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Baptists. Maine. Bowdoinham Association, 1818.

Minutes ... Held at the First Baptist Meeting-House
in Bowdoin, (Me.) September 23d & 24th, 1818.

Hallowell, Gillman, 1818. 8 pp.

NRAB copy.

MINUTES

OF THE

BOWDOINHAM ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT THE

FIRST BAPTIST MEETING-HOUSE

In Bowdoin, (Me.)

SEPTEMBER 23d & 24th,

1818 ;

TOGETHER WITH THEIR

CIRCULAR AND CORRESPONDING

LETTERS.

S. K. GILMAN,
Printer....Hallowell....1818.

MINUTES, &c.



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23.

1. AT ten o'clock, A. M. brother Garcelon preached the Introductory Sermon from 1st Peter ii. 9. Adjourned one hour.

2. Met on adjournment, and chose brother Jesse Martin, Moderator, and Thomas Francis, Clerk.

3. After prayer by the Moderator, chose brethren Drinkwater, Houghton and Fogg, a Committee to examine the Circular and Corresponding Letters.

4. Appointed brethren Daggett, Dennis and Hovey, a Committee to apportion the expense for printing the Minutes, &c. upon the several Churches, and to settle with the Treasurer.

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

Associations.

Messengers.

New Hampshire,	Letters and Minutes,	William Goding.
Lincoln	Letters and Minutes,	Joseph Bailey.
Cumberland,	Letters and Minutes,	
Nova Scotia and } New Brunswick }	Letters and Minutes,	Joseph Crandal.

Invited the messengers from sister Associations to sit in council with us.

6. Read the Letters from the several Churches, and took the following account of members added, dismissed, excluded, and deceased, 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.	Excluded.	Deceased.	Total.
		By Bap.	By Let.				
Bowdoinham,	DANIEL PIERSON, ELIHU PURRINGTON, James Buker,	5	2		2		58
1st Bowdoin,	JOSEPH DENSLOW, David Buker, John Small, Elisha Hopkins,	1		2	15		135
1st Sidney,	* ASA WILBER, Leonard Stanley, David Wilber,	8	1	13	1	1	45
1st Litchfield,	————— Daniel Cunningham, John Dennis,	9		2	1	1	157
Lewiston,	BENJAMIN COLE, JAMES GARCELON, David Pettingill, Jacob Goulder,	24		6	1	1	67
Readfield,	JOSIAH HOUGHTON, ISAAC CASE, William Richards, Samuel Fogg,	11			2		102
Fayette,	OLIVER BILLINGS, JESSE MARTIN, Enoch Watson, Jesse Tuck, Joseph Watson,	6		1	1		155
Green,	JOHN DAGGETT, Jesse Coburn, Love Key, Josiah Larrabee,	5		1		1	135
Wayne,	————— Nathan Thomas, Freeman Dexter, Nathaniel Dexter,	1	1				13
1st Lisbon,	DANIEL PIERCE, Samuel Hinckley,	19	2	1	4		59
Clinton,	MEPHIBOSHETH CAIN, Francis Powers,	55	1			1	104
Wales,	JAMES PIERCE,	3	3	1			48
Mount Vernon,	ARTHUR DRINKWATER, John Hovey,	4	3	1	3	1	70
Leeds,	THOMAS FRANCIS, Giddins Lane, Joseph Could,	13	4			1	78
Industry,	————— Robert Lambert, Samuel Norton,	1	1	1		1	35
New Sharon,	* SYLVANUS BOARDMAN, Benjamin Smith, Samuel Prescott,		1		1		55
Bloomfield,	————— JONATHAN STEWARD, ROBERT COBURN, William Weston,	9		7		1	67

