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MINUTES

OF THE

New-Hampshire ASSOCIATION.

HELD AT THE

Baptist Meeting - House

IN

SALISBURY;

Wednesday and Thursday, June 14th and 15th.

1795.

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PORTSMOUTH, NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

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will give need to seducing spirits; and that the way of truth will be evil spoken of. Error in different ways will make its appearance, and attack the church of God.

The time has been, when those who were unfriendly to our churches have endeavoured to represent us as heterodox in our principles, and vicious in our practice. But blessed be God, through divine grace, we have been enabled, by a steady perseverance in the doctrine of Christ, to put to silence those gain-sayers, and in some degree to stop the mouth of slander and detraction. But, brethren, we must not put off our armour, and forget that we are in an enemy's land. We are by no means out of danger; we have to "Wrestle against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." We are called to "Contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints;" and if we adhere closely to the discriminating doctrine of the *Gospel*, and the peculiar ordinances of the Gospel, as they were first instituted and delivered to the church, we may expose ourselves to the censure of some as being superstitious.

The spirit of the times, in which we live, is a tolerant, accommodating spirit; and complains but little of what men believe, in case they lead inoffensive lives. But are the principles of our holy Religion to be trifled with? surely no. If a man believes in the *Koran* of *Mahomet*, and is a good member of civil society, you will treat him as such; but are you to consider or treat him as a christian? It cannot be supposed. If another believes in *Natural religion*, and denies the Christian revelation, the exercise of the most profuse charity does not require you to receive him as a christian, let his life be as it may. These are plain cases; but there are others which are more difficult: there are many who profess to be the friends of Christianity, and yet strip Christ of his *eternal Deity*, and rob him of the brightest gem in his Crown! "But we have not so learned Christ;" we cannot, we dare not give this point up; to us it is important! We have rested our salvation on Christ, not as a man, nor a created being, though of the highest order; but as being very God, and co-eternal with the Father! It would be robbery, and even blasphemy, for the first Archangel to claim equality with God. And if the blessed Jesus was not possessed of real and proper Deity, the Jews were right in saying that he blasphemed, in that he, being a man, made himself God. This sentiment lies at the foundation of the Christian scheme, and incorporates itself with the whole of the system.

We

We are happy to find that our brethren in *this* and our *sister Associations*, throughout this vast Continent, appear to be found in this very important article of our faith. Let us watch against all corruption in doctrine, and not give up a little here, and a little there, until we have not enough left to be worth contending for. Let us be careful that every sentiment that we believe, corresponds with the genuine spirit of the Bible; this we have adopted as our only rule of faith and practice.

You will permit us further to observe, that the *positive institutions* of Christ are few, plain, and significant; and saint Paul commended his brethren for keeping the ordinances as they were delivered unto them; but when they mutilated one of them, he asks, what shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not;* and he immediately had recourse to the original institution, to establish his reproof. This was a direct way to convict their consciences, and no doubt served a much better purpose than many consequences drawn from human arguments.

But, Brethren, we must not stop here; we must add to our faith virtue, if our sentiments be sound, and our external conformity to the rituals of Religion be exact. If supreme love to God does not rule in our hearts, glow in our affections, and have a commanding influence upon our lives and tempers, our religion will appear to all around us to be no more than an empty name. May we then cultivate every moral and social virtue, and endeavour to be uniform in our profession and practice: If this be not the case, we shall reproach that cause which ought to be dearer to us than life.

WALTER POWERS, *Moderator.*
WILLIAM HOOPER, *Clerk.*

* 1 Cor. xi. 22.