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Baptists. Maine. Bowdoinham Association, 1812.

Minutes . . . in Canaan, September 23d, and 24th,
1812.

Hallowell, Cheever, 1812. 8 pp.

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MINUTES

OF

BOWDOINHAM ASSOCIATION,

HELD IN

CANAAN,

SEPTEMBER 23d, and 24th,

1812.

HALLOWELL :

PRINTED BY NATHANIEL CHEEVER.

1812.

MINUTES, &c.



WEDNESDAY, September 23.

1. AT ten o'clock, A. M. brother ROBERT LOW delivered the Introductory Sermon, from John.—*He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.*

2. Chose brethren ROBERT LOW, Moderator, and THOMAS FRANCIES, Clerk.

3. After Prayer Voted, that the Messengers from Corresponding Associations, take a seat with us.

4. Read the letters from the several churches, and took the following account of members added, dismissed, excluded or died the year past; and the whole number in each church.

N. B. The names of ordained ministers are in SMALL CAPITALS, licensed preachers in *Italic*. The ministers names with this (*) were not present. Churches marked thus (†) we had no information from this session; vacant churches distinguished by a—

Churches.	Elders & Messengers.	Added.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Died.	Total.
1st Bowdoinham,	JOSEPH DENSLOW,* Asahel Polley,					96
1st Sidney,	ASA WILBER, William Ward, Seneca Stanley, Thomas S. Farrington,	23		1		55
1st Litchfield,	HENRY KENDALL,* <i>Daniel Cunningham,</i> Ebenezer Colby, Thomas Booflee,	3	13	7		185
Lewiston,	BENJAMIN COLE, JAMES GORCELON,	6		5	1	60
Readfield,	ROBERT LOW, ISAAC CASE, William Richard, Barnabas Packard,	1	4	2	3	87

Churches.	Elders & Messengers.	Aded.	Dismiss'd.	Excluded.	Died.	Total.
Fayette,	OLIVER BILLINGS,* DANIEL MASON,* Joshua Walton, Joseph Anderson, Jeremiah Tuck,	13	23	1	2	111
Green,	JOHN DAGGETT, Martin Leonard,	4	2	4		100
Wayne,†	—————,					22
Lisbon,	Joseph Killgore,					34
Clinton,	MEPHIBOSHETH CANE, Joseph Mills, Joseph Spearin,	2	1			47
New-Vineyard,	‡Thomas Merrill, Cornelius Norton, Benjamin Cottle, Rowland Luce,	8	2			62
Wales,	JAMES PEIRCE, James Labree, Philip Jenkins,	1	1	1	1	55
Mount Vernon,	PETER MOORE,* JACOB JEWEL,* Samuel Thing, William Whitter,		1			65
Leeds,	‡Nathan Thomas, THOMAS FRANCIES, James Lamb, Joseph Gould, Zebulun P. Millet, SAMUEL SWETT.			2		56
New-Sharon,	‡Ambrose Arnold, Samuel Prescott, Benjamin Smith,	7	1		2	64
Canaan,	Umphrey Burrell, Lemuel Smith, Samuel Webb, Daniel Smith, JOSEPH PALMER,	4	3	4		82
2d Sidney,	Asa Williams, John Dutton, Benjamin Dyer,		1		1	39
2d Bowdoin,	ICHABOD TEMPLE,* Samuel Smith,	3	7	5		99
Belgrade,	ELIAS TAYLOR, Shadrach Rollins, Sherabiah Clark, Abraham Wellman,	4	1			50
Hallowell,	JOHN ROBINSON, James Hinkley, Dean Wyman,	8		1		47
2d Lisbon,	—————, Nathaniel Holden, John Ross,	1				20

† Now Ordained.

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Elders & Messengers.</i>	<i>Adhd. c</i>	<i>Dismiss'd. c</i>	<i>Excluded. c</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Cornville,	_____, Deacon Smith, Deacon Green,					52
Harmony,	BENJAMIN BISBE,* Joseph Doore, Samuel Doore,	5				33
Farmington,	_____, Eliphalet Bailey, Benjamin Brainard, Josiah Brainard,	3		1		26
Monmouth,	_____, David Woodcock, Elias Nelson, Joshua Smith,	1				20
Palmira,	_____, John Toule,					8
New Portland,	_____, Elisha Smith, Abraham Cleaves,	4		2		10
2d Litchfield,	WILLIAM STINSON,* Joseph Lanchester,	2				40
Bowdoinham,	DANIEL PIERSON,					55
3d Livermore,	THOMAS WYMAN, Ithamer Farrington, Jonathan Libby,					37
<i>Total,</i>		106	50	40	12	1717

N. B. The two last mentioned Churches were received this session.

5. Adjourned until tomorrow morning, 9 o'clock. Preaching in several parts of the town, in the evening.

6. Met agreeable to adjournment.—Prayer By Brother Martin.

7. Received a letter from the Lincoln Association, recommending the church of Bowdoinham, to our fellowship. Voted to receive them.

8. Received a letter from the 3d Church in Livermore, requesting admission into our fellowship. Voted to receive them. Received from sister Associations, as follows:—

Warren.—Newhampshire, Lette. and Minutes, by their Messenger, Elder Roberts.

Lincoln, Letter and Minutes, by their Messenger, Elder Martin.

Cumberland, Letter and Minutes.

9. Read and accepted the Circular and Corresponding Letters, prepared by Brethren Low and Francies.

10. Chose Elder Case to go to the Warren and Boston Associations, and in case of failure, Elder Wilber.

To the Newhampshire, Elder Wyman.

To the Lincoln, Elder Robinson and Elder Francies, and Wyman to the Cumberland, and Elder Gorcelon to the New-Brunswick; should God in his providence open a door, and in case of failure, Elder Case.

