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**Baptists. Maine. Bowdoinham Association, 1793.
Minutes . . . at Readfield August 28th and 29th, 1793.
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M I N U T E S

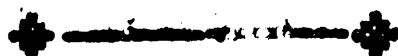
O F T H E

BOWDOINHAM AS-
SOCIATION,

H E L D A T

R E A D F I E L D,

AUGUST 27th, and 29th, 1793.



Wednesday, August 28th.

1. **A**T one o'clock, P. M. Elder Wm. Hooper preached the introductory sermon, from Matthew 5th chap. and 3d ver *Blessed are the poor in spirit ; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

2. Proceeded to the choice of a Moderator, and Clerk.

3. Read letters from the several churches ; and took an account of the members that have been added, dismissed, or died the last year ; (none having been excluded) and the present number in each church, ——— N.B. Ordained Ministers names in Small Capitals—Licensed preachers in Italics.

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Add.</i>	<i>Dyn.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Num.</i>
Bowdoinham,	{ JOB MANNING, Caleb Weston, Seth Hathorn.	5	2		32
Harpwell,	{ SAM. WOODWARD John Snow, Robert Dennen.	1			51
Thomaston,	Richard Kating.	4	8		98
Bowdoin,	{ JAMES POTTER, Humphry Parinten, Lemuel Hall.				41
Vassalborough,	{ Job Chadwick, Timothy Hamblin.				32
Balston,	Solomon Potter.			1	19
Sydney,	{ Asa Wilbur, Lemuel Jackson, Samuel Ward.	5			35
2. Bowdoin,	{ WM. STINSON, Tho's. Morgridge, Bartholo. Taylor.	8			35
Hebron,	{ Job Cushman, William Barrows.	8		1	38
Buckfield,	{ Nathaniel Chase, Jacob Whitman.	4			25
Paris,	{ Levi Jackson, Benja. Hammon.				21
Lewistown,	{ Samuel Simmons, Abner Harris.	7	12		50
Readfield,	{ ISAAC CASE, William Briggs, John Comings, Levi Morrill.	35		1	69
Sterling,	{ ELIPH. SMITH, Eleazer Goodwin, Abijah Case.	7			37

		Add.	Disin.	Died.	Num.
Miscongonus Island,	Andrew Fuller.	4			23
Cushing,	Ephraim Hall.				26
Nobleborough,	Jesse Flint.				12
Livermore,	{ Elisha Williams,				21
	{ Otis Robinson				
Greene,	{ Joshua Young,				29
	{ Benjamin Cole.				
Total,		89	42	3	695

N. B. The four last mentioned Churches, were received into union this year.—Note, also the Church of Readfield was called Wintbrop, and that of Paris was called Number four, in our last minutes.

4. Read letters and minutes from the New-hampshire Association. Messengers, Elder William Hooper, and Elder Simon Lock.

5. There being present some members from the sister associations, *Voted*, that they take a seat with us.

6. Chose brother *Joshua Young* to prepare a corresponding letter to the sister associations.—Adjourned till tomorrow morning 9 o'clock —Several sermons in the evening, in different parts of the society.

Thursday morning—Met according to adjournment.

7. Read, revised and adopted the circular letter prepared by Elder Cate. Read and approved the corresponding letter to the sister associations, prepared by brother Young.

8. *Voted*, that Elder Cate be our messenger to

th. Warren Association ; and that Elder Potter, Elder Stinson, Elder Case, and brother Young, be our messengers to the Newhampshire Association.

9. Chose Elder Case, Treasurer to the Association.

Voted, that for the future, the expenses of one messenger to the Warren, and two to the Newhampshire Associations, be borne by the several Churches in our Association.

10. Chose brother Young to prepare a circular letter against the next year.

A question was proposed by the Church of Vassalborough, desiring the opinion of the Association on St. Paul's meaning, Rom. 9th chap 3d ver — Answer, that the Apostle's meaning is, That if it would be for the glory of God, & would forward the salvation of his brethren the Jews ; he could be willing to suffer a crucified death, after the example of Christ : For it is written, *Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree*, Deut. 21. 23 Gal 3. 13.

Agreed on the following supplies, viz. For *Sydney*, Elder Smith, 2d Lord's day in October ; Elder Stinson, 2d in January ; and Elder Woodward 2d in June. *Vassalborough*, Elder Smith, 3d Lord's day in October ; Elder Stinson, 3d in January ; and Elder Woodward, 3d in June. — *Balston*, Elder Smith, 4th Lord's day in October ; Elder Stinson, 4th in January ; Elder Case, 4th in April ; and Elder Woodward, 4th in June. — *Nobleborough*, Elder Case, 4th Lord's day in October ; and Elder Stinson, 2d in February. — *Hebron*, Elder Case, 2d Lord's day in January ; Elder Macomber, 3d in June ; and Elder Stinson, 3d in August — *Buckfield*, Elder Woodward, 2d Lord's

day in January ; Elder Macomber, 2d in June ; and Elder Stinson, 2d in August.—*Paris*, Elder Woodward, 4th Lord's day in January ; Elder Macomber, 4th in June ; and Elder Stinson, 4th in August.—*Lewistown*, Elder Case, 1st Lord's day in March ; and Elder Potter, 1st in July.—*Greene*, Elder Case, 2d Lord's day in March ; and Elder Potter, 2d in July.—*Turner*, Elder Stinson, 2d Lord's day in December ; Elder Case 1st in January ; and Elder Woodward, 1st in February.

