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Baptists . Maine . Bowdoinham Association, 1814.

Minutes . . . Litchfield, September 28th & 29th, 1814.

Hallowell, [ Me. ], Cheever, 1814. 8 pp.

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# MINUTES *No 1. 178*

OF THE

BOWDOINHAM ASSOCIATION,

HELD IN

*Litchfield,*

SEPTEMBER 28th & 29th,

1814.

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HALLOWELL :

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1814.

*Laine - 1814*

# MINUTES, &c.

WEDNESDAY, September 28.

AT ten o'clock, A. M. brother John Robinson preached the introductory sermon, from 1st Cor. i, 9. *God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Chose brother Robert Low, Moderator, and brother Thomas Francis, 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 —.

| <i>Churches.</i>  | <i>Elders &amp; Messengers.</i>  | <i>Added.</i> | <i>Dismissed.</i> | <i>Excluded.</i> | <i>Died.</i> | <i>Total.</i> |
|-------------------|--|---------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1st Bowdoin,      | JOSEPH DENSLOW,<br>David Buker,<br>Asahel Polley,                                  | 5             | 4                 | 2                | 2            | 85            |
| 2 1st Sidney,     | ASA WILBER,<br>William Ward,   | 1             |                   |                  |              | 58            |
| 3 1st Litchfield, | HENRY KENDALL,<br><i>Daniel Cunningham,</i><br>Joshua Weymouth,<br>Levi Herriman,  |               | 4                 | 5                | 2            | 170           |
| † Lewistown,      | BENJAMIN COLE,<br>JAMES GARCELON,<br>Josiah Mitchell,                              |               |                   |                  |              | 59            |
| † Readfield,      | ROBERT LOW,<br>ISAAC CASE,<br>JOSEPH PALMER,<br>William Richards,<br>Luke Perkins, | 16            | 1                 | 2                | 3            | 96            |
| 2 Fayette,        | OLIVER BILLINGS,<br>THOMAS MERRILL,<br>Joshua Walton,<br>Jeremiah Richards,        | 3             | 2                 |                  | 1            | 109           |

| <i>Churches.</i> | <i>Elders &amp; Messengers.</i>   | <i>Added.</i> | <i>Dismissed.</i> | <i>Excluded.</i> | <i>Died.</i> | <i>Total.</i> |
|------------------|---|---------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|
| 7 Greene,        | JOHN DAGGETT, Jr.<br>Jesse Coburn,                                      | 4             | 3                 | 1                | 1            | 99            |
| 8 Wayne,         | Constant Dexter,  | 1             |                   |                  |              | 16            |
| 9 1st Lisbon,    | Joseph Killgore,  |               | 2                 | 1                |              | 29            |
| 10 Clinton,      | MEPHIBOSHETH CAIN,  | 1             | 1                 |                  |              | 45            |
| 11 New Vineyard, | LEVI YOUNG,   |               |                   | 2                | 5            | 51            |
| 12 Wales,        | JAMES PIERCE,<br>Philip Jenkins,<br>James Labree,                       | 1             | 2                 |                  | 2            | 50            |
| 13 Mount Vernon, | PETER MOORE,<br>Nathan Thomas,<br>John Hovey,<br>Nathaniel Rice,        | 3             |                   | 1                | 2            | 66            |
| 14 Leeds,        | THOMAS FRANCIS,<br>James Lamb,  | 1             | 1                 |                  | 1            | 48            |
| 15 New Sharon,   | Samuel Prescott,  | 9             |                   | 1                |              | 38            |
| 16 * Bloomfield, | JONATHAN STEWART,<br>ROBERT COBURN,<br>Daniel Smith,                    | 7             |                   |                  | 2            | 67            |
| 17 2d Sidney,    | Asa Williams,<br>Nathaniel Reynolds,<br>John Sawtell,<br>Benjamin Dyer, | 1             |                   | 7                | 1            | 31            |
| 18 2d Bowdoin,   | ICHABOD TEMPLE,<br>Ebenezer Temple,<br>Samuel Smith,                    | 4             | 13                | 1                | 2            | 77            |
| 19 Belgrade,     | ELIAS TAYLOR,<br>Shadrach Rollins,<br>Sherabiah Clark,                  | 5             | 1                 |                  |              | 50            |
| 20 Hallowell,    | JOHN ROBINSON,<br>James Hinkley,<br>Peter Moore,                        | 1             |                   | 2                | 2            | 43            |
| 21 2d Lisbon,    | John Ross,<br>William Jordan,<br>Nath'l. Spaulding,                     | 2             |                   |                  |              | 21            |
| 22 Cornville,    | Isaac Bridges,<br>Samuel Elkins,  | 3             | 2                 |                  |              | 41            |
| 23 † Harmony,    |   |               |                   |                  |              | 35            |
| 24 † Farmington, |   |               |                   |                  |              | 23            |
| 25 † Monmouth,   | ELIAS NELSON,<br>Joshua Smith,<br>Samuel Shaw,                          | 2             |                   | 1                | 2            | 19            |
| 26 † Palmyra,    |   |               |                   |                  |              | 8             |

