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Baptists. Connecticut. Danbury Association, 1811.

Minutes of the ... at Northeast-Town (N.Y.)

October 2d and 3d, A.D. 1811.

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MINUTES

OF THE

Danbury Baptist Association,

HELD AT NORTHEAST-TOWN, (N.Y.)

October 2d and 3d, A. D. 1811.

WEDNESDAY, October 2d.

1. AT half past 10 o'clock, A. M. Brother Joshua Bradley delivered the introductory sermon, founded on Luke 2, 34th, 35th.

2. Chose Brother Bradley, *Moderator*, and Brother Asahel Morse, *Clerk*,

3. Adjourned for one hour.

4. Met again, and after praise and prayer; read the letters from the churches; and took the following list, of members, added, dismissed, excluded, died, and the present number.

N. B. Ordained Ministers names in *Capitals*; those to which an (*) is affixed were not present; from churches marked with † we received no letter.

<i>Churches</i>	<i>Messengers</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dismissed.</i>	<i>Excluded.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Whole No.</i>
†† Suffield	*JACOB WINCHELL Daniel Bester		3		3	128
Merriden	SAMUEL MILLER	28			3	92
† Southington & } Farmington } Litchfield }	_____					55
	John Todd	7				58
	Joseph Westover					
	Jason Walker					
Stratfield	ASAHEL MORSE	7		1	1	155
Roxbury	ISAAC FULLER	6	2	3		100
	Vine Elderkin					
	Elijah Canfield					
Warren	Ebenezer Strong		2		1	37
	Nathaniel Johnson					
† Wolcot & } Bristol }	*DANIEL WILDMAN					99
	Oliver Tuttle					
	Edmund Todd					
Colebrook	*RUFUS BABCOCK	15				150
	Samuel Whitford					
	James Screen					
	Oliver Willcox					
2d Sandisfield	Moses Morse	8		2	3	168
	Marcus Lloyd					

Churches.	Messengers.	Added.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Died.	Whole No.
2d. Dover	Thomas Wheeler Moses Haight					22
East-Hartford	_____					82
† Canton	*JARED MILLS					16
New-Town	JOHN SHERMAN David Bennett					39
1st, Dover	ANANIAS DERTHICK Elijah Booth	4	4	3	2	35
¶ Hartford	John Bolls			4		97
† 1st. Middletown	_____					97
† Winchester	*Isaac Bellows					106
Sharon & } Cornwall }	HEZEKIAH WEST Oliver Hotchkiss A. Hotchkiss	1	6			74
Amenia Town	John Garnsey Geo. D. James. James Holmes	4			2	72
Milton	James Blake		7		2	29
† Berlin	*ENOCH GREEN					29
Northeast Town	ISAAC ALERTON FREEMAN HOPKINS Elijah Roe James Winchell	2		3	2	70
Weathersfield	_____				1	88
North-Haven	JOSHUA BRADLEY					45

Received the church of North Haven this Session.

†† Received from the church of Suffield, information of the death of their Pastor, Rev. John Hasting. He was justly esteemed for piety and usefulness. He was an able councillor, an eminent preacher, and a father in the churches. He lived beloved, and died lamented by a numerous acquaintance. "He fought the good fight; finished his course, and kept the Faith," and is gone (we trust) "to receive a crown of righteousness." "Help Lord for the Godly man ceaseth."

¶ Received, from the church of Hartford, the painful intelligence that they had excluded from their fellowship, their late pastor, Elder Henry Brew.

5. Brethren from sister Associations were invited to sit with us.

6. Brother Enoch Ferris, presented a letter from the Union Association, expressing their desire to be in fellowship with us; which was cordially received, and a correspondence was opened with them.

7. Received from corresponding Associations as follow:—

From Shaftsbury, Messenger, Elder Stephen Olmstead, but no Minutes.

From Warwick, Minutes and Messengers, Elder Ezra Fountain and brother Jonathan Mills.

From Stonington, Minutes. From Groton Union Conference Minutes. From Sturbridge, Minutes. From Saratoga, Minutes and Messenger, Elder Jonathan Finch.

8. The first church of Dover requested a dismission from this to join the Union Association which was granted.

9. There being no circular letter presented, brother Miller was requested to write one and forward it to the Clerk that it might be printed with the minutes.

10. The corresponding letter prepared by brother Alerton, was submitted to brethren Morse, Bradley and Sherman, and the author for inspection and revision.

