

ments it may often need to be steadied. Are the hands that shall be outstretched in the sudden service, like those of Uzzah, rash and unconsecrated, or are they such, by habitual watchfulness, as God requires in approaching His purity, *holy, without wrath or doubting?* Oh! if the deep and fervid piety of Baxter, and Owen and Bunyan were needed in their times, when society moved deliberately, and the slow progress of events allowed time for reflection in shaping their plans, and leisure for their correction when defective, how much more intense and thorough is the spirit of devotional watchfulness demanded in an age like ours, when men, who act at all, must act speedily, and when they are hurried on by the stream of events with a swiftness which leaves little room to amend that which is erroneous, or supply that which is deficient. The characteristic energy and promptitude of social action, as it presents itself in our midst, demands an immediate and general advancement in personal holiness. We must be men deeply taught, imbued, and saturated with the Spirit—men who are wont to obtain an immediate access to our Heavenly Father, and receiving habitually speedy answers from our Heavenly Teacher, or how shall we save ourselves, and the sinners that surround us? Our follies will else betray the cause that we love. Oh! that God would teach us this lesson! Oh! for a revival of personal holiness in the churches!

Another most fearful snare of our times is the publicity and applause, which now accompany the movements of the Church of God. Through many years she travelled in comparative obscurity; the world from their eminence did not deign to regard her march, or observed but to condemn and deride. It is now far otherwise. Religion has become reputable. The path of the church is not now in the sequestered valley, through the calm and silent shades of retirement, while the fountains that gladden the lowly in heart spring fresh and bright at her feet; but, on the contrary, her course is, in these times, on a high and giddy elevation, on the arid and precipitous eminences of popular admiration. It is difficult, indeed, at such times to preserve that purity of motive, and that singleness and simplicity of intention, and above all that profound humility, which God requires to be brought to every work that he will delight to honour. Even the watchful and experienced Christian finds himself tempted to act from ostentation, or from a spirit of unholy rivalry; and instead of approving himself to God, and walking in the light of his countenance, he is sunning himself in the smiles of the world, and trimming his course, so as he may best catch the eye of her admiration—Oh! for more honesty of heart—for the uprooting from every bosom of that detestable pride which is abomination in the eyes of the Crucified and Holy One. Brethren, if we would be saved, we must examine ourselves, and look to it, lest our most solemn services, our largest contributions, and even our most earnest prayers, be tinged with that Pharisaical ostentation, which *has verily its reward—its portion of glory in this life*, and in the day of judgment, rebuke and exposure, *shame and everlasting contempt*. The habitual attitude of the church must become that of prayerfulness. Upon our knees we must form our plans,—thus, we must apportion our gifts,—and in this posture school and purge our motives. If ever a devotional spirit were required by the peculiar circumstances of an age, it is in our own day and land. And may the grace of God follow even these suggestions, lest it be ill with us in the end, and they that succeed us exclaim: "These are the men that would do the work of God, in their own strength, and for their own purposes, and God allowed them to climb that they might fall; and here they lie, crushed and unburied, the monuments to all times of the inveterate treachery of the heart, and the certain and tremendous vengeance of God."

We need this constant resort to supplication, not only to purify our own hearts, but for the successful development and accomplishment of our various schemes of good. The Monthly Concert of Prayer for Missions will, we hope, in this light become a settled and solemn service, and be devoutly and punctually attended by all our churches. We would close by suggesting to the members of our churches the propriety of uniting with our brethren of other denominations, (as did many of our sister churches in New-England and this state, at the commencement of the present year), in the observance of the first Monday of the coming year, as a day of solemn prayer for the conversion of the world. In addition, those of our brethren, who recognize the duty, may make it also a time of religious fasting. The prayers offered up in January last were met, as many of our number may have learned, with a most gracious and immediate answer. And now would that it were ours to command the solemn and profound feeling, which the occasion demands, whilst pressing in weakness upon your hearts, the simple but the fearful truth: True religion is not mere activity, nor mere knowledge, nor mere zeal, but it is "the life of God in the soul of man." He that would commend it, must possess it himself, and its possession is secured only in the spirit of prayer—prayer fervent and untiring. The apostolic admonition was designed by omniscience for our age, and to warn us individually. "BE YE THEREFORE SOBER AND WATCH UNTO PRAYER."

NINETEENTH 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 KINGSTON BAPTIST CHURCH, ULSTER COUNTY, N. Y.

JUNE 17, 18, & 19, 1834.

NEW-YORK:

PRINTED BY JOHN GRAY, 110 FULTON-STREET.

1834.

THE CONSTITUTION

OF THE HUDSON RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Adopted August 23, 1816, and as subsequently amended.

ARTICLE 1. This Association shall be known by the name of *The Hudson River Baptist Association*; and shall be composed of Ministers and Delegates only, who are members of the Churches they represent; excepting such as may be invited to a seat, by the consent of the Body.

ART. 2. This Association shall meet annually, on the second Tuesday in June, at two o'clock, P. M. at the place previously appointed.

ART. 3. After public worship, the Association shall proceed to choose a Moderator and Clerk.

It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside and lead in all the transactions of the meeting, and to see that order and decorum are observed by all the members.

It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a fair and impartial record of all the business transacted during the session.

Both shall continue in office until succeeded by new appointments.

ART. 4. At the first meeting of this Association, a Secretary shall be chosen, to continue in office at the pleasure of the Association, whose duty shall be to take charge of all the records, and to correspond with such Societies, Churches, or individuals, as the Association shall direct.

ART. 5. It is expected that the Churches will send, with their messengers and letters to the Association, an account of the state of their respective Churches; particularly of the additions and diminutions in the past year, and generally of whatever relates to their peace and prosperity, together with the whole number of members in communion. With these letters, each Church shall forward money for the printing of the Minutes.

ART. 6. Churches who wish to be received into this union, may apply by letter and messengers; and giving satisfactory information of their being sound in doctrine, and correct in practice, they may be received; and as a token of the same, the Moderator, in behalf of the Association, shall give them the right hand of fellowship.

ART. 7. Although as an Associated Body we utterly disclaim all power over the Churches, so far as it respects an interference with their independency and discipline; yet we deem it our privilege to judge for ourselves, of the propriety of continuing any Church in our connexion, which to us shall appear to be heterodox in principle, or irregular in practice. In order, however, that we may not withdraw our fellowship without sufficient reason, it is proposed, that when a complaint is made by any two Churches of this body, against a Church belonging to the Association (if thought expedient,) they shall appoint a Committee, who shall request a conference with said Church, in order to obtain satisfaction on the points which formed the subject of complaint, and the result shall be reported to the next meeting of the Association, in order that they may decide as duty may require.

ART. 8. When a Church shall neglect making any communication to the Association for the space of three years together, it shall be considered as having withdrawn from us, and of course shall be dropped from the Minutes, unless two or more members shall request their con-

tinuance, and will also engage to inquire into their standing, and report at the next meeting of the Association.

ART. 9. The Association shall have a right to open and hold correspondence with other Associations, as it may think proper.

ART. 10. It shall be the duty of the Association, from time to time to suggest to the Churches what they may think most expedient to be done to promote the spreading of the Gospel in the world.

ART. 11. This Association, when convened, shall appoint the time and place of their next annual meeting, select a person or persons to preach on the occasion, make any other appointments, or transact any other business, they may judge expedient, and shall, from time to time make such amendments and alterations to this Constitution as experience may dictate.

RULES OF ORDER, Adopted August 3d, 1825.

- I. The Moderator and Clerk shall be annually chosen by ballot, immediately after reading the letters and credentials; those of the former year continuing in office till the choice is made.
- II. At every sitting, business shall be opened and concluded with prayer by the Moderator, or whomsoever he may request.
- III. Ministers present, invited to a seat with us, may debate on all subjects, but vote on none.
- IV. No member of the Association shall absent himself without leave of the Moderator.
- V. No subject shall be discussed, without a motion first made and seconded.
- VI. No person shall speak oftener than twice on any motion, unless by permission of the Moderator.
- VII. Motions made and lost, shall not be recorded upon the minutes except so ordered at the time.
- VIII. If, when a motion has been made and seconded, a member opposes its being discussed, the Moderator shall immediately put the question, "*Shall this question be discussed!*" which if negatived, the subject shall be dismissed.
- IX. If any proposition or motion under debate contain two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member, and the votes taken separately.
- X. Arrangements for the next Association, shall not be attended to on the first day of the session.
- XI. On the opening of business the second day, the roll of the messengers commissioned by the churches, shall be called, and the names of those who have not arrived shall be stricken off. Nevertheless, ministers and licentiates shall be inserted with the mark of absence.
- XII. The minutes shall be leisurely read and corrected, before the rising of the Association.
- XIII. In distributing the minutes at the close of the Association, one member from each church shall come forward. If a surplus remains after these are supplied, they may be taken indiscriminately.
- XIV. These rules shall be distinctly read from the chair, immediately after the organization of the Association.

