

now, it is nearly four millions, while at the same time there has been a regular increase in each of the Atlantic states. The whole average increase of the nation is in a ratio of about one thousand each day, or nearly four hundred thousand every year. The addition thus made to our numbers in a single year, is almost equal to the whole population of the states of Connecticut and Rhode Island. With such a prospect before us, who can predict the momentous result?—Whether this nation shall be free and happy; or enslaved and wretched, must depend in no small degree upon the labours of this generation, in diffusing the gospel over that vast field which God has committed to us for cultivation. And let us not forget, that as American Baptists we are bound to emulate the zeal and piety of our predecessors. They were the first to declare in favour of religious independence; and they were not among the last in jeopardizing their property and their lives, to secure those civil and religious privileges which we inherit as our dearest patrimony. Let the universal spread of the gospel, and the salvation of the world, become the all-absorbing object of holy enterprise; and let every Christian, with his accustomed morning and evening sacrifice, offer the fervent prayer: "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done upon the earth as it is done in heaven." Then will the redeemed, on earth, ere long, join with those before the throne, saying: "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever."

We would mention with gratitude, that the cause of Jesus is evidently prospering within the bounds of this Association. Two churches have been favoured with a gracious revival of religion; and two have been added to the body, making our present number twenty. One hundred and seventy-nine have been baptized, and one hundred and thirty-four have been added by letter, during the past year; making our present number of members 2570. It is peculiarly gratifying to perceive an increasing zeal in the missionary enterprise; to promote which, nearly \$4,000 have been contributed in various ways. And about \$600 to print the Bible and religious Tracts, in the Burman empire. The importance of Sabbath Schools, the cause of Temperance; and a more strict observance of the Lord's day, continue to be regarded as subjects which demand our fervent prayers and united efforts. The churches of this Association have reported 10 Sabbath Schools, comprising 1634 scholars, and 200 teachers and superintendents, 20 of whom have during the past year been baptized and added to the churches. Two of the schools are said to have been furnished with libraries amounting to 665 volumes. The above statements are unavoidably imperfect; but it is hoped that by a more specific account from each church, we shall be able to render the next year's summary more complete.

In closing our annual epistle we would fervently pray, that grace mercy and peace from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, may rest upon you.—Our next meeting will be held in Troy, on the first Wednesday in August, 1830, when we hope again to be favoured with your Messengers and Minutes.

By order and in behalf of the Association,

SPENCER H. CONE, Moderator.

THOMAS STOKES, Clerk.

CHARLES G. SOMMERS, Assistant Clerk.

missing
pp. 2-3

THE

FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

HUDSON RIVER

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Maintaining inviolably, the important doctrines of three equal persons in the Godhead eternal and personal election; original sin; particular redemption; free justification by the righteousness of Christ imputed; the absolute necessity of the Spirit's operation efficacious grace in regeneration; the obligation of believers to attend to all the precepts of Scripture; the final perseverance of real believers; the resurrection of the dead the general judgment of the last day; the eternal happiness of the righteous, and the everlasting misery of such as die impenitent; the baptism of believers by immersion and the independence of their respective Churches.

HELD IN THE

MEETING-HOUSE OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH, TROY

AUGUST, 4 & 5, 1830.

NEW-YORK:

PRINTED BY GEORGE F. BUNCE, 224 CHERRY-STREET.

1830.

5. Brother S. H. Cone was chosen Moderator; brother Thomas Stokes, Clerk; and brother Wm. G. Miller, Assistant Clerk.

6. Ministering brethren present were invited to a seat and to assist in our deliberations. The invitation was accepted by brethren Platt, Stillwell, Hague, Crawley, Taggart, Hubbal, Sandys, Crosby, Boyd, Brand, Spencer, and Maxwell.

7. The Cairo Baptist Church applied for admission into this Association. Their letter was read, and referred to brethren Simonson, Middleton, and Murphy, who were instructed to make the necessary inquiries respecting their faith and order, and report.

8. The Lattingtown and West Hillsdale Churches made similar applications. Their letters were read, and referred to brethren Hill, Purser, and Humphrey, to inquire into their faith and order, and report.

9. Letters and Messengers from Sister Associations were received.

ASSOCIATIONS.	MINUTES.	MESSENGERS.	BAPTIZED.	TOTAL.
Warren,	—	—	—	—
Boston,	1829	—	179	3151
Salem,	1828	—	325	2264
New-London,	1828	—	120	1922
Hartford,	—	—	—	—
New-Haven,	1829	Frederick Wightman,	115	1326
Shaftsbury,	1830	Olmstead, Heart, Marshall and Keech.	84	2080
Warwick,	—	—	—	—
Renselaerville,	1829	Leonard Fletcher,	22	1050
Saratoga,	1830	Elijah Herrick,	100	2325
Lake George,	—	T. Powell & J. Fletcher,	—	—
St. Lawrence,	1829	—	34	1142
Madison,	1829	John Peck,	51	2570
Oneida,	—	A. M. Beebee,	—	—
Cayuga,	—	John Peck,	—	—
Franklin,	1830	—	531	2332
New-Jersey,	1829	—	81	1074
Philadelphia,	1829	—	116	2914
Delaware,	1829	—	11	520
Baltimore,	1830	—	51	760
Columbia,	1823	—	63	1641
Charleston,	1823	—	726	4757
Abington,	1829	—	36	695
Bridgewater.	1829	A. Stilwell,	70	846

10. The Bridgewater Baptist Association, Pa., solicited the interchange of minutes; which was granted.

11. Brother John Peck, General Agent of the New-York Baptist State Convention, gave an interesting statement of the operations of that Body, and of their want of funds to sustain the Missionaries at present in their employ. Whereupon, it was

Resolved, That brother Peck be requested to preach to-morrow, at 11, A. M., and after the sermon, a collection to be taken up in aid of the Convention.

