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Baptists. Maine. Bowdoinham Association, 1801.

Minutes ... in Northyarmouth, August 26 and 27, 1801.

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MINUTES

OF THE

BOIVDOINHAM ASSOCIATION,

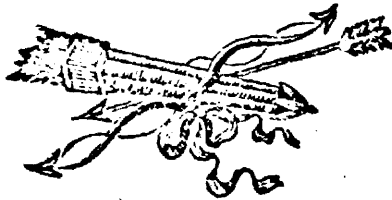
HELD AT THE

Baptist Meeting-House

IN

NORTHYARMOUTH,

August 26 and 27, 1801.



PRINTED AT PORTLAND, BY ELEZER ALLEY JENKS.

MINUTES.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26.

A SERMON at 10 o'clock, A. M. by Elder Ebenezer Nelson, from Isaiah 53d chap. first clause of 12th verse. "*Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong.*"

1. At 2 o'clock, P. M. Elder Thomas Baldwin preached the Introductory Sermon, from Acts 10th chap. 26th verse.

2. Chose Brother Thomas Green, Moderator, and Brother Elisha 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.

S. R. The names of ordained Ministers are in SMALL CAPITALS; Licensed Preachers in *Italic*; those ministers with this mark * were not present; vacant churches distinguished by a dash.

Churches.	Ministers and Messengers.	Added.	Dismiss.	Exclud.	Died.	Total.
Bedfordham.	JOB MACOMBER, James Buker, Seth Hathorn:	2		1		24
Harpwell.	<u>SAMUEL WOODWARD,</u> Reuben Higgins.	2			1	47
Thompson.	ELISHA SNOW.			1	2	84
Bowdoin.	JAMES POTTER. Joseph Denilow, David Buker, John Hayden.			4	3	103
Vaillborough.	<u>Timothy Hamlin.</u>	1				25
Walden.	* JOSEPH BAILLY, Thomas Trask, jun: James Murphy.	6				40
Galaxy.	ASA WILBUR.	3	2			52
Walden.	WILLIAM STINSON. John Perry, Thomas Morgridge.		5	2		113
Walden.	JOHN TRIPP, William Barrows, Holmes Thomas, James Denham, Ephraim Barrows.	11		2		40

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Ministers and Messengers.</i>	<i>Add.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Exclu.</i>	<i>Did.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Buckfield.	NATHANIEL CHACE, William Berry, Job Packard.	3		1		26
Paris.	* JAMES HOOPER, Josiah Smith, Uriah Ripley.		1			44
Lewistown.	Benjamin Merrill, Abner Harris, John Wagg, Ezra Randall.	3		1		49
Readfield.	ISAAC CASE, Joel White.	1	2	2		54
Fayette.	OLIVER BILLINGS, * ELIPHALET SMITH, Joshua Walton.	1		2		61
Miscongun Island.		2	1			29
Cushing.	EPHRAIM HALL, George Sayward.	3		3		66
Nobleborough.	Samuel A. Flagg.	1		1		16
Livermore.	Sylvanus Beardman, Ransom Norton, Samuel Simmons.	4	2	2		65
Green.	LEMUEL JACKSON, Lemuel Comins, John Larrabee, Jesse Coburn, Gideon Hatch.	4		1	1	90
Wayne.	Isaac Dexter, Joseph Fairbanks, Ebenezer Mason.	2		1		25
Thompsonborough.	BENJAMIN COLE, Joseph Kilgore.	2		2	1	51
Barretstown.	ANDREW FULLER.	3	14	1	1	21
New-Gloucester.	ROBERT LOW, John Warren, Isaac Gross.	6				31
Clinton.	MEPHIBOSHETH CAIN, Humphrey Burrall, Joseph Spearing.				1	61
North-Yarmouth.	THOMAS GREEN, Samuel York, Nathan Weston.	1				23
Harlem.	* JOB CHADWICK, Thomas Ward, Ichabod Chadwick.	7	10	2		24
New-Vineyard.						12
Farmington.	James Tuttle.					9
ad Litchfield.	John Neal, James Skurtliff, Henry Jewell, Levi Heriman.	5		2		86