\* Heretofore called Canaan.

| <i>Churches.</i>                   | <i>Elders &amp; Messengers.</i>  | <i>Adm.</i> | <i>Dismissed.</i> | <i>Excluded.</i> | <i>Died.</i> | <i>Total.</i> |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|
| 27 New Portland,                   | William Moody,   | 14          |                   |                  |              | 24            |
| 28 2d Litchfield,                  | WILLIAM STINSON,<br>William Crawford,<br>Samuel Blanchard,<br>Andrew Blake,<br>Amos Stevens, | 2           |                   | 2                | 1            | 45            |
| 29 3d Livermore,                   | * THOMAS WYMAN,<br>Zephaniah Bumpus,<br>Cushman Bassett,                                     | 1           |                   |                  |              | 37            |
| 30 Bowdoinham,                     | DANIEL PIERSON,<br>James Buker,<br>Uriel Huntington,<br>John Dennet,                         | 12          | 1                 | 2                | 1            | 59            |
| 31 Canaan,                         | Eliakim Ames,  | 11          |                   |                  |              | 37            |
| 32 No. Five,                       | * LEMUEL JACKSON,<br>AMAZIAH REED,<br>Abel Holt,   |             | 1                 | 2                |              | 61            |
| 33 Bakerstown,                     | John Smith,<br>Charles Baker,  | 6           |                   |                  |              | 17            |
| 34 † Phillips,<br>2d Mount Vernon, | Ephraim Nicholson,   |             |                   |                  |              | 14<br>8       |
|                                    |  | 116         | 38                | 32               | 30           | 1756          |

\* The last mentioned church was admitted at this session.

Called for the messengers and minutes from Corresponding Associations, and received as follows :

| <i>Associations.</i> | <i>Messengers.</i>                     |
|----------------------|--|
| Warren,              | Letter and Minutes.                    |
| Lincoln,             | Letter and Minutes. Phinehas Pilsbury. |
| Cumberland,          | Sylvanus Boardman.                     |
| New Hampshire,       | Letter and Minutes.                    |

Chose Elders Billings, Dagget and Robinson, a committee to examine the Circular and Corresponding Letters.

Appointed brethren Smith and Huntington, to apportion the expense for printing the minutes, &c. among the several churches.

Circular and Corresponding Letters were read and accepted.

Voted to adjourn to nine o'clock tomorrow morning.  
Closed the meeting by prayer.

*September 29th.*—Met agreeably to adjournment. Prayer by brother Case. Elders Robinson and Wilber, who were appointed to settle with the Treasurer, reported that there was \$33 20 in the treasury.

Appointed brother William Richards Treasurer.

The Rev. Luther Rice, having by letter, addressed this association on the subject of "missions," and requesting that "an answer to his letter, with a copy of our minutes, be forwarded to Dr. Staughton, of Philadelphia; and that a regular correspondence and interchange of minutes may be gone into between this association and the Baptist board for foreign missions." It was voted that elders Low, Francis and Dagget be a committee to make arrangements (in concert with sister associations in the District of Maine, or otherwise) for carrying into effect the wish of this association to promote the laudable designs of the "Baptist board for foreign missions;" and that they forward to brother Rice an answer to his letter, and a copy of our minutes.

Voted to recommend to the churches of this association, that there be a contribution every three months, for the purpose of establishing a fund to promote the designs of the "baptist board for foreign missions."

Voted to correspond with the Warren and Boston associations, by an interchange of letters and minutes.

