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Minutes . . . in South Reading, September, 21 & 22,  
1814.

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# MINUTES

OF THE

**Boston Baptist Association,**

HELD AT THE

*Baptist Meeting-House*

IN

**SOUTH READING,**

*SEPTEMBER, 21 & 22,*

**1814.**



BOSTON :

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# MINUTES, &c.

Wednesday, September 21, 1814.

1. At 10 o'clock, Brother WILLIAM BATCHELDER, according to appointment, delivered the introductory discourse from John i. 46. 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.

3. Appointed Brethren, BALDWIN, WILLIAMS, and GRAFTON, a Committee, to count and make distribution of the money collected for the widows and children of deceased ministers.

The Messengers from sister corresponding Associations were invited to take a seat with us.—Adjourned till 2 o'clock.

4. Met pursuant to adjournment; after prayer, by Brother WILLIAMS, proceeded to read the letters from the Churches, and took the following account of the members added, dismissed, excluded, or who have died the past year, 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.
		By Bap.	By Let.				
2d Boston 1743	THOMAS BALDWIN ELISHA WILLIAMS Heman Lincoln Jacob Hiler	7	8	6	8	1	397
Haverhill 1763.	WM. BATCHELDER Amos George <i>Charles O. Kimball</i> Timothy Smith	16		6	4	2	304
Harvard 1776	ABISHA SAMSON Richard Haven Jeremiah Dyer	5			1	2	100
Newton 1780	JOSEPH GRAFTON Elijah Corey Ebenezer Hovey	20		3		1	209
Woburn 1781	————— Joseph Winn Jacob Richardson			1			98
Templeton† 1782	—————						114

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Elders and Messengers.</i>	<i>Added</i> By Bap.	<i>By Let.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Exclud.</i>	<i>Died</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Rowley 1785	JOSIAH CONVERS Silas Hardy Timothy Morfe, jr.	7		1	3	1	42
Weston 1789	CHARLES TRAIN Luther Fay Stephen Butterick David Fisk	6	5			1	45
Danvers 1793	JEREMIAH CHAPLIN Israel Hutchinson Seth Richardson	6		1			73
Charlestown 1801	WILLIAM COLLIER David Goodwin	7		5	1	3	66
Beverly 1801	Eleazer Wallis Nehemiah Roundy Francis Lamson, jr.		8	1	5	3	125
Salem 1804	LUCIUS BOILES <i>Nathaniel W. Williams</i> Niles Tilden Samuel West	12	3	12	2	2	307
Reading 1804	EBENEZER NELSON Jacob Eaton Aaron Sweetser						95
Malden	Ebenezer Harnden Samuel Wait, jr. Edward Newhall			1		1	107
Weare, N. H. 1783	EZRA WILLMARTH Abraham Merrill	3				1	87
Nottingham West, 1805	DANIEL MERRILL Justus Daken Samson Kidder	5	2		1		104
New Boston, N. H.	ISAIAH STONE* John Whipple, jr.	1					60
African Ch. in } Foston, 1805 }	THOMAS PAUL* John Hay	1			7	3	77
† Ipswich	JOHN BUTLER*						68
Newbury and } Newburyport }	JOHN PEAK Stephen Bailey	1		2		1	73
1805							
3d Boston 1807.	DANIEL SHARP <i>E. Lincoln</i> Thomas Ford	10	38	4		1	125
Gloucester						1	32
Marblehead	FERDINAND ELLIS John Fielding	1		4			43
Chelmsford	JOHN PICKENS James Baldwin	5		1		2	45

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Elders and Messengers.</i>	<i>Added</i>		<i>Dis- miss.</i>	<i>Exclud.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
		<i>By Bap.</i>	<i>By Let.</i>				
Londonderry	William Richardson Caleb Gooden	4		5	1	1	59
Dunstable	Zimri Kendall Thaddeus Davis	1			1	1	38
Goffstown	ABRAHAM GATES						24
		118 64 53 35 28 2917					

5. Read the Circular Letter prepared by brother WILLIAMS,\* and voted to accept the same.

Also read and accepted the Corresponding Letter prepared by brother SHARP

6. Read a letter from brother RICE, addressed to the Association, on the propriety of taking up collections for missionary purposes during the meeting of the Association.

This communication was referred to the consideration of a committee.

Appointed brethren, BOLLES, CHAPLIN, and SHARP, for that purpose, and to report.

