 2nd Cornwallis church,

Resolved, That the Association conceive it may be desirable for ministers to agree to boundaries between their respective churches, and that when such boundaries are agreed on, no minister should hold meetings within the other's bounds without his consent; but they would at the same time earnestly and affectionately exhort their brethren to cultivate such a spirit of love, harmony, and good will, as would make all local boundaries unnecessary.

In reply to the request from the church at Westchester—*Resolved*,

That the churches at Westchester and Newport, be advised to unite in receiving brethren T. S. Harding, Manning, Bill, Chipman, and Rand, a council of ministering brethren, to enquire into the circumstances of the case referred, and give them their advice and christian counsel in the present difficulty, and that the Council meet at Newport on Wednesday the 25th September next.

In reply to the brethren at Folly Mountain, that the Association do request bro. T. S. Harding when on his mission to Onslow, to visit those brethren, and enquire more fully into their state and circumstances, and report whether he judge it advisable that they should be received as a church in connection with the association.

This committee recommend to the respective bodies into which the 2nd Clement's church is divided, to endeavor to agree in a council of ministering brethren to whom the difficulty between them may be referred, and as both parties address the association on the same subject, they hope there will be no difficulty in their agreeing to a council as here recommended.

The above report having been received, it is thereupon resolved, that this association do adopt the foregoing recommendations of the committee.

Resolved, That this association do deeply deplore the great loss which the cause of God generally, and the denomination in particular, have sustained, in the sudden and unexpected removal by death of our much respected brother in Christ, the late Rev. James Munro, whose devoted life, in conjunction with his wise councils and faithful ministry, gave him a place in the confidence and affections of his brethren, and which made him an invaluable blessing to his family, to the church, and to the world.

Resolved, That it is exceedingly desirable that an agent be appointed in Halifax, through whom the Sabbath Schools in the country may receive books for the use of said schools, and that bro. John W. Barss be requested to act as such agent.

The committee appointed at the late association to visit the church at Lunenburg, report as follows:—That they have addressed to that church the following advice, viz. "After examining as carefully as possible the circumstances with which the church is afflicted, this committee cannot deviate from the counsel given them by the former committee sent by the association, and they do now seriously advise them to adhere thereto most strictly.

The committee feel it their duty to say, that in their opinion such members as do not adhere to the advice given cannot be considered as members in regular standing, and therefore such as do receive the counsel referred to, should be considered the church.*

In reference to difficulties that may have arisen between part of the church and their former Pastor Elder Parker, the committee do not feel themselves called on to express an opinion, as Elder Parker is not now a member of the church; but the Committee would hope that whatever alienation may have arisen, a consideration of his

*The state of the Lunenburg church, as given in the Table, was made by the Clerk in conformity with this resolution.

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faithful labours among them for several years past, in connection with the peculiar circumstances in which he was placed, would lead to a restoration of kind feelings, and induce them in future to cherish towards him that respect which is due to a christian minister.--- Whereupon it is Resolved that the Association do approve and adopt the above report.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association be presented to the church at Wilmot and the congregation, and other benevolent friends, for their hospitality and kindness during this session, as also for their liberal contributions in aid of the different objects proposed on the present occasion.

Meeting concluded with prayer. At six o'clock brother Charles Randall preached.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

DEAR BRETHREN,

In our address this year, our object is to excite you to a more diligent study of the Bible. Many important duties are at the present time pressing upon us as a denomination, to the performance of which we wish affectionately to urge you; and we know of no more effectual means of doing this, than by prevailing upon you to study more thoroughly the word of God. It is the standard of christian duty, where we have "line upon line, precept upon precept," and where all who are desirous of being wholly devoted to the Lord, are "thoroughly furnished to every good work." It is matter of special thanksgiving to almighty God, that the Scriptures are of so easy access. Translated into our own tongue, and circulated so easily and cheaply as they now are, nothing can hinder them from entering the humblest dwelling or enlightening the feeblest intellect, where they are really desired. In the superstitious ignorance of the dark ages, when the Bible was kept from the multitude, and in the wretched condition of the heathen, we see the sad picture of what our own land would be were we deprived of the sacred book. But notwithstanding it is brought so very near us, we have reason to fear that the study of it is very much neglected. How many who live in countries denominated christian, are as ignorant of its contents as are the heathen themselves! How many professing christians have never read the whole of it! How few can be said, with the least propriety, to be well acquainted with it! How many are to be met with, who, by professing to be pious, declare that they esteem the word of God "more than their ordinary food," "sweeter than honey and the honey comb;" and yet have not the amount of one chapter treasured up in their memories; who cannot show with any distinctness what the Bible teaches on any one point of doctrine, duty, or experience; who cannot even find any number of passages which may be quoted in their hearing, without great difficulty; and who do not even know the names and order of the Books in the New Testament. Brethren, these facts are as humbling as they are melancholy and true. Such

