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Baptists. Maine. Bowdoinham Association, 1800.
Minutes ... in Green, August 27 and 28, 1800.
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MINUTES

OF THE

Bowdoinham Association,

HELD AT THE

Baptist Meeting-House

IN

GREEN,

AUGUST 27 AND 28

1800.



MINUTES, &c.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 27.

A SERMON at 10 o'clock, A. M. by Elder **WILLIAM STINSON**, from Deuteronomy 33. 29

1. At two o'clock, afternoon, Elder **THOMAS GREEN** preached the Introductory Sermon from Daniel 12th chap. 3d. ver. "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars forever and ever."

2. Chose Elder **GREEN** Moderator, and Elder **WILLIAMS** Clerk.

3. Read Letters from the several churches, and took the following account of the members added, dismissed, excluded, or who have died the last year; also the present number in each church.

N. B. The names of ordained ministers are in **SMALL CAPITALS**, licensed preachers in *Italics*. Those ministers with this mark (*) were not present. Vacant churches are distinguished by a dash.

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Ministers and Messengers.</i>	<i>Add.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Exclud.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Number.</i>
Bowdoinham,	JOE MACOMBER, James Buker, Seth Hathorn.	2	15		1	23
Harpwell,	* SAMUEL WOODWARD, William Getchel, John Getchel, Samuel Mariner.	4	8			46
Thomaston,	* ELISHA SNOW, Trifram Jordan.	3	1	1	1	87
Bowdoin,	* JAMES POTTER, David Buker, James Sampson, Stephen Ridout, Nathaniel Smith, Samuel Smith.	6	5	9	1	110
Vassalborough,	— David Webb, Jonas Picist.			2		26
Ballston, Sydney,	JOSEPH BAILEY. <i>ASA WILLEUR.</i> Asa Williams, Nathaniel Reynolds, jun.	1			1	32 51
Litchfield,	WILLIAM STINSON, John Brown, Thomas Mergill ge.	2		5		113
Hebron,	JOHN TRIPP, William Barrows, Daniel Bartlet.	1	1			31

Church.	Ministers and Messengers.	Add.	Dismiss.	Exchd.	Died.	Number.
Buckfield,	Nathaniel Chace, Jonas Coburn, Job Packard.	1	1	6	1	26
Paris,	JAMES HOOPER, Job Prince, Ichabod Waterman, Uriah Ripley, George Ricker.	2				46
Lewiston,	Josiah Mitchell, Abner Harris, James Jocelin.	1	2	2	1	46
Readfield,	ISAAC CASE, William Briggs, Joseph Rice, Joel White, Paul Lambert.					54
Fayette,	ELIPHALET SMITH, Ozzer Billings, Joshua Walton, Jeremiah Richards.	3		1		62
Miscoungus Island,	William Loud.	6				27
Cushing,	EPHRAIM HALE, Isaac Hall.	7	38	3		66
Nobleborough,	Elijah Dunbar.					16
Livermore,	Zebede Delano, Sylvanus Boardman, Peletiah Gibbs.	25	4	1	1	65
Green,	LEMUEL JACKSON, Lemuel Comings, John Larrabee, Amaziah Reed, John Dagget, Gideon Hatch.	5	2	2		88
Wayne,	Isaac Dexter, Ichabod Billington, Freeman Dexter, David Perry.	2	15	3		24
Thompsonboro'	BENJAMIN COLE, Joseph Kigore, Samuel Tebbets, John Tebbets.	1	6	3		53
Barrettstown, Newgloucester,	ANDREW FULLER, ROBERT LOW, John Warren, John Woodman.	2 4	4	6	1	42 25
Clinton,	MEPHIBOSHETH CAIN, David Lancaster, Humphry Burrill.			3		62
Northyarmouth,	THOMAS GREEN, John Merrill.	1			2	29

Churches.	Ministers and Messengers.	Added	Dismissed	Exclud.	Dead	Number.
Harlem,	JOB CHADWICK, JABEZ LEWIS, Nathaniel Stanley.	3				9
New Vineyard,	----- Daniel Luce,	1				12
Farmington,	----- William Bradbury,	2				11
2d. Litchfield,	----- John Neal, Levi Harriman, James Pierce.	8		6		89
Wales,	----- Philip Jenkins, Reuben Ham. Nathaniel Spalding.	12	3	3		60
Jay,	----- William Goding, Peter Austin.	20				34
Mountvernon,	----- Samuel Thing, William Whittier, Nathan Thomas.	11		2		26
Brunswick,	ELISHA WILLIAMS, Samuel Duclap.					11
Littleborough, Woolwich,	THOMAS FRANCIS ----- Samuel Stinson, Robert Perkins.					16 15
Medumeock,	----- Benjamin Burton.					37
Warren,	----- Thomas Robinson.					21
Total,		136	103	58	10	1613

The five last mentioned Churches were received into union the present session.

