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Baptists . Maine . Bowdoinham Association, 1816.  
Minutes of the ... Held in Readfield, September  
25th & 26th, 1816.

Hallowell, [ Me. ], Cheever, 1816. 8 pp.  
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# MINUTES

OF THE

BOWDOINHAM ASSOCIATION,

HELD IN

*Readfield,*

SEPTEMBER 25th & 26th,

1816.



*HALLOWELL:*

PRINTED BY N. CHEEVER.

1816.

# MINUTES, &c.



WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 23,

At ten o'clock, A. M. brother Francis preached the Introductory Sermon from Isaiah lx. 4. *Lift up thine eyes round about, and see : all they gather themselves together, they come to thee : thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side.* After which the sum of \$36 77 was contributed to aid the home mission.

Chose brother Sylvanus Boardman, Moderator, and Thomas Francis, Clerk. Adjourned one hour.

Met on adjournment. After prayer, by the Moderator, chose Elders Wilber, Case, and Houghton, a committee to examine the Circular and Corresponding Letters.

Appointed Elders Kendall and Case, and brother Turner, a committee to apportion the expense for printing the Minutes, &c. among the several Churches, and to settle with the Treasurer.

Read the letters from the several Churches, and took the following account of members added, dismissed, excluded, and 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*. The ministers names with this \* mark, were not present; Churches marked thus † we had no information from this session; vacant Churches distinguished by a —.

Churches.	Elders & Messengers.	Added.	Dismissed.	Excl.	Died.	Total.
Bowdoinham,	DANIEL PIERSON, William Dunham,	3	3	3		58
1st Bowdoin,	JOSEPH DINSLOW, Stephen Ridout, Andrew Wilson,	25	4	6		166
1st Sidney,	ASA WILBER, William Ward, Thomas Farrington,	1		1	1	56
1st Litchfield,	— — — — — HENRY KENDALL, John Dennis,	1	13	2		163
Lewiston,	*BENJAMIN COLE, JAMES GARCELON					56

<i>Readfield,</i>	JOSIAH HOUGHTON, JOSEPH PALMER, ISAAC CASE, John Cummings, William Richards,	10				88
<i>Fayette,</i>	OLIVER BILLINGS, Jeremiah Richards, Joseph Anderson, Enoch Watson, David Manter,		1	1		106
<i>Greene,</i>	JOHN DAGGETT, Jesse Coburn, Lemuel Comins, Jr. Reuben Curtis,	2	5	3	2	85
<i>Wayne,</i>	_____ Nathan Thomas, Constant Dexter, Freeman Dexter,			1		15
<i>1st Lisbon,</i>	_____ Stephen Dodd,		6			23
<i>Clinton,</i>	MEPHIBOSHETH CAIN, Joseph Spearin, Francis Powers,	3	3			47
<i>Wales,</i>	JAMES PIERCE, Joseph B. Allen, David Jenkins,	1	1		1	42
<i>Mount Vernon,</i>	_____ Samuel Thing, John Hovey, Nathan Robinson,			1	1	66
<i>Leeds,</i>	THOMAS FRANCIS, Martin Leonard, Giddins Lane,	7	2	1	1	58
<i>New Sharon,</i>	SYLVANUS BOARDMAN, Samuel Prescott, Benjamin Smith,	1		2		54
<i>Bloomfield,</i>	_____ Daniel Smith, John White,	8	2	1	2	66
<i>2d Sidney,</i>	_____ Asa Williams, Charles Webber, John Sawtell, Benjamin Dyer,		1			27
<i>2d Bowdoin,</i>	_____ HABOD TEMPLE, _____ Mac White,	7	6	1		129
<i>Belgrade,</i>	Moses Dennett, ELIAS TAYLOR, Shadrach Rollins, John Holmes, Nathaniel Gubtail, Ebenezer Carlton,	2	6	1		45
<i>Hallowell,</i>	JOHN ROBINSON, Joel Clark,	4		1	2	46
<i>2d Lisbon,</i>	_____ William Frost, Joby Ross,	3				20