<i>2d Sidney,</i>	John Dutton, Ahasuerus Dutton,				1	25
<i>2d Bowdoin,</i>	William Lydson, Isaac White, Nathaniel Smith,	1	3	22	2	101
<i>Belgrade,</i>	*ELIAS TAYLOR, Ebenezer Carlton,	13	1		1	61
<i>Hallowell,</i>	*WINTHROP MORSE, James Hinkley, Israel Lovett,	8	3			62
<i>2d Lisbon,</i>	WILLIAM FROST, Joshua Haley, John Ross,	2	1			24
<i>Cornville,</i>	Nathaniel Whittier,			1	1	40
<i>Harmony,</i>	BENJAMIN BISBEE, Ebenezer Cole, Jacob Hatch,	19	6	4	3	56
<i>Farmington,</i>						50
<i>Monmouth,</i>	Joshua Smith,	2	2	2		25
<i>Palmyra,</i>	JOSEPH BLASDEL, John White,	34			1	44
<i>2d Litchfield,</i>	WILLIAM STINSON, Benjamin Shaw, Andrew Blake,	10	1	1	1	68
<i>3d Livermore,</i>	*ELIAS NELSON, Ithamer Farrington, Jonathan Libby,	6	2	6	2	102
<i>Canaan,</i>		4		1	8	27
<i>Weld,</i>	AMAZIAH REED, Abel Holt,			4	5	41
<i>Moscow,</i>				4		15
<i>Phillips,</i>	Jacob Comings,	2	1	3	1	10
<i>Topsham,</i>	HENRY KENDALL, Winslow Staples, Elijah White,	3	1	1	2	58
<i>Gardiner,</i>	LEVI YOUNG, William Robinson,	6				34
<i>Gulford,</i>	THOMAS MACOMBER, Zenos Hall,	8	2	7		37
<i>Waterville,</i>	JEREMIAH CHAPLIN, William Lewis, John Turner, JUN.					20
<i>Parkman,</i>	Joshua Coburn,					16
<i>North Hill,</i>	Samuel Door,					13
		292	40	92	57	142317

N.B. The three last named Churches were received the present session

7. Appointed brother Daggett to receive the money forwarded to aid the designs of the "Baptist Bd. of Foreign Missions," and directed those entrusted therewith, to present the same to him, tomorrow morning, at 9 o'clock

8. Chose brother Wm. Richards, Treasurer of the Association, and directed that the money to defray the expenses of the Association, be paid in to him at 8 o'clock, tomorrow morning.

9. Appointed Elders Garcelon, Houghton and Stinson, a Committee to nominate the messengers to corresponding Associations.

10. Voted to adjourn until tomorrow morning, 9 o'clock. Prayer by brother Bailey. Preaching in several parts of the town in the evening.

Thursday morning, 9 o'clock.—Met agreeably to adjournment. Prayer by brother Billings.

11. The Circular and Corresponding Letters were read and accepted.

12. At 10 o'clock brother Joseph Crandel, from N. Brunswick, preached from Rev. xiv. 6. at the close of which a contribution for missionary purposes was attended to. Adjourned for the space of 15 minutes.

13. Met on the adjournment. After prayer by brother Houghton, appointed the following messengers to corresponding Associations, viz. To the N. S. & N. Brunswick, brother Drinkwater. To the Lincoln, brother Garcelon. To the Cumberland, brother Houghton. To the N. Hampshire brother Martin.

14. Appointed brother Chaplin to prepare the Circular, and brother Houghton the Corresponding Letter for next year.

15. Chose brother Francis, Secretary of the Association.

16. Appointed brethren Chaplin, Francis and Daggett, a Committee to correspond with the Baptist Bd. of Foreign Missions.

17. Voted, that our next Association be holden in the Baptist Meeting-House in Bloomfield, on the fourth Wednesday in September next, at 10 o'clock, A. M. and that brother Chanlin preach the Introductory Sermon.

18. Voted, to recommend to the Churches of this Association the propriety of forming Societies for the purpose of aiding the Theological School lately established in Waterville; and our messengers to corresponding Associations are instructed to use their influence to engage those Associations to adopt similar measures.