Appointed the following messengers to corresponding associations, viz. To the New Hampshire, brother E. Taylor, in case of failure, brother John Robinson. Lincoln, brother R. Low, in case of failure, brother Thomas Merrill. Cumberland, brother Thomas Merrill, in case of failure, brother H. Kendall. Nova Scotia, brother I. Case.

Voted to recommend the second Tuesday of October next, to be observed as a day of fasting and prayer by the churches of this association.

Voted to recommend to the members of the churches in this association the propriety of improving a portion of time every day, in humble, fervent, secret prayer; that God would be pleased to turn away from us his righteous dis-

pleasure, forgive our sins, pour out his spirit upon us, cause wars to cease, and fill the whole earth with His glory.

Referred the question from the church at New Vineyard, to Messrs. Low, Francis and Billings, who were directed to report an answer at the next annual meeting.

Voted that the following elders and brethren of sister associations be a committee to take into consideration a difficulty in which the church at Readfield, and the 1st church in Sidney are particularly implicated, viz. Sylvanus Boardman, S. Stinson, B. Titcomb, S. Dexter, J. Haines, E. Delano, D. Nelson, I. Gross and Wm. Eustis ; that said committee meet on the 2d Wednesday in February next, at the brick school-house in Winthrop, at ten o'clock, A. M. and that they forward the result of their deliberations to the next annual meeting of this association, and that the clerk notify said committee of their appointment, &c.

Appointed brother Low to write the circular letter for the next year, and brother Francis the Corresponding letter.

Voted that the clerk superintend the printing of the minutes.

Voted that the next association be held in the meeting house in Bowdoin, belonging to the first church, on the fourth Wednesday in September next.

*Supplies for the church in Wayne.*

Elder Pierce, the first Lord's day in March.

The sum of \$29 16 (exclusive of \$12 from the female mite society in Readfield) was contributed to missionary uses.

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## CIRCULAR LETTER.

*The Elders and Messengers of the BOWDOINHAM ASSOCIATION, to the several churches they represent, send christian salutation.*

BELOVED BRETHREN;

THE God of Heaven is abundantly manifesting the fulfilment of his word. He changeth the times and the sea-

sons : He removeth kings, and setteth up kings : He ruleth in the kingdoms of men, and appointeth over them whomsoever He will. As a nation, our sins have reached unto Heaven, and "the day of our visitation is come." The Most High hath a controversy with us ; and by pestilence and sword, is He pleading His righteous cause ; and though "the slain of the Lord have been many,"\* yet is not "His anger turned away ; but His hand is stretched out still."

*Dearly Beloved,* Let us not faint ; but in this day of adversity consider. Have not we merited all the evils which God hath brought upon us ? Are not the general insensibility of men to their eternal concerns, and the prevalence of abounding iniquity, sad presages of greater evils yet to come ? But *Zion's God reigneth* : and all things work together for good to them that love God ! How precious are the promises of God to his people ! He is their refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble : Therefore they need not fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea : Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled. There is still a river, the streams whereof make glad the city of God.—Were it not for these heart reviving truths, we must sink in hopeless sorrow, and with the Psalmist exclaim, What can the righteous do !—Let us then, with believing, penitent, and humble hearts, commit the keeping of our souls and all which is dear to us, into the hand of God, as into the hand of a faithful creator : Praying always, with all prayer to Him who is able to keep us from falling, and to present us before His throne, with exceeding joy : To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever, AMEN.

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\* It is stated by some of our physicians, that in the County of Kennebec, more than six hundred persons died of the prevailing epidemic the last winter.



## CORRESPONDING LETTER.

*The BOWDOINHAM ASSOCIATION, convened at Litchfield,  
September 28th and 29th, to Corresponding Associations.  
Grace be to you, &c.*

DEAR BRETHREN,

“OF the times and seasons, ye have no need that we write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them, and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day. Therefore, let us not sleep as do others ; but let us watch and be sober, putting on the breast plate of faith and love ; and for an helmet the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.” “Wherefore let us walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with long suffering, forbearing one another in love ; endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.” “Finally, brethren, let us be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore let us take the whole armour of God, that we may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

May God guide us with His counsel, and afterwards receive us to glory.

Your messengers and minutes have been received with the greatest pleasure. We wish the continuance of your correspondence.

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