7. The Letter from the Second Baptist Church in Boston, having proposed to us the propriety and importance of forming an Education Society, to afford aid to those of our young brethren who are desirous of engaging in the ministry, in obtaining literary and theological information—It was *Voted*, that brethren, MERRILL, RICE, and E. Lincoln, be a committee, to take the subject into consideration, and report thereon

8. Voted, that we recommend to the Churches of this Association, to observe Thursday, the 29th day of the present month, as a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer, on account of the present afflicted state of our beloved country, and the low state of Zion.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 8 o'clock. Brother WILLMARTH concluded by prayer. At 4 o'clock brother S. S. NELSON preached from Acts iv. 23.

\* Brother THOMAS WATERMAN, who was appointed to write the Circular Letter, having deceased, brother WILLIAMS was requested to prepare one for the occasion.

*Thursday, Sept. 22.*

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

9. Received communications from the following Associations.

<i>Associations.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Minutes.</i>
Warren	STEPHEN GANO, J. M. WINCHELL,	Minutes.
Cumberland	JOHN HAINES,	do.
N. Hampshire		do.
Dublin	JOHN PARKHURST, C. CUMMINGS,	do.
Sturbridge	B. WATERS,	do.
Westfield		do.
Danbury	GEORGE PHIPPEN,	do.
Philadelphia,		do.
Vermont		do.
Charleston,		do.
Savannah River,		do.

10. *Voted*, To correspond, by exchanging minutes, with Savannah River Baptist Association.

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

Warren,	Brethren, E. NELSON, GRAFTON, BALDWIN, and BOLLES,
N. Hampshire,	Brethren, WILLMARTH and BATCHELDER.
Dublin,	Brethren, WILLMARTH and STONE.
Sturbridge,	Brother CHARLES TRAIN.
Vermont,	Brother LUTHER RICE.
Woodstock,	Brethren, L. RICE and ABRAHAM GATES.

12. Appointed Brother DANIEL MERRILL, to write the Circular Letter for the next year, and Brother ABISHA SAMSON, the Corresponding Letter, to be presented at the next meeting.

13. The interesting concerns of the Missionary Society were introduced.

A letter from Newton *Female Benevolent Society* was presented by Elder Grafton, covering \$70 for the Mass. Bap. Miss. Society. From Female Cent Society in Salem, \$75.23, by brother BOLLES. From Female Cent Society in Haverhill, by brother BATCHELDER, \$30.25. From Female Mite Society, in Attleborough, by brother E. WILLIAMS, \$17. Forwarded by Brother BENEDICT, of Pawtucket, 128 dols. Also, for Foreign Missionary Society, from New Rowley, by Brother CONVERS, \$24.27. From sisters in Weare, N. H. by brother WILLMARTH, \$2.50. From a friend, by brother SAMSON, \$3.

14. *Voted*, That the thanks of the Association be presented to those societies and individuals who have so generously contributed to support the cause of Missions.

15. *Voted*, That the ministers of this Association be requested to encourage their respective churches and congregations to make annual contributions for the support of foreign and domestic missions.

16. The Committee to whom was referred the consideration of the Letter addressed to this Association by brother Rice,—Report, “that they do not think it expedient to take up a collection in this Body, for missions, on this occasion, particularly as our churches have already made collections for that object, and also as a collection is made at each meeting, for the widows of our deceased ministers. They recommend a compliance with the proposition, to open and maintain a correspondence with the Secretary of the Baptist Board for Foreign Missions.”

17. *Voted*, To accept the above report, and appointed Brother BOLLES as secretary to the Association, and to correspond with the secretary of the Baptist Board for Foreign Missions.

18. Appointed Brother SHARP Treasurer to the Association.

19. The Committee, to whom was referred the subject of an Education Society, having considered the object proposed, Report,—That they unanimously recommend the immediate formation of such a society; and also present a constitution, accompanied with an address, stating some of the reasons, which urgently call on us for immediate and strenuous exertions.

*Voted*, That the report of said committee be accepted; and that the Address and Constitution be adopted and printed with the Minutes.