a state of things ought not to continue. We need not wonder that so many christians are mere dwarfs in religion; that so many walk in darkness, both as it respects their state and their duty; or that there exists so little of that self denying, well directed christian effort which has characterized some former periods of the church. Nor is it surprising that erroneous systems of doctrine should make so easy a progress, and that so many are led away from the simplicity of the faith. The Sacred Scriptures are the appointed means for sanctifying, enlightening, directing, establishing, and comforting the people of God; and to look for these things where they are neglected, is to expect grapes of thorns, and figs of thistles. Were the Bible, with its accompanying blessings, of less importance to us,—were it other than the best gift of our best friend,—or even were it not so small as to be easily compressed into a compass capable of being carried always with us without the slightest difficulty—the neglect of it would not be so unreasonable, so ungrateful, or so wicked.

We would affectionately urge upon all, the practice of reading some portion of the word of life every day. Were its value in directing and comforting those who are most busily employed, or most deeply involved in cares and troubles, duly understood and appreciated, we venture to say that few would plead the want of time as an excuse for neglecting it; a few minutes at least would be spared each day for reading a few passages. But though no christian can be living up to his privileges, or making as rapid progress in holiness as he otherwise might, who neglects the daily reading of the Scriptures, or who does not carefully commit portions of it to memory; yet even this is far from all which we mean by studying them. This implies deep and intense reflection; a diligent investigation of the meaning of words and phrases; a careful attention to the context, to the aim and scope of the writer; an attentive comparison of one part with another, and with the whole; and it embraces, as subordinate, to some extent at least, the Geography, History, Customs and Habits of the country in which the Scriptures were written. It is the business not of a day nor a month, nor a year, but of a *whole life*. In our daily reading of it, however, for devotional purposes, a minute attention to these various particulars, may, not only safely, but even properly, be omitted; though we should never read without attention and reflection. But a portion of time should at least every week be appropriated to the study of the Bible, upon which nothing else should be allowed to intrude but absolute necessity; something which the searcher of hearts will consider an unavoidable interruption. Did we conform our lives to the Scriptural standard, as nearly as we might, with that divine assistance which every one who sincerely asks it, is warranted to expect, those of us who now with the greatest show of reason, excuse their neglect, would find ample opportunity for the delightful employment here recommended. Besides attending public worship, a portion of the Lord's day might, by almost every one, be thus occupied; and should all that time be devoted to the Bible which during the week is often spent in laboring for the gratification of ambition, pride, or luxury; or is squandered away in

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idleness, vain amusements or sinful indulgence; we are persuaded but few would be able to plead the want of time in excuse. We must never lose sight of the fact that God has addressed us personally in his Holy Word, and made it the solemn duty of all to search the Scriptures, and take heed to them as to a light shining in a dark place. What he has made it our duty to do, he has most assuredly given us time to accomplish; whoever therefore can find no time for studying the Bible may be assured that the time allotted to them for the performance of this duty, is sinfully devoted to something which is not their duty, and which can only bring upon them the displeasure of the Almighty. His plain direction runs thus: "These words which I command thee this day, shall be in thy heart," (i. e. treasured up in thy memory, rooted in thy judgement and reigning in thy affections,) "and thou shalt *teach them diligently unto thy children*, and shalt talk of them when thou *sittest in thy house*, and when thou *walkest by the way*, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up, Deut. 6." This command is binding on all to whom the Word of God is accessible, and provides for abundant opportunities and means of studying it.

