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Baptists. Maine. Bowdoinham Association, 1809.

Minutes . . . in Leeds . . . September 27 and 28, 1809.

Portland, M'Kown, 1809. 8 pp.

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MINUTES

OF THE

BOWDOINHAM ASSOCIATION,

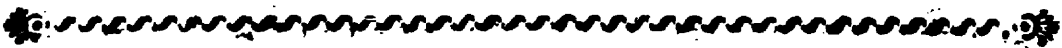
HELD IN

LEEDS,

WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY,

SEPTEMBER 27 and 28,

1809.



PORTLAND:

PRINTED BY J. M'KOWN.

1809.

MINUTES, &c.

WEDNESDAY, September 27.

1. AT 10 O'clock, A.M. agreeably to appointment, brother Josiah Convers preached the introductory sermon, from Acts xx. 21. "*But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.*"

2. Chose brother Sylvanus Boardman, Moderator, and brother Thomas Francis, Clerk.

3. Chose elders Low, Convers, and deacon Barrows, to settle with the treasurer, examine the letters, and apportion the money upon the churches, for printing the Minutes.

4. Voted, that the messengers from sister Associations be invited to take a seat with us.

5th. Read letters from the several churches, and took the following account of members added, dismissed, excluded, or who have died the year past ; 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 ; vacant churches noted by a —.

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Elders and Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Excluded.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Harpwell,	SAMUEL MARINER, SAMUEL WOODWARD, Samuel Jordan,	4	1			62
1st Bowdoin,	JOSEPH DINSLOW, David Buker, Asahel Polley, John Barnes, Nathaniel Barnes.	2		2	1	103
1st Sidney,	*ASA WILBUR,		1		1	34
1st Litchfield,	WILLIAM STINSON, Hatherly Randall, Andrew Blake,	1	1	2	1	87
Hebron,	JOHN TRIPP, William Barrows, James Donham, Nathan Nelson,	9				54
1st Buckfield	NATHANIEL CHASE, Jacob Whitman,			1		32
Paris,	JAMES HOOPER, Daniel Forbes, Josiah Smith, Jacob Whitman, Daniel Pond,	5	4	1		52
Lewiston,	BENJAMIN COLE, JAMES GARCELON, Joseph Field,	3	2	6	1	68
Readfield,	ROBERT LOW, ISAAC CASE, Eliphalet Packard, William Briggs,	3	2	8		104
Fayette,	OLIVER BILLINGS, Joseph Anderson, Ebenezer Turner,	4		3		129
Livermore,	SYLVANUS BOARDMAN, Ranson Norton, Peletiah Gibbs, Sarson Chase, Ebenezer Pitts, Perez Ellis,	1	4	5		108

*Churches.**Elders and Messengers.*

		Added.	Dismiss.	Excluded.	Di. l.	Total.
Green,	THOMAS WYMAN, JOHN DAGGETT, Jun. Lemuel Comins, Jonathan Mower, Joshua Coburn,	14	9	1		103
Wayne,	Ichabod Billington, Constant Dexter,	1				30
1st Lisbon,	Joseph Killgore, Samuel Tibbets, Stephen Dodd, John Tibbets,	4	1	1		44
New-Gloucester,	DANIEL D. LEWIS, John K. Smith, Isaac Gross, Abner Harris,	8	3		1	55
Clinton,	MEPHIBOSHETH CAIN, John Steward,	2			1	36
North-Yarmouth,	*THOMAS GREEN, Hiram Hatch, Arthur Drinkwater, Reuben Curtis,	1	1			43
New-Vineyard,	Levi Young, Benjamin Cottle;	13				36
Farmington,	Samuel Sweet,	13				23
2d Litchfield,	HENRY KENDALL, John Neal, James Pierce, Lemuel Walker, Daniel Cuninghame,	2	2			90
Wales,	Philip Jenkins, James Labree, James Clark, John Witherell,	4	1	1		44
Jay,	JOSEPH ADAMS, Thomas Macomber, Joseph Macomber,	5	2	4		89
Mount Vernon,	PETER MOOER, John Hovey, Nathan Thomas,	8				67
Brunswick,	BENJAMIN TITCOMB, Samuel Dunlap, Shimuel Owen,	1	3	1	2	47
Leeds,	THOMAS FRANCIS, Giddins Lane, Moses Stevens, Eleazer Carver,	6	1	2		59
Portland,	JOSIAH CONVERS, Mark Harris, Benjamin Ilsley, Ansel Lewis,	22	3	2		102
2d Buckfield,	*GEORGE RICKER, Job Prince, John Simmons, Jabez Churchill,			1		33
New-Sharon,	Moses Wood, Ambrose Arnold, Levi Jewell, Samuel Prescott,	4	2			52