MINUTES

OF THE

HUDSON RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

1. At 3 o'clock, P. M. the introductory Sermon was preached by Br. Charles G. Sommers, from Psalm xc. 12. *So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.* Prayer by Br. A. D. Gillett.

2. Took up a collection in aid of the WIDOWS' FUND, amounting to \$12 02.

At the close of public worship, there was an intermission of ten minutes, at the expiration of which the Moderator called the Association to order. Prayer by Br. Ira M. Allen of Philadelphia.

3. Made some progress in reading the letters from the Churches, and then adjourned to tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock. Prayer by Br. Archibald Maclay.

Agreeably to appointment, Br. Wm. R. Williams preached at half past 7 o'clock, P. M. from 2 Cor. x. first clause 10th verse. *For his letters (say they) are weighty and powerful.* Prayer by Br. Octavius Winslow.

After the Sermon a collection was taken up in aid of the New-York Baptist Theological Seminary, amounting to \$13 79.

Wednesday, 18th June, 9 o'clock, A. M.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Br. Geo. Benedict.

4. Finished reading the Letters from the Churches and took minutes of their changes the past year, and present situation, as follows, viz.

N. B. The names of ordained Ministers are in SMALL CAPITALS, those of licentiates in *italics*. Those not present are marked thus. * A _____ denotes no settled minister.

CHURCHES.	MINISTERS AND MES- SENGERS.	Restored.	Baptized.	Rec'd by Letter or experience.	Dis. by Let.	Excluded.	Deceased.	Total.	When Constituted.
Poughkeepsie.	Dea. Benjamin L. Briggs, Jarvis W. Goman. SPENCER H. CONK, *F. WAYLAND, SEN. *DANIEL HALL, *LUKE DAVIES, *EBENEZER LOOMIS. JOHN W. GIBBS, JOHN C. MURPHY,		11	2	5	1		109	1807
Miner-street, N. Y.	Dea. Wm. Colgate, " James Wilson, " Isaac Newton, " Nathan C. Platt. Wm. Butler, Silas J. Evans, Isaac D. Rawlings, Henry Oldring, Jr.	1	39	28	27	4	15	742	1795

CHURCHES.	MINISTERS AND MES- SENGERS.	Restored.	Baptized.	Rec'd by Let. or Experience.	Dis. by Let.	Excluded.	Deceased.	Total.	When Constituted.
Mulberry-st. N. Y.	ARCHIBALD MACLAY, *James Delaree, Dea. Thomas Day, " William Winterton. " G. W. Platt, George Hatt, R. E. Peterson, James Goadby, J. P. Simpson,		9	5	15	3	4	327	1809
Mount Pleasant.	*JOHN PUTRESS, Leonard Bleecker.	1			2	2		52	1790
Hudson.	*ISRAEL ROBAKDS, WILLIAM RICHARDS, *WILLIAM STURGESS, Horace Spencer, Dea. Simeon S. Hathaway. Henry P. Skinner, James B. Van. Buren.	1	8	3	9	3	2	167	1810
Troy.	BENJAMIN M. HILL, Gideon Buckingham, John Campbell. B. T. WELCH, Dea. Friend Humphry, " Chas. Poliman.	1	8	13	111	9	1	357	1795
Albany.	John Marshall, John Christie, William Wright, William Weaver, Jno Lansing Burroughs.	2	24	22	27	11	4	327	1811
Catskill.	THOMAS DOWLING. John Ashley. Thomas Ritchie, Dea. Charles Morton, " Wm. Griffen,		6	4	7	1	1	72	1803
Albany African.	John Topp, Richard Thompson.		4	3	5	8		131	1821
South Baptist Church, New-York.	CHARLES G. SOMMERS. J. H. Greenman.		34	7	10		2	322	1822
Brooklyn 1st. Church New-York.	LELAND HOWARD, JONATHAN GOING, *C. C. P. CROSBY.		25	19			1	167	1823
Stanton-st. Ch. N. Y.	Geo. BENEDICT.		44	18	4	1	1	233	1823
Lansingburgh.	CHARLES B. KEYES. Lewis Filkins.		1	2	14	3	1	133	1804
North Church, N. Y.	JACOB H. BRONNER, *Samuel Barnard, *David Sampson, Sen. Dea. Jas. H. Townsend.		10	19	15	6	2	176	1827
Gibbonsville and West Troy.	ASHLEY VAUGHN, Dea. Thos. Shrimpton.		2	16	8		2	125	1828
Zion, Orange Co.	ARCHIBALD C. SANGSTER. Hobart Gregg.		9	2	1			43	1823
East Baptist Church, New-York.	Jno. MIDDLETON, Chas. W. Denison, *Wm. J. Loomis. Dea. Josiah Hull. John Coapman.		15	9	2	2		101	1829

CHURCHES.	MINISTERS AND MES- SENGERS.	Restored.	Baptized.	Rec'd by Let. or Experience	Dis. by Let.	Excluded.	Deceased.	Total.	Wives Constituted.
Cairo.	THOMAS STOKES, David Johnson,				12			48	1799
Lattintown.	Dea. Oliver Corman, " John Hammond.	7			1	1		93	1812
West Hillsdale.	SAMUEL POMROY, Dea. Adam Van De Boe, Robert S. Vandetsen.	7	3			1		75	1800
Brooklyn 2d Church.	Letter.			1	2	1		37	1831
Schenectady.	A. D. GILLETT, E. Andrews, *Wm. H. Hadley, *Samuel B. Willis.	1	58	5	7	1	2	242	1822
Kingston.	MANSFIELD BARLOW, Dea. R. Nichols, Harvey Otis, Peter Burhans, Simonds S. Barnes, Daniel L. Wells.	1	4	5	45	1		48	1831
Pleasant Valley.	Titus Bishop,			2				36	
Newark, N. J. 2d Ch.	P. L. PLATT,			1				26	1831
2d Ch. Broome.	JOHN ORMSBEE, Cranston B. Kingsley.					1		52	1831
Westkill Church Lexington.	ISAAC MOORE, Henry Closson.	1	3	1	2			61	1831
Athens.	C. C. WILLIAMS, Dea. G. S. Turner, " E. S. Fox.	21	8	1	1			69	1832
Broome-street, N. Y.	JOHN MITCHELL, Archibald Forrester. WILLIAM R. WILLIAMS, *DANIEL WILLIAMS, *Aaron Rund,	6	5			1		47	1833
Amity-street, N. Y.	James Sadgebury, Robert King, Stephen Dodge, Wm. H. Byron.	17	27	5				99	1832
Central Bapt. Church New-York.	OCTAVIUS WINSLOW, Dea. Robert F. Winslow, Wm. C. Dusenberry, Daniel Chase, H. J. Winslow.	14	12	2		1		43	1833
Cozsackie.	REUBEN WINEGAR, JUN. THOMAS LARCOMBE,	8	3	3		1		47	1832
Saugerties.	Ignatius T. Dumont. A. B. Burhans.	1	2					47	1833
Matteawan.	ISAAC BEVAN, Thomas G. Boone.	1	1					10	1834
Kinderhook.	MOSES FIELD, Dea. S. W. Manman, Z. E. Reynolds.		1			1		23	1833
Phillipstown 1st. Ch.	ISAAC BEVAN, Miles Bunnell.	3	5			1		19	1833
		5397	256	341	59	45	4706		

5. Brother Spencer H. Cone was chosen Moderator; and Brother Robert F. Winslow, Clerk.

6. The rules of order were read.

7. Ministering brethren present were invited to a seat and to assist in our deliberations.

Invitations accepted by Brethren Norman Fox, Robert Turnbull and Wm. Hutchinson.

8. The Churches of Saugerties, Matteawan, Kinderhook, and first Church Phillipstown, applied for admission into this Association.

The Letters were read and referred to Brn. Wm. Richards, George Benedict, Mansfield Barlow, Wm. Winterton and Reuben Winegar; who after having retired, returned and reported favourably on all the applications; whereupon it was unanimously

Resolved, That they be received into this Association, and the Moderator gave to their Messengers the right hand of fellowship.