The Bible should be studied for the purpose of learning Christian Doctrine. By this term is meant every Truth which Christianity teaches. The basis of all christian experience and practice is christian Doctrine. Hence the importance which is every where throughout the Bible attached to it. The instructions of our Saviour, the course which the Apostles pursued in their public preaching and private admonitions; with the epistles which they wrote for the use of the church in every age; all show that in order to be converted, sanctified, and made happy and useful christians, men must be *instructed* in the doctrines of christianity. Tho' a direct operation of the Holy Spirit upon the hearts of men, is so necessary that without it even the Word of God itself, explained ever so clearly, and applied ever so closely and affectionately by the most powerful eloquence, would never accomplish the regeneration of one soul; yet so absolutely necessary is that sort of instruction which is communicated and received in the ordinary way, that without it we have no reason to expect the sanctification and salvation of any. "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." Rom. 10: 17. "Ye have purified your hearts in obeying the Truth thro' the Spirit." Pet. 1, 41. "*Teach* all nations," said the Saviour,—"*teaching* them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." "Warning every man," says Paul, "and *teaching* every man," Colos. 1: 28. "I have *taught* you publicly and from house to house." Acts 20: 20. "The things which were written aforetime were written for our *learning* that we thro' patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope." Rom. 15: 4. The duty of gaining scriptural knowledge is frequently urged by the Holy Spirit. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom." Col. 3: 16. "Add to your faith virtue and to virtue *knowledge*." 2 Pet. 1: 5. The importance of obtaining clear and comprehensive doctrinal views is vastly greater than is generally apprehended. Doctrines become principles of action. How often has the sacred name

of Christian been exposed to reproach by the extravagant and criminal conduct of those who have borne it, owing principally to their erroneous doctrinal sentiments. How often even in our own times is the neglect of plain duties, and even the commission of gross immoralities, palliated, and even justified, thro' ignorance of the true doctrines of the Bible; or by a deceitful perversion of them. To the same cause may be attributed much of the perplexity, doubts and distress of sincere, humble christians. The adversary of their souls takes advantage of their slight acquaintance with the real nature of Christianity, to ply them with such temptations as might be overcome in one instant were they so well acquainted with the Word of God as to be able to answer him as our Saviour did, with "*It is written.*" Let the trembling humble christian, who dares scarcely presume to call God his Father; and who, as often happens, is deterred from engaging in many christian duties which his heart would rejoice to perform, under the notion that he may be deceived concerning his interest in the Saviour; obtain more correct views of the character of God, of the plan of Redemption, of faith, justification, divine influence, and of the intercession of Christ, and his distressing fears would vanish, and, rejoicing in the hope of the glory of God, he would be ready to every good work. There are afloat in the world a thousand vain speculations and discordant sentiments concerning religion, which dismay the young and unestablished, and often perplex the more advanced in knowledge and piety; but did we like David make the perusal of the Sacred Volume our delightful and constant employment; did we, like him, read it with prayerful meditation, (see Ps. 119.) did we honestly desire to know the Truth and practice it, we would find in our own happy experience, a fulfilment of our Saviour's promises, "Seek and ye shall find," "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine whether it be of God," "Ye shall know THE TRUTH and the Truth shall make you free;" and we would be enabled to say with the Psalmist, "Thro' thy precepts I get understanding, therefore I hate every false way."

Far be it from us to magnify the *reading* at the expense of the *preaching* of the Word. All we ask is careful attention to the former, in order to secure the more diligent attendance on the latter. We utterly discountenance the absurd notion that the Bible is the *only* proper book for a Christian. Such a notion is repugnant both to reason and religion. We highly value and earnestly recommend, the pious and indefatigable labours of many expositors and writers on Theology, as well as many practical and devotional works which are extant. At an age and in a country so remote from that in which the Scriptures were written, as ours is, with customs, habits and modes of speaking so different from those to which allusion in them is frequently made; some foreign assistance is not only convenient but absolutely necessary to a right understanding of many things "which are profitable," at the same time the labour of others in this department, is, as far as we are concerned, comparatively useless, except as they tend to elucidate and enforce what the Bible itself teaches; or as they excite us to study it for ourselves.