11. Adjourned 'till 8 o'clock to morrow morning. Prayer by brother Ferris.

12. Thursday met according to appointment. Sang praises, and brother Burch engaged in prayer.

13. Appointed Delegates to sister Associations. To Shaftsbury, Elders Morse and Alerton. To New-York, Elders Morse, Alerton and Hopkins. To Stonington, brother Oliver Tuttle. To Otsego, Elders Wildman and Peck. To Warwick Elder Derthick, and brethren Phileo and Tuttle. To Saratoga, Elder Olmstead. To Warren, Elders Morse, Alerton, and brother Bestor. To Groton U. Conference, Elder Miller and brother Tuttle. To Sturbridge, Elder Babcock and brother Bestor. To Ramsalaerville, brother Phileo. To Union, Elders Morse and Hopkins.

14. Brother Alerton's corresponding letter read and approved.

15. Appointed brother Fuller to write a Circular Letter ; and brother Oliver Wilson a Corresponding Letter for next year.

16. Our next Association to be holden with the church of Merriden, at the Wells Meetinghouse, in Wallingford, on the 1st. Wednesday in October. A. D. 1812, at 10 o'clock A. M. brother Rufus Babcock, to preach the introductory sermon ; and in case of failure brother Alerton.

17. *Missionary business.* Brother Bradley read the Constitution of the Baptist Missionary Society of Connecticut, which was adopted. The members of this Association recommend to the churches whom we represent, this infant institution, and earnestly solicit them to contribute to its support, in the course of the ensuing year, and send what may be collected, by their Delegates to the next Association.

18. The business of the Association being closed, the Moderator delivered a pathetic address and engaged in prayer.

Elder Peck from the Madison Association, preached from Isaiah 12. 5.

At 2 o'clock P. M. Elder Morse, delivered a concluding sermon, founded on 1st. Corinthians, 13th. 13th.

[4]

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The Elders and Messengers of the DANBURY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, to the Churches they represent, send Christian salutation.

DEAR BRETHREN,

PERMIT us to Address you for a few moments on Christian liberty. As it hath pleased our heavenly Father, through rich grace in Jesus Christ, to deliver our souls from the bondage of sin and Satan ; let us stand fast in the liberty wherewith he hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. Although the children of God are free from the ceremonies of the Jewish law ; yet they are bound to him, by the law of love ; and Jesus saith *if ye love me, keep my Commandments*. But fallen imperfect men are prone to wander from the path of wisdom. The day in which we live is full of great events ; the political and moral worlds are shaken to their very centres. The two belligerent powers of Europe are contending, in the most dreadful manner ; each determined to subject the other to slavery. Havoc and devastation mark the progress of their powerful armies ; garments rolled in blood ; cities and towns wrapped in flames, and fruitful fields rendered desolate and barren ; present themselves to the pitying eye of the traveller : The groans of the dying, the lamentations of the widow, and the cries of the orphan ring discordant through their troubled realms. When we turn our attention to the moral world, we behold a more dreadful conflict between the friends and enemies of God. Darkness for a long time, hath spread her sable curtain ; the prince of the power of the air hath reigned in the hearts of the children of disobedience ; mystery Babylon, the mother of Harlots, hath given the nations to drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication ; therefore iniquity abounds, superstition and will-worship are spread abroad ; false doctrines are most industriously propagated, and defended by artful, learned and ungodly men ; who are determined to oppose the Gospel of Jesus, overthrow the Christian religion ; and reduce the world to the most cruel bondage. But blessed be God, their efforts shall be in vain, for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. He hath built his Church upon the rock Christ ; against which the gates of Hell shall never prevail ! Let us then rejoice in the Lord, who hath delivered our souls from death, and darkness, and hath shined into our minds to give the knowledge of the glory of God as it is in Jesus. Then, O then stand fast, and contend for the faith once delivered to the saints. Put on the whole armour of God, fight manfully under the captain of your salvation ; Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance ;

adorn the doctrine of Christ, by a well ordered life and good conversation.