9. Letters and Messengers from sister Associations were received.

ASSOCIATIONS.	MIN.	MESSENGERS.		BAP.	TOTAL.		
Cayuga,	1833	Jno. Peck,		135	2249		
Lake George,	1833	N. Fox,		98	968		
Philadelphia.	1833	Ira M. Allen,		721	3882		
Shaftsbury,	1832	E. D. Hubbell, and Saml. Cole,			1509		
Saratoga,	1832	Sylvester S. Parr,			1878		
Stephentown,	1833	P. Roberts, and F. S. Park.		82	1498		
Union, N. Y.	1833	Bevan, Osburn and Turnbull,		71	1245		
Washington, N. Y.	1833	N. Fox.		84	1635		
		BAP.	TOTAL.	ASSOCIATIONS.	MIN.		
Abington, Pa.	1833	152	1122	Michigan,	1833	62	921
Accomac, Va.	1833	142	599	New Haven, Con.	1833	64	1707
Baltimore, Md.	1833	25	824	New Jersey,	1833	376	2098
Beaver, Pa.	1833	51	761	New London,	1833	168	1959
Boston,	1833	233	4556	Niagara,	1833	119	1438
Bridgewater, Pa.	1833	127	1245	Oneida, N. Y.	1833	205	2465
Central, N. J.	1833	119	1080	Ontario, N. Y.	1833	280	2484
Charleston,	1833	432	5354	Otsego, N. Y.	1833	106	2185
Columbia.	1833	192	2324	Portsmouth, N. H.	1833	23	714
Delaware,	1832		636	Renselaerville,	1833	39	1131
Franklin, N. Y.	1833	187	2350	Salem,	1833	232	3643
Genesee, N. Y.	1833	277	1346	St. Lawrence,	1833	115	1736
Grand River, O.	1833	67	987	Union, Pa.	1833	510	1659
Hartford, Con.	1833	47	1905	Warren, R. I.	1833	189	3713
Ketockton, Va.	1832		1784	Warwick,	1832		1309
Madison, N. Y.	1833	139	2735	Westfield,	1833	59	1391

10. A Communication was read by brother Peck, agent of the New-York State Convention; whereupon it was

Resolved, That Br. S. H. Cone be appointed to preach this evening, at half past 7, at the Meeting House of the Reformed Dutch Church, they having kindly offered their House for that purpose; and that a collection be taken up in aid of the Convention.

11. Resolved, that brethren Maclay, Howard, Welch, Colgate and Bleecker, be a Committee to confer with Br. Peck, and report on the best method of promoting the important objects of the New-York State Convention.

12. The Niagara Association solicited a correspondence, which was granted.

13. Brethren Wm. Colgate, Friend Humphry and R. Nichols were appointed a Committee, to express the thanks of this Association to the Consistory of the Dutch Reformed Church, and to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, for the offer kindly made by them of the use of their respective places of worship, for the purposes of the Association during their present session.

14. A Committee consisting of Brethren Brouner, Pomroy and Middleton, was appointed to examine the minutes of Corresponding Associations.

15. Brethren Octavius Winslow, Sommers, Richards, Vaughn, and Gillett were appointed a committee to report the state of religion within the bounds of the Association.

16. Brethren B. M. Hill, J. Going, Isaac Moore, Howard and Simpson, were appointed a Committee, to consider and report on the subject submitted by the Troy Church; viz.

The expediency of recommending to the Churches composing the Association, a uniform system of proceeding in the reception, commendation and dismissal of members.

17. The following report of the Committee appointed at the last session—to correspond from time to time with the Board of the New-York Baptist State Convention, respecting the destitute Churches and places in the vicinity of the Hudson River, as well as in other destitute places; to suggest such measures as they may deem essential to their spiritual prosperity and to act as the medium of transmitting appropriations to them—was presented and read by Brother. B. M. Hill, and was adopted.

The Committee report, that they have endeavoured through the past year to perform the duties assigned them. It was a new field of labour, for the successful cultivation of which it was soon found necessary to proceed with great caution, in order to avoid on one hand the charge of undue interference with the churches, and on the other that of indifference to their prosperity. Deeply impressed, however, with a sense of the importance and necessity of the measure, they cast themselves upon the gracious direction and support of heaven and went forward.

Several churches and destitute places forwarded communications, detailing in an affecting manner their spiritual wants and grounds of encouragement. Had your Committee acted under the first impulse their sympathies received from these communications, they would have recommended, without hesitation, appropriations from the Convention far exceeding their receipts from your treasury: but they were aware of the extensive spiritual destitution of the country, and consequent demands upon the treasury of the Convention, and were convinced that sound policy required them to extend assistance in proportion to the importance of the place, and actual inability of the people to sustain the cause advantageously without assistance. With this policy in view they have required of all applicants, generally in a personal interview with them, a particular statement of the circumstances in their case, and made up their final decision not only upon these statements, but on corroborative testimony, when it could be obtained, from others, and always on the personal observations of one or more of themselves.

Your Committee have recommended appropriations for the assistance of six churches, to the amount of \$500, which was promptly granted by the Convention, with the exception of \$50 applied for only a few weeks since.

In every case where these appropriations have been applied, there is unquestionable evidence of utility in the measure, not only to the churches aided, but also to the Association itself.

One of these churches, viz. that in Athens, have found themselves able, by this timely assistance, to maintain, regularly, the worship of God. Their neat and eligibly situated Meeting House is completed, and their prospects are encouraging.

The Church in Cossackie have also been aided. They have obtained a pastor, and enjoy the regular ministrations of the gospel. So great has been the success attending their efforts, they have been enabled during the past year to erect a handsome brick

Meeting House at an expense of upwards of \$3500, for the payment of the greater part of which provision is made.

A church was constituted in the village of Kinderhook during the past year, which has also received our attention. After much effort they have obtained the pastoral assistance of an esteemed minister, who has, within a few weeks, commenced his labours among them. Owing to his very recent arrival among them, but a small part of the appropriation for their use will be called for. This church, for some time past, assembled for worship in an unfinished meeting house, but the success of their present efforts is so great, the co-operation of the village inhabitants so extensive, they are advancing rapidly with its completion, and when finished it will be neat, convenient, and conspicuous. Your Committee would recommend this young and enterprising Church to more particular patronage, as their peculiar situation seems to require it.

The Church in Kingston have but recently finished their house of worship, and as they are yet in infancy and suffering some pecuniary embarrassment, the committee have considered them entitled to assistance, which has been granted with reasonable expectation of their acquiring at no distant day, the means of sustaining the cause without the aid of the Convention.

The Church in Ulster village has likewise been assisted to establish regular worship, and already they feel encouraged to make arrangements for the erection of a meeting house, which, on account of the growing importance of the place is highly desirable, and essential to their prosperity.

The Church in Catskill have become enfeebled from various causes, and need assistance. They possess a meeting house and a regular ministrations of the gospel, and it is of importance to sustain them. An appropriation has been recommended.

In addition to these places your Committee have bestowed much attention to the subject of employing a missionary to supply various destitute places with the preached word. Much correspondence has been maintained with the hope of obtaining a suitable person, but without success. They would state, however, that recently, the prospect of success brightened upon them; but the near approach of the termination of their appointment deterred them from proceeding until they could learn the feeling of the Association upon the subject.

Thus your Committee have presented you an account of their labours the past year, which, though it may not appear so great as may have been anticipated, it is hoped may not be disappointed, especially as it is their first effort in a new and difficult field of labour.

Your Committee think it proper to remark that there yet remains much land to be possessed, and its inhabitants, unlike the Canaanites who resisted the advances of Israel's sons, are like the man of Macedonia, constantly crying, "Come over and help us." New fields are opening for the labours contemplated in the appointment of the Committee; and beyond a doubt, application for assistance during the present year will be made from places which every one, acquainted with the region round about the Hudson, will desire to have granted.

It is gratifying to state that two of the Committee were present at the last Annual Meeting of the State Convention, who speak with great pleasure of the cheerfulness with which that body voted the appropriations recommended by the Committee, and the approbation which the appointment by this Association of such a Committee met with among its delegates.

In conclusion your Committee would respectfully remind you that the population of the cities and villages bordering upon the Hudson river, is rapidly increasing, and our moral and religious responsibility increase proportionably. Divine Providence has rendered this our appropriate field of labour. It is a moral eminence, as high, comparatively, as the towering mountains which limit the channel of the noble stream; and which, we ought to remember, may, with care, send forth a religious influence as pure and refreshing as its summer waters: and without which will deluge the land with errors as foul and overwhelming as the floods it discharges in the breaking forth of spring. Occupying such a field it becomes us to act with zeal and discretion; to be careful of the interests of Zion, and faithful in the promulgation of Immanuel's truth and love.

With such views your committee ask indulgence while they exhort the body to press forward—to go up and possess the land, and be not discouraged, nor weary, while surrounded with so much evidence that it is even already the due season in which we may reap.

Respectfully Submitted,
P. S. It is proposed that if the appointment of a Committee be continued, it be called, "The Missionary Committee."

BENJAMIN M. HILL, Chairman.

18. Brn. Hill, Welch, Richards, Gillett, and Winegar, were appointed the Missionary Committee for the ensuing year.
19. The Trustees of the Ministers' Widows' Fund have not been called upon for any expenditure during the year. The account of the Treasurer is submitted.