Resolved, That brethren Perkins, Sommers, and Gilbert, be a Committee to confer with brother Peck, upon the best method of co-operating with the State Convention in their important labours; and report to-morrow.

12. The Committees upon the applications of the *Cairo, Lattingtown,*

and *West Hillsdale* Churches, reported favourably. The Reports were accepted, and it was unanimously resolved to receive those churches as members of the Association; and the Moderator gave to their Messengers severally the right hand of fellowship.

13. *The Circular Letter* written by brother Cone, was read, and referred to brethren Perkins, Loomis, Winterton, and the author.

14. *The Co-responding Letter*, prepared by Brother Welch, was read, and referred to Brethren Sommers, Vaughan, and Harpham.

15. Brethren Brouner, Miller, and Day, were appointed to examine the Minutes of Corresponding Associations.

16. A Committee, consisting of Brethren Willey, Raymond, Stokes, S. Dutcher, and Willis, was directed to report the state of religion within the bounds of the Association.

17. Resolved, That the next *Annual Meeting of the Association* be held with the Church in Poughkeepsie.

18. Brethren Perkins, Raymond, Purser, and Humphrey, were appointed a Committee to report the arrangements necessary for next year. Adjourned to 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Prayer by Brother Hague.

Agreeably to appointment, Brother Sommers preached, at 8 o'clock, P. M., from Matthew, ix. 37. *The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few.* At the close of the discourse, a collection was taken for the New-York Baptist Theological Seminary, amounting to \$14 22.

Thursday, August 5th, 1830. Nine o'clock, A. M.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Brother Wightman.

The Minutes of the preceding day were read, corrected, and approved. The *Rules of Order* were read.

19. The Circular and Corresponding Letters were reported without alteration and adopted.

20. The Committee appointed last year to prepare a Report upon *Letters of Dismission*, and the *Ordination of Elders*, was discharged.

The *Committee of Arrangements* made the following Report, which was adopted, viz:—

21. Brother *B. T. Welch* to preach the *Introductory Sermon* next year, and in case of failure, *Brother Cone*.

22. Brother *B. M. Hill*, to preach in the evening; Brother *Maclay* his substitute. After the Sermon, a collection to be taken up for the benefit of the New-York Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Committee further recommended, that *Circular and Corresponding Letters* be hereafter dispensed with by this Association; and that instead thereof, a Report be annually prepared, containing a brief history of the past year, together with such statistical tables as shall be deemed interesting and important.

After a free and animated discussion of the propriety and practical utility of the preceding *Recommendation*; it was referred to a Committee composed of Brethren Maclay, Perkins, Sommers, Welch, and Hill; who were instructed to prepare a Report upon the subject, and present it at our next Session.

23. The Committee of Arrangements was directed to take into consideration the Circular and Corresponding Letters for next year, and report in the afternoon.

24. The following Sums were communicated for *Missionary purposes*, viz.

From the Poughkeepsie Church			
do	Oliver-street	do	\$17 00
do	Mulberry-street	do	150 00
do	Mount Pleasant	do	46 63
do	Hudson	do	12 00
do	Troy	do	30 00
		do African Mission	\$18 }
		General purposes	65 }
do	Albany	do African Mission	\$12 19 }
		General purposes	50 00 }
do	Albany African Church		5 62
do	Brooklyn	do	6 25
do	Lansingburgh	do	15 00
			\$427 60

25. *Resolved*, that we highly approve the exertions of our churches for the Cause of Missions during the year; and of the amount contributed that the Moderator be instructed to remit *One Hundred Dollars* to H. Lincoln, Esq. Treasurer of the General Convention for Foreign Missions; and that the balance be paid to the accredited Agent of the New-York Baptist State Convention.

Adjourned to 3 P. M. Prayer by Brother Powell.

At 11, A. M. Brother *John Peck* preached from Acts xvi. 9. *Come over into Macedonia and help us.* After the sermon, a collection was taken to aid the funds of the New-York Baptist State Convention, amounting to

Collections for same object from the churches	\$47 75
	327 69
	\$375 44

3 P. M. Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Br. Crawley.

The Committee of Arrangements made the following Report, which was adopted, viz.

26. Brother *Wm. G. Miller* to write the *Circular Letter* for next year, and in case of his failure, Brother *E. F. Willey*.

27. Brother *Loomis* to write the *Corresponding Letter*, and in case of his failure, Brother *Frey*.

28. The Committee on the Minutes of Corresponding Associations reported that they had not found any thing which it was thought necessary to insert in our Minutes. Report concurred in.

29. The Committee appointed to confer with Brother Peck, made the following Report, which was accepted, and the Resolutions adopted.

