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Baptists. South Carolina. Charleston Association, 1791.
Minutes ... at the Welch Neck, Pedee, November 5th,
1791.

[Charleston, 1791.] 6 pp.

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M I N U T E S
O F T H E
C H A R L E S T O N A S S O C I A T I O N ,

Held at the WELCH NECK, PEDEE, November 5th, 1791.

1st. **E**MPLOYED Saturday and the Sabbath in an attendance on the ordinances of public worship.

2d. On Monday the 7th instant, the introductory sermon was delivered by Rev. Henry Holcombe, from Isaiah 53d, and 1, "Who hath believed our report?"

3d. Letters from eighteen churches were read, and the names of the messengers enrolled.

4th. Rev. Evan Pugh was chosen moderator and Rev. Richard Furman clerk. Rev. Messrs. Silas and Jesse Mercer being present, were requested to sit in the association, who took their seats accordingly.

5th. Letters and minutes were received and read, from the following corresponding associations: the Philadelphia, Warren and Bethel on the continent; and the Kent and Suffex Association in Great-Britain; also a letter and minutes from the general committee of united Baptist churches in Virginia, and a letter from the Rev. Lemuel Burkett, enclosing minutes of the Kehukey Association, and another packet with minutes of the Middle District Association, south of James River; the two last brought by Rev. Silas Mercer. Rev. James Fowler and Mr. David Lilly attended as messengers from the Bethel Association, and were received accordingly.

6th. The clerk presented the association with 50 copies of a sermon published by him, at their request; for which, on motion of Rev. Mr. Holcombe, he received the thanks of the association, presented by the moderator.

7th. Appointed the following Rev. Brethren to write to the corresponding associations, Mr. Botsford to the Philadelphia, Mr. Lewis to the Warren, Mr. Holcombe to the Kent and Suffex, Mr. Furman to the general committee of united Baptist churches in Virginia, Mr. Gerrald to the Georgia, and Mr. Moseley to the Bethel association.

8th.

8th. A church on Deep creek, consisting of 50 members, which was constituted about twelve years ago, made application, by letter and two messengers, for admission into this association; and on satisfaction being obtained, respecting their faith and order, were received. A church on Little Pedee likewise applied, but some doubts arising, respecting their state, Rev. Messrs. Botsford and Moseley were requested to visit them previous to any farther proceedings on the business.

9th. Query, from the church in the lower fork of Lynch's creek. Can any method be fallen upon, to regulate the ordination of ministers: so as to prevent the too hasty laying on of hands on candidates for that office? Answer, let the churches be careful in the first instance, to introduce no persons into this station, but such who afford good evidence that they are truly pious and of promising gifts: Let them use every rational and proper means for their improvement; and in bringing them to ordination, we advise they call in the assistance of at least two, but rather three, of the ministers in union, who are most generally esteemed in the churches for piety and abilities.

10th. A letter was received from Mr. Peter Bainbridge, late of this state, as a minister in our union, now in Maryland, making general acknowledgments of irregular conduct in sundry public transactions, which had disgraced his christian profession, and expressing great sorrow on the occasion.

11th. Mr. Furman as chairman to the committee of the churches for conducting the business of a fund, agreeable to a resolve of last year, reported: That the committee had a system of rules under consideration, which were not yet matured; that they had agreed, when the rules were completed, to apply to the legislature for incorporation; and that they conceived it might be proper for the churches to invest the committee, with power to recover and take into their possession all glebes or other property belonging to churches of this connection, which either are, or may become extinct, when liable to revert to the public, or become private property; and apply the same to the interests of the union; in which they desired the concurrence of the association. Also, that the collections from the churches presented at this meeting amounted to 57l. 16s. 11d. The association took up this subject, and after debate, agreed, unanimously, that the proposal has the approbation of this body, both with respect to the subject of incorporation, and enlarging the design of the committee. Agreed farther, that due care ought to be taken to have the business of the committee and their powers fully defined, and that they do not interfere with the reserved rights and privileges of the churches as independent bodies, either in things spiritual or temporal.

12th. The church at Cashaway having removed their seat of worship, their delegates requested that they may be in future known by the name of the church at Mount Pleasant; which was agreed to.

13th. The several letters directed to be written, were produced, read and approved.

14th. Mr. Moderator, at the request of several members, proposed: That this association do testify their approbation of the sermon delivered by Mr. Holcombe at the opening of business, and request a copy for the press, which was unanimously agreed to, and the request accordingly presented.

15th. Appointed Mr. Furman to write the circular letter for the ensuing year, and that the subject be an answer to the following question. In what relation do the children of church members stand to the church: And what method is most adviseable to be pursued with respect to them, both for their own spiritual benefit and the general interests of religion?

16th. Agreed, that the next session of association be at Coofawhatchie, the Saturday before the first Sabbath in November next; Rev. Edmund Botsford to preach the sermon, or, in case of failure, Rev. Alexander Scott.

17th. Collected the money for printing the minutes. Ordered, that the clerk superintend this business, and send the minutes when printed, to the several churches and corresponding associations.



SUBSCRIPTIONS for the BAPTIST ANNUAL REGISTER, published by Rev. John Rippon, of London, which will contain a general account of the Baptist churches in England and America, together with other interesting and important intelligence, and come at about three Shillings sterling a year, are received in Charleston, by

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