The Hudson River Baptist Association in account with William Colgate, Treasurer.

1833.	Cr.	1834.	Cr.
Balance on hand as published in the Minutes, of last year, . . .	\$1450 00	Collection in Oliver-st. Church, N. Y.	22 89
Legacy left by the Rev. John Stanford deceased,	30 00	" " Mulberry-st. do. N. Y.	6 50
One year's Interest at six per cent. from May 1, 1833, to May 1, 1834,	87 00	" " 1st. Troy, do.	5 00
		" " 1st. Albany, do.	10 00
		" " North, do. N. Y.	7 09
		" " Kingston, do.	4 50
		" " Amity-street, do. N. Y.	10 00
		" " Central Ch. do. N. Y.	5 00
1834. June 17, Collection after Annual Sermon,	12 02		
	\$1567 00		\$1650 00

20. Brn. Wm. Colgate, Winterton, and R. F. Winslow, were appointed a Committee to take into consideration the subject of the Widows' Fund, and report to the next association whether any, or what alteration is necessary in the plan of its organization.
- Adjourned to 3 o'clock, P. M. Prayer by Br. Hubbell.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Brother Hutchinson.

The minutes of the preceding meetings were read and approved.

21. Brethren William Colgate, Friend Humphry, Alfred Raymond, John Bowen and Robert F. Winslow, were appointed Trustees of the Ministers' Widows' Fund, for the ensuing three years.

22. *Resolved*, that the 9th article of the Regulations of the Ministers' Widows' Fund be so amended as to read thus:

It is further *Resolved*; That this Board of Trustees, whenever the moneys in hand shall amount to \$300, and there be no applicant for immediate relief, they are hereby authorized to invest the same in some secure stock, or loan the same on bond and mortgage, for the purpose of creating a perpetual fund, the interest of which only shall be employed to relieve the necessitous.

23. The following brethren were selected to obtain subscriptions and donations for the widows' fund, viz.

Poughkeepsie, *A. Raymond*; Oliver-street, N. Y. *Jno. A. Ostrander*; Mulberry-street, N. Y. *Wm. Winterton*; Mount Pleasant, *William Sing*; Hudson, *Robert L. Abbot*; Troy, *C. Warner*; Albany, *Walter S. McIntosh*; Catskill, *Fras. L. Wilson*; Albany African, *John Topp*; South Church, N. Y. *J. K. Moore*; Brooklyn, 1st. Ch. *J. Quareau*; Stanton-street, N. Y. *G. C. Wood*; Lausingsburgh, *John Sands*; North Church, N. Y. *J. H. Townsend*; Gibbonsville and West Troy, *A. Wheeler*; Zion, *William Atkinson*; East Church, N. Y. *Josiah Hull*; Cairo, *David Johnson*; Lattingtown, *William Mitchell*; West Hillsdale, *A. Van der Doe*; Second Brooklyn Church, *G. Flowers*; Second Newark, N. J. *Peter Storms*; Schenectady, *Wm. Hannis*; Kingston, *Reuben Nichols*; Second Church, Broome, *Schoharie Co. Harrey Bliss*; Westkill Church, *Henry Closson*; Athens, *John Patterson*; Broome-street, *Samuel Mc Corkle*; Amity-street Church, *Horace Belden*; Central Church, *Robert F. Winslow*; Coxsackie, *E. S. Keep*; Saugerties, *Richard Slee*; Kinderhook, *Justus Hinman*; Phillipstown, *Josh. F. Purdy*; Matcawan, *Thomas G. Boon*.

24. *Resolved*, That the next meeting of the Association be held with the Church at Schenectady.

25. Brethren Gillett, Dowling and Pohlman were appointed a Committee to report the arrangements necessary for the next year.

26. The Committee to whom was referred the Minutes of Corresponding Associations—Reported, That having carefully examined their records, they discovered nothing in them requiring the special attention of this body.

27. The Church at Pleasant Valley asked a dismissal from the Association which was granted.

28. Br. Spencer H. Cone, from the Committee appointed at the last meeting of the Association to correspond with the Board of Managers of the Baptist General Convention, upon the expediency and desirability of establishing Missions in China and Egypt; Reported, that the Committee had attended to the duty assigned to them, and had been gratified in ascertaining that the Board coincided perfectly with the views of the Hudson River Association upon this subject, and were prepared to enter upon the specified fields of labour as soon as suitable Missionaries could be found.

The Committee recommended the following resolution, which was adopted, viz.

Resolved, that the Churches composing this Association be requested in an especial manner to bear upon their hearts at the throne of grace the perishing millions of China, and to beseech the Father of mercies to send us such missionaries as shall be made instrumental in the conversion of very many precious souls in that immense empire.

29. The following report of the Committee of arrangements was read and adopted.

The Committee recommend that the Association meet on the 3d Tuesday of June, 1835, at 2 o'clock, P. M. Brother *W. R. William* to preach the introductory sermon, and in case of failure, Brother *Octavius Winslow*; at the close of which a collection to be taken up in aid of the widows' fund.

Brother *Spencer H. Cone* to preach in the evening; Brother *Mose Field* his substitute. After the sermon a collection to be made for the New-York Baptist Theological Seminary.

30. Brother *Ira M. Allen*, General Agent of the Baptist General Tract Society, presented an interesting statement of the plans and prospects of that institution: Whereupon

Brethren *Jno. C. Murphy*, *Thos. Larcomb* and *Thos. Stokes*, were appointed a Committee to confer with Brother *Allen*, and to report on the subject of measures proper for this Association to adopt in reference to the interests of the Baptist General Tract Society.

Adjourned to 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning.

Prayer by Brother *Peck*.

Agreeably to appointment Brother *S. H. Cone* preached at half past seven o'clock, P. M. from Isaiah xxvii. 13.

And it shall come to pass in that day that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the Lord in the Holy Mount at Jerusalem.

Collection for the Convention \$31. Prayer by Br. Hill.

Thursday Morning, June 19, 1834.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Brother Richards. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

31. The committee appointed to confer with the agent of the State Convention respectfully report, as the result of their conference, the solemn conviction upon their minds that the extended operations of the convention, embracing the churches upon the banks of the Hudson, within the bounds of this Association, the immense importance of the field they occupy, and the pressing claims of our destitute churches, demand increased and more efficient effort on the part of the churches composing this body.

The Committee submitted the following resolutions, which were adopted.

Resolved, that this Association will make an effort to raise at least \$800 for the State Convention the ensuing year.

Resolved, that the churches be earnestly requested to raise and transmit to this body by their delegates their respective proportions of this amount.

32. The following sums were transmitted by the Churches to the Convention in accordance with the vote of last year;—viz.

Poughkeepsie Church,	\$ 9 94	Zion Church,	7 00
Oliver-st. do.	162 13	Lattingtown, do.	14 75
Mulberry-street, do	50 00	West Hillsdale, do.	10 75
Mount Pleasant, do	8 00	Schenectady, do.	31 00
Hudson do	24 69	Kingston, do,	6 00
Troy 1st Ch. do	90 00	2d. Church Broome, do.	1 00
Albany do	50 00	West kill, (Lexington.) do.	12 50
Catskill do	5 00	Athens, do.	12 00
Albany African do	10 00	Amity-st. New-York, do.	25 00
1st Brooklyn do	15 00	Central Church, N. Y. do.	5 00
Stanton-street do	12 00	Coxsackie, do.	14 00
Lansingburgh do	10 00	Saugerties, do.	7 00
North Church, N. Y.	8 33	Matteawan, do.	1 00
Gibbonsville & West Troy do	10 00		

Collected after Sermon,

\$612 09
31 00

\$643 09

The Moderator stated that we had fallen short of our pledge to the convention, \$156 91, whereupon the messengers from

Amity-st. paid	\$20 00	Schenectady, paid	5 00
Mulberry-st.	13 00	Albany	20 00
Troy,	10 00	Oliver-st.	83 91
Hudson,	5 00		
			156 91
			\$800 00

33. *Resolved*, That the Moderator be instructed to remit \$114 34 to H. Lincoln, Esq. Treasurer of the Baptist General Convention for Missionary purposes; that \$21 66, received for that purpose, be paid to the American Baptist Home Mission Society; and that the balance, \$800, be paid to Br. Peck, the accredited agent of the New-York Baptist State Convention.

34. *Resolved*, that the New-York Baptist State Convention be requested to appoint Br. Peck, or some other agent, to visit the Churches of this Association and present to them the claims of the Convention.

35. The following report was presented and ordered to be entered in full on the minutes, and that the Churches be requested to express their views on the subject in their next annual letters.

The Committee appointed to take into consideration the request of the First Church in Troy, respecting a uniform system of proceeding in the reception, commendation and dismissal of members, *Report*, that such a system was recommended in the Circular Letter of the eleventh session of this body.