Your Committee beg leave to report, that they have heard with much pleasure from the General Agent, of the extended operations and increasing usefulness of the Baptist Missionary Convention of the State of New-York; and in view of its present engagements in *Indian Reform*;

as also of the *Missionary labours* contemplated during the ensuing year; and from the fact that its pecuniary resources are limited, and require the immediate aid of the friends of Missions: We therefore recommend the following Resolutions—

I. *Resolved*, That this Association make an effort to raise the sum of \$600 per year, for *Missionary purposes*; which will be an amount of something less than 25 cts. annually, for each member of the Churches here represented.

II. *Resolved*, That the sum of \$100 annually, be paid over to the Baptist Board of Foreign Missions, from the funds collected for missionary purposes in the Hudson River Association: with a view, on the one hand, to aid the cause of Missions in foreign lands, and on the other, to give this Association a representation in the General Convention of the Baptist denomination in the United States.

III. *Resolved*, That the Churches in this Association be earnestly requested to raise their proper portion of the aforesaid \$600, and in whatever way they may judge to be most expedient.

30. The following will be *nearly the several sums* to be contributed by our Churches, in order that the \$600 may be raised, viz. Poughkeepsie, \$18. Oliver-street, \$138. Mulberry-street, \$55. Mount Pleasant, \$11. Hudson, \$28. Troy, \$58. Albany, \$53. Catskill, \$13. Albany African, \$16. South Church, \$34. Brooklyn, \$20. Union, \$27. Lansingburgh, \$13. Mission, \$8. Elizabeth-street, \$21. North Church, \$26. Gibbonsville and West Troy, \$9. Zion, \$3. East Church, \$12. Cairo, \$9. Lattingtown, \$17. West Hillsdale, \$11. Total, \$600.

31. Brother Platt reported, that in compliance with the directions of the Association last year, he had visited the King-street Church; but the reasons given for not sending Letters or Messengers for several years to this Body, not being satisfactory, it was

Resolved, that the King-street Church be dropped from our Minutes.

32. The Trustees of the Ministers' Widows' Fund, having made no disbursements during the year, have only to submit to the Association the following Report of the Treasurer, viz.

<i>The Hudson River Bapt. Ass. in act. with Wm. COLGATE, Treasurer of the Widows' Fund,</i>		Cr.
Aug. 2, 1829.	By balance as per minutes	\$820 00
::	1830. Donation per John Stanford	10 00
::	2, :: One year's interest, at 6 per cent.	49 20
::	5, :: Collections after the Introductory Sermon	28 00
::	:: do from Poughkeepsie Church	1 00
::	:: do Oliver-street	30 18
::	:: do Mulberry-street	18 00
::	:: do Troy	6 00
::	:: do South Church, N. Y.	3 00
::	:: do Union do	2 00
::	:: do North do	1 00
::	:: do Brooklyn	1 00
::	:: do East Church, N. Y.	62
		\$970 00

33. *Resolved*, that Brother William Colgate be requested to retain the Widows' Fund in his hands, until the next meeting of the Association, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, interest.

34. The following brethren were selected to obtain subscriptions and donations for the *Widows' Fund*, viz. Poughkeepsie, *A. Raymond*; Oliver-street, *Theodore Clark*; Mulberry-street, *Wm. Winterton*; Mount Pleasant, *Wm. Sing*; Hudson, *O. Teall*; Troy, *C. Warner*; Albany, *W. S. McIntosh*; Catskill, *N. Jacobs*; Albany African, *F. March*; South Church, N. Y., *John Barker*; Brooklyn, *A. Stewart*; Union Church, N. Y., *J. C. Wood*; Lansingburgh, *Jno. Sands*; Mission Church, N. Y., *Ebenezer Rand*; Elizabeth-street, *Azariah Clark*; North Church, N. Y., *J. H. Townsend*; Gibbonsville and West Troy, *Thos. Shrimpton*; Zion, *Wm. Atkinson*; East Church, N. Y., *Peter Baylen*; Cairo, *David Johnson*; Lattingtown, *Wm. Mitchell*; West Hillsdale, *A. Van Der Boe*.

35. The Committee appointed to consult upon the propriety of altering the time of the Annual Meetings of the Association, Reported in favour of such alteration; whereupon it was, after some discussion,

Resolved, that the *Annual Meetings* of this Association be hereafter held on the last Wednesday in May.

36. In accordance with the views of the Churches generally upon that subject, as expressed in their letters, it was

Resolved, That it is inexpedient to celebrate the Lord's Supper at the Annual Meetings of the Association.

37. The Committee appointed to give a view of the state of religion within the bounds of this Association, *Report*,

That the cause and Kingdom of Christ was never, within our knowledge, more prosperous. All the Churches, with one exception, appear united and happy. Almost every Church has enjoyed the manifestation of the power and love of Christ in bringing his elect ones into his visible kingdom. All are engaged in the Bible Cause; almost all in Bible classes and Sabbath schools. All have entered deeply into the heavenly spirit of missionary enterprise, and generally have united with the different societies which have for their object the suppression of vice, the enlightening of the world, and the salvation of the souls of men, as may be seen by our corresponding letter; and we are happy in being assured, that the blessed Spirit of our God is doing wonders in this section of our country. Respectfully submitted.

38. The Moderator presented a communication from the American Bible Society, giving a view of the situation and wants of that Institution, and inviting the co-operation of our churches.