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Elders and Messengers.</i>	<i>Aided.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Excluded.</i>	<i>Disel.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Canaan,	Humphrey Burrell, Thomas Steward, David Lancaster, Lemuel Smith,	5				72
Sumner,	THOMAS MACOMBER, Jun. John Briggs, Sylvanus Stevens,					27
Bethel,	EBENEZER BRAY, John Killgore, Solomon Crosby, Asa Kimball,	8		2	1	40
Jefferson,	Joshua Hart,				2	17
Ed Sidney,	JOSEPH PALMER, Nathaniel Reynolds, Charles Webber,	4				37
Ed Bowdoin,	ICHABOD TEMPLE, Samuel Smith, Nathaniel Smith, Isaac White,	9		1	1	105
Belgrade,	BENJAMIN BISBE, Elias Taylor, Sherebiah Clark, Ebenezer Gillman,	6		1	1	38
Norway,	William Cox, Edmund Merrill,	2	2		1	24
Hallowell,	James Hinckley, George Bartlett, Jacob Carter,	3	1	1	1	31
Minot,	James Perkins, John Woodman, Thomas Record, Cyrus Edson,	5	3	2		34
Freeport,	SILAS STEARNS, Sylvanus Soule, Bela Townsend, George Denizen, William Curtis, Ebenezer Pinkham,	12		3		58
Ed Lisbon,	John Ross, Nathan Farrow, Ephraim Pettingill,	3				16
Pejepscot,	JOSEPH ROBERTS, Jacob True, John Stenchfield, Matthew Vickery, Jun.	14		3		67
Cornville,	JOHN ROBINSON, Benjamin Green,					62
Harmony,	Samuel Doore, Samuel Ham,					28
Denmark,	TRISTRAM JORDAN, Joseph Walker,					32
No. 5,	LEMUEL JACKSON, Amaziah Read,					49
Piscataquis,	William Oaks,					23
<i>Total,</i>		216	43	62	15	2542

N. B. The five last churches were admitted into union the present session.

6. Chose brethren Low, Adams, Boardman, Norton, Billings, Hooper, and Francis, a committee to ascertain the most proper method in the division of the Association.

7. Adjourned until eight o'clock to-morrow morning. Brother Goding concluded by prayer. Preaching in several parts of the town in the evening.

THURSDAY, September 28.

Prayer meeting attended in the meeting-house early in the morning.

8. Met according to adjournment. Prayer introductory to business by brother Ball.

9. Brother Ball, messenger from the Warren Association, informed of the failure of their Minutes. Received letters and Minutes from the New-Hampshire, by their messengers, elder Goding and brother Dam; Corresponding Letter from the Lincoln, by brother Haines.

10. Read the Circular Letter prepared by brother Convers, and the Corresponding Letter by brother Titcomb; accepted the Corresponding, and appointed brethren Haines, Low, Tripp, Robinson, Palmer, Titcomb and Baker to examine the Circular Letter: after hearing their report, voted, that the Circular Letter prepared by brother Convers, be deferred to the next annual meeting.

11. Appointed brother Hooper to prepare the Corresponding Letter.

12. Voted, that the messengers who attend the New-Hampshire and Lincoln Associations, be allowed four dollars each.

13. Chose the following brethren messengers to sister Associations. To the Warren, brother Case. To the New-Hampshire, Lewis and Hooper. To the Lincoln, Convers and Robinson.

14. Chose brother Isaac Gross, Treasurer.

15. Appointed brother Francis to superintend printing the Minutes; two thousand and two hundred copies to be printed.

16. Appointed brother Tripp to write a Circular Letter, which was read and accepted.

17. Voted to postpone the division of the Association, and the Churches are desired to agree upon the dividing line, and communicate their opinion to the Association, next session.

18. Voted to hold our next annual meeting at the Baptist meeting house in Livermore, on the 4th Wednesday of September next; at ten o'clock A. M. closed the business of the Association by prayer.

After a short intermission, a pathetic discourse, introductory to the missionary business, was delivered by brother Kendall, from Luke vii. 22; and a contribution attended to.

☞ The members of the Maine Baptist Missionary Society, are requested to meet at the Baptist meeting-house in Readfield, the third Wednesday of January next, at eleven o'clock, A. M. to consider the propriety of altering the time of their annual meeting.

Supplies for Desitute Churches.

For Canaan, elder Dagget, 2d Lord's day in Jan. Adams, 2d in March.

For Wayne, brother E. Taylor, 4th Lord's day in Dec. elder Bisbe 4th Jan. and 4th July, elder Mooer, 4th Oct. and 4th August, elder Wyman, 4th Nov.