It proposes, as a general rule, that when a member removes he should be furnished with a Letter of commendation, introducing him to the kind attention of other Churches. When he shall have located himself in the neighbourhood of a sister Church (with which he wishes to become connected) he should make known his wish to that church; and if it be cordially reciprocated, it should be the duty of that Church to transmit an official communication to the one of which he is a member, signifying their approbation of the measure. This document should be placed on file by the church receiving it. Then let a vote of dismission be passed, and an official letter of dismission forwarded immediately to the Church from which the letter of approbation was received, and a memorandum made of his dismission. Upon the receipt of such a letter, let the Church to which it is addressed pass a vote to receive the person and enrol his name as one of their number.

Your Committee recommend that the letters of commendation be rendered valid not to exceed one year, and though it is optional with absent members to offer themselves for connexion with any sister Church, yet if any absent themselves either with or without a letter of commendation, except in special cases, so long a time that the Church become ignorant of their residence and Christian walk, their membership should be considered forfeited for the neglect of so great a special duty.

As a means of facilitating the introduction and use of this system among the Churches, it is recommended that a special Committee be appointed to confer with printers, with a view to obtain the printing, in a neat and economical manner, of blank letters of commendation, approbation and dismission, which will answer, with the necessary filling up, for any Church.

Should the plan be adopted by the Churches to some extent, the printed blanks can be furnished at a trifling expense above the cost of paper at the retail price.

Respectfully submitted,
BENJ. M. HILL, *Chairman*.

The form of blanks to be as follows:

State of 18

The Baptist Church in

to all Baptist Churches of the same faith and order to whom this may be presented; sendeth Christian Salutation.

Beloved in the Lord.

The bearer, M

is a member in good standing with us; whom we commend to your christian affection and fellowship.

If should hereafter become a resident in your vicinity, we consider it due to change membership to your body, unless have particular reasons for declining. Should therefore propose such a change, an official letter from you, signifying your approbation of the measure, will be followed on our part by regular dismission and the transmission to you of a certificate of the fact.

This letter is valid, not to exceed one year.
By order of the Church.

N. B. As the above letter is valid only one year, the member receiving it is exhorted to seek a spiritual home immediately, and present it to the Church with which he or she may intend to unite, and see that the necessary letter of approbation is forwarded to us without delay: if by mail, POST PAID.

If members receiving such a letter decline uniting with any Church in their vicinity, they are expected to communicate to us, in some way, within a year from the

date of their letter, their reasons for declining; and once a year, subsequently, information respecting the place of their residence and spiritual state of mind.
It will be considered that an omission to comply with this rule of the Church year, is **NEGLECT OF SPECIAL DUTY**, and the membership of the person forfeited on that account.

State of N. Y. 18

The Baptist Church in
to the Baptist Church in
Sendeth Christian salutation.

Beloved in the Lord.

M We have received a "Letter of Commendation" from you in favour of and having expressed a wish to unite with us, we hereby inform you that we approve of the transfer of membership to our body, provided we are officially informed of regular dismission from yours.

By order of the Church.
Pastor or Clerk.

State of N. Y. 18

The Baptist Church in
To the Baptist Church in
Sendeth Christian salutation.

Beloved in the Lord.

M Upon the credit of your "Letter of Approbation" in favor of we hereby consider regularly dismissed from our body and membership transferred to yours.

By order of the Church.

36. The following Report was read and adopted.

The Committee to whom was referred the application of brother Ira M. Allen, Agent of the Bapt. Tract Society, beg leave respectfully to report, that they are gratified to learn that the Society is anxious immediately to become an efficient auxiliary to Home and to Foreign Missions, by giving still more enlarged circulation to tracts of their publication.

Believing that the state of the American community, and of the cause of God, imperiously require of us, the united, vigorous, and liberal effort of the Churches to sustain the Society in its benevolent designs; and as there are large and destitute portions of our country, to which that Society has peculiar facilities of access, it would manifestly constitute a very serious omission of duty, not to avail ourselves of their predilections, in favour of a particular mode of distributing gospel truth; and, whereas, the Society possesses a large number of excellent publications, peculiarly adapted to supply existing and great destitution, which are ready for sale, and are greatly in need of enlarged support for more extensive operations:

1. *Resolved*, that, as the Board of the Bapt. General Tract Society are making special and enlarged effort to distribute their publications in the Western States of our country, and to aid our Missionaries in Burmah, and in other places, in the distribution of tracts; we recommend to the Churches composing this body, liberally to aid them in this good and great work.

2. *Resolved*, that the Churches be also requested to form Societies auxiliary to the B. G. T. Society, on the principle of contributing one half of their funds, to assist the parent Society in accomplishing its plan of extended operations; and that the remaining half, be expended in the purchase and distribution of tracts, which may be obtained of I. M. Allen, Phila. J. K. Moore, corner of Nassau and Beekman-streets, N. Y. C. Pohlman, 438 South Market-street, Albany, and of John Campbell, 127 River-Street, Troy.

All which is respectfully submitted.

37. Information from sources entitled to confidence, having been communicated to this body, that a Mr. Ebnr. Raymond, (of the King-street Church, formerly connected with this body) is engaged under the character of a Baptist Minister, and within the bounds of this association, in disseminating sentiments inimical to the cause of truth and righteousness;

to all the efforts of christian benevolence, and obviously inconsistent with the faith and obligations of christian profession; and as there is reason to believe that his ministry is not sanctioned by the churches in the neighbourhood from whence he came, and to the end that an influence so unholy be not extended, we deem it our duty to caution the churches of this association against the said Ebenezer Raymond.

38. The churches of this association are cautioned against an old man by the name of Josiah Willard, who is travelling under the character of a preacher or exhorter. He possesses no credentials entitling him to confidence either as a preacher or member of any church.

39. The following Brethren were appointed Delegates to Corresponding Associations.

Boston, Ms. J. Goadby, Going, Dennison, 2d *Wednesday* in *Sept.*—Cayuga, N. Y. Peck;—Central, N. J. Murphy, Middleton, R. F. Winslow, Larcomb, Ritchie, *Sandy Bridge*, Oct. 15;—Genessee, Peck;—Hartford, Ct. J. Goadby, 1st *Wednesday* in *Aug.*—Madison N. Y. Winterton, 2d *Wed.* in *Sept.*—New Jersey, Winterton, Larcomb, 1st *Tuesday* in *Sept.*—New London, Ct. Dennison, *New L. Sept. 24*;—Oneida, N. Y. Winterton, Gibbs, *Miami*, 1st *Wednesday* in *Sept.*—Otsego, N. Y. Peck, Gibbs;—Philadelphia Pa. C. G. Sommers, Jno. C. Murphy, Platt, Howard, Ritchie, Dennison and Larcomb, *Lower Merion*, 1st *Tuesday* in *Oct.*—Portsmouth, N. H. Goadby;—Rensselaerville, N. Y. Stokes. C. C. Williams, Moore, Dowling, Winegar, Richards, and Ormsbee;—Shalsbury, Vt. B. M. Hill, Gillet;—Salem, Mass. Going, Middleton, and Dennison, 3d *Wednesday* in *Sept.*—Saratoga, N. Y. Maclay, Murphy, and B. M. Hill;—Stephentown, Murphy;—Union, N. Y. Platt, Larcomb, Middleton, Murphy, Ritchie, and Maclay, *Bedford* 1st *Wednesday* in *Sept.*—Warren, R. I. Going, Dennison and Howard, 1st *Wednesday* in *Sept.*—Warwick, N. Y. Stokes, Sangster and Richards, *Harrison*, 2d *Wednesday* in *June*;—Ontario, Peck.

Adjourned to 3 o'clock, P. M. Prayer by brother B. M. Hill.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by brother Going.
The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

40. Brother Going was appointed a Delegate to attend the next meeting of the Baptist General Convention at Richmond, Va. on the last Wednesday of April 1835, and brother Richards his Alternate.

41. Brethren Richards, Colgate, Cone, J. C. Murphy, Hill and Winterton, were appointed Delegates, to attend the Anniversary of the American Baptist Home Mission Society, at Richmond Va. on the Monday succeeding the last Wednesday of April next.

42. Brethren Hill, Murphy, Platt, Cone, Welch, Gillett, Humphry, Richards and Middleton were appointed Delegates to attend the Anniversary of the New-York State Convention, to be held in Utica, on the 3d Wednesday in October, 1834.

43. *Resolved*, that the Moderator be authorized to appoint individuals, during the recess of the association, to supply any vacancy which may occur in the delegation to the Bapt. General Convention, of the U. S. the American Bap. Home Miss. Society, and the New-York State Convention.

