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Minutes ... in Weare, N.H. September 15th & 16th,
1813.

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MINUTES

OF THE

Boston Baptist Association,

HELD AT THE

Baptist Meeting-House

IN

WEARE, N. H.

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MINUTES, &c.

Wednesday, September 15, 1813.

1. AT 10 o'clock, Brother EBENEZER NELSON, according to appointment, delivered the introductory discourse, from Acts ix. 31. After which there was a collection for the widows and children of deceased ministers.

2. Chose Brother Thomas Baldwin, Moderator, and Brother E. Williams, Clerk—Adjourned till half past one.

3 Met pursuant to adjournment; after prayer by Brother Baldwin, proceeded to read the letters from the Churches, and took the following account of the members added, dismissed, excluded, or who have died in the year past, and the present number in each Church.

N. B. The names of ordained ministers are in *small capitals*; licensed preachers in *italic*. Those ministers with this mark (*) were not present. Churches marked thus (†) we had no information from, this session. Vacant Churches are distinguished by a dash ———

Churches.	Elders and Messengers	Added	Dismiss.	Exclud.	Died.	Total.
2d Boston 1743	THOMAS BALDWIN Heman Lincoln	21	7	5	7	394
Haverhill 1763	WILLIAM BATCHELDER Richard H. Kimball William Dole Charles O. Kimball	23	3	1	*	300
Harvard 1776	ABISHA SAMSON Ephraim Emerson	12	1		3	98
Newton 1780	JOSEPH GRAFTON Elijah Corey	22	6		4	193
Woburn 1781	————— THOMAS WATERMAN	3			2	99
Templeton 1782	————— Joel Fletcher Joshua Tucker Robert Holden	1	21			114
Rowley† 1785	————— *JOSIAH CONVERS					39
Weston 1789	————— CHARLES TRAIN	8				34
Danvers 1793	JEREMIAH CHAPLIN Israel Porter Benjamin Kent	2	1			68

As many of the members lived at a distance, it has been impracticable to ascertain the precise time of the above deaths

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Elders and Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Exclud^d</i>	<i>Di^l.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Charlestown 1801	WILLIAM COLLIER*	8			4	68
Beverly 1801	_____ Nicholas Dodge Simon Dodge Richard Dodge		23		3	126
Salem 1804	LUCIUS BOLLES ELISHA WILLIAMS HENRY A. CLARKE David Felton	35	1	2	1	308
Reading	EBENEZER NELSON <i>George Evans</i>	2		4	1	95
Malden Weare, N. H. 1783	_____ EZRA WILLMARTH Samuel Bailey Moses Wood Tristram Burnet	12				109 86
New Boston, N. H.	ISAIAH STONE Livermore Langdon Benjamin Dodge Abner Hogg					59
Nottingham West 1805	_____ Justus Daken Joshua Whittier			6	1	98
African Ch. in } Boston, 1805. }	THOMAS PAUL*	10	1	3	2	78
Ipswich	_____				1	68
Newbury and } Newburyport }	JOHN PEAK Stephen Bailey	7		4	1	75
1805 3d Boston	DANIEL SHARP*	13	3	1	2	84
Gloucester† Marblehead	_____ FERDINAND ELLIS* John Fielding			1	2	33 46
Chelmsford	JOHN PECKENS <i>John Parkhurst</i> Eliakim Hutchins	4			1	43
Londonderry	_____ Nathan Johnson Enoch Goodwin Caleb Goodwin				1	62
Dunstable Goffstown	_____ ABRAHAM GATES Moses Gould Jacob Green					39 24

183 | 68 | 36 | 53 | 2840

N. B. The two last mentioned Churches were received the present session.

4. Read the Circular Letter, prepared by brother BOLLES, and voted to accept the same.

5. Read the Corresponding Letter, prepared by brother COLLIER, and voted to accept the same.

At 3 o'clock brother BALDWIN preached from Acts xiii. 36—38.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 8 o'clock. Brother SEAMANS concluded by prayer.

In the evening brother BOLLES preached at the Meeting-House, from Rev. v. 12.

Sermons in the evening in different parts of the town.

Thursday, Sept. 16.

Met according to adjournment. Opened with prayer by brother PECKENS.

6. Received communications from the following Associations :

<i>Associations.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Letters.</i>	<i>Minutes.</i>
Warren	JAMES BARNABY,	Letter.	Minutes.
Bowdoinham		do	do
Cumberland	JAMES HOOPER,	do	do
N. Hampshire	OTIS ROBINSON,	do	do
Dublin	W. ELLIOT,		
	E. WILLARD,	do	do
Sturbridge	B. WATERS,	do	do
Philadelphia,			do
Danbury,			do
Stonnington,			do
Woodstock,	JOB SEAMANS,	do	do

7. *Voted*, To open correspondence with the Danbury Association, by exchanging Minutes.