For New-Vineyard, elder Adams, 3d Dec. Kendall, 3d Jan.

For Jefferson, brother Ellis, 1st Nov. Garcelon, 2d Jan. Chase, 2d Feb. Roberts, 2d June, Bray, 1st July

CIRCULAR LETTER.

*The ELDERS and MESSENGERS of the BOWDOINHAM ASSOCIATION
to the Churches they represent—send Christian salutation.*

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,

THROUGH the indulgence of the Father of mercies, we are allowed once more to meet in association, and have great cause of thankfulness for the satisfaction enjoyed in the interview. The information from the churches was refreshing: they not only appear to stand fast in the faith and order of the gospel; but we trust they enjoy "the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" in a good degree. The heart of the saints present, were apparently warmed with christian affection; and the light of God's countenance made many rejoice.

But while we sit under the spiritual *apple tree* "with great delight," we are not unmindful of our brethren, at whose request and appointment we are met together. And while our hearts desire and prayer to God is, for the prosperity of your souls; we earnestly recommend to you the importance of distinguishing yourselves as followers of him, whose meat and delight it was to do the will of his Father. We entreat you to watch against the many attempts of the enemy to corrupt your mind, from the simplicity there is in Christ. We may have a form of religion that comes near the appearance of truth; but if simplicity and godly sincerity be wanting, it shall "profit us nothing." Indeed if we are true believers, we cannot be wholly without the spirit of the gospel: nevertheless our enjoyments and usefulness in religion may be greatly diminished by unwatchfulness and spiritual sloth. We request you to be engaged in vindicating truth, and that you labor to distinguish it from error—be zealous for practical holiness—live religion before the world—in me, "be ye holy in all manner of conversation."

But "who is sufficient for these things?" "How to perform that which is good I find not"—"I delight in the law of God after the inward man: but I see a law in my members warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity, &c."; being truths you are taught by daily experience, you are perhaps almost discouraged, and with anxiety you inquire, and "can such feeble, sinful worms perform a task so desirably great?" Yea, dearly beloved! you can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth you! Remember with thankfulness, that it is God who worketh in you, both to will and to do of his own good pleasure! He giveth you the victory! and will bring you off more than conquerors through our Lord Jesus Christ.

We beseech you therefore, that ye labor to maintain communion with God, and fellowship one with another; and let the promise, that God will never leave you, nor forsake you, inspire you with strength, and animate you to run with cheerfulness, the christian race—to press toward the mark, for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Be assured, dear brethren, that the foundation is sure—the gates of hell shall not prevail against the kingdom of Christ. The enemy begins to fall before our spiritual Mordecai, and shall surely

never prevail. Consider the great prevalence of scriptural light among the saints—the abundant outpouring of the divine spirit in the conversion of sinners and the quickening of the saints—together with the decline of persecuting power—and you cannot but rejoice, and hail as near, the approaching millennium! Be careful who you admit to the sacred ordinances of the gospel—maintain discipline—watch over one another in the love of God—and be you faithful unto death, and you shall receive a crown of life! Amen.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The BOWDOINHAM ASSOCIATION, convened at LEEDS, Sept. 27 and 28, 1809, to Corresponding Associations—sendeth Christian salutation.

BELOVED BRETHREN,

A recollection of past events relative to our correspondence with each other affords a pleasing satisfaction, enhances our obligation, and enables us to prize the continuance of an object so desirable. The present eventful period of time, is peculiarly calculated to arrest our attention. The accomplishment of scripture prophecy is perhaps more conspicuous at present, than has been a long season past. Error with all its hateful train stalks through the world, having millions for its votaries and firm supporters—on account of which, there is a loud call to the people of God, to be at their station; and especially the ministers of the gospel, to be on their watch-tower.

The word of God is the christian's armor—"One Lord, one faith and one baptism" is the motto of the church. Union of sentiment and practice is the distinguishing badge of christians in opposition to the multifarious forms and impositions of the beast. "Mystical Babylon," that scene of confusion has proved to demonstration that she is founded on error; "sitting on many waters," she consumes the smoke of the bottomless pit, and distributes its subtil poison through all her extensive dominions.

Beloved, let us obey the divine injunction, and "be separate from her, that we partake not of her sins and receive of her plagues."

With pleasure we inform you of our agreeable session, that increase and harmony prevails amongst us, and especially of our solicitude for your welfare and a continuance of your friendly correspondence.

In behalf of the Association.

SYLVANUS BOARDMAN, *Moderator.*

THOMAS FRANCIS, *Clerk.*

N.B. Our annual Fast day will be had in remembrance by our Churches, the first day of January, 1810.