44. *Resolved*, that the enterprise and liberality of the American Bible Society, in contributing, during the last three years, the sum of \$11,200 to aid our Missionaries in circulating the sacred volume through the empire of Burmah; and also the present enlarged efforts of this noble institution in connexion with kindred institutions to supply the whole world with the Bible, at a period as early as practicable, demand the gratitude, and call for the prayers and alms, of every Church in this association.

45. *Resolved*, that this Association would express their gratitude to God for the liberality manifested by the American Tract Society, in the contribution of \$8,400 for the distribution of religious tracts throughout the benighted Empire of Burmah; and whereas, it has been understood that the American Tract Society contemplate the speedy supply of the whole world with religious tracts, this body would commend to the prayers and alms of the Churches the objects of that and every kindred society.

46. *Resolved*, that this association feel deeply interested in the promotion of the objects of the Am. Bap. Home Mission Society. They have learned with great pleasure that their Missionaries have been blessed of God in the conversion of sinners, and in their accession to Churches of our order; in the constitution of Churches, and in the promotion of united efforts to sustain the cause of Christ throughout the whole earth. They therefore earnestly recommend to the Churches composing this body, liberally to contribute to assist the A. B. H. M. Society in its enlarged efforts to preach the gospel to every creature in our country, and that they pray with one heart to God, to pour out his Spirit alike upon the offerings and upon the efforts made by this society.

47. *Resolved*, that this association desire to express their deep sense of gratitude to God for the remarkable success with which it has been his pleasure to crown the efforts of our Missionaries who are labouring in foreign lands, during the past year, and that while the Lord is opening new and hitherto inaccessible fields of labour to the piety and the enterprise of our denomination, the Churches be especially requested to make the future prosperity of our foreign Missions a subject of special prayer to him who hath promised to give to his Son the heathen for his inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession.

48. The Committee on the state of religion, presented their report, which was adopted and referred to the Moderator and Clerk, together with the Writer, to be printed with the minutes. *See page 18.*

49. This body have learned with deep regret the death of ELDER JOHN STANFORD, late a member of the Oliver-street Church; a man of God whose praise has long and justly been in all the Churches. To a pure and strong attachment to the doctrine of the Lord, there were added in his ministry, a fervent zeal in its promulgation, great fidelity and benevolence in the discharge of his onerous duties, as chaplain of the public institutions of the city of New-York; and an enlightened and large influence in the cause of ministerial education, of religion, and of humanity. He was an original member of this association, and in his removal is recognized the departure of a Father in Israel, greatly beloved; and a solemn admonition to keep our lamps trimmed and burning, and our loins girded with the truth, as men who expect the coming of the Bridegroom, and who find consolation in the fact, that their departed brother rests from his labours and is blessed in the Lord.

50. *Resolved*, That the Churches be requested in their future letters to present, besides the account of moneys forwarded to the Association, a statement of such moneys as shall have been contributed to objects of religious charity through other channels, in order that the minutes may exhibit a more accurate account of the efforts of the Churches.

51. *Resolved*, That this Association highly approve of the exertions now making by the American Sunday School Union, to supply the

South and the destitute valley of the Mississippi with Sabbath Schools and that we earnestly recommend these efforts to the attention and co-operation of the churches.

52. *Resolved*, That this Association earnestly commend to the patronage of the churches the New-York Baptist Repository, at present the property and under the editorial charge of Rev. Jonathan Going, affording at the same time a channel for the diffusion of valuable intelligence and a link for the preservation of brotherly union among the churches within the bounds of this Association; and further that we approve and urgently commend the American Baptist Magazine the organ of the Foreign Mission Board, and the New-York Baptist Register, the organ of the State Convention, as deserving, and by their character and the influence of their contents, well repaying the liberal and systematic support of our brethren.

53. *Resolved*, That Brother Wm. R. Williams be requested to furnish for publication, a copy of the sermon delivered by him on the evening of the first day of our session.

Resolved, That one thousand copies of the same be printed and circulated, at the discretion of the moderator and clerk.

54. *Resolved*, That this Association would acknowledge with gratitude, the courteous manner in which its members generally have been welcomed to the hospitalities of the inhabitants of this village, without regard to denominational differences, and they would reciprocate the catholic feeling thus expressed; and that Bro. Cone, Going, and Hill be a Committee to express to the Pastors of the Reformed Dutch, and Methodist Episcopal Churches, the acknowledgments of this Association for the christian kindness they have received from the inhabitants of Kingston.

55. The moderator and clerk were directed to superintend the printing and distribution of the minutes.

56. The minutes were read, corrected and approved, and the minutes of Corresponding Associations distributed.

The business being finished, the session was closed with a short, but affectionate address and prayer by the Moderator. The Association adjourned to meet with the Church in Schenectady, on Tuesday, June 16th, 1835, at 2 o'clock, P. M.

SPENCER H. CONE, *Moderator.*

ARCHIBALD MACLAY, *Cor. Sec.*

ROBERT F. WINSLOW, *Clerk.*

STANDING RESOLUTIONS.

1. *Resolved*, That we 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.

2. 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 putting a stop to the use of the deadly poison; and especially, that they advise their own members to abstain from manufacturing and vending distilled spirits.

REPORT

OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE STATE OF RELIGION.

The Committee appointed to draft a Narrative of the state of Religion within the bounds of the Association submit the following report:

In reviewing the march of our Churches during the current year, their advance in the accession of numbers, increase of piety, and continued and growing labours, we see much that demands, and much that inspires an ascription of praise and thanksgiving to our ever living and presiding Head. And while, perhaps, some discouraged by the smallness of their number, the toils of the way, and the Protean assaults of the foe, have well nigh exclaimed with one of Israel's valiant kings, "I am ready to halt," yet our hearts are gladdened in the retrospect, that no such pause, no such dereliction of duty and pledge has marked any one part of the host of God's elect. The scroll of the Churches presents a movement slow yet aggressive—an accession of members moderate, yet accompanied with gratifying evidence of the power of that "Truth which effectually worketh in them that believe." Love, that sweet grace of the Spirit, has breathed over them its healthy and hallowing influence, harmony of sentiment and action has stamped an increased value upon all their labours. Say then, have we no reason here to pause—not to relax our exertions, or rest from our labours, but to erect an altar, and pour over it the oil of gladness, while all exclaim, "hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

We are reminded, however, in the midst of our congratulations, that this is not the glorified state of the Church. In some departments there have been cases of painful yet wholesome discipline, resulting in the lopping off of sapless, withered branches. In others there has been a waning of zeal, while not a few have had to mourn that the invitation of Zion's solemn and abundant feasts, so few have come. O yes! we have much to cheer us, more to humble and abase us.

The following epitome of the state of the Churches, prepared from their annual letters, will present at one glance their present and actual position.

POUGHKEEPSIE. In the absence of a stated ministry connected with pastoral oversight for more than a year past, this church has continued to walk in peace and harmony. And although frequently deprived of the privilege of a preached gospel, they have sought and found in the more humble and sequestered means of grace spiritual refreshing for their souls. It is to be regretted that one of the oldest churches and earliest associates of this body, should so long remain without an overseer. May the Lord send them a Shepherd who shall lead them into green pastures! Sabbath school, and other benevolent institutions are flourishing.

OLIVER-ST. This Church laments in general with all the Churches, but in particular does it "mourn apart," over the decease of the Rev. John Stanford, one of its most aged and valued members. He was a good Soldier of Jesus Christ; and we doubt not has entered into the joy of his Lord. It expresses thankfulness to God, that every month since the last session of this body, the ordinance of baptism has been administered among them; and that the labours of its Pastor have been unbroken and unimpaired by sickness. Contributions during the past year for benevolent objects generally have been as numerous and liberal as at any former period.

MULLENBURY-ST. Presents no important change. Although constantly reminded that their pathway is through the wilderness, they yet can tell of the guardianship and care of Him who leadeth Joseph like a flock. It is pleasing to record two cases of hopeful conversion through the instructions of the Bible Class, under the superintendence of the Pastor. May this be the dawn of a happier and brighter day.

MOUNT PLEASANT. No accessions during the past year. They are again without a stated ministry; the Rev. J. Putress having resigned his charge. Their former meeting house has been removed from the ground, and upon the same site a more commodious one, 40 by 55 feet, is being erected. They unite in cordial co-operation with the Presbyterian Church, in a Bible, Tract and Temperance Societies.

Hudson. Although the present aspect of this Church is cold and gloomy, yet brighter prospects are opening to the eye of their faith. The Rev. W. Richards, having relinquished the pastoral charge, has been succeeded by the Rev. Israel Roberts, late of Penfield. A protracted meeting was held in January which, while it was with the Church a season of deep abasement and humbling confession of sin, resulted in no visible impression

upon the impenitent part of the congregation. "The life of the Church is eminently visible in the Sabbath School." The prayers of the Maternal Society have resulted in the conversion of three of their children, two of whom have attached themselves as teachers with the Sabbath School.

