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Baptists . Maine . Bowdoinham Association, 1813.
Minutes . . . in Mount Vernon, September 22d &
23d, 1813.

Hallowell, [Me.], Cheever, 1813. 8 pp.

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MINUTES

OF THE

BOWDOINHAM ASSOCIATION,

HELD IN

Mount Vernon,

SEPTEMBER 22d & 23d,

1813.

HALLOWELL :

PRINTED BY NATHANIEL CHEEVER.

1813.

MINUTES, &c.

WEDNESDAY, September 2.

AT ten o'clock, A. M. brother Kendall delivered the introductory sermon, from Psalm cxxxiii. 1. *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is, for brethren to dwell together in unity.* Chose brother Robert Low Moderator, and brother Thomas Francies, Clerk.

After prayer, read the letters from the several churches, and took the following account of members added, dismissed, excluded, or died the year past; and the present number in each church.

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

Churches.	Elders & Messengers.	Added.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Died.	Total.
1st Bowdoin,	JOSEPH DENSLOW,* Ashel Polley, Simon Connor,		2	4	1	8
1st Sidney.	ASA WILBER, William Ward, Thomas S. Farrington,	5				5
1st Litchfield,	HENRY KENDALL, <i>Daniel Cunningham,</i> John Neal, John Dennis, Jun Levi Harriman, William Nash,	2	1	3	3	18
Lewistown,	BENJAMIN COLE,* JAMES GARCELON, David Peting, Joel Morse,					
Readfield,	ROBERT LOW, ISAAC CASE, JOSEPH PALMER, Enoch Wood, William Richards, William Taylor,	2	2		2	30
Fayette,	OLIVER BILLINGS, DANIEL MASON, Enoch Watson, Joseph Anderson, Jeremiah Richards Joshua Walton,		1	1		100

Churches.

Elders & Messengers.

		Added.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Died.	Total.
Green,	JOHN DAGGET, Lemuel Comins, Martin Leonard, Lemuel Comins, jun	2		1		100
Wayne,	Samuel King,				1	
Lisbon,	Joseph Killgore,	1		3		32
Clinton,	MEPHIBOSHETH CANE, Joseph Blasdel, Joseph Spearin,	1		1	1	46
New Vineyard,	THOMAS MERRILL, Levi Young, jun Seth Hillman, Tristram Daggett,		1	3		58
Wales,	JAMES PIERCE, Philip Jenkins, John Witherell, David Jenkins,	2		4		53
Mount Vernon,	PETER MOORE, Nathan Thomas, John Prescott,	4			1	68
Leeds,	Nicholas Robinson, THOMAS FRANCIES, James Lamb, Ebenezer Mason, Joseph Gould,	1	1			50
New Sharon,	Samuel Prescott, Jeremiah Smith, Jacob Kelley,	9		1		70
Canaan,	JONATHAN STEWART, Thomas Stewart, Samuel Webb, David Lancaster,	1	18	2	1	62
Id Sidney,	Asa Williams, Nathaniel Reynolds, Jeremiah Thayer, Benjamin Dyer,			1		38
Id Bowden,	ICHABOD TEMPLE,* Ebenezer Temple, Samuel Smith, Moses Dennett, Isaac White,		6	3	1	89
Belgrade,	ELIAS TAYLOR, Shadrach Rollins, Simeon Clark, Elisha Knowles,	3	4	2	2	46
Hallowell,	JOHN ROBINSON, James Hinkley, Peter Moore,	1		1	1	46

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Elders & Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dismissed.</i>	<i>Excluded.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
2d Lisbon,	Samuel Jordan,			1		19
Cornville,	Ithael Smith,		4	8		40
Harmony,	BENJAMIN BISBEE, Jonathan Robinson, Ebenezer Cole,	4		1		35
Farmington,	Josiah Brainerd, Eliphalet Bailey,	1	2	2		23
Monmouth,	Elias Nelson, Joshua Smith, David Woodcock,					20
Palmira,						8
New Portland,	John Millay, William Moody,	2		2		10
2d Litchfield,	WILLIAM STINSON, William Crawford, Andrew Blake, Daniel Watson, jun.	1		1	1	45
3d Livermore,	THOMAS WYMAN, Ithamer Farrington, Jesse Smith,	1		1		37
Bowdoinham,	DANIEL PEIRSONS, James Buker, William Sally,	15		8		51
2d Canaan,	Eliakim Ames, Nathaniel Hubbard,					25
No. Five,	LEMUEL JACKSON, Abel Holt,	2		4		63
Bakerston,	John Smith, Isaac Chase,					11
Phillips,	William Parker,					14

The four last churches on this list were admitted at this session.

