

49912

New Hampshire Association.

Minutes of the New-Hampshire Association, :
held at the Baptist Meeting-House in Madbury,
Wednesday and Thursday, June 8th and 9th, 1796. --
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AAS copy

MINUTES

OF THE

New-Hampshire ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT THE

BAPTIST MEETING-HOUSE

IN

M A D B U R Y,

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, JUNE 8th and 9th,

1796.

PORTSMOUTH, N. H.

PRINTED BY CHARLES PEIRCE, IN COURT-STREET.

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24 February 1991

Gift of hours of Harold Pierce



MINUTES

OF THE

New - Hampshire Association.

Wednesday, June 8, 1796.

A Sermon by brother Hezekiah Smith 10 o'clock,
from John IV. 36.

1. **A**T two o'clock P. M. Elder Elias Smith, preached the introductory Sermon, from Isaiah lii. 8, *Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice, with the voice therefore shall they sing : for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again Zion.*

2. Chose Elder Hezekiah Smith, Moderator, and Elder William Hooper, Clerk.

3. Read letters from the several churches ; and took the following account of members who have been added, dismissed, excluded, or who have died the year past, and the whole number in each church, with the names of Ministers and Messengers present.

N. B. Ordained ministers names in *Italicks*.

Churches.

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Add.</i>	<i>Dism.</i>	<i>Ex.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>No.</i>
Berwick and Madbury.	{ <i>William Hooper,</i> <i>Ephraim Fols.</i> <i>Eliphalet Cloutman.</i>	1				93
Brentwood with its branches.	{ <i>Samuel Shepard,</i> <i>Richard Martin,</i> <i>Benjamin Watson,</i> <i>Broadstreet Gilman,</i> <i>Jonathan Thing,</i> <i>Samuel Pottle,</i> <i>William Batchelder,</i>	6	42		2	419
Sanford,	<i>John Powers.</i>					23
Gilmantown,	{ <i>Walter Powers,</i> <i>Dudley Young,</i> <i>True Page.</i>	2				78
Northwood,	{ <i>Edmund Pilsbury,</i> <i>Simeon Knowles,</i> <i>Israel Huckins.</i>		1	2	1	100
Wells,	{ <i>Nathaniel Lord,</i> <i>Joseph Eaton,</i> <i>Robert Ford.</i>					63
Coxhall,	<i>Simon Lock.</i>	15	27		3	42
Shapleigh,	{ <i>Nehemiah Davis,</i> <i>John Bodwill,</i> <i>Benjamin Magoon.</i>					55
Waterborough,	{ <i>Henry Smith,</i> <i>Samuel Dame.</i>	3				34
Cornish,	{ <i>John Chadbourn,</i> <i>Isaac Thompson,</i> <i>Andrew Sherbourn.</i>				1	46
Fryburgh,	{ <i>Zebediah Richardson,</i> <i>Morris Witham.</i>					27
Salisbury,	{ <i>Elias Smith,</i> <i>Ezra Flanders.</i>				1	133
Newtown,	{ <i>John Peak,</i> <i>Timothy Eastman,</i> <i>Reuben Doe.</i>					23
		27	71	2	8	1113

Received a letter from Newtown church, requesting to join with this association, after examining their articles of faith, they were admitted and received by the right hand of fellowship.

Received letters and minutes from the corresponding associations by their messengers, from Warren, Elders Hezekiah Smith, and John Peak, from Meredith, Elders Isaiah Stone and John Crockett, from Bowdoinham, Elder Isaac Case.

Voted, that the brethren and messengers from the sister associations, take a seat and act with us.

Chose Elder Peak, and Brother Batchelder to prepare the corresponding letters; and Elder Peak to prepare the Circular Letter for next year.

Adjourned until to-morrow morning eight o'clock.

JUNE 9.

Met according to adjournment, and after prayer by Elder Powers, read the circular letter prepared by Elder Pillsbury

Voted, that Elder Hooper make such alterations as are necessary to prepare the circular letter for the press.

Read a letter from the churches in the district of Maine requesting a dismission to be set off as a sister association.

Voted, to refer to a committee the above letter, to be chosen of the delegates from sister associations.

Chose Elders Hezekiah Smith, Isaac Case and John Crockett who brought in the following report:

We the subscribers being chosen your Committee to consider the expediency of dividing this association, do offer it as one decided opinion, that all circumstances considered, it would not be for the glory of God and the prosperity of Zion; therefore to remain in one compact associated body, we think will be a strong barrier against the inroads of an insidious enemy, who delights in dividing and sowing the seeds of discord; and also of establishing the cause of the Redeemer in the world.—As we have weighed the reasons for and against the division, we hope the result of our deliberations, will be agreeable to the feelings of our brethren, and will finally issue in the promotion of that cause, which should be nearer to us than our very lives.