Troy. The last four months in the history of this Church have embraced seasons of high and peculiar enjoyment, during which the dove of peace found a home and a resting place. The visit of our beloved brother and sister Wade, accompanied by the Asiatic Converts, awakened a lively interest in favour of Missions. Among the happy results of which is the formation of a Female Society, for the entire support of a Native preacher in Burmah. The first annual payment has been transmitted to the Treasurer of the general convention. The records of the Church during the past year have undergone a strict and careful revision, from which many names have been erased of members no longer to be found. They have also dismissed from their body 6 members, to form a new Church in the same city. The pleadings of the various Christian Societies meet with a cheerful and liberal response.

ALBANY. This Church continues the even tenor of its way, its course marked with peace, unanimity and prosperity. The Spirit of truth appears to be operating upon the minds of many in the congregation, justifying the expectation of a future and a plentiful harvest. Their new and capacious edifice is in a state of great forwardness, and in a few months will be ready for their reception. Three Sabbath School with a Library of 750 volumes, are connected with this body.

CATSKILL. This Church has experienced some of those fluctuations with which the Church militant is familiar. Its strength has been much diminished by the emigration to the West of several of its efficient brethren. Their late beloved Pastor, the Rev. John Dowling, felt it his duty to remove to another and more extended field of labour, but God, who is ever mindful of the emergencies of his people, at this juncture directed them their present Pastor, Rev. Thomas Dowling, who appears soon to have won their confidence and affection. A Home Mission Society has been lately formed and is in successful operation. The Sabbath School and Library also on the increase.

ALBANY AFRICAN. But little variation from its former history. Their late Pastor having resigned his charge, Dr. Thomas Ritchie, a licentiate of the Bap. Ch. Frederick City, Maryland, has accepted a call, to occupy the vacancy, when ordained. During the period they were left without an under Shepherd, they fell into a state of supineness, from which the labours of their Pastor elect have been instrumental in recovering them. Their meetinghouse has lately undergone a thorough repair. It is pleasing to record the establishment of a monthly prayer meeting in behalf of their enslaved Southern brethren.

SOUTH BAPTIST CHURCH, N. Y. This Church offers up devout gratitude to God for the blessing attending the ministry of its Pastor. The past has been a year of great fruitfulness. Many sinners have been converted to God, and in the Church the bond of fraternal love have been more closely drawn. This Church embraces in the wide spread arms of its Christian benevolence, most, if not all, the various benevolent institutions of the day. It is a most gratifying circumstance that five young men, under the sanction and patronage of this body, are now pursuing their studies preparatory to the Christian Ministry.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKLYN. From a state of comparative weakness this Church "rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race," under the blessing of God upon the ministry of the Rev. Leland Howard, who, during the past year, entered upon the pastoral charge over them. Many sinners have pressed into the kingdom, and the saints of God have been comforted and established. Peace and harmony prevail among the brethren. The Sabbath School is prospering, and not a few souls commended with it are inquiring the way to Zion. Their present place of worship being limited in its space for a growing congregation, they purpose the immediate erection of a larger and more convenient house, the site for which has been purchased.

STANTON-ST. (late Union) BAPTIST CHURCH, N. Y. This interesting Church presents an aspect of the most pleasing and encouraging character. In March last they dedicated to God their newly erected place of worship; since then they have experienced a season of refreshing, and 27 individuals have been received into the fellowship of the Church by baptism. They have relinquished their former name, and have been incorporated as the Stanton-st. Bap. Church. The Sabbath School prospers.

LANSINGBURGH. This Church deplores the removal to the West of a number of beloved and valued members, which has tended much to paralyze its energies. They have also been called to resign their Pastor, Rev. E. F. Willey, who has been succeeded by the Rev. Charles B. Keys. They are united as a Church, and are grounded in the truth of salvation by grace. Home and Foreign Missions meet their countenance and support.

NORTH BAPTIST CHURCH, N. Y. Thankfulness to God is expressed in the letter of our brethren, for the continuance of his goodness and favour. Although some cases of discipline have transpired during the past year, yet a salutary impression appears to be left upon the body. They state that their belief in the doctrines of grace is unshaken.

GIBBSONVILLE AND WEST TROY. This Church laments that the year now closed, has been one of great spiritual apathy. There has been no departure from their belief of the truth, but they have reason to deplore that they have partaken in so small a degree of its enjoyment. They earnestly crave the intercessory pleadings of God's people. Connected with them are a Home Mission Society, and a Sabbath School.

ZION CHURCH, (Cornwall, Orange County.) The chief Shepherd has continued to enfold and watch over this little flock. Nine have been added to their number by baptism. Jesus has been pleased to visit them and their hearts have glowed with love as he talked with them by the way. A Tract Society has been formed during the past year. Although limited in their temporal resources, their hearts yet expand with christian benevolence towards the cause of Emmanuel.

EAST BAPTIST CHURCH, N. Y. After a season of spiritual declension, this Church has experienced the revivings of God's Spirit. The day set apart for special prayer for the world's conversion, was to them a day of peculiar blessing. Christians were awakened to a view of their responsibilities, and sinners to a sense of their danger. At the present they are walking in the unity of the Spirit. The aspect of the congregation is encouraging, and several are seriously inquiring. A Home Mission, a Temperance Society and Sabbath School are in successful operation.

CAIRO. No increase during the year that has closed. It has not, however, been without its blessing. They appear to be a people who "know the joyful sound." They have commenced the erection of a house of prayer, and look with confidence to their brethren abroad for aid in carrying forward to a successful completion, their present undertaking.

LATTINGTOWN. As a Church they have been preserved, are at peace and are united in the doctrines of the gospel. They are still without a Pastor, and are dependent upon the kind visits of ministering brethren. Social meetings for prayer are sustained during the week. Although feeble they foster a Home Mission Society; a Tract and Temperance Society are also under their patronage.

WEST HILLSDALE. This Church rejoices that the Lord still preserves among them the stated ordinances of the gospel. Their increase has been slow. During the past year they have purchased a lot of four acres, upon which they have erected a parsonage house.

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKLYN. Since our last session, this Church has been favoured with many mercies, and visited with much affliction. Although occasionally supplied with the preaching of the word, yet a whole year has swept by, and still they are destitute of a Pastor. Many of their number have passed through seasons of severe and protracted illness, and one has gone to her rest. They are walking in love and hold firmly the distinguishing doctrines of grace. "Our hope is still in God, and all our expectation is from him." They have an interesting Sabbath School, in connexion with a respectable Library.

SCHENECTADY. This flourishing Church presents its grateful acknowledgments to God for the uninterrupted labours of its beloved Pastor, which the Lord has greatly and signally blest. The ingathering of souls during the past year by baptism, has exceeded that of any other Church in this body. It is a subject of sincere congratulation, and calling for devout thanksgiving to God, that connected with this Church are *seven* young men, who in various Colleges are preparing themselves for the labours of the Christian ministry. Their contribution for Missions has been smaller than usual, in consequence of the expenses incurred by the enlargement of their meetinghouse, by which it can now accommodate double its former number. Two Sabbath Schools.

KINGSTON. During the past year, this Church dismissed *forty-one* of its members to constitute a Church at Ulster. They have also been called to resign their claim upon the services of their beloved Pastor, Rev. M. Barlow, who removes to another field of labour. They are however moving on in harmony and love. And though the ways of God are to them inscrutable, yet they derive encouragement from the faithfulness of Him, who though He tarry long, will yet return and bless this thirsty heritage with the early and latter rain. Connected with this Church are a Sabbath School and Library, Bible Class and Female Benevolent Society.

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH, NEWARK, N. J. No increase by baptism during the past year. Peace and harmony within, and severe conflict without appear, from the letter of our brethren, to have marked their recent history. They express however unshaken

confidence in the government of God, "who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will." They hope, in the course of a year, entirely to complete their place of worship, in the basement of which they at present assemble.

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOMZ. Although no intelligence is conveyed in the letter of our brethren, of any special manifestation of grace, the year past has however beheld them steadfastly adhering to the doctrines of the Gospel, and walking in the joy and peace of the Holy Ghost. They labour under peculiar disadvantages from the want of a regular and convenient place of worship. Their house, which they commenced more than a year ago, remains still unfinished; and unless aided by the denomination abroad, it is likely still to stand the jest of the profane, a monument of weakness, silently yet severely chiding us for our stinted liberality.

WESTKILL, (Lexington.) This Church mourns over the darkness which has enshrouded them during the past year. The last two months, however, have witnessed an improvement. The congregation has increased, the Church has received an accession to its numbers, and deep solemnity has been strikingly apparent in both. The Monthly Concert is regularly observed.