<i>Cornville,</i>	Isaac Bridges, Samuel Fogg, Nathaniel Whittier,	3	2	1	41
<i>Harmony,</i>	BENJAMIN BISBE, Ebenezer Cole, James Leighton,	2		1	37
<i>Farmington,</i>	William Parker,	9	3		32
<i>Monmouth,</i>	ELIAS NELSON, Joshua Smith,	2			25
<i>Palmira,</i>	JOSEPH BLASDELL, John White, John Glidden,		1		11
<i>2d Litchfield,</i>	WILLIAM STINSON, Samuel Blanchard, Benjamin Shaw,	6	1	1	52
<i>3d Litchmore,</i>	* THOMAS WYMAN, Ebenezer Turner,	1	1	1	35
<i>Canaan,</i>	WILLIAM OAKS, Eliakim Ames, Samuel Webb,	4	1		40
<i>Weid,</i>	AMAZIAH REED, John Jackson,	6	5		61
<i>Moscow,</i>	G. J. Newton, SAMUEL WHEELER,		1	1	19
<i>Phillips,</i>		1	3		11
<i>2d Mount Vernon,</i>					8
<i>Topsham,</i>	ELIHU PURRINGTON, Elijah White, Adam Wilson,	30			41
<i>G. River,</i>	LEVI YOUNG, Sewall Brown, Ezekiel Robinson,				16
<i>Gulford,</i>	THOMAS MACOMBER, Joshua Coburn,				28
		142	51	42	15
		1867			

The two last mentioned churches were added at this session.

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

*Associations.*

Warren,  
New Hampshire, Letter and Minutes,  
Lincoln, Letter and Minutes,  
Cumberland,  
Nova Scotia and New Brunswick,

*Messengers.*

Avery Briggs.  
Zebedee Delano.  
Phinehas Pilsbury.  
Sylvanus Boardman.  
Thomas H. Chipman.

Voted to adjourn until to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Preaching in several places in the evening.

**Thursday morning, 9 o'clock.**—Met agreeably to adjournment. Sermon by brother Pilsbury, from Matt. xiii. 10.

Directed persons entrusted with the money contributed to aid the designs of the Baptist Board for Foreign Missions, to pay in the same to brother Daggett. The following sums were paid in accordingly—viz.

Church and Society,	Bloomfield,	\$16 00
do.	do. Litchfield,	2 00
do.	do. Belgrade,	1 25
1st do.	and do. Bowdoin,	6 13
do.	and do. Wales,	5 40
do.	and do. Cornville,	5 00
2d do.	and do. Lisbon,	1 75
do.	do. Bowdoinham,	1 52
do.	and do. Fayette,	9 10
2d do.	and do. Bowdoin,	4 13
2d do.	and do. Sidney,	14 75
do.	and do. Clinton and Fairfield,	12 93
do.	and do. Leeds,	21 05
do.	and do. Hallowell,	11 00
do.	and do. Green,	4 56
Female Society,	Readfield,	23 26
Congregation assembled back meeting-house,	Waterville,	4 70
Church in Moscow,		0 37
Church and Society	Wayne,	2 04
do.	and do. Monmouth,	5 29
From sisters in	Topsham,	2 45
From a sister,		0 25
From Widow Haines,		0 25
From two Females,		0 25
Church and Society in	Mount Vernon,	4 44
do.	and do. Readfield,	16 26

Total, \$176 13

Appointed brother Francis to take charge of the money contributed to the Foreign Mission, and to transmit the same to Doctor Baldwin.

Appointed the following messengers to corresponding Associations, viz.—To the New Hampshire, brother Kendall. To the Lincoln, brother Boardman. To the Cumberland, brother Temple. To the Nova-Scotia and New-Brunswick, brother Case.

Chose brother William Richards, Treasurer.

The following question from the first Church in Bowdoin, was referred to Messrs. Macomber, Low, Stinson, Chipman and Haines, to consider the same and report thereon, viz. "Is that person's baptism valid, that has been administered by an Elder, not agreed with us in the subject and mode of Baptism?" The committee reported in the affirmative. The following persons were then added to said committee, viz. Messrs. Daggett, Drinkwater, and Boardman, and the question recommitted, with directions to report thereon at the next annual meeting.

Appointed brother Boardman to prepare the Circular, and brother Francis the Corresponding Letter for next year.

Voted to accept the brief statement of the doctrinal sentiments embraced by the Churches of this Association—our design in associating together—and the rules of procedure in our associate capacity, presented by brother Francis, and that the Secretary precede his record, by inserting therein, a copy of the same.

Chose brother Francis, Secretary of the Association.

Voted, that the Church, in the place where the Association be holden, appoint a person to preach the Introductory Sermon.

The Circular Letter prepared by brother Briggs, and the Corresponding Letter by brother Kendall, were read and accepted.

Voted to recommend that the first day of the next year, and the first Tuesday in each succeeding quarter, be observed as days of Fasting and Prayer.

Appointed Messrs. Boardman, Kendall and Francis, a committee to revise our articles of Faith and Covenant, and present the same at the next annual meeting.

Voted to continue brethren Low, Francis and Daggett, a committee on the subject of Foreign Missions.

Voted that the Association be holden next year at the Baptist Meeting-House in Fayette, on the Fourth Wednesday in September, at ten o'clock, A. M.

Appointed brother Francis to superintend the printing of the minutes.

Brother Delano concluded by prayer.