Whereupon it was unanimously

Resolved, That we cordially approve the resolution of the American Bible Society, passed at their Anniversary in May 1829, to supply every destitute family in the United States with a copy of the Scriptures within two years.

Resolved, That we earnestly recommend to the churches and ministering brethren belonging to this Association, to co-operate as far as practicable, with the American Bible Society, in the circulation of the Holy Scriptures in our own, and other lands, as Divine Providence may open the way.

Standing Resolution:

39. Whereas it hath pleased the Lord to influence many of the friends both of the souls and bodies of men, to make a stand against the desolating custom of drinking intoxicating liquors, therefore

Resolved, That it be recommended to the churches composing this Association, to unite their efforts in the general object of checking the use of the deadly poison, and especially, that they advise their own members to abstain from retailing distilled spirits.

40. The following brethren were appointed messengers to corresponding associations, viz: to Warren, Boston, and Salem, *Perkins*; Hartford and New-Haven, *Hill*; Warwick, *Perkins* and *Purser*; Shaftsbury, *Welch*, *Humphrey* and *Harpham*; Saratoga, *Wayland*, *Harpham* and *Shrimpton*; Madison, *Ostego*, *Cayuga*, and *Oneida*, *Hart*; Rensselaerville and Lake George, *Taggart*; Charleston, *Wilson*.

41. Brethren Maclay, Cone, Welch, Humphrey, Gilbert and Murphy, were appointed Delegates to the New-York Baptist State Convention.

42. Collected for printing the minutes, from Poughkeepsie \$2 50, Oliver-street \$10, Mulberry-street \$3, Mount Pleasant \$1 50, Hudson \$1, Troy \$3, Albany \$5, Catskill \$1 50, Albany African \$1, South Church \$2 50, Brooklyn \$1 50, Union Church \$2, Lansingburgh \$0 75, Mission Church \$1 25, Elizabeth-street \$1 25, North Church \$2 25, Gibbonsville and West Troy \$1 50, East Church \$1, Cairo \$1, Lattingtown \$1 50—Total, \$45.

43. *Resolved*, That we recommend to the churches of this Association, to observe the 4th of July as a day of Public Religious Worship; and that upon that, or any other day which they may deem most convenient, a collection be taken up to aid the African Baptist Mission.

44. Brethren Perkins, Hill, Sommers, Loomis, and Purser, were appointed a committee to inquire what measures can be adopted for the improvement of our Sabbath School Libraries, and Report at the next session.

45. The ministering brethren of the Association were again affectionately solicited to supply with preaching the destitute churches in their respective neighbourhoods, as frequently as possible.

46. David Clark, of Philadelphia, having published a new stereotype edition of *Watts' and Rippon's Hymns*, arranged, we cheerfully recommend the book to our churches.

47. *Resolved*, That we again most affectionately request our Churches to attend punctually on the *Monthly Concert of Prayer for the spread of the Gospel*, and to endeavour by all proper means to excite and strengthen a Missionary spirit among our people; and that they engage with renewed energy and zeal in promoting the interests of *Foreign and Domestic Missions*, which at this moment loudly call for the best exertions, the fervent intercessions, and the liberal donations, of every Christian.

48. *Resolved*, That we continue to regard with lively interest, every effort made to advance the literary progress of our denomination, and that we recommend the *American Baptist Magazine*, printed at Boston; the *N. Y. Baptist Register*, of Utica; the *Columbian Star* and *Chris-*

tian Index, of Philadelphia; and the *Baptist Repository*, of New-York; as useful mediums of communication on Missionary and other subjects, important to the general welfare of our churches.

49. *Resolved*, That this Association highly approve of the exertions now making by the American Sunday School Union, to supply the destitute valley of the Mississippi with Sabbath Schools, and that we earnestly recommend these efforts to the attention of the churches.

50. A memoir of *Ann H. Judson*, late Missionary to Burmah, composed by *James D. Knowles*, has been recently published in Boston, and we hope every member of our Churches that can do so, will obtain a copy of this most interesting and valuable work. It contains not only a narrative of our dear departed Sister's birth, education, conversion to God, Missionary labours, sufferings and death; but presents also a view of the Burman Empire, and a history of the origin, progress, and present flourishing condition of our Mission, to that distant and benighted country. It exhibits the portrait of a woman whose devotional fervour, untiring zeal, habitual patience, and unconquerable fortitude, admirably qualified her for the wise and coadjutor of a Missionary of the Cross. We do most cordially recommend the work, not only because of its intrinsic excellence, but because it is the property of the *Baptist General Convention*, and the profits arising from its sale, are sacred to the cause of Missions.

51. This Association cordially approve the operations of the *Baptist General Tract Society*; we are convinced that religious Tracts have been greatly blessed in the dissemination of truth, and the extension of Messiah's Empire; therefore

Resolved, That we recommend to the churches the formation of Auxiliary Tract Societies, and the purchase and distribution of Tracts, which may be had of the *General Agent in Philadelphia*, or of *I. Van Valkenburgh*, 40 $\frac{1}{2}$ *Chatham-street, New-York*, and *C. P. Pohlman*, *Market-street, Albany*.