19. Appointed Messrs. Chaplin, Boardman, Daggett, Drinkwater and Francis, to assist the Churches in forming and organizing Societies to aid the Theological Seminary at Waterville.

20. Voted that the Clerk superintend the printing of the Minutes, and that 1500 copies be printed.

21. Voted, that the Treasurer pay 5 dollars to the order of Elder Job Macomber.

22. Appointed Elder Francis to receive the collections for the Foreign Mission, and to transmit the same to Dr. Baldwin.

23. Appointed Elder Drinkwater to receive the collections for the Home Mission, and transmit the same to the Treasurer of the Maine Baptist Missionary Society.

Supplies for the Church in Parkman.—Elder Stewart, 1st Lord's day in Jan. Elder Coburn, 1st in Feb. Elder Bisbe, 1st in June.

RECEIVED FOR FOREIGN MISSION.

Church & Congregation	Fairfield,	dols.	4,10	Church	Fayette,	5,00
2d do. & do.	Sidney,		8,40	do.	Lewiston,	2,72
do. & do.	Clinton,		6,66	Female Society,	Topsham,	11,00
*do. & do.	Canaan,		1,43	do.	Bowdoin,	2,31
do. & do.	Leeds,		8,58	Female M. Society,	Litchfield,	14,30
do. & do.	Green,		5,00	Joshua Woodman,		1,00
do.	Wayne,		2,04	Contribution Bowdoinham Association,		25,55

* The four first presented by Elder Cain.

dols. 101,59

RECEIVED FOR HOME MISSION.

Readfield Female M's. Soc.	dols.	17,03	Elder Billings,	0,50
Fayette do. Nite do		23,00	Elder Cole,	1,50
Ms. Vernon do. do.		15,70	Contribution Bowdoinham Association,	10,00

dols. 73,79

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The Ministers and Messengers of the Bowdoinham Association, to the Churches they represent, wish grace, mercy and peace, from God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour: Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

BELOVED BRETHREN:

Our *peculiarities* as *Baptists* and our *zeal* to establish our Churches conformably to the divine rule (as we apprehend) have brought upon us the censure of some whom we esteem as fellow christians. And altho' it is to us a matter of grief, that our conduct in these respects should wound the feelings of the faithful, we wish you not to *desist*, but to *persevere* in keeping the ordinances of the Lord's house, as they are delivered unto us: And we beseech you, brethren, to be careful to extend your *zeal* to *all things appertaining to the glory of God, and the good of your fellow men.*

Particularly, *be careful to sanctify the Lord God in your hearts.* In order to this, see that your ideas of His character, law, government and grace, are the impressions of His word and Spirit. An unrenewed sinner may frame to himself a God whom he can adore: but the God of the Bible, who is a holy, sin-hating God, working all things after the counsel of His own will: shewing mercy on whom He pleaseth, by making them holy, and thus preparing them for glory; whilst He leaves others toward whom He had exercised much long suffering, to fit themselves as vessels of wrath for destruction; and who will surely take vengeance on all the finally impenitent, punishing them with everlasting destruction from the glory of His presence, when He shall come to be glorified in His saints, &c.: This God, will be loved, adored and confided in, *only* by those who have been born of His spirit. Be solicitous, dear brethren, to maintain in your hearts a proper sense of *the only true God.*

Be careful also to *honor the Son even as you honor the Father.* This request is thought to be peculiarly needful at the present day, seeing many from pretended zeal for the unity of God, are preaching doctrines derogatory to the honor of His *only begotten Son.* Brethren, he that hath seen the Son hath seen the Father: for in Him dwelleth all the *fullness* of the Godhead bodily: And ye are *complete* in Him; but not so, surely, unless He be the *true God, and eternal life.* Therefore, let us not fear the charge of idolatry, because we believe and testify that the Saviour Jesus Christ, whose glorious appearing we are "looking for," is the "GREAT GOD." Titus ii. 13. Neither let us be afraid, nor ashamed, to call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, seeing we have the example of saints on earth and saints and angels in heaven to authorise the practise. 1st Cor. i. 2. Rev. v. 11. to the end.