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We should also study the Bible for the purpose of learning our *duty*. It is not sufficient that our doctrinal sentiments be evangelical, and our principles good; so utterly ignorant of every thing pertaining to the acceptable service of God, is the unrenewed soul; and so small is often the degree of light communicated at first even to the regenerate, that we need to be instructed on almost every point of duty. The whole Bible therefore abounds with not only what we are to believe, but also with what we are to *do*; not, however, with the vain design of atoning for our sins or meriting in the least degree the favor of God; but for the purpose of manifesting our love to Him. The grand design of the Gospel is to restore transgressors to favor and obedience. "Lord what wilt thou have me to do," is the daily cry of every soul which is under the influence of evangelical faith; and the answer is not to be looked for in a voice from heaven, or in dreams, extraordinary impulses or impressions; nor in detached passages of Scripture either coming suddenly into the mind, or presenting themselves to the eye on opening the Bible at random. All such methods as these of attempting to learn what duty is, are decidedly wrong and only calculated to lead those astray who practice them. But we are to consider God in his Word as always speaking to us individually, and as making known to us every thing which is necessary for Him to reveal to us. This he does sometimes by general commands, which involve principles, from which our duty in a great variety of instances can be easily and certainly inferred; and often by minute and particular directions specifying the very manner in which the duty is to be performed. He also place before us the example of inspired men, and especially, of the Lord Jesus Christ. His words in his commands are to be taken in their obvious connection and import. Those which are not limited to any particular case, but made of universal obligation, we may be sure are always as much binding upon us as tho' our names were particularly mentioned; those which are limited to particular cases and circumstances, are binding on us then, and only then, when our circumstances are similar to those to which the command is limited. The ordinances of the Gospel; the duty of loving God supremely and of always doing to others as we would wish them to do to us; together with the peculiar duties of rulers and subjects, parents and children, masters and servants, husbands and wives, ministers and private christians; in short, of all the varied relations sustained in the world, and of all the circumstances in which we can be placed; are so plainly marked out, and so abundantly insisted on in the Scriptures, that were we as well acquainted with them as we should be, and did we devoutly heed their admonitions, we would always then hear the voice of God saying to us, "This is the way, walk ye in it," and that, without any necessity for an additional revelation. Ignorance of our duty is therefore perfectly inexcusable. It would be so had we only the light of nature and conscience. Rom. 1: 20, 2: 12-16. Surely then, whoever neglects, in addition to these, the full blaze of Divine Revelation, must accumulate a tremendous load of guilt.

In connection with the doctrines and precepts of the Bible, we should become thoroughly acquainted with its consolations. To

those who imbibe its principles and obey its precepts, it appears an inexhaustible fountain of happiness. "There are given to us exceeding great and precious promises, whereby we are made partakers of the divine nature." Tho' surrounded with trials and temptations, and often called to pass "thro' floods and fires," it is still our privilege to be always happy. The divine promises are suited to every condition of the christian, abundant in their number, expressed in the clearest and kindest language, and secured as to their accomplishment by the oath and promise of the immutable Jehovah.

Finally, we should study the *whole* Bible. Whatever God has in his wisdom thought proper to write, we may be assured is proper for us to read. "The things which are revealed are for us and for our children." There is not a history, nor an anecdote, nor a parable, nor an illustration, nor a prayer, nor a prophesy, nor any thing else in the Bible that can be treated as unimportant or neglected with impunity. Every thing has its use. "ALL Scripture is given by *inspiration* and is *profitable*." Were it needful to present any motives to the performance of this duty, it would be sufficient to mention the great mercy and condescension of God in thus giving us a Revelation of his will, and our infinite obligations to him. But our own best interest is also connected with it. Those christians in all ages who have advanced most rapidly in holiness, who have followed most closely the footsteps of their divine Redeemer, who have been most resigned in adversity and most happy in prosperity, and the most useful in their master's cause, have always been those who have delighted most in the study of the word of God. We would urge all professors of Religion whatever be their age, rank or station to consider how much their *usefulness* depends upon their having the "word of Christ dwelling in them richly in all wisdom." Where there exists no desire to be useful in the cause of Christ, we may be assured there is no piety. This desire however needs to be continually strengthened, and a proper attention to the Word of God, inasmuch as it is the grand instrument in sanctification, would increase the christians desire of doing good, teach him how to carry it into execution, and actually enable him to do so. Sabbath Schools, Bible Classes, and Revivals, open a field for the exercise of christian benevolence of boundless extent, for the cultivation of which the essential requisite is scriptural knowledge combined with ardent piety. It is, dear brethren, that our churches may be well supplied with efficient Sabbath School Teachers, of which there is at present such a lamentable deficiency; it is that parents may add to the interest and usefulness of those institutions, by leading their children in the study of the Bible; proving to them by their own example that it is the most precious of all books, the study of it the most delightful of all employments, and a sweet relief from the cares and business of life; it is that Bible Classes may be established in every section of the Church of Christ, and that all the people of God may be qualified to impart that religious instruction which is so universally required, in connection with all the other advantages which, with the blessing of God, would result from it, that we now earnestly and affectionately urge you to a more diligent study of the Sacred Scriptures.