20. *Voted*, That the Association elect one Trustee from the delegation present from each church, to proceed, immediately after the adjournment of the present meeting, to elect a Secretary, Treasurer, and Executive Committee for the Education Society, agreeably to the Constitution.—The following persons were chosen, viz. Thomas Baldwin, William Batchelder, Abishai Samson, Joseph Grafton, Jacob Richardson, Josiah Convers, Charles Train, Jeremiah Chaplin, William Collier, Eleazer Wallace, Nath. W. Williams, Jacob Eaton, Samuel Wait, Ezra Willmarth, Daniel Merrill, John Peak, Daniel Sharp, Ferdinand Ellis, John Hay, John Peckens, Thaddeus Davis, Abraham Gates, Caleb Gooden.

21. *Voted*, That the Churches be requested in future letters, to make a distinction between the members added by baptism, and those added by letter.

22. *Voted*, To hold our next meeting, at the meeting house of the 3d Baptist Church in Boston, on the third Wednesday in September, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

23. Appointed brother JOSEPH GRAFTON to preach the introductory sermon, and in case of failure Brother BOLLES.

24. At 11 o'clock, the business of the Association being agreeably finished, the Moderator addressed the assembly in an affectionate and solemn manner, and then concluded by imploring the divine benediction on the Association, on all the Churches, on Zion at large, and on our beloved Country, to which many hearts said, Amen.

Immediately after, Brother GANO preached to the people from Rev. ii. 23.

## *Circular Letter.*

*The Elders and Messengers of the BOSTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, convened at South Reading, Mass. Sept. 21, 1814, to the Churches they represent, send Christian salutation.*

DEAR BRETHREN,

OUR expectation having failed, respecting the Letter appointed at our last year's meeting, to be written, by reason of the sudden death of our much esteemed Brother, Elder THOMAS WATERMAN, who was appointed to write it, we of necessity address you in a few hasty lines.

We are happy to find by the general purport of your letters, that so great a measure of peace and unity prevail throughout our connexion, and that in some places. (though few comparatively,) there are pleasing evidences of God's power operating in the conversion of sinners.

But we find great reason to lament with you, that general declension which is so evident to observation, and so sensibly felt in the present day. This situation of the Church calls for deep humiliation before God, serious concern respecting the state of our souls, and vigorous exertion in the cause of God. In vain do we acknowledge our imperfections, or professedly lament our leanness, if our hearts are not affected. Have we not almost forgotten to consider ourselves as strangers and pilgrims on earth? Is not the spirit of ambition, pride and covetousness, prevalent to a high degree? Who are they that feel anxiously concerned for the things that are Jesus Christ's? who burn with zeal for the honour of Jehovah, mourn for the abominations of the land; and feel bowels of compassion for perishing immortal souls? Has not the gracious and holy Spirit of God, the Comforter, been grieved by our untender walk, by our unbelief, ingratitude, formality and neglect or abuse of our privileges? In churches, how often do we behold apparent want of gratitude, generosity and nobleness of spirit; and the special interests of Christ disregarded! While it is the duty of ministers, statedly to preach the gospel to the churches & congregations, of whom they have the care, both faithfully and plainly, and to visit their flocks, especially when sick; is it not the duty of churches to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake, to speak respectfully to them, and of them among one another, and before all men, and to pray for them, that utterance may be given them to declare the whole counsel of God, and in short that they may be able to discharge the whole of their important trust; to stand by them in their trials and afflictions, to comfort and encourage them in their arduous work, to make them suitable compensation for their labours? This is



enjoined by the laws of God, nature and nations. For so hath God ordained, "that they that preach the gospel, should live of the gospel;" it is contrary to the laws of nature, to muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn; and there is no civilized nation, in which it is not established by law, that the labourer is worthy of his hire. This ought not to be believed as an act of generosity, or as an act of charity, but as an act of justice. Were these things duly attended to, there would not be such frequent removals and separations between ministers and churches, as too often take place, by which churches are often greatly weakened. The establishment of a church is an important event in favour of the Redeemer's kingdom, and the best interests of men; and it should be as great an object with its members, to render it permanent, as to have it first gathered and organized. Hence the Apostle gives this very important caution, Rom. xvi. 17, "Mark them which cause divisions and offences," &c. Does not a love of the world, and a conformity to its spirit and sinful manners prevail? Does not formality evidently attend the devotions of the present day, both in the church and in the family? Where is that holy fervour, that sweet simplicity, that ardent desire and heavenly mindedness, which once distinguished christians as the spiritual worshippers of a holy and good God? Is not private prayer awfully neglected, and the spirit of it almost lost? Have not the solemn meetings for prayer been either neglected or attended with coldness and indifference, unbecoming those who profess to know Jesus Christ, or to believe the awful realities of eternity? Rouse, brethren, from your lethargy; reason, duty and obligation call; judgments threaten; mercies invite; all that is dear or sacred to the heart of a rational, immortal creature require your activity, seriousness, and diligence in the cause of your God and Redeemer. Render to Jehovah his unquestionable and too long detained due; and prove him therewith, if he will not in such a case, according to his word, open the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there even shall not be room sufficient to receive it. Be fervent in your petitions at the throne of grace, for the influence and aid of the divine Spirit, to give the gospel effect on the minds of those who have yet remained careless and impenitent. Bear on your hearts in prayer to Almighty God, the state and situation of your beloved country, now experiencing the awful calamity of war, and its attendant horrors; that God would mercifully appear for us as a nation, cause the people to learn righteousness, while his judgments are abroad, and that speedily we may share in common with other nations, the blessings of a righteous, honourable and permanent peace, with its attendant smiles; that war may forever cease, and the precious gospel of the Son of God universally spread and triumph. Dear brethren, excuse the plainness of this address; consider the love of Christ, that you may feel its