Be peculiarly zealous to possess personal holiness, and to manifest the same in your faith and practice. Endeavor to maintain a constant sense of your moral character as apostate creatures—That by nature you are the children of wrath even as others—That you have merited God's infinite displeasure—That in your flesh dwelleth no good thing—That He might justly leave you to perish in your sins—That your salvation is *wholly of grace*—That the atonement and righteousness of Christ is your *only* ground of hope for pardon and acceptance with God: and that without holiness no man can see the Lord. A heart-felt sense of these truths will influence to the practice of holiness: will cause you to walk humbly with God: to sorrow after a godly sort: to relinquish all confidence in the flesh: to embrace Jesus as your wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption—will make you watchful and prayerful; and teach you to deny ungodliness and every worldly lust. *We beseech you therefore, brethren, that you exercise yourselves unto Godliness.*

Be zealous to promote godliness in your families. Endeavor to suppress every thing of an immoral nature, and to inculcate on those com-

mitted to your charge, those gospel truths which you cherish in your own hearts. Point out to them the salutary effects of Bible religion, and the awful consequences of rejecting that blessed book. Endeavor to convince them by your conduct and precepts, that the Bible is to you, and ought to be to them, a lamp to their feet, and a light to their paths. That it represents mankind as being in a state of apostacy and guilt, and positively asserts the necessity of our being converted, and having our hearts changed by the spirit of God, in order to our entrance into the kingdom of heaven. That it also reveals to us, God in Christ, reconciling sinners to Himself; and points us to the Lamb of God in whom there is forgiveness and plenteous redemption. Let all your admonitions, councils and reproofs flow from a heart truly impressed with a sense of the importance of religion, *and let them be accompanied with constant, fervent, humble prayer to God for His blessing, without which your endeavors will be ineffectual.*

Be zealous to evince your love to God and your brethren, by a faithful discharge of your duty in the Church. Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together for the worship of God, christian conference, and church discipline. Be solicitous to attend in the house of prayer under the influence of the spirit of prayer. Avoid lukewarmness. Pray for the Ministers of the Gospel—That they may come to the people in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ—that their doctrine may drop as the rain, and distil as the dew; and through the divine blessing tend to the increase of godliness. Watch over one another for good, and zealously endeavor to promote each other's present and future welfare. Remember that God hath chosen His people to holiness.—Warn the unruly. Comfort the feeble minded. Support the weak. Withdraw fellowship from the unruly whom you cannot reclaim. Communicate to the necessities of the poor. And in all your endeavors to keep the house of God in order, see that you are actuated by the spirit of Christ. Be careful whom you admit into the Church. Alas! the reproach cast upon the religion of Jesus through the immoralities and enthusiasm of some professors. Receive none to your communion who do not give good evidence that they have received the *truth in love*. For further particulars on this head we refer you to your Bibles, and the Circular Letter of last year.

Be zealous for the salvation of your fellow men. Consider what numbers there are within the circle of your acquaintance whom you have cause to apprehend are in the *gall of bitterness and the bonds of iniquity*. Many of these are deceiving themselves with a false hope. Many more wholly unmindful of their eternal concerns. And many whom in addition to their native depravity have imbibed the strongest prejudices against Christianity; saying of its professors (with too much reason as it respects some) "*what do they more than others.*" Look around you, behold a *world lying in the wicked one!* These are fellow creatures—these have immortal souls—these have a natural capacity for endless joys or endless woes. Consider also, that on such as these, God is determined to have mercy. For such as these Christ hath died. To such as these the Gospel must be preached. And to save such as these, the Holy Ghost is sent down from Heaven. Yourselves were such as these; and so also were those whom John heard, singing the new song in Heaven. Consider that this vast multitude must hear the voice of the Son of God, he recovered out of the snares of the devil, by whom they are led captive, and have their fruit unto holiness or they cannot inherit eternal life. And can you consider their condition, and not feel a fervent zeal for their recovery to holiness? Are you not already inquiring, "In what way can we be the instruments of good to their precious souls?" We answer, Let your light so shine among men that they may see your good works. Let piety, humility, meekness, temperance, veracity, honesty and kindness, be discoverable in your conduct. Improve every proper opportunity in religious conversation, en-