52. The Moderator and clerks were directed to superintend the printing and distribution of the minutes.

53. The minutes were read, corrected, and approved.

54. Minutes of Corresponding Associations were distributed.

When about to adjourn, a Brother remarked that we had not raised \$500 for the State Convention, as we *promised* to do last year, if we *could*. We have fallen short \$124 56. Can nothing be done before we separate to redeem our pledge? Yes! I can do, said brother Joshua Harp-han, \$15, Jos. Hastings \$10, Friend Humphrey \$10, Amos Allen \$5, Isaac Lovejoy \$5, E. Loomis \$5, A. Friend \$5, Platt Titus \$5, Thos. Stokes \$5, Wm. Winterton \$5, Apollos Harvey \$5. The Oliver-street brethren not being present, the Moderator put down to them the balance, \$49 56, making up the entire sum of \$500, which was immediately paid to brother John Peck, the General Agent of the State Convention.

The business being finished, the session was closed with an affectionate address and prayer by the Moderator; and the Association adjourned; to meet in Poughkeepsic, May 25th, 1831.

CIRCULAR LETTER.—1830.

The Hudson River Baptist Association, to the several Churches of which she is composed, sendeth love in the Lord Jesus.

DEAR BRETHREN,

The age in which it is our lot to live, is characterized by various and vigorous efforts to meliorate the condition of mankind, and extend the declarative glory of the once crucified, but now exalted Jesus. The benevolent enterprize of enlightening a dark and benighted world by the preaching of the Cross of Christ, is one in which the friends of Zion are deeply interested, and to sustain which they should ardently and perseveringly consecrate their service. It is, however, a melancholy fact, that while *some* are heartily enlisted and actively engaged in this noble cause, *others* either treat it with cold and contemptuous neglect, or openly condemn and depreciate it. Under these peculiar circumstances, we have deemed it expedient to solicit your unprejudiced attention to the subject of CHRISTIAN MISSIONS; with the hope that we shall be enabled to present it in such a manner as may assist you to form a correct judgment, and promote your future usefulness and comfort.

Duly to appreciate the importance of our topic, we must remind you, brethren, that *all men are sinners!* Our first father, it is true, was created in the image of God; but in this state of knowledge and holiness and happiness, he continued not. Seduced by Satan, he wilfully violated the commandment of his Maker; he most impiously sought out many inventions, and involved himself and his posterity in overwhelming guilt and misery. The testimony of God, the history of all nations, our own experience and observation, unite to prove, that men are dead in trespasses and sins; that they are by nature children of wrath, and far off from God by wicked works; they are all gone out of the way; they are altogether become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one!

In the righteous government of Jehovah, guilt must inevitably be overtaken by adequate punishment. *The soul that sinneth, it shall die. Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. Those, mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither and slay them before me.* Such is the language of our final Judge; and from the just vengeance of eternal fire, to which our lost and ruined race is exposed, *Jesus Christ, the God-Man Mediator, is the only Saviour.* In making this statement, we have not followed cunningly devised fables; and irrefragably to establish its truth, need only appeal to the Bible and your own experience. *It is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.* He is the propitiation for our sins, and through Him both Jew and Gentile have access, by one Spirit, unto the Father; and there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. Let the advocates of Mahomedanism,

and Boodhism, and Deism, say what they may, *we know*, that other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ; and all our hope of felicity beyond the grave hangs upon the finished work of Him who hath said, *Look unto me, and be ye saved, all ye ends of the earth: I, even I, am the Lord, and besides me, there is no Saviour.*

Your perfect accordance with these sentiments, we confidently anticipate; and therefore proceed to show, that it is **THE DUTY** of all who love the Saviour's name, to co-operate in sending the word of his grace, to their dying and destitute fellow men. The rule of duty is the commandment of our Lord. Listen then to his words; *All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth: go ye, therefore, and teach all nations.* Apostles and primitive teachers acknowledged the authority of the ascending Saviour: they went every where preaching the Word, and the churches helped them on their way; and in a few years the glad tidings of salvation were proclaimed to millions of the human family, and many, very many, were made obedient to the faith. Is Jesus the Captain of our Salvation? Have we enlisted under his banner? Are we called by his name? and have we taken to ourselves the whole armour of God? We must then cheerfully obey his orders; and when he says, *Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature,* we have an all-sufficient warrant to engage in the Missionary enterprize. It must not be neglected; it is the cause of God; and he who opposes or disobeys the command of the Captain of the Lord's host, should examine himself, whether his conduct be consistent with the character of a soldier of the Cross. The Lord has made known his determination to gather together out of every language and nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, a seed to serve him, and this he will accomplish by the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of truth. Hence we read, that when in the wisdom of God, the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. *And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? and how shall they preach except they be sent?* It is true that all the children of Zion shall be taught of the Lord; but it is equally true that they shall be taught by the ministry of the word. Is the Ethiopian Eunuch to be instructed? The Spirit of the Lord commands Philip to join himself to his chariot, expound the prophecy of Isaiah, and preach to him Jesus. Does it please the Lord to make Cornelius and his friends acquainted with the Messiah? Simon Peter is sent to declare unto them all things that were commanded of God. And to Paul the Lord Jesus said, *Rise, and stand upon thy feet; for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness, both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; delivering thee from the people and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God; that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them that are sanctified through faith that is in me.* He who hath said the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea, hath also said, when this prophecy is to be fulfilled, *many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.* It is a fact, then, clearly revealed, that the Great Trumpet shall be blown in every corner of the earth, and they

shall come that are ready to perish; and the elect shall be gathered together from the four winds, and the Gospel be made the power of God to their salvation; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. This is the order of the divine arrangement; and although there be many who seem anxious to separate the means from the end; ye, brethren, enter not ye into their secret, and to their assembly be not united; for it is written, *what God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.*