8. *Voted*, Also to open correspondence with the Westfield Association, by exchanging Minutes.

9. Appointed Brother WATERMAN to write the Circular Letter for the next year, and Brother SHARP the Corresponding Letter to be presented at the next meeting.

10. The interesting concerns of the Missionary Society were introduced—An interesting letter from the Newton *Female Benevolent Society*, was presented by their pastor, covering \$56, 37 presented for the Mass. Bap. Miss. Society. Also a very interesting letter from a Female Mite Society in Sullivan and Epton, containing a donation for the foreign mission.—A letter from the Rev. Luther Rice, which had been received by the moderator, was read.—The nature and importance of sending the gospel to the heathen, was explained and urged upon the minds of the brethren present: Whereupon,

11. *Voted*, That the Elders of the respective Churches be requested to encourage their respective Churches and Congregations

tions to make annual contributions for the support of foreign and domestic Missions.

12. The business of the Education Fund was attended to—
And one hundred dollars was presented from a friend to the Society, by the hand of brother BOLLES.

13. Appointed the following Messengers to Corresponding Associations. To the

Warren,	Brethren, GRAFTON, WILLIAMS, and BOLLES.
Cumberland,	Brother E. WILLIAMS.
Woodstock,	Brother PEAK.
N. Hampshire,	Brethren, BALDWIN, NELSON, and BATCHELDER.
Dublin,	Brethren, JOHN PECKENS, STONE, and <i>Evans</i> .

14. *Voted*, To hold our next meeting at South Reading, at the Baptist Meeting House, on the 3d Wednesday in September, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

15. Appointed brother WILLIAM BATCHELDER to preach the Introductory Sermon; and in case of failure, brother GRAFTON.

16. At 10 o'clock, the usual business being finished, the Moderator addressed the assembly in a very solemn and impressive manner, and then concluded by imploring the divine benediction on the Association, and on all the Churches; to which many hearts said, Amen.

Immediately after, brother JOSEPH GRAFTON preached to the people, from John vi. 45.

Circular Letter.

The Elders and Messengers of the BOSTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, to the several Churches they represent, send christian salutation.

BELOVED BRETHREN,

OUR covenant relation to you as branches of the visible kingdom of Christ excites in us a peculiar interest in all your spiritual concerns. In your afflictions we are afflicted, in your peace and prosperity we rejoice. It is with emotions of gratitude that we review the dealings of God towards us the year past. The spirit and changes of the times, accompanied by the multi-form errors of the day, have had an unhappy influence upon some christian communities. Yet have our churches in general, remained unshaken in faith and supported a unanimity reflecting honour upon that grace by which they are called. We have not the satisfaction of mentioning within our limits the last year, such extensive revivals of religion as we have often had the privilege to record. Neither can we say, the Lord hath left himself without witness among us. In some of the congregations a gentle influence of the Spirit has been felt, and a goodly number have been gathered into the fold of Christ. Some are raised up in the churches as sons of Zion to take her by the hand, and her Watchmen placed upon her walls, even the Fathers, are still preserved among us.

Permit us dear Brethren, in closing our anniversary meeting, to address to you the word of exhortation.

1st *Be ye spiritually minded.* Under the influence of divine love every private and public, religious and social duty will be our privilege. But if we suffer our personal devout exercises to languish; if we fail to rekindle the hallowed flame daily at the altar of God, if we take no heed to the intrusions of the world upon us, who are consecrated to be temples of the Holy Spirit, the life and power of religion in us will rapidly decline. Reading and meditation, and even the very approaches to God which are to open our hearts to every sacred impulse and inspire us with celestial animation, ardor and zeal, will prove irksome services. The welfare of Zion and the recovery of sinners will be comparatively uninteresting to us. We shall then with but little sensibility see her ways mourn, her solemn feasts deserted, and apostate men finish the day of their probation, and sink from the expiring sound of mercy, to the wretched abodes of despair.

But can we indulge and countenance in ourselves such declension and languor of spiritual affections? We trust not: Ye know, brethren, for ye have tasted of the love of God and the comforts of the Holy Spirit; ye know that your joy is derived from the sight

of his countenance lifted up upon you. Ye know, that when most engaged in promoting the honour of your Lord and the salvation of men, ye are most divinely blest ! Ye know what carefulness a spiritual mind hath wrought in you, what self-abasement and abhorrence of sin ; what loathing of the world, and the pleasures of it ; what fear of grieving the Spirit, neglecting a duty, reproaching your profession, or losing an opportunity of doing something for Christ. And is not this possessing in part the same mind which was in Christ Jesus ? Is not this the temper and disposition which renders his ways pleasant, and his paths peace, his yoke easy and his burden light ? Is not this the spirit which makes life desirable and useful ?