11. Appointed brother Young, to superintend printing the minutes.

12. Voted to hold our Association at Ballston, the 4th Wednesday in August, at 1 o'clock, A. D. 1794.

C I R C U L A R L E T T E R.

Brethren beloved in the Lord,

IT is with peculiar satisfaction we now address you ; and we would do it in the language of the great Apostle of the Gentiles, to the Ephesians, 5th chap. 1st v.—“ Be ye followers of God as dear children.” This exhortation we view no less needful for us than them, they were numbered among the Saints and family of Christ, had embraced his holy ordinances, and in an open manner espoused his cause, and as such, would be noticed by God, angels and men ; therefore it was of the highest importance for them to have a supreme regard to the glory of God, and to walk as children of the light, gloryfying God in both body and soul : Is it not then, brethren, of equal importance for us constantly to eye eternal things, make them the grand terminating object of our faith, and be ever under their governing influence through our lives ? Surely the word of the Lord is good ; his ways are right and the just shall walk in them. The unerring oracles of truth seem abundant-

ly to discover ~~that~~, that the blessed God hath never left himself without a witness, but in all ages has ever had a peculiar people, that he distinguished from the rest of the fallen race of mankind, by putting his spirit in their hearts and manifesting his divine grace and mercy through his son Jesus Christ. But his family seems to be greatly increased and multiplied under the gospel dispensation : And in these days in which we live, he seems to be doing wonders that are ever marvellous in our eyes, causing multitudes in these American climes, by the irresistible energy of his divine spirit, to submit to the sceptre of the adorable Redeemer ; to come forth in view of the world, and with their mouths make confession unto salvation, and cheerfully submit to all the ordinances of the great head of the church ; and in a judgment of charity we view them to be the children of God. The Lord's precious ones are styled his children on account of the near relation they are to him ; and what makes them truly his children, is their being born again, not by a corruptible but an incorruptible seed, even by the word and spirit of God which liveth and abideth forever ; and they are considered dear to him on account of the infinite expense at which they were purchased, and they appear precious in his sight, through the comeliness that Christ hath adorned them with and put on them ; and although God has various ways of bringing home his children to himself, and they may differ in some measure in their experiences, yet they seem to harmonize in the most essential things, and readily choose that God should have all the glory of their salvation. And doth such an one, who has been brought to choose God for his portion, Christ for his all-sufficient saviour, set down as an idler in Christ's vineyard ? by no means—" If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments," say the lips of truth ; he himself has made this a test of our obedience and friendship to him, " then are ye my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you : " these are the words of our dear Lord and master, who spake as never man spake ; and those who are destitute of this evidence of their love to Christ, viz. (that of conscientiously observing his commands) are yet strangers to him, let their profess-

sion be what it may. But are we exhorted to be followers of God as dear children, the question is, how shall we follow him? The scriptures, those unerring oracles of truth, furnish us with a plain and perfect rule, not only for this, but every christian duty; so plain, that even he that runs may read and know his duty both to God and man: here we may try our religion, whether it be true and genuine, or false and pharisaical. To follow God as dear children, implies a complete dedication of ourselves and all that we have to God, sincere and true obedience to his revealed will, with a cheerful submission to the doctrines of the cross, following the lamb wheresoever he goeth.

Brethren, there are several things we would recommend to your careful attention; and the first is, the duty of prayer, to which we are abundantly excited in the word of God; which includes both family devotion and secret or closet prayer:—Likewise we recommend the reading a portion of sacred writ, and explaining it to those who may attend with you, in this solemn duty, previous to your entering upon it: and by no means to neglect this duty in your families at proper seasons, on account of the smallness of your gifts, or any darkness that may seem to veil your minds; and by all means maintain a close and constant walk with God, by observing the duty of secret or closet prayer, that he who seeth in secret may reward thee openly.—This will greatly tend to support the power of Religion in your souls, and you will know by happy experience, that in keeping this among others of God's commands, there is not only great but present reward. Another duty that we would recommend is a circumspect walk, not only before your families, but before all men, giving no just occasion of offence either to Jew, Gentile, or the house of God, & conducting in such a manner in the whole of your deportment, that others may take knowledge of you, that you have indeed been with Jesus. Once more we would exhort each one to supply his place in the church of Christ, fulfilling his covenant vows, and improving every talent, given him by God, for the peace and prosperity of Zion. Brethren, absent not your-

elves from the public worship of God on Lord's days, nor from any instituted meeting of the Church, but attend and be active with your covenant brethren, deal in meekness, tenderness and faithfulness, watching over one another in the love of God, and exercising that forgiving temper that Christ has taught us. Finally, brethren, shew yourselves valiant soldiers of the cross of Christ—shun no duty through fear of man or to gain their applause, as we trust you are sensible that the favours of the world cannot make you happy, nor its frowns make you miserable ; that the favour of your God is life, and his loving kindness better than life. The motives to these duties are great, the cause is the Lord's ; the house of our spiritual David is waxing stronger and stronger, and crowns of immortal glory await those that are found faithful unto death ; and we shall, if found amongst the faithful servants of God, ere long be admitted into the joy of our Lord, where we shall see his face, and join the praising millions around the throne in singing the song of Moses and the lamb—*Amen.*

Signed in behalf of the Association,

WILLIAM HOOPER, *Moderator.*

JOSHUA YOUNG, *Clerk.*