In this way through Jesus you will enjoy true liberty ; For whom the son makes free is free indeed. Pity, O brethren, pity poor sinners who are slaves to sin, and bound fast by the prince of darkness. Beseech the saviour to deliver them, from his galling chain. Remember and pray for those who through rich grace, are brought to enjoy a degree of Gospel liberty ; but are soon caught, by the traditions of senseless unmeaning covenants, and vain superstitions of deluded men. Another evil, against which we are to be guarded is, differences and dissensions among ourselves ; for the Apostle informs us that there shall arise from among your own selves perverse men seeking to draw away disciples after them. Is it not evident at the present day that this is taking place in some of our Churches ? that those who were esteemed as spiritual guides, have fallen from the steadfastness of that faith which they once embraced ; and by that mean are destroying the peace and happiness of Churches in our connexion. The Apostle saith mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which we have learned ; and avoid them. A word to the wise is sufficient. Our blessed Lord informs us, that a house divided against itself cannot stand. Then brethren, beloved in the Lord, let us search the scriptures with diligence, that we may understand the nature, design and end of true liberty ; and that we may never use it as a cloak of maliciousness ; but as the servants of righteousness. And now may God for Christ's sake liberate our souls from the condemning sentence of his law, from the shackles of superstition, and from oppression either in Church or state ; and above all from the fatal consequences of sin ; that we may be a holy, humble and happy people, walking in the glorious liberty of the children of God, till we come to the general assembly, and church of the first born whose names are written in heaven. Amen.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

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The DANBURY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, to the ASSOCIATIONS with whom we correspond :

BELOVED IN THE LORD,

WE rejoice, that we are favored with another opportunity of correspondence with you.

It is still more rejoicing, to hear from you, the state of the Redeemers kingdom ; and the effects of his grace upon your hearts.

We esteem, the religion of Christ the only unfailing support of the immortal mind.

In the dispensation of Grace " Life and immortality are brought to light."

The irradiating Beams of the " SUN of righteousness," illuminate the understanding and warm the heart of man. Guided by his heavenly rays and influenced by the Holy Spirit, all true believers feel the importance of being united in Doctrine and practice—of putting on " the whole armour of God, and of contending earnestly for the Faith, once delivered to the saints."

If we are on the Lord's side, and stand as pillars in the Temple of God, we shall have opposition.

" Those who are born after the flesh will persecute those who are born after the spirit."

Holy brethren, be encouraged to fight the good fight of Faith :—for the " Foundation of God standeth sure," and will remain, when boasting legality shall die, and the craft of Arminius be utterly spoiled.

It is a low time, with most of our churches, though some have enjoyed a " Refreshing from the presence of the Lord." The prophetic vision is fast fulfilling. " The Stone which smote the image, will fill the whole earth." From distant parts, we hear the joyful news of the spread of the Gospel and promulgation of the Scriptures. Jehovah-Jesus is saying " To the North, give up, and to the South, keep not back."

He is bringing his Sons from far, and his daughters from the ends of the earth. He has inspired many of our brethren with a missionary spirit and zeal ; and is sending them where, He, himself will go.

" The wilderness and the solitary places, shall be glad for them ; and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose."

Immanuel is God with us, and God with our converted brethren in Pagan lands.

Notwithstanding, the true light has shined, to many, who sat in darkness in the region and shadow of death ; thousands are yet in ignorance and need assistance.

The command and promise of the Saviour is that the Gospel must and shall be preached to all nations. Brethren, let us do our duty. Let us contribute our mites towards, sending the

Gospel to the destitute. Let us contribute for the support of those Ministers of Christ, who cross hills, vales, and floods, to proclaim the name of Jesus, and redemption and pardon for sinners by a Saviour's atoning blood.

How shall they (who are destitute of the Gospel) believe in *him*, of whom, they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

The revolutions which are succeeding each other, the fall of Empires, and dissolution of Kingdoms, the thirst for blood and absolute dominion, and the slaughter of thousands by the sword, the practical destruction of the papal Hierarchy, and the subjection of the *Man of Sin* by the Emperor of the same Nation, which first invested *him* with regal power, are evidently the fulfilment of *Prophecy*.

Although, *these things* present an awful scene to our view, yet they encourage us, to *pray* for the final dissolution of tyranny and oppression, and the annihilation of the present antichristian connection of Church and State; for the utter subversion of Popish and Mahomedan delusion and the extripation of Pagan Idolatry from the earth; yea, the present crisis affords us much encouragement to pray, for the universal spread of that Gospel which proclaims "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth and good will to man."

Brethren, we receive your letters and messengers with joy, and solicit a continuance of your correspondence; and will endeavor to make like returns.

We subscribe ourselves your affectionate brethren in the "Hope of eternal Life which God (who cannot lie) promised before the world began."

JOSHUA BRADLEY, *Moderator.*
ASAHEL MORSE, *Clerk.*

NOTE.

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JOSHUA BRADLEY.

Wallingford, Conn.