To strengthen our faith and animate our hope, while zealously engaged in the discharge of this sacred duty, the Bible furnishes many encouragements. It records

The Promises of the Father to Christ. This is his language to the Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel. *It is a light thing, that thou shouldst be my Servant, to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel; I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation, unto the end of the earth.* Again, he saith, *have set my King upon my holy hill of Zion: ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.* I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; I will say to the north, give up, and to the south keep not back; bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth. Even when it pleased the Lord to bruise the Holy Child Jesus and put him to grief, the most unspeakable joy was set before him in these promises;—*When thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hands. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied.* Our God is faithful to his promises: is faithful to his Son; we may therefore with holy boldness engage: the work of disseminating the good news of salvation by Jesus Christ forasmuch as we know that our labour shall not be in vain in the Lord. And we are yet further stimulated to Missionary exertions,

By the concurrent language of prophecy. Isaiah, the evangelic prophet, who has so minutely described the life and character and sufferings of the Messiah, with equal precision foretells the extension of his kingdom. *It shall come to pass, saith he, in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills, and all nations shall flow unto it. Yea, the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see together.*

David, the man after God's own heart, exclaims with rapture *All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn unto the Lord, and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee. Make a joyful noise unto God all ye lands! Yea, all nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name.*

Daniel, a man greatly beloved, breaks out in the following transportive strain; *I saw in the night visions, and behold one like the Son of Man came with the clouds of Heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him; and there was given him dominion and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away; and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.*

The same delightful prophetic vision of the millennial glory, is ex-

bited in the ^N Testament. *John the Baptist* rejoiced to hear the Bridegroom. *He* and said, this my joy therefore is fulfilled; for *He must increase, and I must decrease.* An angel commissioned from the throne of Heaven, said to the shepherds *Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall come to all people.* The Saviour himself, just before he was parted from his disciples and carried up into Heaven, said unto them; *Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.* And *John*, the beloved disciple, saw an angel fly in the midst of Heaven, *having the everlasting Gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth,* and to every nation, and kindred and tongue, and people; and he heard the seventh angel sounding, and there were great voices in heaven, saying, *the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever.*

We have selected a few only of the many passages which describe the Redeemer's growing empire; they are however abundantly sufficient to show us that the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it; and He is not a man that he should lie, neither the son of man that he should repent; hath he said, and shall he not do it? Or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

In our efforts to spread the glorious gospel of the blessed God, we are greatly encouraged by the promised aid of the Holy Spirit. When Jesus sent forth his Apostles to preach, he said, *Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world;* by which he meant, that he would be present with them, by his Spirit, to guide, and comfort, and support them, and enable them so to speak that great multitudes should believe. One of the distinguishing features of the Gospel dispensation is, the pouring out of the Spirit from on high; and hence Paul, comparing it with the old dispensation, says, if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious; how, shall not the ministration of the Spirit, be rather glorious? Jesus assured his Disciples that they should accomplish greater things than himself, because he would go to the Father,—and send the Spirit, to convince the world of sin, and righteousness, and judgment to come; and these astonishing words were elucidated, when thousands of precious souls were converted under the preaching of Peter. The success of Preachers of the Gospel is constantly ascribed to this cause. It is neither by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit saith the Lord of Hosts. When Paul preached, the Lord opened the heart of Lydia, and she attended to the things that were spoken; and wherever the Apostles went, the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. Brethren, the weapons of our warfare are mighty through God, to the pulling down of strong holds, and be assured that the word of truth, accompanied by the life-giving influences of the Spirit of Grace, shall run, and have free course, and be glorified.

In addition to these scriptural grounds of encouragement, the Lord has been graciously pleased, in these latter days, to crown the efforts of his people to spread abroad the knowledge of his name, with signal suc-

cess. Apart from what has been accomplished by the instrumentality of Missionaries of other denominations, in Africa and Asia, and the Islands of the Sea; the blessings conferred immediately upon us and the labourers in our employ, should provoke us to redoubled exertion. Carey, Ward, and their faithful co-adjutors, have already given the Bible in their own tongues, to millions of the idolatrous inhabitants of the East; Judson and his fellow labourers, have prepared for the press the New Testament, and an epitome of the old, in Burmese; together with several religious tracts; and every recent communication from that distant and dark quarter of the globe, cheers our hearts with the glad tidings of Burmans, and Siamese, and Karens, born into the Kingdom. Although our efforts are few and feeble, compared with what they ought to be, yet the Great Head of the Church is evidently smiling upon them, both at home and abroad; among the destitute in our States and territories; the red men of our native forests, and the inhabitants of foreign climes. We mean not to present this measure of success as defining or constituting our obligation to labour in the vineyard; no; that obligation is founded upon the command of Christ; but we may with propriety hold it up to view, as being well calculated to urge us to the extensive and vigorous employment of THOSE MEANS which have already elicited the approbation of Heaven.