ATHENS. On this hill of Zion, the kind and gentle showers of the Spirit have the past year descended. Their letter presents a state of things calling for the devout gratitude of this Associate Body. In the progress of this work of grace obstacles and barriers which impeded the advance of Messiah's Kingdom have been swept away. Stout hearted sinners were made to ground the arms of their rebellion, and in the day of God's mighty visitation, submit to the mild sceptre of Christ. In March last the Rev. C. C. Williams became their Pastor, in whose hands the word of the Lord has mightily prevailed. The most perfect love and harmony reign in this small but growing Church. It is pleasing to recognize, in the midst of this tide of spiritual prosperity, a spirit of deep self-abasement; one of the most signal proofs of its genuine character. "We feel that we are perfect weakness, and we trust in the Lord for strength and direction." Their present number is sixty-nine, and several are now waiting to consecrate themselves to the Lord. It will be perceived, by a reference to the table annexed to this report, that in connexion with the amount raised for the debt upon their house, their contributions have been liberal. An interesting Sabbath School has here found a genial soil for its growth. Two Teachers and three Scholars have professed Christ during the past year. The Teachers and Missionary monthly concert of prayer are strictly observed.

BROOMZ-ST. N. Y. Its growth since their last annual epistle has been of a most pleasing character. A season of protracted devotion, in connexion with the faithful preaching of the Gospel, is referred to as having left a most salutary impression upon the Church and congregation. While the former has advanced with less rapid steps, the latter has greatly increased. They express happiness in the enjoyment of the ordinances, and the ministry of their beloved Pastor. A Sabbath School, conducted by an experienced and efficient superintendent, is flourishing. Two Domestic Missionary and two Mite Societies are connected with this body.

AMITY-ST. CHURCH, N. Y. The epistle of this Church bears upon its face a most gratifying aspect. Humbling confessions of unfaithfulness are mingled with devout thanksgivings to God for the preservation of union and harmony, for awakening its members generally to more diligent efforts for the salvation of sinners, and for the gradual increase which has marked its progress. The exemplary and varied efforts of the Sabbath School teachers, aided by the labours of the Pastor, to impress the truth upon the pliant and expanding minds of the young, have been signally owned of God. "On the second Sabbath of the present Month, *four* children were received into the Church, of ages varying from 10 to 15 years. The evidence which they all gave of a work of divine grace upon their hearts was remarkably clear and satisfactory; and the Church dared not withhold from them the privileges of Church membership." Connected with this body are a flourishing Sabbath School, three Bible and one Catechetical class. Two teachers, and *nine* scholars have professed Christ, during the past year. A Foreign Missionary Society is also in successful operation. In the month of May last, this Church entered upon the occupancy of its newly erected and valuable place of worship. Owing to the heavy expenses connected with its erection, regret is expressed that more has not been done for the cause of general benevolence. Contributions however have been liberal.

CENTRAL (late Bowers) BAPTIST CHURCH, N. Y. Its history, during the year that has revolved, has been that of a young Church struggling on through the various stages of infancy, and yet we trust advancing from strength to strength. Peace and love have diffused their holy and healthy influence throughout the body, and harmony of sentiment and action has marked all its proceedings. The letter of our brethren, however, expresses deep abasement in the review of past unfruitfulness, and admixture

While thus we breathe to heaven our prayer of thankfulness, we see much in the review of the path we have trod, to humble us in the dust.

The desolating pestilence which once swept over our continent, thinning our flocks, closing up our sanctuaries, and dispersing our Ministers, has not been permitted to revisit us. Yet with this returning goodness, has there been an increased degree of devotedness? Have the Ministers preached more as, "dying men to dying men?" Have our Churches been more spiritual, more humble? Have our temples been more thronged? Have our contributions to the treasury of the Lord flowed in more cheerfully, more freely? Has the number increased of those, who with a mark upon their forehead, sigh and cry for all the abominations that are done? We tremble to think that to these interrogatories the reply must be in the negative! Away with flattery! Away with self-adulation! Away with boasting of the extent of our exertions, or the value of our contributions! O, that God might enable us rightly to judge of ourselves, "that we may remember and be confounded, and never open our mouths any more, because of our shame, when He is pacified towards us, for all that we have done." Another cause for humiliation may be found in the circumstance, that six of our churches are now, and have been for a lengthened period without a stated Ministry. Brethren, to what shall we attribute this? Why this removal of so many lights out of their places? Have the Ministers become dilatory and unfaithful? Or have the Churches by a dereliction of duty and pledge, forgotten, that if they feed not the lamp, it will emit but a dim and a sickly vapour, which must eventually go out? Ministers of the most high! Churches of the living God! Examine yourselves; is there not a cause?

In conclusion, we affectionately, yet earnestly press upon the churches, that in addition to an increase in prayerfulness, holiness, and unwearied exertion, they forget not the exercise of unshaken faith in a promising God. By faith we would be understood to mean, not the mere acquiescence in the utility of an associate body like this: not the mere annual meeting to hear its history, and rejoice in its progress; but that anxious wish for the fulfilment of those gracious promises of Jehovah, which, strewed as they are in rich luxuriance through the pages of the sacred volume, invite and win the mind to an active operative confidence, that God would deign to work with us, quickening our zeal, inspiring our love, disciplining our motives, and that this Association may in some degree be made useful in levelling the interruptions, removing the stumbling blocks, and casting up a highway for the free course of that "knowledge of the glory of the Lord, which shall one day fill the earth as the waters cover the sea."

Oh! could this faith, this sanctifying, this operative principle, which grasps the "substance of things hoped for," and embodies the "evidence of things not seen," could this faith be brought into a real, healthy, vigorous existence, what might not be undertaken; what might not be attained?

Another year of labour and toil, and for aught we know, of trial, is before us. While standing yet upon its threshold, it may be well for us to pause, and inquire what is the state of feeling with which we assume its responsibilities. The history of the past, with its varied backslidings, its broken resolutions, its opportunities of usefulness suffered to pass away unimproved, is still fresh in our memory. What then is our state of mind in reference to our prospective duties? Do we enter upon them in "weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling?" Are we truly humbled? *Are we willing to be nothing?* And can we honestly adopt the language, (O that it might be with the Spirit!) of our Divine Master, who though he was "God over all," yet in His subordinate office as servant of the everlasting covenant, said, "I SEEK NOT MINE OWN GLORY." If so, then the blessing of God will be upon us: this shall be a year of rich and abundant vintage, and at its close we shall meet, and together rejoice, and "shout the harvest home."

Brethren, we are about a *great* work! we need *great* grace to make and keep us humble and holy. Satan, whose territories we are invading, and his emissaries, against whom we are marshalled, present at this moment a fearful and a growing phalanx. Popery, Infidelity, and God-denying blasphemy, are waxing stronger and stronger against the Lord and his Anointed. O let Him, who is the object of their enmity, be the centre of our union—let His name be the watchword, and His truth the weapon, and His spirit the strength of our holy warfare; let the remembrance of His cross constrain our love, and the hope of His kingdom cheer our spirits, and soon we shall sit down under His shadow with great delight, and "rejoice in His rest which shall be glorious."

PLAN OF THE MINISTERS' WIDOWS' FUND.

Unanimously adopted, Aug. 3, 1826.

In pious and grateful remembrance of our departed brethren in the ministry, whose widows and orphans may be left in circumstances of need, The Hudson River Baptist Association *Resolved*, to contribute to their relief, as far as our compassionate Saviour may indulge us with ability. In order, therefore to create a *Fund* for this benevolent purpose, we recommend—

Means.

1. That on the fourth Lord's Day in May, in every year, the respective churches composing this Association, make a public collection, for the purpose of aiding this fund.
2. That a subscription book be opened in every such church and congregation, to receive, whether annual subscriptions or donations, to this desirable object.

Objects.

1. Persons intended to receive the benefit of this fund, are the widows and orphans of deceased Ministers, who at the time of their death, whether *ordained* or *licensed*, shall have been in good standing in this Association; and no others.
2. Relief afforded such persons to continue during their widowhood, and no longer.
3. If there be no surviving widow, and the children, if any, of such deceased minister be under 12 years of age, and in need, they shall receive the same portion as allowed to a widow, until they arrive to their 15th year. Provided also, that should any one of the said children, destitute both of father and mother, be found, by disease or accident, incapable of providing a living for him or herself, the allowance from this fund to continue until such person shall have arrived at 20 years of age.

Managers of the Fund.

1. This Association, at their annual meeting, shall elect and appoint out of its members, *five* Trustees who shall have the sole management of this fund; one of whom shall be appointed Treasurer, and one other as Secretary; and that such trustees continue in office three years.
2. That this Board of Trustees, (three of whom shall form a quorum) shall meet annually or oftener as the case may require, for the transaction of business: and that the said board shall have power to fill up any vacancy in their number which may be occasioned by death, or otherwise, until the next meeting of the Association.