Voted to adjourn to nine o'clock tomorrow morning.

Met according to adjournment. Prayer by brother Merrill.

Received from corresponding Associations as follows:

From the Warren, Minutes.

From Boston, Minutes.

From Lincoln, Minutes by their messengers, Elders Robinson and Pillsbury.

From Cumberland. Minutes, by their messenger, Elder Reuben Ball.

From the Newhampshire—

Voted that Elder Francies prepare the Corresponding Letter for the present session.

Voted Elders Wyman, Peirson, Garcelon, Bisbee and Merrill, be a committee, to inquire into the difficulty between Elder Palmer and the 2d church in Sidney, and make report.

Voted that Elder Stinson receive from the Treasurer a compensation for attending the Lincoln Association.

Voted to discontinue our correspondence with the Warren and Boston Associations.

Voted, that no compensation be allowed to the messengers who may attend the Cumberland Association in future.

Voted that five dollars be given to messengers that attend the Newhampshire, and two dollars to the Lincoln Association.

The committee appointed to inquire into the difficulty between Elder Palmer and the 2d church in Sidney, report; Your committee having examined the several charges bro't against Elder Palmer by the said church in Sidney, and his confession to the same—It is our opinion the confession made by Elder Palmer to said church, is as full as the nature of the charges require; and that the council in Readfield gave the church in Sidney good advice. It is also the opinion of this council that the church in Readfield have done right in receiving Elder Palmer, that the Association would have done the same if it had come before them.

Voted to receive the above report of the committee.

The Circular and Corresponding Letters were read and accepted.

The 2d church in Canaan requested information with regard to the origin of Associations.

Voted that Elders Francies and Low write to said church upon the subject.

Voted that Elder Wilber write the Circular Letter for next year, and Elder T. Merrill the Corresponding Letter.

Chose William Richards Treasurer.

Voted that Elder Robinson be our messenger to the New Hampshire Association ; in case of failure, Elder Kendall.

Elder Cane to the Lincoln ; in case of failure, Elder Garcelon.

To the Cumberland, Elders Low and Case.

Voted that Elder Low superintend the printing of the Minutes.

Voted that the next Association be holden at the Meeting House in Litchfield, belonging to the first church, on the fourth Wednesday in *September* next.

Supplies for the Church in Wayne.

Elder Francies, 2d Lord's day in February

Elder Low, the 1st Lord's day in June.

Supplies for the 2d in Canaan.

Elder Garcelon, 3d Lord's day in July.

Elder Robinson, 3d in November

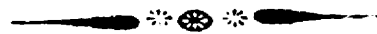
Supplies for Farmington.

Elder Taylor, 2d Lord's day in February.

Elder Robinson, 3d Lord's day in February

Elder Wyman, 2d Lord's day in March.

Elder Garcelon, 2d Lord's day in June.



CIRCULAR LETTER.

*The Ministers and Messengers composing the BOWDOIN-
HAM ASSOCIATION, convened at Mount Vernon the fourth
Wednesday of September, A. D. 1813—To the churches
they represent. Peace from God our Father and the
Lord Jesus Christ.*

DEAR BRETHREN,

AGREEABLE to the practice of this body since its first formation, we address you in our annual epistle upon subjects of the greatest importance, which are connected with the declarative glory of God and our everlasting peace.