And now, Brethren, with all these promises, and predictions, and successes, before us, what are the motives by which we should be actuated in striving to advance the cause of God and truth? Are we the children of the most High God? Have we received the Spirit of adoption, and when we cry Abba, Father! does God the kindred own? As obedient children, what incentive do we need to the prompt discharge of duty beyond the revealed will of our Father who is in Heaven? Does He make known his wishes and intentions? They should be to us a law. But, beloved to stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance, permit us to suggest, as a powerful and constraining motive,—

The love of Christ. O Christian! what language can describe it? The love of Jesus passeth knowledge. He came down from the high abodes of bliss and glory, to die for us, miserable sinners. *He was rich, but for our sakes became poor, that we, through his poverty, might be rich.* Oh the depth of wretchedness and guilt, from which his boundless and unmerited love, raises the broken and contrite spirit. And has this love been shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost given unto us? Has God commended his love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us? Then surely, we must say, in the language of a devoted, and laborious, and successful Missionary, *the love of Christ constraineth us, because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead; and that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him who died for them, and rose again.* Brethren, we are not our own, we are bought with a price, even the precious blood of the Lamb of God! may this consideration bring every thought into the obedience of Christ; and may we from the heart henceforth be enabled to say—*none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself; for, whether we live we live unto the Lord, or whether we die we die unto the Lord; living therefore, or dying, we are the Lord's.*

To the love of Jesus, we must add, as an all-pervading motive, our relationship to the Human family. Whatever infidels may say about the different races of mankind, and the various sources whence they are derived; we believe that *God hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth.* But the inspired volume, whence we obtain the knowledge of this fact, also assures us that this whole world of immortal beings, descended as they are from one common parent, and bound together as they ought to be by the strong ties of consanguinity, are justly exposed to unutterable and eternal woe! And that same Holy Book confirms the glorious truth, that *God is love*; that he hath devised a way to save the guilty and miserable sons and daughters of Adam; that he hath *so loved the world as to give his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him might not perish, but have everlasting life.* We have received this message in the love of it, and hope to be saved from the wrath which is to come; but there are millions of our family, bone of our bone, and flesh of our flesh, who have never so much as heard that there is a Saviour. They are wandering through a waste howling wilderness without a guide. Their frail barks are tossed upon the ocean of life; their sins, like rude winds, driving them to swift destruction; and they, alas! without a compass, and without a Pilot! While recognizing the kindredship of the nations, dear Brethren, think of their state, think of the Heathen; and of the tyranny, and sensuality, and oppression, and idolatry, and suffering, under which they now are groaning! Estimate, upon Bible principles, the value of their precious souls, and then say,

*Can we, whose souls are lighted, with wisdom from on high,
Can we, to men benighted, the Lamp of life deny!
Salvation! Oh, salvation! the joyful news proclaim,
Till earth's remotest nation has learned Messiah's name!*

Bear with us, while we name one motive more;—
The desire to be useful. In primitive days, when an individual was brought to the knowledge of the truth, one of his first acts was to bring others within the sound of the Gospel. No sooner is Andrew permitted to fix his believing gaze upon the Lamb of God, than he findeth his brother Simon, and he brought him to Jesus. This desire to be useful, is strikingly exemplified in Saul of Tarsus. Immediately upon his conversion, he asks the grateful question, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And his after life proved with what cheerful alacrity, and holy delight, he devoted body, soul, and spirit, to the service of his Divine Redeemer; and this he did, too, *for the elects' sake, that they might obtain that salvation which is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.* Let us tread in the footsteps of these devoted men, and instead of looking only upon our own things, let us look, *with generous solicitude*, upon the things of others. Why should we wish to stay in this world? *What is there here worth living for*, if we are not occupied in extending and establishing the kingdom of Jesus Christ? We beseech you, Brethren, to contemplate this last motive, with special reference to your duty as churches. You are cities on an hill that cannot be hid; you are *golden candlesticks*; and to hold forth the light of divine truth to others was one great end of your organization; take heed, lest your light be put

under a bushel. You were not gathered together for your own comfort and edification, *merely*, that you might enjoy the ordinances of God's house, and sit together in heavenly places in Christ; *but that through your instrumentality*, the Gospel might be sounded out in all the earth, that men might hear, and fear, and turn unto the Lord, when the times of refreshing shall come from his presence. *Emulate the example of the Church at Antioch*, where the disciples were first called Christians. With what cheerfulness did they send forth their favourite preachers, *Barnabas and Saul*, that they might proclaim the glad news of salvation to the destitute! And not only did they generously part with these brethren, whose labours of love had been so greatly blessed among themselves, but they contributed freely of their substance to sustain them on their journey; and when they returned from their *Missionary Tour*, and rehearsed all that the Lord had done by them, it caused great joy to all the brethren. *Finally, we commend you to God, and to the word of his grace.* May the Cause of Missions, which is the Cause of Jesus, find its proper place in your hearts' best affections; and may love to Christ, the worth of immortal souls, and an ardent desire to be useful to the human family, to your kinsmen according to the flesh, conspire to make you more than ever zealous for the promotion of Messiah's Kingdom in the Earth. *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches.*

SPENCER H. CONE, Moderator.

THOMAS STOKES, Clerk.

WILLIAM G. MILLER, Assistant Clerk.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The Hudson River Baptist Association, to the Associations with whom they correspond, send Christian salutation.

