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Baptists. Maine. Bowdoinham Association.

Minutes ... at Harpswell, September 29th and 30th,  
1790.

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# MINUTES

OF THE

Bowdoinham Association,

HELD AT

HARPSWELL,

SEPTEMBER 29th and 30th, 1790.

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B O S T O N :

Printed by SAMUEL HALL, at No. 53, Cornhill.

1790.

# MINUTES, &c.

WEDNESDAY, September 29.

1st. **A**T one o'clock, P. M. elder James Potter preached the introductory Sermon from Jude, 1st verse.

2d. Then chose elder Potter, Moderator, and brother Samuel Flagg, Clerk.

3d. Read the letters from the several Churches; and took the account of the members, who have been added, dismissed, or died the last year, and the present number belonging to each Church.

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	Added.	Dismiss.	Died.	No.
Thomas Town,	Elder <i>Isaac Case</i> , Sampson Sweetland.	0	0	0	121
Bowdoinham,	Elder <i>Job Macomber</i> , Joshua Young, James Baker, John Perkins.	4	2	0	30
Harpswell,	Elder <i>Elisha Snow</i> , Samuel Woodward, Reuben Higgins.	2	0	0	54
Bowdoin,	Elder <i>James Potter</i> , Humphry Purington, William Stinson.	18	0	0	69
Vassalborough,	Nehemiah Gould, Jabez Lewis.	4	0	0	26
Balltown,	Samuel Flagg, John Bayley.	3	0	1	17
		31	2	1	317

4th. Read and approved the Circular Letter.

5th. Voted, That brother Samuel Flagg, and brother Humphry Purington, prepare the Letter to the Warren and New-Hampshire Associations.

6th. Voted, That elder Elisha Snow, and brother Joshua Young, be our messengers to the New-Hampshire Association ; and elder Isaac Case to the Warren Association.

7th. Voted to adjourn till to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

In the evening, elder Isaac Case preached a Sermon, from 1 Cor. ix. 14.

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THURSDAY, September 30.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Read and approved the Letters prepared to the Warren and New-Hampshire Associations.

10th. Voted, That Brother Samuel Flagg prepare a Circular Letter for the next year.

11th. Agreed on the following supplies, viz. For Harpswell, elder Job Macomber, 2d Lord's day in December ; elder Isaac Case, 2d Lord's day in February ; elder James Potter, 2d Lord's day in April ; elder Macomber, 2d Lord's day in June.

For Vassalborough, elder Macomber, 3d Lord's day

day in November ; elder Snow, 3d Lord's day in February ; elder Macomber, 3d Lord's day in June ; elder Potter, 3d Lord's day in September.

For Balltown, elder Snow, 4th Lord's day in February ; elder Macomber, 4th Lord's day in June ; elder Potter, 4th Lord's day in September.

12th. Voted, That this Association be held at Balltown, the Wednesday before the first Lord's day in October, 1791.



The

# The Circular Letter

TO OUR CHURCHES.

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DEAR BRETHREN,

ALTHOUGH Christ's kingdom is not of this world, yet it is in the world ; and as many as are born of God, and bring forth the fruits of righteousness, are in this kingdom, and have a right to all the privileges of the sons of God. As there are various opinions of the faith once delivered to the saints, and many errors crept into the Church, of the same import, it is highly requisite we set this matter in a proper light, and point out to you the nature and effects of the faith of the gospel. Gospel faith is a plant not to be found in nature's garden ; no unregenerate person hath it, or can procure it by any thing he hath done, or can do, by way of merit ; it is the gift of God to perishing sinners, at the reception of which they see themselves lost and undone ; condemned by the law of God, helpless as to their recovery, and in absolute need of Christ's righteousness. *Faith, saith the Apostle, is the substance of things hoped for, and the evidence of things not seen :* It is wrought in the soul at the time of regeneration, and builds all its prospects on Christ, for eternal felicity ; and is the eye of the soul, to behold all spiritual objects in their true nature.

Faith

Faith views the blessed plan of God's grace to fallen man ; sees the divine character most illustriously displayed in the blest Redeemer, and all the attributes of Deity harmonizing in the great atonement. Faith receives all the saving benefits of Christ, and rejoices therein ; looks at things past, present, and to come, and carries the soul from, and to eternity, in the great mysteries of God. Faith receives the whole word of God as true, and when in lively exercise, all the blessed promises afford strength and consolation to the soul.— In a word, this faith works by love, and purifies the heart ; it is the saints' victory, whereby they overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil : It leads the Christian to the love and practice of every Christian duty, and to keep a steadfast eye upon all God's commands.

This faith enables the soul to work *from* life, and not *for* life ; and ever keeps the ears of the soul open to know our blessed Shepherd's voice, from the voice of strangers ; and gives access to the throne of grace ; and maintains fellowship one with another, as well as brings forth fruit to God's declarative glory.

Dearly beloved, Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering, for he is faithful who hath promised ; let us bring forth the fruits of such a faith ; let the love of Christ constrain us to constant obedience ; to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness ; let us so live as to prove the truth of real religion in the heart, and the God of peace will be with you, through your pilgrimage  
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on earth, and give you an inheritance among them that are sanctified by faith in Christ Jesus. Amen.

P. S.—We would inform our brethren, that the Churches stand fast in the faith and fellowship of the gospel : There have been considerable revivals among us, for which let the Lord be magnified.

JAMES POTTER, Moderator.

*Signed in behalf of* { SAMUEL FLAGG, Clerk,  
*the Association.*

F I N I S.