<i>Ministers and Messengers.</i>		<i>Attd.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Exclu.</i>	<i>Did.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
	Philip Jenkins, James Larrabee, Samuel Getchell, Joseph Murch.			6		51
	William Goding.					34
Warren	William Whittier, Nathan Thomas.	21			1	45
Leeds.	FISHA WILLIAMS, Judah Chace, Samuel Dunlap, Philip Owen.	17				28
Leeds.	THOMAS FRANCIS, Giddens Lane, Thomas Millet.	1				17
Worcester	Samuel Stinson, John Wright.					15
Macomber		1	1	2	2	33
Warren		15				36
Leeds.	Lore Alford BENJAMIN TITCOMB. Thomas Beck, Edward Carlton, Moses Crofs.					14
Total,		128	36	39	16	1648

The last mentioned Church was received into union the present session.

The Church called Leeds, was called Littleborough in our last.

Received Letter and Minutes from the Warren Association by their messengers, Elders Thomas Baldwin and Ebenezer Nelson—
from New-Hampshire Association Letter and Minutes by their Messengers Elders William Hooper and Ebenezer P. Kinsman.

4. Voted that Elder Francis write the Corresponding Letter to Sister Associations.

Adjourned till tomorrow morning, eight o'clock.

Sermon in the evening by Elder William Hooper, from John 3: 14.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27.

Met according to adjournment.—Prayer by Elder Baldwin.

5. Voted to choose the following Brethren as a Committee to visit the Church at Harlem. viz. Elders Macomber, Cate, Potter, and Agelgren William Briggs, and Thomas Morgridge.

The opinion of the Association from some of our Churches, was reported on the following question, viz. "whether it be agreeable to the Gospel for Christians to bear arms?"—To which question the following answer is returned, viz.—"Although we do not conceive that our Holy Religion requires us to draw the sword or to bear arms in its defence—yet as we are members of the civil community, and are protected by the laws of the land in which we live.

we think it not incompatible with the spirit of Christianity which enjoins our obedience to civil magistracy, to bear arms in defence of the Government which protects us."

6. Read and adopted the Circular Letter prepared by Elder Low.

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

8. Voted that Elders Woodward, and Cafe, be our Messengers to the Warren Association; Elders Green, and Williams, to the New-Hampshire.

9. Voted, that Elder Francis write the Circular Letter for the next year, and Brother Flagg the Corresponding Letter.

10. Voted, that Brother Abner Harris be Treasurer to the Association.

11. Voted, that Elder Williams superintend printing the Minutes.

12. A petition for a division of the Association was brought forward, but after some consultation on the subject, and viewing the advantages and disadvantages that would arise from a division—it was voted, as the opinion of the Association, that it was not expedient to make a division.

13. Voted, that the same Committee and Treasurer, for the Missionary business, that were chosen the last year, be continued the present year.

A contribution for the support of a Gospel Mission was received from the following Churches.

	D. C.		D. C.
Harpwell,	1 50	New-Gloucester,	2 50
Thomaston,	4 00	North-Yarmouth,	5 00
Bowdoin,	5 00	Harlem,	1 00
Vassalborough,	1 00	Jay,	1 00
Litchfield,	1 25	Medumcook,	0 44
Hebron,	1 78	Portland,	0 82
Buckfield,	1 00	From a few Individuals,	4 75
Livermore,	3 50		
Green,	2 00	Total,	37 24
Wayne,	0 75		

The following supplies were agreed on, viz.

Lewistown,	{ Elder Woodward, first Lord's day in November. Elder Cain, first in February. Elder Jackson, first in May.
Miscoungus Island,	{ Elder Macomber, first in October and first in June. Elder Fuller, 2d in September and 2d in August.
Nobleborough,	{ Elder Cafe, third in February. Elder Fuller, fourth in May. Elder Hall, last in August.
Wayne,	{ Elder Cafe, fourth in October. Elder Cain, fourth in January. Elder Jackson, fourth in March. Elder Francis, fourth in May. Elder Billings, fourth in July.
Farmington	{ Elder Smith, second in October. Elder Tripp, second in January. Elder Billings, second in May. Elder Smith, second in July.