*Supplies for the Church in Canaan.*

Elder Nelson 3d Sabbath in November.

Elder Taylor 3d do. in January.

Elder Coburn 3d do. in February.

*Supplies for the Church in Wayne.*

Elder Nelson 1st Sabbath in January.

Elder Taylor 1st do. in July.

☞ The committee on the subject of Foreign Missions, beg leave to recommend to the Churches, due observance of those things contained in their Circular Letter of last March.

The committee on the question from the Church in Bowdoin are desired to meet at the house of brother Richards, in Fayette, the evening preceding the next annual meeting of the Association.



## CIRCULAR LETTER.

*The BOWDOINHAM ASSOCIATION, to the Churches of Christ which they represent, wishing grace, mercy and peace, may be multiplied among you.*

## BELOVED IN THE LORD,

THE return of another anniversary affords us the pleasing opportunity of again addressing you in our associated capacity.

Our present meeting has been marked with evident tokens of divine approbation. We have been permitted to sit together, as in heavenly places, in Christ Jesus. But while we consider how numerous are our blessings, both of a temporal and spiritual nature, which we, in this land illumined by the genial rays of the Son of righteousness, are permitted to enjoy, through the gospel of peace, we cannot avoid turning our thoughts on the millions of our fellow creatures enveloped in moral darkness, and experiencing all the miseries resulting from idol worship.

As a subject worthy the most serious attention of all the pious and benevolent, permit us on this occasion to solicit your attention to the importance of communicating the light of the gospel to the heathen in the East, as the most effectual method of recovering them from the present degraded and truly deplorable condition.

To increase your charitable disposition, to raise to a flame the missionary spirit already kindled in your breasts, and to render your feelings alive to the necessity of more vigorous and united exertions in this most important cause, will be the object of our subsequent remarks.

For accomplishing these purposes it might be necessary to transfer you to the sultry regions of Hindostan and Bengal, where you might behold in their true colours, the sad effects of human apostacy. There you might witness scenes which would reach the feeling, and excite the sympathy of a stoic heart !

Asia was once highly favoured of God : here was the place where the light and blessings of the gospel were first enjoyed : where Christ and his Apostles first preached the word of divine truth. But oh ! how changed the scene ! The terrible curse of the Almighty has fallen upon it !

On the plains of Hindostan where once the Most High was worshipped, now stand the Pagodas of heathen deities. Who that ever enjoyed the blessings of civil and religious liberty, can contemplate, without the most poignant emotions, scenes which transpire at the temple of Juggernaut, when the Idol is presented to public view. Here the spectator may behold vast hordes of deluded mortals, whose emaciated forms and meagre looks clearly evince their having endured the excessive fatigue of a long pilgrimage, rushing forward to pay their blind devotion to a senseless image, under whose stupendous car many blindly devote and sacrifice their lives.

Who that possesses a heart susceptible of the common feelings of humanity does not weep to see the barbarous and unfeeling mother expose to the devouring flames her helpless infant, to appease the supposed anger of a heathen God.

Who would not shrink with horror at the tragic scene, when the unhappy widow of a Hindoo is obliged to ascend the funeral pile of her husband and expire in the flames. Or when the father conveys the new-born babe to the Ganges, and wading into the stream commits his first-born to a watery grave, and hastens away stopping his ears, lest he should hear the cry, and so feel the emotions of a father.

These are scenes which repeatedly occur, and which nothing can prevent, but the conversion of those poor deluded and unfeeling creatures, to the religion of Jesus. We have not time to enlarge. Brethren, seek to inform yourselves of the true situation of the heathen world, and this will be all which will be necessary to open your hearts and engage you in this important cause.



## CORRESPONDING LETTER.

*The BOWDOINHAM ASSOCIATION, convened at Readfield, September 25th and 26th, 1816, to Corresponding Associations—Grace, Mercy and Peace be multiplied unto you.*

### BELOVED IN THE LORD,

THE happy season has once more arrived in the which we have the delightful privilege of meeting our dear brethren from different parts of our land, "to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus;" which pleasing event, fills our hearts with gladness, and our tongues with praise; and excites to the anticipation of that glorious day, when you, with us, and all the redeemed, shall come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy, no more to part.

The Lord reigneth, let the earth rejoice—He is working wonders in many parts of our land—The information received from some of our Churches is truly pleasing; and our present interview, reminds us of the words of the Psalmist, "Behold! how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

Your Messengers and Minutes have been received with peculiar pleasure and satisfaction, and we earnestly solicit the continuance of your correspondence; believing that we can be mutual helpers to each other whilst in the furnace of affliction.—AMEN.

SYLVANUS BOARDMAN, *Moderator.*  
THOMAS FRANCIS, *Clerk.*