DEAR BRETHREN,

The object of our annual correspondence is not only to convey to our brethren, the "partakers of a like precious faith," an expression of sincere christian affection; but also to communicate information of the progress and welfare of our churches, and to encourage each other in the holy labours and arduous conflicts of the kingdom of Christ. In engaging in this pleasing duty of Christian fellowship, we would humbly acknowledge our obligations to the God of love, who has graciously preserved our lives, watched over the interests of the church, and given us abundant cause to offer our united and grateful praise to the throne of grace; for while the truth as it is in Jesus possesses to us the same quickening power to high and holy excitement, the events of the past year as detailed in the letters of our churches, present no cause for sor-

row or despondency, but powerful incentives to fervent gratitude, ardent effort, and humble joy. You will perceive by the following statement, that although we cannot invite you to rejoice with us in those Pentecostal effusions of the Holy Spirit, by which the powers of darkness are sometimes shaken and multitudes rejoice in the grace and truth of Jesus, yet the precious cause of God and righteousness is advancing within our boundaries; and what is equally a matter of joyous congratulation, the churches continue to manifest a steadfast adherence to the truth, are united in mutual love and zealous co-operation in effort for the advancement of the Saviour's kingdom and glory.

The Association is at present composed of delegates from 24 churches. Since our last session, there have been added by Baptism 277; by letter 138; making our present number 2873. The zeal and liberality of our brethren during the past year, have produced for the Foreign Mission \$1500; for Domestic Missions \$1200; for other objects connected with the interests of Zion \$1250. The churches report in their letter 17 Sabbath schools, containing 1805 pupils, and 284 Superintendents and Teachers. In connexion with this subject, it is peculiarly gratifying to state, that of these little ones rescued from ignorance and wretchedness, by the pious labours of the children of God, several have become signal examples of divine power and compassion, and are now united to the household of faith, being heirs together of the grace of life. Of these schools 7 are provided with Libraries, containing 1650 volumes, and the whole appear to be under judicious management, and in successful operation.

In thus communicating our labours and progress, we would not be understood as intimating that all has been done that can, or ought to be accomplished by us; far from it; it is more than an hypocritical expression of feigned humility, it is the conviction of the mind, the deep feeling of the heart that induces the confession, that in all things we have come short, and have proved ourselves unprofitable servants. We have much to regret, that with all the holy stimulants the Saviour's love and grace imparts, and all the momentous interests involved in the labours of the church, that we have not been more constantly, earnestly, and efficiently engaged in the cause of "God's dear Son." To him as the exalted head and Mediator of the church we are indebted for all that is precious in Christian consolation, and elevated, and joyous in a Christian's hope; it is our heart's desire and prayer to God, that we may realize the extent and importance of our sacred obligations, and practically manifest our conviction of the truth, that the devotion of body, soul, and spirit, is not only a reasonable service, but an exalted privilege.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus, and professedly identified with the cause of him who "was despised and rejected of men," and uniting our energies for the advancement of a kingdom not of this world, it is not surprising that we should be subject to affliction and confronted by foes; that without are fightings and within are fears. We may mourn over the paralyzing influence of sin in our own hearts, and behold its wide spread desolations in "a world lying in wickedness;" infidelity may throw aside the mask that has so long concealed her deformity, and appear openly and unblushingly arrayed against the church and truth of God, yet what are afflictions, and what are foes, contemplated in the light of

eternal truth? the tendency of the one is to prepare us for the rest that remaineth for the people of God; the destiny of the other, to fall before the resistless power of the Captain of our salvation—all the perfections and purposes of Jehovah Jesus, and all the promises of the new and everlasting covenant, ensure the ultimate peace and prosperity of Zion and the glory of her king. Then, amid the sufferings of this present time, the confusion and pollution that surround us, our own imperfections and weakness, and the rage and power of the adversary, we may triumph in the immutability, faithfulness and power, of our covenant head. In the exercise of faith that imparts distinct visibility to things not seen, it is our privilege to enter into the feelings, and to imitate the animated confidence of a humble believer, "the Lord reigneth, let the earth rejoice." In possession of the pledges of infinite love, and in the bright prospect of everlasting felicity, we may unite even upon earth in the triumphant song of the glorified church, "the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth, let us rejoice and be glad and give honour to Him." Confidence in God, and the certain accomplishment of his purpose and promise, do not supercede the necessity of Christian exertion, but rather demand our highest effort in holy enterprise and vigorous execution. The purposes of God, as developed by his Providence in the advancing glory of the Saviour's reign; the Promises of God in their progressive fulfilment, should arouse us from our spiritual lethargy, and impart a sacred energy to all our measures. Let us then exert a holy courage in a conflict that must terminate in glorious victory, and a persevering industry in labours that involve the happiness of man and the interests of eternity; the toil and suffering are limited to time, the rewards of grace are glorious and eternal.

In concluding our annual Epistle, we sincerely pray for the direction of the Holy Spirit in your councils, and the blessing of heaven upon your labours. Our next Association will convene at *Poughkeepsie*, on the *last Wednesday in May 1831*; when we anticipate the favour of your letters and Messengers.

SPENCER H. CONE, *Moderator.*

THOMAS STOKES, *Clerk.*

CHARLES G. SOMMERS, *Assistant Clerk.*