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MINUTES
OF THE
✓
NEW HAMPSHIRE
ASSOCIATION;

16
HELD AT

GILMANTOWN,

JUNE 9, AND 10, 1790.



EXETER:

PRINTED BY HENRY RANLET, 1790.

MINUTES, &c.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 1790.

AT two o'clock, P. M. Elder *Hooper* preached an introductory sermon from *Math. 5th chap. 16th verse.*

2. Proceeded to the choice of a Moderator and Clerk.

3. Read the Letters from the several churches, and took the following account of the members who have been added, diminished, excluded, or died the last year.

| <i>Churches.</i> | <i>Messengers.</i> | <i>add.</i> | <i>adm.</i> | <i>excl.</i> | <i>died.</i> | <i>No.</i> |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| <i>Berwick & Maabury,</i> | Elder <i>William Hooper</i> <i>Stephen Hodgdon.</i> | | | | | 52 |
| <i>Brintwood</i> | <i>Moses Clarke,</i> | | | | 2 | 171 |
| | <i>John Prescott,</i> | | | | | |
| | <i>William Turrel,</i> <i>Nathaniel Brown.</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Gilmantown,</i> | Elder <i>Walter Powers,</i> | 3 | | | 1 | 32 |
| | <i>Thomas Edgerly,</i> | | | | | |
| | <i>Dudley Young.</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Sanford,</i> | El. <i>Zebedi. Richardson</i> | 16 | | | | 86 |
| | <i>Lauc Walker.</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Northwood,</i> | Elder <i>Edmund Pilsbury.</i> | | | | | 41 |
| <i>Wells,</i> | Elder <i>Nathaniel Lord.</i> | | | | | 43 |
| <i>Coxhall,</i> | Elder <i>Simon Lock,</i> | | | | | 33 |
| <i>Shaftleigh,</i> | Elder <i>Nehemiah Davis.</i> | | | | | 23 |

4. Read minutes of the *Philadelphia* and *Warren Associations.*

5. Read a letter and minutes from the *Woodstock Association*, received by their messengers, Elder *Thomas Baldwin* and Elder *Joseph Call*, requesting union and correspondence with us by messengers and letters. They were accordingly received by the right hand of fellowship.

6. Received and read a letter from the *Meridith Association*, by hands of Elder *Nicholas Folsom* and Elder *Cotton Haynes*.

7. Voted to receive the members of the Sister Churches to act with us in this conference.

8. Elder *Hooper* appointed to prepare letters to the corresponding Associations.

9. Elder *Richardson* and Elder *Baldwin* were chosen to prepare a circular letter to the Churches.

10. Adjourn'd until tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Elder *Baldwin* delivered a sermon in the evening, from *Deut. 33—29*.

THURSDAY MORNING.

Met according to adjournment.

11. Read and approved the letters to the sister Associations, prepared by Elder *Hooper*.

12. Read the Circular Letter prepared by Elders *Richardson & Baldwin*.

13. The question whether it is the duty of Christians, having the gift of singing, to learn themselves, and instruct their children so gifted or cause them to be instructed in the art of Psalmody, so that that part of divine worship may be performed with more decency and good order ?

Answered unanimously in the affirmative.

14. A question by a member of the Church in Brintwood, “ Whether we ought to hold a brother in fellowship who lives in the constant neglect of prayer in his family ; and justifies himself on a point of principle ?—We answer,

That although there may not be an express command, yet we think it is fully implied in a number of instances. Our LORD has taught us to say *our* Father, not *my* Father ; and give *us* this day our daily bread. We are also directed to pray with all prayer, which will include family prayer. Again, we are told that “ every creature of God is good ;” and is “ sanctified by the word of God and prayer.” Then consequently if we act with our families, we ought to pray with them.

We find that the Saints of old were a praying people ; but did they sound a trumpet before them, or tell of it them-

selves ? Or did others hear them ? We are commanded to train up our children in the nurture and admonition of the LORD. Nurture means education and instruction.

Can a parent instruct a child that he is a dependent creature on God without acknowledging God himself in the duty of prayer ? In short, the neglect of family prayer tends to wound the minds of praying Saints—encourages infidelity, and leaves but little distinction between professors and heathens.

15. Voted that Elder *Powers* and Deacon *Thomas Edgerly* attend the *Warren Association*.

16. Voted that Elder *Richardson* and *Moses Clarke* attend the *Woodstock Association* at their next.

17. Voted that Elder *Shepherd* and *John Frejcot* attend the next *Bodoinham Association*.

18. Voted that Elder *Hooper*, *Nathaniel Brown*, and *Joseph Hutchens* attend the *Meridith Association* the second Wednesday in September next.

19. Voted to meet at Brintwood the second Wednesday of June 1791, at two o'clock afternoon.



The CIRCULAR LETTER.

DEARLY BELOVED,

AS the revolving season turns round, it makes new discoveries of the divine Munificence, and declares that God is *good*, and as his *mercies are new to us every morning, and fresh every moment*, we are laid under the strongest obligations to gratitude and thankfulness. When we reflect on the *purity* of the divine nature, the *rectitude* of GOD'S *moral* government, and consequently the infinite distance he must be at from *sin*; we are astonished at the height of his *grace*, which has burst forth in the plan of gospel, to a *rebel* world, which leads us to enquire—

WHAT mighty *motive* could present itself to the divine mind, as sufficient to produce such astonishing effects. The sacred pages teach us to believe, that this plan of grace was concerted in eternity before the world was, when there was neither happiness or misery in the universe to move him—therefore, we conclude that his glory must be the Alpha and Omega of all his conduct: but will this, in the least, diminish our happiness? Nay verily, but when our hearts are under the influence of his spirit, we do in our souls exalt his glory above the heavens. Nothing

short of this can make our conduct resemble that of the blessed JESUS, “*who sought not his own glory, but the glory of him that sent him*”—and who, near the closing period of life, could look up to his Father with confidence and say, “*I have glorified Thee on the earth—I have finished the work thou gavest me to do.*”—Is there not in our hearts then a desire to imitate such a glorious example? Let us sacrifice every selfish interest that the glory of God may be advanced. Have we not the approbation of our consciences, that it is with a view to the divine glory, that we have set up our Association of Churches? Has not the LORD manifested his approbation from time to time, by causing our souls to rejoice and making us *set together in heavenly places.*

WE are once more favoured with an opportunity to hear of the prosperity of the Redeemer’s *cause* in various parts of our land; from some of which we have agreeable information of a good work, God is carrying on by his spirit.

A number of the *Ministers* of this Association are, by some means, prevented from assembling with us, which we should much regret, did we not believe that special providence had prevented their coming.—A number of our churches we have had no

particular accounts from; from those we have heard, they appear to be found in the faith; and in general to be at peace among themselves; but complain of great deadness, yet are not left without some earnest desires, that the LORD would revive *his work* amongst them: in order to which it appears necessary that the friends of Jesus should distinguish themselves and appear on the LORD's side, and *let their light so shine, that others seeing their good works may glorify God.*

LET us then earnestly *pray for the prosperity of Zion, for they that love her prosper.* Let us carefully attend to the discipline of CHRIST in his house—be careful to strengthen the hands that hang down, and comfort the feeble minded. We beseech you, Brethren, to know them that are set over you in the LORD, and esteem them highly in love for their work's sake; keep your doors open for the improvement of regular gifts, but be careful of admitting strangers, whose standing and christian characters you are unacquainted with.

MAY the LORD enlighten your minds abundantly in the knowledge of his will, and prepare you for every good word and work.

WALTER POWERS, *Mod. cler.*

WILLIAM LOOPER, *Clerk.*