We exhort you to pay strict attention to the scriptures as the man of your council, for there is nothing relative to the actions, words and thoughts of man but what falls under their inspection. To a believing soul they are a joyful sound, as good news from a far country. Here wisdom hath mingled her wine and furnished her table

with the richest dainties that heaven affords, a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. The light thereof giveth understanding to the simple, and is able to make wise through faith unto salvation. If we want pardon for our guilty souls, here is the balsam of life ; in a word, here is all things needful to make us happy forever.

But in order that we should rightly understand the sacred volume, we must be taught by the spirit of God. For unto the natural, or unregenerate man these things are foolishness, for *the things of God knoweth no man but by the spirit of God*. And if you are guided by the spirit of God, you discover in Him divine perfection and excellence, *eternal power, self existence and independence*, and that this one God is known by the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

As it respects the Son in his human nature, he is subordinate and inferior to the father. But in his divine nature he is equal to the Father in every unbodied perfection ; for names and titles which are proper to ascribe to God only, are ascribed to the Son, he is called the *mighty God, everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace*. This is called the word which was made flesh and dwelt among us : *And there are three that bare record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and Holy Ghost, and these three are one*. Likewise, the works of creation and providence are ascribed to Him, He is the heir of all things ; but if He is not God as well as man, we are of all creatures the most miserable and yet in our sins, for we have all transgressed the infinite and pure law of God, and a finite being cannot atone for our sins ; but we assure you brethren that those who have seen the Son have seen the Father also : And if you have discovered Christ as the scriptures have proclaimed him, you then discovered the diabolical nature of sin, that none but God incarnate could atone for it. A soul that discovers this by faith will admire the greatness of that grace which pitied dying men, and will lead to practical godliness, being drawn by the cords of love. And now dear brethren, in this gloomy period, while the heavens and earth are shaking, and correspondent doctrines spreading ; where should we run but into the name of our dear Saviour. We therefore exhort you to be often at the throne of grace for divine counsel. Be careful to fill your places on the Lord's day and conferences, and instead of reading Newspapers read the Bible, and instead of conversing on political topics, confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another.

If you have a minister do not load his poor soul with more trials, instead of assisting with the things he needs. And while you behold him laboring from day to day, try to think how he must feel when fatigued in body and his spirits languid ; if he lies down to take his rest, directly when he awakes he must go forward, wings or no wings he must fly ; he goes to the place of worship and finds his people perhaps inattentive to the things of eternity. God and his soul only knows the trials which he endures. May you, therefore, be stimulated to duty in every sense of the word, and you will grow

in grace. But he that withholds more than is meet will find it tends to poverty.

Let us be careful to walk honestly, soberly and godly, as those which must give an account.

If thy right hand or right eye offend thee, cast it from thee, and be encouraged in every good work until the storm be past and the glory of God be revealed, and our souls be refreshed in the beams of eternal day for Jesus' sake. AMEN



CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The BOWDOINHAM ASSOCIATION, convened at Mount Vernon, September 22d and 23d, to Corresponding Associations, wisheth all grace.

DEARLY BELOVED,

WE have neither leisure nor inclination to burden you with much vain ceremony or cold formality; our God is love, and they who dwell in love dwell in God and God in them. And those who love Him that begat, love those that are begotten of Him. Dictated by love, with you we mourn because iniquity abounds, and the judgments of God prevail in the earth. With you we rejoice that our God reigneth. He will yet cause wars to cease unto the ends of the earth; *break the bow, cut the spear in sunder, burn the chariot in the fire, grant prosperous gales to the ark of his strength, fill her with passengers, and finally conduct her to the Heaven of Eternal Rest.*

May God help us to gird on the christian armor—guard us by his power—give us his spirit—enable us to do his will on earth, and finally introduce us into that rest which remains to the people of God.

We have enjoyed a good degree of the unity of the spirit in our present meeting; our churches stand fast in the faith once delivered to the saints. Your Minutes containing the pledges of your love, with your dear Messengers, have been gratefully received, and the continuance of your friendly correspondence is earnestly solicited. Finally, Brethren farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace, and the God of Love and peace shall be with you. AMEN.

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

N. B. The churches are desired to send in their contributions to the Missionary Society at the annual meeting of the Association, and those members which have not paid for last year, to send it to the Treasurer or Chairman of said society as soon as possible.