Received Letter and Minutes from the Warren Association, by their messenger Elder SAMUEL NELSON.

Also Letter and Minutes from the New-Hampshire Association, by their messenger Elder LEVI CHADBOURN.

4. Voted that Elder TRIPP write the Corresponding Letter to sister Associations.

Adjourned till tomorrow morning, eight o'clock.

THURSDAY MORNING, AUG. 28.

Met according to adjournment. Prayer by Elder CAIN.

5. Read and adopted the Circular Letter prepared by Elder MACOMBER.

6. Read and adopted the Corresponding Letter to sister Associations.

7. Voted that Elders WILLIAMS and CASE be our messengers to the Warren Association—Elders TRIPP and Low to the New-Hampshire.

8. Voted that Elder Low write the Circular Letter for the next year.

9. Voted that **ABNER HARRIS** be Treasurer to the Association.

10. Voted that Elder **WILLIAMS** superintend the printing of the Minutes.

Agreeable to a Vote of the association the last year, Elder **CASE** visited the New settlements in the Eastern parts of the Province of Maine as a Missionary to Preach the Gospel in places destitute of settled Ministers, who reported a very pleasing account, of the advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom in many places he visited, and that there appeared to be a door opened for great usefulness in preaching the Gospel in those parts.

Agreeable to a request of the association the last year, a contribution was received from some of our Churches, societies and individuals present, for the support of a Gospel Mission, amounting to forty three Dollars ten Cents.

11. Voted that Elders **Green, Williams** and **Woodward**, be a committee to superintend the business relating to the Gospel Mission.

12. Voted that Elder **Williams** be Treasurer for the Missionary business.

13. Voted the following supplies

Lewiston	}	Elder Low , first Lord's day in November.
		Elder Jackson , first in March.
		Elder Tripp , first in May.
		Elder Francis , first in July.
Missisquoi Island.	}	Elder Fuller , second in Dec. 2d in March: 2d in July.
		Elder Hall , first in January second in June.
		Elder Bailey , second in May.
		Elder Snow , fourth in August.
Northborough.	}	Elder Macomber , second in November.
		Elder Stinson , first in June.
Farmington.	}	Elder Hall , third in August.
		Elder CASE , second in November.
New Vineyard.	}	Elder Smith , second in June.
		Elder Lewis , third in October.
North Litchfield.	}	Elder Francis , second in January.
		Elder Cain , second in March.
		Elder Smith , fourth in September.
		Elder Stinson , fourth in Dec. and fourth in June.
Joy.	}	Elder Bailey , fourth in March.
		Elder Stinson , third in October.
		Elder Smith , third in January.
		Elder Lewis , third in March.
Mt. Vernon.	}	Elder Cole , second in June.
		Elder Francis , third in August.
		Elder Stinson , first in November.
		Elder Cain , first in March.
Waldwich.	}	Elder Smith , first in May.
		Elder Stinson , first in September third in January.
		Elder Bailey , second in October second in Feb.
		Elder Hall , fourth in December.
Meduncook.	}	Elder CASE , second in April.
		Elder Jackson , first in June.
		Elder Hall , second in September, second in Feb.
		Elder Macomber , second in November.
		Elder Fuller , second in October, second in August.
		Elder Bailey , second in January.
		Elder CASE , second in May.
		Elder Snow , second in June.

14. Voted to hold our association the next year at the Baptist Meeting-House in North yarmouth, the fourth Wednesday of August, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

Adjourned until 2 o'clock afternoon.

Met according to adjournment.

Sermon by Elder NELSON from first John. first Chap. 3d Verse.