11. Voted to hold our next Association at Mount-Vernon, the fourth Wednesday of September next.

12. Voted, that Elder Robinson prepare the Circular Letter for next year, and Elder Palmer, the Corresponding Letter.

13. Voted, that Elder Kendall preach the Introductory Sermon; in case of failure, Elder Robinson.

14. Chose Brother William Richard, Treasurer.

15. Voted, to recommend to the Churches to improve the fourth day of July next, in Divine Worship.

16. Voted, to adjourn half an hour.

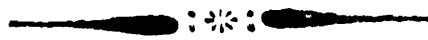
17. Met according to adjournment; a sermon delivered by Brother Case; after which a contribution was made for the use of the Missionary labors.

Supply for Palmira,

Elder Robinson, the 3d Lord's day in February.

Elder Arnold, the 3d in January.

Elder Gorcelon, 3d in March.



CIRCULAR LETTER.

The ELDERS and MESSENGERS of the BOWDOINHAM ASSOCIATION, sendeth to the Churches which they represent, Greeting.

BELOVED,

YOU have been addressed on almost every religious subject in our annual epistles, which throws a difficulty in the way of exhibiting any thing new for your consideration: yet, we think it needful that some-

thing should be written for the comfort and confirmation of God's people in this difficult and trying day, when the kingdoms and empires of this world are dashing against each other, and our own country involved in the bloody scene. And while God is pouring his vials upon the earth, let us keep our eye on the sacred volume, where we may see not only these things accurately foretold but all needful instruction. Here we shall find an inexhaustible fountain to fortify the mind in this day of confusion; here we find a balm for every wound, and a cordial for every fear.

In this sacred volume we find a kingdom described which is *set up by the God of heaven* which shall not be destroyed. Dan. vii. 13, 14, "I saw in the night visions, and behold one like the son of man came with the clouds of heaven and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him, and there was given him dominion and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed."—This kingdom shall break in pieces and consume all those kingdoms, which are in the way of its prosperity—Dan. ii. 44.

Brethren, this is an eventful period, in which the children of God are loudly called upon to be on the watch tower, and keep their eye on their Divine Master, who is accomplishing his glorious purposes in the world. "The kingdom of our Divine Redeemer, shall fill the whole earth." The word is gone out of his mouth, and shall not return void; but shall accomplish the things for which it was sent. God hath promised, saying: "Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven;" and those things which are shaken shall be removed. "Wherefore, Brethren, we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably, with reverence and godly fear;" and not be tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine,

Let us keep the unity of the spirit, and contend for the faith once delivered to the saints, with meekness and love. We exhort you to guard against warm debates on political topics, which has been very injurious to the peace and prosperity of some churches; and as good citizens submit to all lawful authority, not only for wrath but also for conscience sake; and let our pious examples testify we are trees of the Lord's planting.

Brethren, we commend you to him who is able to build you up, and give you an inheritance among them that are sanctified.



CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The BOWDOINHAM ASSOCIATION, convened at CANAAN, September 23d and 24th, 1812, to the Elders and Brethren of our sister Associations, sendeth Christian salutation.

DEARLY BELOVED IN THE LORD,

THROUGH the indulgent Providence of our God, we have been permitted to meet once more in our Associated capacity. Our Gracious Sovereign hath been virtually present with us: He hath refreshed us in his Banqueting-house; He hath displayed over us the *Banner of his Love*.

With bleeding *Love* in view! our hearts expand; our affections embrace those kindred souls, whose Faith, and Hope, and Love evince, their hearts sincere; their names enrolled in Jesus' Book of Life!—All hail! Ye *Chosen Bands!* with us embarked in Jesus' sacred cause; sailing under the *same Orders*—steering the *same Course*—conflicting with the *same Enemies*—and bound to the *same desirable Haven*.

We congratulate you, dear Brethren, in the firm persuasion that this perilous Voyage will have a *happy and glorious* termination. “He must be possessed of but *little faith* who can tremble, though in a storm, for the

safety of the vessel which contains his *Lord* and *Master!*" Our Captain is certainly *Invincible*. "The Winds and the Seas *obey Him*." In single combat, He hath already *triumphed* over every foe.—There cannot be any *real loss* in this voyage. All who have *honestly* engaged therein, *must succeed*. "Wherefore, Sirs, be of good cheer: For we believe God, that it shall be even as He hath told us." Then every man to his station. Let ~~us~~ *eye* our Captain, and *obey* his orders. Let the Officers mind their Commission, and remember well, that such is the *rule of our ship*, that he is the *chief* who is the servant. Likewise ye younger *submit* yourselves to the Elder; Yea, let us all be *subject* to our Captain, and to one another for his sake; and be clothed with humility; for our Captain *resisteth the proud, and giveth grace unto the humble*.

Accept, dear Brethren, this short Epistle as a pledge of our union with you, our affectionate regard for you, and our sincere desire for the continuance of your friendly correspondence. We sincerely regret that the perils of war should prevent our speaking with our beloved brethren in the eastern board, with whom we have lately opened a correspondence, and it is our unceasing desire, and prayer to Almighty God, that the obstruction may be speedily removed.—That they with us may be enabled to hold on our heavenly course—speak each other again, at the *Entrance of Friendship Sound*—learn that *all is well*; and that the Kingdoms of this world, may become the kingdom of our *Lord*, and of his Christ.

Our Minutes which accompany this Letter, will give you some information respecting the state of our churches. Your Messengers and Minutes, have been received with pleasure. We rest yours in the best of bonds.

ROBERT LOW, *Moderator*,
THOMAS FRANCIES, *Clerk*.