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Dr. *The Baptist Association in Account with*

		£	s.	d.
1838	To Elder C. Randal's Mis. to Kempt			
Aug 4.	6 weeks,	£9	0	0
	Received in aid,	2	16	7
				Bal. 6 3 5
Sept.	Eld. D. McQuillen, Mis. to C. Breton,			
	11 weeks and 2 days, and Exps.	17	5	9
	Received in aid,	2	16	2½
				Bal. 14 9 6½
	Eld. D. Harris, Mis. to Wallace, West			
	Chester, and places around, 12 wks.	18	0	0
	Do. to Kempt, 4 do	6	0	0
	Expenses,	24	0	0
		1	16	0
	Received in aid at	25	16	0
	Pugwash	£3	5	0
	Wallace River,	1	18	0
	River Philip,	1	4	0
	Onslow,	1	0	0
	Petite,	0	10	0
	West Chester Mount.	1	10	0
	Mis. Soc'y at Kempt,	2	17	0
	Miss D Lynds, Onslow,	0	5	0
		12	9	0
				Bal. 13 5 0
	Eld. John Shaw, Mis. to Cape Breton,			
	1837, 11 weeks, 4 days,	17	10	0
	Expenses,	0	4	6
	Do. 1838, 13 weeks & 4 days,	20	5	0
	Expenses,	0	16	9
	Rec'd in aid, 1837, £3 17 6½			
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		10	15	0
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	Eld. Jos. Dimock, Mis. to Cape Breton,			
	17 weeks and 2 days,	25	18	6
	Expenses,	4	1	6
	Rec'd in aid,	5	16	5½
	do. in collec. at Chester	8	3	1
		30	0	0
		13	19	7½
				Bal. 6 0 4½
	Eld. G. Richardson, on act. Mis. to Guysboro' 10 wks.			10 0 0
	Eld. James Stephens, Mis. to Onslow,			
	6 weeks,	9	0	0
	Rec'd in aid,	7	5	5
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	Eld. James Skerry, Mis. between Hali-			
	fax and Canso, 10 weeks,	15	0	0
	Rec'd in aid,	2	0	0
				Bal. 13 0 0
	Paid for Minutes,			20 6 2
	Eld. G. Dimock, Mis. to Rawdon, 5 wks.	7	10	0
	Rec'd in aid,	3	10	0
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Dr. *William Allen Chipman, Treasurer.*

		£	s.	d.
1838	To amount brought forward,	117	0	4
	Eld. H Harding, Mis. to Barrington & neighbourhood, 8 weeks,			
	Rec'd in aid,	12	0	0
		4	5	0
	Bal.	7	15	0
	El. H. Hull, Mis. 1833, to Ta'amagouche, & Cape Formentine, 6 w.	9	0	0
	Rec'd in aid,	1	3	2
	Bal.	2	16	10
1839	Pd do. in 1834 & 5,	5	0	0
June	Loan to the Editor of the Baptist Magazine,	25	0	0
	Eld. A V Dimock as agent,	5	0	0
	Bal. Elder Skerry's mission,	1	6	3
	Elder I E Bill, Messenger to the Association, N. B.	5	0	0
	Bal.	163	18	5