Attended to the celebration of the Lord's supper in the association.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,

IT is with peculiar satisfaction, that we now address you on the important subject of practical Religion. The Beloved Disciple, pertinently observes, 1 John 5. 3. "*This is the love of God that we keep his commandments* : The Religion of Jesus is designed to make our lives holy and happy ; it is a heavenly and divine principle, a union of the soul with God, the image of Jesus drawn upon the soul ; for as the Apostle says Rom. 8, 29, "*Whom he did foreknow he did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son*" The Divine Redeemer is appointed head over all things to the Church, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify to himself a peculiar people zealous of good works. It is of importance that we have a just idea of the Religion of Jesus which is pure and undefiled ; and not to consider it merely as a system of opinion or a mean only to secure us from hell, and entitle to heaven, while we live an ungodly life ; but as a most powerful mean to bring us to live holy and without blame before him in love. If we consult the Holy Law of God, or the blessed Gospel of Jesus, they equally excite us to a holy and righteous life.

And as we profess to hold to the doctrine of total depravity, election, saints, final perseverance, and the general judgment, it behoves us to adorn our profession, by living a godly life ; for if we believe we are by nature totally depraved, dead in trespasses and sins, and that we are born of his spirit that quickens us to our duty to act for God, with a single eye to his glory, agreeable to what we read in Ephesians 2d. chap. 1st. and 2d. verses : *This quickening spirit teacheth us, "that it is by grace we are saved through faith, and that not of ourselves, it is the gift of God, &c. and that we are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works, &c.* Ephesians 2d chap. 8, 9, 10 verses.—And if we believe in particular Election, we are taught Ephesians 1 chap. 3d verse, and onward, "*that God hath chosen us in Christ before the foundation of the World, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love*" &c.

And if we believe in the saints final perseverance, the same spirit teacheth to persevere in well doing, "to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly righteously and godly in the

present world." And if we believe in a general judgment, and that it will suddenly come, the meek and lowly spirit of Jesus teacheth us to watch and be sober; it teacheth the soul to watch for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning.—Now as we profess to hold to these important doctrines of the Gospel, which were the apostles doctrine, and often complain of being surrounded with erroneous principles, we should do well to look into our own association, into our churches, our families, and above all, into our own hearts; to see if there be no wicked ways or errors there; for if we profess to hold to the apostles' doctrine, and do not stedfastly practice the duties enjoined, but live vicious lives in the practice of lying, cheating or defrauding and grinding the face of the poor instead of feeding them, not fulfilling our engagements, tattling, backbiting, or intoxicated with strong drink, or slothful, neglecting our duty to God, our brethren, neighbors, or families, instead of evidencing to the world, that we are elected or chosen out of the world, &c. we give occasion to the world to say our principles are erroneous, and bring a wound on the cause of God, and cause grief to all the followers of the Lamb.

And now, Brethren, if we have gladly received the good word of life, let us continue stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine in our practice; if ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them. If you believe you are elected or chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world, happy are ye if you are conformed to his image or likeness; then will you walk holy and without blame before him in love. And they that walk according to this rule, peace be on them and mercy, and on the Israel of God; and in walking according to this rule, enjoying the peace of God, we shall find a witness within ourselves, that agrees with the word of God, that this peace is the gift of God, that we did not receive it of Man, neither were we taught it but by the revelation of Jesus; from whom we found redemption and deliverance from sin through his blood; and walking according to this rule as poor dependant creatures on an independant being, we may claim a right to the blessings of the kingdom: "*Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.*"

Thus conforming our lives to the divine command, we shall feel hold in the cause of God to hold up light and truth, which is much better to suppress error, than disputes that gender strife; and we can boldly say, that all that walk according to this rule, will persevere unto the end, and at the day of judgment be admitted into the everlasting kingdom and temple above, where the wicked shall cease from troubling, and the weary be at rest. We shall conclude this Letter by adopting the language of the Apostle, when he saw the time of his departure was at hand, "Giving all diligence, add to your faith, virtue, and to virtue knowledge, and to knowledge, temperance, and to temperance, patience, and to patience, godliness, and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity. For if these things be in you and abound, they make you that you shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. For so an entrance shall be ministred unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ—which God grant may be the happy case with us all for Jesus sake. **AMEN.**"

By order of the Association.

THOMAS GREEN, MODERATOR.

ELISHA WILLIAMS, CLERK.