deavoring seriously, in meekness and love to instruct those who oppose themselves, if God, peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth. Set up prayer meetings, and constantly attend them. Engage in the duty like humble wrestling Jacobs. Make your supplication in the firm persuasion, that with God there is forgiveness and plenteous redemption, through the righteousness and atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ—that the residue of the Spirit is with Him.—And that He hath promised to pour it out abundantly in these latter days. Do what you can to aid the designs of the Missionary and Bible Societies. Bless God that He is causing such exertions to be made at the present day. Consider them as hopeful symptoms of the enlargement and prosperity of the Redeemer's Kingdom. Engage in these duties with all your hearts, and with all your strength in a humble dependence, on divine mercy; and be assured *that your labor shall not be in vain in the Lord.*

Dearly beloved, our design, and heart's desire is to excite in you a fervent zeal for the glory of God, and the salvation of your fellow-men: or in the words of the Apostle, "*to provoke you to love and to good works.*" We might adduce many motives to aid our design if it were necessary, and our limits would admit. But we hope that you already anticipate them. We hope that the love of Christ—His living and dying examples—His righteous commands—His solemn warnings—His gracious, glorious, never-failing promises and rewards, will urge you to a compliance, and excite you to adopt in your practice the words of the poet.

*"All that I am, and all I have shall be forever thine,
Whate'er my duty bids me give, my cheerful hands resign."*

Thus do dear brethren, and the God of love and peace shall be with you, and give you access unto the tree of life, and an entrance through the gates into the City. AMEN.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

*The Bowdoinham Association, convened at Bowdoin, Sept. 23d and 24th, 1818,
to Corresponding Associations sendeth Christian Salutations.*

DEAR BRETHREN:

THE vineyard of Christ in which grow the plants of our heavenly Father, is of extensive bounds; so extensive that comparatively few of the saints have any personal knowledge of each other, or the state of the individual Churches in which they are respectively associated. But by means of epistolary correspondence our acquaintance with the situation of the various branches of Zion is greatly increased. By this we ascertain the sentiments and order of the different Churches: by this we mutually comfort and strengthen each other in our wearisome pilgrimages through this world: by this too we come to a knowledge of those events which cause joy to the holy angels in heaven. These benefits resulting from your correspondence induce us to solicit a continuance of the same.

By a comparison of our present with our former minutes, you will perceive the additions to the Churches, the present, have not been so great as the preceding year. Yet we have abundant occasion for gratitude that unanimity in sentiment and practice appear generally to prevail among us.

An additional favor we have to record the present year, is the opening of the Maine Literary and Theological Institution within the limits of this Association. The numerous and extreme disadvantages which have heretofore attended those in this section of the country who were inclined to engage in the Gospel Ministry and who wished to obtain further instruction in Divinity and the auxiliary branches of science, has been felt by numbers, and acknowledged by all enlightened Christians. These disadvantages have arisen chiefly from the want of such a Seminary as has lately been opened at Waterville. We cannot but hope, that, by the establishment of this institution God has answered the prayers of his own people, and by this Providence He intends the good of our Churches.

Requesting an interest in your prayers, we subscribe ourselves, your affectionate brethren in the bonds of the Gospel.

JESSE MARTIN, *Moderator.*
THOMAS FRANCIS, *Clerk.*