		£	s.	d.
Cr.	Bal in Treasurer's hands as stated in acct ren'd.	107	7	2½
1838	July 4 By cash from Chester by Elder Manning,	0	1	3
	Aug's do from Elder Wm Burton, from East Point ch.			
	Nov P E Island, do 18s 9d }	1	11	9
	Three Rivers do 13s 0d }	5	1	2
	Elder I E Bill col. at the yearly meeting, Nictaux do Digby Joggins	2	8	6
	do Viditoe do do From the Wilrot church	2	6	9
	From Mr McDonnel, C Breton, by Mr Armstrong	1	0	0
	Mrs Skinner	0	2	6
	Elder Jos Dimock on account of Magazine	3	10	0
1839	June From the Executors of James R Benjamin, left } by him to the Missionary Board,	10	0	0
	Mite Society at Tracadie by Elder Hull	0	13	0
	Guysboro ch. for Minutes by Eld. Hull,	0	17	10
	From the Annapolis and Upper Granville church	4	15	0
	Lower Granville, do	3	16	9
	Wilmot do	4	6	1
	1st Cornwallis church	£1	7	11½
	by Miss Ells	0	16	3
	by Miss Ann Eaton	0	5	0
	Newport church	1	0	0
	Onslow, do	1	10	0
	do Lady's Mite Society,	1	10	0
	1st Clements church, £2 2 Nictaux 11 11 1½, Digby	15	13	1
	Neck 1 7 6, River Philip 12s 6d	2	11	0
	Horton do	24	0	0
	do Mite Society, by Mrs Pryor,	26	11	0½
	Windsor ch. £2 14 0½, Rawdon 1 2 6, Upper Granville Mountain do £1, Parrshoro do 15s 9d, Chester do 4 1 9, Mr Beckman 5s, Amherst ch. 1 12 6, Port Medway do. 2, Sisciboo do. 3 1 1	25	14	10½
	Yarmouth do 3 11 6, Aylesford do 10s, New Albany do 11 0 10, Liverpool do 3 1, Brookfield 11			
	Bal.	222	12	7

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Cr. *The Baptist Association in Acct. with W. A. Chipman, Treas.*

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1839	To amount brought forward,	222	12	7
June	2d Clements church 10s, Brier Island do 3l 1 10			
	Ragged Island do 1l, Falmouth 1l 17 7½, Stewi- acke do 15s, Lunenburg do 1l 15 3, Economy do 5s, Three Rivers, PEI do 5s, East Point do do 5s			
	3rd Cornwallis do 2l 9 0½, Wilmot Mountain do 16s 4½, Tusket & Argyle do 2l, Wellington do 5s 11, Dalhousie do 1l 2 6, 2nd Yarmouth do 6l 8 11, 2nd Aylesford do 2l 15 8, Bridgewater do 8s 1½, 2nd Digby Neck do 17s 6, Keimpt do 1l 15,	28	13	9½
	Collection at the Association,	16	0	0
	From a friend for Minute 1s 6, Roger Quin on ac't of Magazine 10s, J W Nutting for Dom Mis. 1l	1	11	6
	Jeddore in Elder Skerry's hands 1l 0 10, Bay of Is- lands do 1l 12 6, Indian Harbor do 10s.	3	3	4
	Granville Street church, Halifax	9	0	0
	2nd Cornwallis do 5l 2 3, 1st Halifax do 1l 5, col- lection for the colored people of Halifax, &c. 7l 12	13	19	3
		294	16	5

MONIES

*Received for the Burman Mission between 30th June, 1838, and 30th
June, 1839.*

1838.

Aug. 20.	Mr. Elias Payzant, Falmouth, per Mr. Young,	£0	6	3
Sept. 12.	East Rawdon Female Mite Society per Mrs. L Knowles for printing Burman Scriptures,	6	0	0
Oct. 15.	A Lady per Mrs. McLearn,	1	0	0
	Mrs. Rudderham, Cape Breton, per same,	0	2	6

1839.

June 23.	Friends, per rec'd George Dimock, Newport,	0	7	6
	A Friend per Mrs. Pryor,	0	5	0
22.	George Harris, Dalhousie,	1	0	0
24.	2d Cornwallis Church, per Dr. Van Buren, Mr. David Pineo,	5	10	6
	Mr. David Pineo,	0	2	6
25.	Upper Granville, Mountain Church, Falmouth Female Mite Society, Clark Young, Esq.	0	2	6
	Mr. John J. Woodworth,	7	0	5½
	A Friend, Wilmot,	1	0	0
	Mr. John J. Woodworth,	0	5	0
	A friend, Cumberland, per Mr. H. G. Bennett, 1st Aylsford Church,	0	5	0
		5	5	7½

£28 15 4

The above Sums remitted to the Treasurer of the
Baptist Board of Foreign Missions at Boston.

J. W. NUTTING,

Halifax, 1839.

Treas. N. S. Baptist For. Miss'y Soc'y.