constraining power ; meditate on the promises, and the glories of a coming world, till your hearts are fired with faith, zeal, and love, and till they expand with holy hope, pleasing expectation and divine joy. Our present meeting has been peculiarly pleasing and harmonious. Wishing you the choicest of heaven's blessings, we subscribe, dear brethren, in behalf of the Association,

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



## *Corresponding Letter.*

*The BOSTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, met at South Reading, Sept. 21, 1814—To their sister Associations with whom they are accustomed to correspond—Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

DEAR BRETHREN,

THOUGH our lot is cast in different parts of our land, and we can seldom enjoy the pleasure of personal interviews ; we bless God that all means of communication are not cut off. We can impart to each other on paper, a knowledge of the tenets we maintain, of the comforts and hopes which animate our souls ; of the unceasing attachment which we cherish for our brethren ; and of those circumstances which give a character to each of our associated bodies. Of this mode of communication we are happy to avail ourselves on the present occasion.

The intelligence with which we have been favoured from our brethren at a distance, has afforded us much joy. We exult in the prosperity of Zion wherever it has taken place ; and therefore congratulate such of the friends of Christ who have witnessed the displays of sovereign mercy, in the conversion of sinners to God.

We are glad to perceive from the Minutes which have reached us, that a missionary spirit has been enkindled among our sister Associations. We hope the sacred flame will continue to spread. Our obligations to unite our energies for the purpose of sending the gospel to the heathen, are inexpressibly great. We are called upon by the feelings of humanity, the dictates of christian benevolence, the commands of the Saviour, the predictions of ancient prophets, and the signs of the times, to employ all the

influence we possess in extending the "Glorious gospel of the blessed God."

There have been no remarkable effusions of the Spirit within the bounds of our churches during the past year. We have reason to be thankful, however, that, to several, additions have been made—And what is pleasant, we are dwelling together in fraternal love.

We cannot close our letter without referring to the state of our nation. The present is a momentous period. The safety of our towns and cities is endangered by a powerful foe ; and the lives of our citizens are in jeopardy every hour. These considerations solemnize our minds. We feel the importance and necessity of prayer. While those with whom we are connected, in the social compact, have girded on their armour for the battle ; let us, dear brethren, put on the whole armour of God—"above all, praying with all prayer." Is it not of importance, that as individuals, churches, and associations, we should confess our sins, and implore the favour and protection of our God ? He hath listened to the prayers of his people in every age ; and he hath assured us, that the effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. May we not hope then, that, in answer to our united prayers, the Lord will bless our land ? And, are we not sure, that He will unquestionably bless all those who engage in this service with sincerity, and humility of heart ?

Dear brethren, when it is well with you, bear us on your hearts ; rest assured we take an affectionate interest in whatever relates to your prosperity, and remain most cordially yours in the bonds of the gospel.

*By order of the Association.*

THOMAS BALDWIN, *Moderator.*

ELISHA WILLIAMS, *Clerk.*

# *Massachusetts Baptist Education Society,*

Formed at the annual meeting of the  
Boston Baptist Association in South-Reading, Sept. 22, 1814.

Impressed with the vast importance of the Christian Ministry, as connected with the conversion of sinners, and the edification of the Church, and desirous to furnish to young men of piety and gifts, the means of acquiring an education, with a view to extend their public usefulness, we do hereby associate, and adopt the following

## CONSTITUTION.

1. This Society shall be styled, *The Massachusetts Baptist Education Society.*

2. It shall be composed of all such persons as pay into its funds at least one dollar annually, who shall have a right to assemble with the Trustees herein after named, and vote in the election of the Executive Committee.