HEZEKIAH SMITH,
ISAAC CASE,
JOHN CROCKETT.

Madbury, June 9, 1796.

Voted to postpone the request of the Eastern Churches until our next association.

A sermon at 11 o'clock by Elder Stone, from 2 Timothy i. 9.

Chose messengers to sister associations; to Warren, Elders William Hooper, John Peak and Richard Martin.

To the Bowdoinham, Elders Simon Lusk and John Chadburn.

To the Woodstock, Elders John Peak and Elias Smith.

To the Marshfield, Elders Walter Powers and Elias Smith.

Voted, to hold our next association at Waterborough, second Wednesday, June, 1797, two o'clock, P. M.

Elder William Hooper to preach the introductory sermon.

A sermon at 3 o'clock was preached by Elder Case.

THE CIRCULAR LETTER.

DEARLY BELOVED IN THE LORD,

WE take leave to address you at this time, upon a subject the most interesting and important, viz. of reading and forming your opinions respecting your duty to God and man from the Holy Scriptures. And for us to have a right understanding of them, these following things are necessary. In the first place to have the spirit of God, "For the natural man receiveth not the things of the spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." And the scriptures were given by inspiration of the spirit of God. And are profitable to form the conduct of the man of God. Although the being of God is discernable by the works of nature and providence, yet the will of God respecting our happiness is only made known to us in his holy word, the depraved mind is laboring for wherewithal to come before the Lord in such a manner as to find acceptance with him; but notwithstanding the fruitfulness of the human understanding, it must remain unhappy without revelation; but through the goodness of our God he hath revealed in his word, an all-sufficient atonement through the death and sufferings of his son Jesus Christ, as is sufficient to console the labouring soul.

But 2dly, In order for the spiritual man to have a right understanding of the scriptures; he must
compare

compare spiritual things with spiritual, but it is too often the case that custom and tradition form our opinions, and we go to the scriptures, to search for something to support them, and put our consciences, and the scripture both, to the torture, rather than give up our favorite tenets.

And 3dly, it is necessary that we understand the design of the Holy Spirit in the passages we read, what was spoken to the kingdoms of this world, and what was spoken to the church of Jesus Christ, and which belongs to the believer, and which to the unbeliever, and by a strict attention to this rule we may rightly divide the word of truth and give every one his portion in season. Were our opinions formed from the simplicity of the scriptures, there would be a greater sameness in our belief and practice, than at present appeareth in the professors of the christian religion.

In God's holy word our duty and happiness are inseparably connected, for it is our duty to love God, and it is our happiness to do it, and it is our duty to love our fellow men, and our social happiness very much depends upon it.

We find God in his word faithful to his people, in the most difficult seasons they have to pass thro' in this world ; and we may be well assured that we shall receive the end of our faith ; that is the salvation of our souls.

And also that he is just in executing his threatenings against the ungodly in this world, and we have the greatest reason to believe he will in the world to come.

And 4thly, It is of great use to the believer in order to rightly understand God's holy word, to live near to God, for the secret of the Lord is with them that fear him, and if any of us lack wisdom we may

ask

ask it of God who giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him.

Dear Brethren, there appeareth to be a great want of practical religion amongst us in this dark and gloomy day. We ought to have on the whole armour of God, that we may be able to withstand all the firey darts of the wicked, and manfully use the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God; that we may fight the good fight of faith; and finally lay hold of eternal life.

We have had an agreeable interview at this our anniversary meeting, and have reason to believe that we have had the Divine presence with us, and we hope it will be made a blessing to many souls.

Dearly beloved, stand fast in one mind, and be perfectly joined together in the same judgment: Let nothing be done through strife or vain glory, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves. And may the God of peace sanctify you wholly, and present you blameless before the throne of his glory with exceeding joy, Amen.

Signed in behalf of the Association,

HEZEKIAH SMITH, Moderator.

WILLIAM HOOPER, Clerk.

The proportion of each church for printing the Minutes.

Berwick and Madbury,	6s.
Brentwood and its branches,	15s.
Sanford,	4s.
Gilmantown,	5s.
Northwood,	6s.
Wells,	5s.
Coxhall,	6s.
Shapleigh,	4/6
Waterborough,	3s.
Cornith,	3s.
Fryburgh,	3s.
Salisbury,	9s.
Newtown,	2s/3
Limerick, psid	3s.