And is this a time to be otherwise minded, when temptations from innumerable sources press themselves upon you ; when mighty revolutions which convulse empires and demolish thrones, have filled the stoutest hearts with fear and trembling ; when the saints are called upon to make the most vigorous exertions in behalf of that kingdom which is destined to fill the whole world ? Be assured brethren this is a day which requires us to awake out of sleep, to put on the whole armour of righteousness, and evince that we possess the spirit of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

2d. *Make every effort for Christ which your callings and circumstances will allow in your families and the churches to which you belong.*

In your *domestic* circle, duties devolve upon you, which can be transferred to no others to perform. Your children are to be trained up in the fear and admonition of the Lord, and are capable very early of receiving those sentimental impressions, which time may never erase. The filial regard they bear to you, will induce them to listen to your instructions, and too much vigilance in inspecting their deportment and informing their minds is scarcely practicable. It is expected of you that you will watch for their souls as those who must give an account. The labours of your faithful Pastor in winning your offspring to Christ, will in the ordinary course of things, lose much of their efficiency should they lack your co-operation. Be ye, then, workers together with him, and let all who are under your care, witness your deep concern for their spiritual well-being. Let them hear your morning and evening supplications recommending them to the mercy of God. Let them witness in all your example and conversation the holy and transforming influence of religion.

In the church to which you belong labour assiduously to fill the place allotted you with a becoming spirit and conduct. *Have you a Pastor ?* manifest by your affection and kindness to him, your gratitude to the great Head of the church for so rich a blessing. Let his situation be ever so pleasant apparently, he is not without trials, and the weight of his charge, renders your sympathy, counsel and prayers, essential to him. The ease and success with which the servant of Jesus preaches the gospel to a praying people.

scarcely admits of description. Besides, your own reward is contained in it. We believe it to be the universal experience of christians, who have importunately sought a blessing upon the ministry they were to hear, that they have found it.

Are you without a Pastor? let your unceasing petitions ascend to Him who received gifts for men; that he will send you one who shall be an ensample to the flock "in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." In the mean time, do not forsake the assembling of yourselves together. Despise not the gifts of the brethren. Encourage those who are willing to take an active part in the day of trial. Should you desert them, or otherwise appear to be dissatisfied with their efforts, you may be the means of scattering a people, no more to be gathered together.

Are you in peace among yourselves? O preserve the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. "Let brotherly love continue," "and the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another." "Put on as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long suffering, forbearing one another and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any, even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye." The Scriptures are full of exhortation and counsel upon this subject. The reasons are obvious. Believers are all one in Christ Jesus. Each however has his several claims, and the feelings of each are peculiarly tender and easily wounded. Those exhortations are given to admonish christians of their danger and prevent collision. It was foreseen that the happiest consequences would attend their union; that their personal graces would flourish and thrive; that the strong would bear the infirmities of the weak; that the lame would be healed and not turned out of the way; that additions would be made to them; that their united prayers, powerful as a host, would ascend like a cloud of incense to the throne of God; that they would appear beautiful as Terza, comely as Jerusalem and firm as mount Zion. The favour of them would be like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard, that went down to the skirts of his garments." "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." It was also foreseen that the most wretched consequences would attend their divisions. A church contentious and divided, is like a cage of unclean birds. They defile each other. Discipline is neglected or conducted with impropriety. Very friends are separated, the liveliest members are chilled in their affection, and the most stable are carried away by dissimulation. Brethren, must Zion weep for us; must Jesus be pierced in the house of his friends by us; shall the enemy be provoked to blaspheme, and souls be hardened in impenitence by our example? Is it not enough that an unrighteous world is armed against us; must we also be foes of each other? O be entreated to study the things that make for peace, and things whereby you may edify one another." Hope all things, believe all things, en-

sure all things, but that which is sin, sooner than disturb the peace of the body.

3dly. *Encourage by your prayers, conversation and contributions, Missionary labourers at home and abroad*