3. The object of this Society shall be, to afford the means of education to young men of the Baptist denomination, who shall furnish evidence to the churches of which they are members, and to the Executive Committee hereafter named, of their personal piety and call to the gospel ministry.

4. A Board of Trustees for this Society shall be annually raised in the following manner, viz. for the present year, one Messenger now present from each of the churches shall be chosen by the Association, who shall immediately execute the duty hereafter assigned them ; and in future, each church comprised in the Boston Baptist Association, which shall annually forward a contribution to aid the funds, shall be authorized to appoint one Trustee.

5. The Trustees shall meet annually, on the 3d Wednesday in September, at 8 o'clock, A. M. at the place of the meeting of the Boston Baptist Association, and shall elect by ballot a Treasurer, Secretary, and seven persons, who shall be either members of their own body, or other brethren of the said Association, and shall be styled the *Executive Committee*. One third of the whole number of Trustees shall be necessary to form a quorum.

6. The Executive Committee shall appoint a Chairman ; take charge of the pecuniary concerns of the Society ; receive applications of candidates, and judge of their qualifications ; determine on the instructors to be employed ; and the time the candidates shall devote to study ; and generally attend to the concerns of the Institution. It is required that the Committee annually expend the amount received, if a sufficient number of candidates make application ; and that they make a report annually to the Association, and oftener to the Trustees, if required.

7. The Executive Committee shall appoint agents in such places as they shall judge proper, to aid in obtaining subscriptions and contributions, and otherwise increasing the funds of the Society.

8. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a fair record of the proceedings of the Committee, which shall be open to the inspection of the Trustees, and of the Society.

9. The Treasurer shall keep a fair account of all receipts and expenditures, and give bonds to the Chairman of the Committee for the faithful discharge of his office.

10. Should similar institutions be formed in neighbouring Associations, the Executive Committee shall be authorised to appoint a delegate to confer with them, and to unite in providing more extensive means for attaining theological knowledge.

11. Any alterations may be made in this constitution by a majority of the Boston Baptist Association, at any annual meeting.

☞ Agreeably to the Constitution, the Trustees elected the following persons to fill the offices for the present year, viz. William Batchelder, *Secretary*, Daniel Sharp, *Treasurer*, Thomas Baldwin, E. Williams, Jeremiah Chaplin, Lucius Bolles, William Collier, Joseph Grafton, Daniel Merrill, *Executive Committee*.

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## ADDRESS

Of the Elders and Messengers of the *Boston Baptist Association*, to the Churches they represent.

DEAR BRETHREN,

If we compare the present state of our denomination in this land with the state it was in 50 years since, we shall see great cause of encouragement and thankfulness. We were then oppressed; we have now full liberty to worship God according to the dictates of our own consciences. We were then few in number; we have now increased to a multitude. The Lord has, indeed, done great things for us, whereof we have reason to be glad. But while we are surrounded with such tokens of his presence and favour, have we not some reason to blame ourselves for the non-improvement of those means of honouring him with which he has graciously supplied us? Much has indeed been done; but if there is reason to believe we have it in our power to do more, are we not bound to make the attempt?

For several years past, we have been employed in missionary undertakings.

These are highly important; and the success with which they have been crowned will, it is hoped, excite us to a still more vigorous prosecution of them. But is there not another object equally important which has not, as yet, engaged an equal portion of our regard? Is it not a matter of serious regret that a denomination so numerous as ours has made no adequate provision for the *education of candidates for the gospel ministry*? It will, indeed, be granted that many, without the advantage of an early education, have preached the gospel with much ability and success. Of these some have not only distinguished themselves as ministers of the word of God, but surmounting the numerous obstacles which lay in their way, have in process of time accumulated considerable treasures of human science; while others, though never remarkable for their literary attainments, have, by their fervent piety, their knowledge

of the Bible, and their assiduous attention to the duties of their sacred calling, been instrumental of great good both to the church and to the world. Such men, undoubtedly, deserve a large portion of our love and esteem; their praise is now in all the churches; and in the future world they will "shine as the brightness of the firmament, and as the stars forever and ever." But instances of this kind, it is conceived, form no weighty objection to the utility and importance of an early education. We do not admit such an objection in other cases. Many sinners have been converted to God, who, previous to their experience of that blessed change, had not been permitted to hear the Gospel clearly and faithfully preached: but we do not thence conclude that the clear and faithful preaching of the gospel is of no importance.—The truth is, the Lord is not confined to means; he can work without them; he sometimes does; but when he has put them into our hands, we are bound to employ them for his glory; and if we refuse to do so, we cannot reasonably expect to enjoy his blessing.