Merriman.	{ Elder Cain, first in September.
	{ Elder Linings, second in November.
	{ Elder Tripp, first in January.
	{ Elder Cain, first in March.
W. Smith.	{ Elder Woodward, third Lord's day in October.
	{ Elder Stinson, third in January.
	{ Elder Cafe, third in April.
	{ Elder Low, third in July.
Macomber.	{ Elder Macomber, 2d in October, 2d in June.
	{ Elder Fuller, 1st in January, 1st in April.
	{ Elder Hall, 2d in February, 2d in May.
	{ Elder Hall, 1st in October, 1st in April.
Warren.	{ Elder Snow, 1st in December 1st in May.
	{ Elder Macomber, 3d December, 3d in June.
	{ Elder Cafe, 1st February.

14. On account of some inconveniences, it was voted to suspend the celebration of the Lord's supper in future, in our Association meetings.

15. Voted to hold our Association the next year at the Baptist meeting house in Bowdoin the fourth Wednesday of August, at 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

The Council convened at the request of the Church in North-Yarmouth, at three o'clock in the afternoon, attended to the ordination of Brother Benjamin Titcomb.

Circular Letter.

BELoved BRETHREN,

AT this day when errors are pouring in upon us like a flood from the mouth of the dragon and false prophet, to darken the moral heaven, and cloud the church, it is highly necessary we should be established in the important truths of God's word. If a profession of christianity made *bible* disciples, the friends and followers of Christ would be almost innumerable. But Christ proclaims, "*Not every one that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, but he that doth the will of my father which is in Heaven.*" Therefore we think it necessary to address you on the nature and worth of pure and undefiled religion. Pure religion is summarily comprehended in love, 1 John. 4, 16, *for God is Love, and he that dwelleth in Love dwelleth in God, and God is Love—Love is the fulfilling of the Law—Believers are rooted and grounded in Love.* Ephesians 3, 17. This love originated in the divine mind, and from thence flows through Christ to a dying world. It enters the human heart, conquers the stubborn will, lays pride in the dust, dispels moral darkness from the understanding, takes the affections from sensual objects, and raises the soul to behold the beauties of holiness. It views the divine law with affection and delight, and sin is the abhorrence of his heart. Love raises his soul to a lively hope of immortality, and entitles it to eternal life through Jesus Christ. From this love shed abroad in the heart, flows good will to all, a true affection for and union with the household of faith; by which we are made partakers of each others' gifts and graces, joys and sorrows. The glorious fountain pure morality is displayed in its beauty. Visiting the sorrowful and fatherless in their afflictions is a delight to the soul, and to the church.

" Love is the Grace which keeps her power
In all the realms above;
Here faith and hope are known no more
But Saints forever love."

This dear Brethren is not only a concise but faint description of the religion we profess. This leads us to contemplate upon our high and holy calling; we are called from death to life, from hatred to love, from sin to holiness, from darkness to light, and from being heirs of the curse to become heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, that fadeth not away. Therefore, when we take pure religion into view, it appears of infinite worth, it curbs the unruly passions, brings down towering imaginations, supports the soul in tribulation, and conforms it to the image of the adorable Jesus.

Brethren have we taken upon us, to delineate pure and undefiled religion in its full latitude? we should shrink at the thought. The fountain is inexhaustible, its worth unspeakable, its beauty and glory cannot be fully described by the tongue of the orator, or pen of the learned; *it is a river which no man can pass over, Ezk 47, 5. The streams of which make glad the city of our God—Psalm 46, 4.*—May we not individually adopt the following language,

" Let love seraphic and divine,
Enlarge this narrow soul of mine,
Redemption is a boundless theme,
Let all my powers adore the scheme."

Our subject leads us to see the obligation we are under to the glorious author of this divine religion: Let us glorify our God with our bodies and spirits which are his; Let us exhibit this religion in our daily deportment, and endeavour to cultivate christian fellowship, and spread the knowledge of the christian religion to the earth's remotest bounds. Let us watch and pray, and hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for he is faithful that hath promised. Let us see that our lamps are trimmed and burning; that when the bridegroom cometh, we may enter in and partake of the marriage supper of the Lamb. May God bless the Churches we represent, and Zion universally, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

By order of the Association,

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

NOTE —The number of particular Baptist churches in the United States, the beginning of the last century, was 12.—At the beginning of this century, they amounted to 1200, containing 84,000 communicants.