It is with gratitude and satisfaction we contemplate what has already been done. In the thinly settled parts of our country, where but for our missionaries they might have groped in comparative darkness, churches have been constituted, the ordinances administered, and a foundation laid for the regular observance of the Lord's day. What has been done should be improved by us as matter of thankfulness to the Father of spirits, and as encouragement to farther exertions; but should afford no incentive to withhold our hand. Many towns and plantations are yet destitute of any forms of religion. The youth are growing up without God, and without hope in the world. A voice is also heard from Asia, and the Islands of the sea, saying, "Come over and help us." But who shall go? Let divine Providence determine this important question. Two amiable and pious young men, and in the judgment of our pedobaptist brethren, who were best acquainted with them, well qualified for a foreign mission, have been sent out to India. Those men, viz. brethren, Judson and Rice, have since their arrival in that country, renounced their former sentiments, upon the subjects and mode of baptism, and have been publicly immersed at Calcutta in the name of the Sacred Trinity. They now offer themselves as missionaries to the patronage of the Baptist churches in America. Can we hesitate to accept and support them? All the circumstances go to prove this event, a call of God on us to do our duty. Let us not shrink from it. Let those brethren, who have literally left all to follow Christ, see that they share in our tenderest sympathies, and that we feel ourselves and our interests embarked in the common cause with them. The work to which they have "sacredly devoted themselves" is most important. They seek the emancipation of thousands from gross darkness and superstition. They seek to rescue miserable victims from perishing beneath the wheels of Juggernaut. They seek to preserve to helpless and friendless children, their *mothers*, who are accustomed, in vast numbers, annually to burn with their husbands upon the funeral pile. They seek to demolish the idols and close the doors of heathen temples, while they declare the true God, and throw open to perishing souls the gates of salvation and eternal glory. This labour of love we owe to idolaters, and it is only by the employment of others, we shall be able to perform it. By affording to those brethren every facility in our power, we shall be fellow-helpers in this all important work.

Say not it is but little *we* can do, on others the duty falls of sustaining this mission. It requires the joint effort of our churches to give the countenance it demands. Besides, let us consider it an invaluable blessing, that God will condescend to accept a portion of our substance as offered to him, when employed to advance

the kingdom of Christ. All that we here possess is waxing old ; and, if not before, must shortly be lost amidst the dissolving elements. He that would provide himself a treasure for time to come, let him cast his bread upon these waters. Here may you scatter seed for a perpetual harvest ; seed, that shall spring up while you sleep or are dead, and shall be increasingly productive, till the great Lord of the harvest shall send forth his angels to gather unto him you who have sown and they who have reaped, to participate of the fruits of life eternal. Brethren, "our mouth is open unto you, our heart is enlarged." We would tell you of the churches that have already been planted ; of the poor Hindoos, Brahmins and Musselmans, who in languages unknown to us, now preach the gospel ; but our limits forbid. We venture to hope this subject will not be uninteresting to your minds. You will feel ; you will deliberate ; you will act. The times, the circumstances all require it. God our Saviour, whose we are, with all we possess, requires it, and may his abundant blessing attend our efforts.

Corresponding Letter.

BELOVED FATHERS AND BRETHREN,

AT the close of the second anniversary of our Association, with pleasure we address a few lines to our brethren and friends, composing similar institutions, with whom we have happily commenced a correspondence, which we shall be equally happy to continue and enlarge, as circumstances of prudence and convenience may from time to time dictate. This we esteem a duty and a privilege. A duty, because we may easily communicate to you a knowledge of the state of religion in those parts of the country from which we respectively came, and where we assemble. A privilege, because it increases and cements the fellowship of the saints, and constitutes a claim on those to whom we write for reciprocal favours : and it will always be interesting to us, to hear from our Sister Associations in a way of correspondence, as well as by your Messengers. The preceding Minutes will inform particularly of the state of the Churches in our immediate connexion. Additions have not been great : But a good degree of harmony prevails among us ; and considering the circumstances of the times, the changes which are taking place in the world, and the civil and political concussions which shake the earth, we have reason to bless God, for the unanimity, (although in some cases partially interrupted) and stability which characterize our Churches at this por-

tentous and eventful crisis in the history of human and ecclesiastical affairs.

The works of God are all founded in wisdom, righteousness and goodness. The gospel is the manifold wisdom of God. The providences of God towards his people are often incomprehensible, but always wise and righteous, and when viewed as parts of one complete and perfect system of government are always good. If he sends afflictions, they are fatherly chastisements, necessary to correct and reclaim his disobedient, wandering children. He does not send one trial unnecessarily, and no good thing does he withhold from them who walk uprightly. And if he sends mercies, they are designed to draw us near to himself.

The means by which the gospel is made known to the children of men are not such as would have been chosen by the men of this world, to accomplish so great a work. Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this world? Hath not God chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wisdom of the world? He has committed the treasure of the gospel to earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.—He has given us his Holy Spirit, by whose gracious influences the gospel is made effectual to salvation. We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. How interesting must be the fellowship and correspondence of such a people. They are the children of God, who is light. Let us, dearly beloved, walk as the children of the light and of the day—worthy of our high and holy vocation. Let us never distrust the promises of God. These are exceeding great and precious: suited to all our exigencies, capable of yielding consolation in the darkest hour. Trust in the Lord forever, for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength. Therefore, beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Our present meeting has been attended with tokens of divine approbation, and the hearts of many have been made to rejoice in the God of our salvation. Requesting an interest in your prayers, and the continuance of your correspondence, we subscribe ourselves your affectionate brethren in the bonds of the Gospel.

By order of the Association,

THOMAS BALDWIN, *Moderator.*
ELISHA WILLIAMS, *Clerk.*