In this view, the case before us is a very plain one. That an early acquaintance with some of the liberal arts & sciences, and especially with sacred literature, must be very beneficial to a gospel minister, by enlarging his mind, facilitating the communication of his ideas, and assisting him to maintain the truth against the assaults of acute and learned adversaries, is too evident to be denied. Is it not equally evident that, in many cases, the business of procuring these advantages for pious youth whom the Lord has endued with gifts, and called to preach the gospel, devolves on us? And have we not much reason to hope that, should our many prayers be accompanied by suitable exertions of this kind, the Lord of the harvest would graciously hear us and send forth a larger supply of faithful labourers? These are greatly wanted at the present time. Several churches belonging to this body are destitute of pastors. The like deficiency, it is believed, is lamented by many churches belonging to our sister Associations. Besides, were all our churches well supplied, an increase of spiritual labourers would still be needed. In many places where Baptist churches have not been planted, there is, notwithstanding, a great call for Baptist preachers. And could we supply those places with men of piety, and decent literary attainments, we might reasonably anticipate the high satisfaction of witnessing the rapid progress of evangelic truth, and of seeing the cause of our divine Master greatly advanced.

The importance of the object here contemplated will farther appear, if we consider the great embarrassments experienced by many a pious youth whose attention has been directed to the work of the ministry. The honour of God lies near his heart. He loves the souls of men, and longs to be instrumental of their salvation. The ministry of reconciliation appears to him a very glorious work; and could he suppose himself in any suitable degree qualified for it, he would immediately engage in it with all his heart. But he realizes that it is a great and arduous work. He feels himself wholly inadequate to it. What gifts he has are

quite uncultivated. He is very ignorant ; many private christians know more than he does ; and how can he appear before them in the sacred character of a gospel minister ? Had he property, he would readily sacrifice the very last cent to procure for himself the advantages of a suitable education. But property he has none. He makes known his situation to his friends. Of these, some attribute his anxiety to pride, and charge him to be more humble before he undertakes to preach the self-abasing doctrine of the cross. Others acknowledge the purity and correctness of his views : but though favoured with a large portion of worldly wealth, it so happens that they have nothing to spare for charitable uses. Others feel for the young man, and would rejoice to help him ; but they are so indigent, and so few in number, that their benevolent wishes cannot be gratified. What can he do ? To go forward appears presumptuous. To stand still is painful beyond expression. To abandon the idea of preaching, is to wound his conscience and spread an impenetrable cloud over his prospect of a happy and useful life !—Many, it is believed, have felt this distressing anxiety for months and years. Nor is it at all improbable, that a very considerable number of our own denomination feel it at the present time. And shall we, brethren, sit still and suffer them to waste in unavailing grief, that precious time which ought to be employed in the improvement and cultivation of their minds ?

“ But have we not an Education Fund ? ” We have ; but it is far from being adequate to the purpose here contemplated. It consists, as some of you well know, of about 3000 dollars. The interest of which, annually, is hardly sufficient to provide for the education of two students only. It is ascertained that there are now six or seven young men who need the benefit of it. And, probably, double that number would soon come forward to solicit our patronage, had they reason to expect a successful issue to their applications.

In these circumstances, is it not desirable, that a Society be formed, under the superintendence of this Association, to procure money, by subscriptions, collections, or otherwise, in order to supply the deficiency of our Education Fund ? It is believed that if such a measure were put in operation, a very considerable sum might be annually raised within the limits of this Association. Our whole number of members is about 2,900. From some of them, it is true, no pecuniary assistance can be expected. But if we subtract 900, as comprehended in this class, there will still remain 2,000. And if each of them should contribute at the rate of only one cent per week, the aggregate would exceed 1,000 dols. per year ! Besides, in many of our congregations there are generous individuals, who, though they do not belong to any church, are ready and willing to aid the undertaking. Nor is it very unlikely that, should we engage in it with life and spirit, our sister Associations would feel its importance and follow our example.

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