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Baptists. New Hampshire. New Hampshire Association,  
1797.

Minutes ... in Waterborough ... June 14th and 15th,  
1797.

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# MINUTES

OF THE

New-Hampshire ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT THE

BAPTIST MEETING-HOUSE.

IN

## WATERBOROUGH:

Wednesday and Thursday, June 14th and 15th.

1797.

*Portsmouth, New-Hampshire.*

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# MINUTES

OF THE

## New-Hampshire Association.



JUNE 14, 1797.

A Sermon at ten o'clock by Elder Case, from Acts iv. 33. *And great grace was upon them all.*

AT two o'clock P. M. Elder William Hooper preached the introductory Sermon, from Hebrews iv. 14. *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.*

1st. Chose Elder Peak, Moderator, and Elder Wm. Hooper, Clerk.

2d. 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>Adl.</i> | <i>Dis.</i> | <i>Exc.</i> | <i>Did.</i> | <i>No.</i> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| Berwick and Madbury               | { <i>William Hooper,</i><br><i>Ephraim Fols,</i><br><i>Stephen Houldon.</i>                           | 1           | 30          | 1           | 1           | 61         |
| Berwick church at the Great Hill. | { <i>William Batchelor,</i><br><i>Jedediah Goodwin,</i><br><i>James Gray.</i>                         | 6           |             |             |             | 30         |
| Brentwood and its branches,       | { <i>Samuel Shepard,</i><br><i>Broadstreet Gilman,</i><br><i>Stephen Jewet,</i><br><i>John Thing.</i> | 8           | 4           |             | 5           | 418        |
| Sanford,                          | { <i>Jonathan Powers,</i><br><i>Eleazer Chadbourn.</i>                                                | 1           |             |             | 1           | 30         |
| Gilmantown,                       | { <i>Walter Powers,</i><br><i>Simon Mulgett,</i><br><i>Ezekiel Flanders,</i><br><i>Noah Barth.</i>    |             | 2           |             |             | 76         |
| Northwood,                        | <i>Edmund Pillsbury.</i>                                                                              |             |             |             |             | 100        |
| Wells and Berwick.                | { <i>Nathaniel Lord,</i><br><i>Joseph Eaton,</i><br><i>Robert Ford,</i><br><i>William Perkins.</i>    | 1           |             | 1           |             | 61         |
| Coxall,                           | { <i>Simon Lock,</i><br><i>Samuel Burnham,</i><br><i>Thomas Guptail.</i>                              |             |             |             |             | 40         |
| Shapleigh,                        | { <i>Nehemiah Davis,</i><br><i>John Bodwell,</i><br><i>Abraham Pugsby.</i>                            |             | 3           |             |             | 50         |
| Waterborough,                     | { <i>Henry Smith,</i><br><i>Nathaniel Hanes.</i>                                                      | 7           |             | 1           |             | 37         |
| Cornish,                          | { <i>John Chadbourn,</i><br><i>Andrew Sherburne,</i><br><i>Joseph M. Thompson.</i>                    |             |             |             |             | 46         |
| Fryburgh,                         | { <i>Zebediah Richardson,</i><br><i>Morris Witham,</i>                                                | 2           |             |             |             | 29         |
| Salisbury,                        | { <i>Elias Smith,</i><br><i>Ezra Flanders,</i><br><i>Abner Flanders,</i>                              |             |             | 2           | 1           | 130        |

| <i>Churches.</i>               | <i>Messengers.</i>                                                                                      | <i>Add.</i> | <i>Dism.</i> | <i>Exc.</i> | <i>Died.</i> | <i>No.</i> |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| Newtown,                       | { <i>John Peak,</i><br><i>Daniel Tuxbury,</i><br><i>William Cooper,</i>                                 | 5           |              |             |              | 38         |
| Limerick,                      | { <i>Ebenezer P. Kinsman,</i><br><i>Jacob Mills,</i><br><i>Penuel Clark,</i><br><i>Ebenezer Record.</i> |             |              |             |              | 28         |
| Personsfield and<br>New field. | { <i>Levi Chadbourn,</i><br><i>John Doe,</i><br><i>David Marston.</i>                                   |             |              |             |              | 51         |

Elder Moses Chase who administered at Salisbury, Massachusetts, resigned his place in the Church Militant the 5th of February 1797. *Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.*

Received letters from Limerick and Personsfield Churches, 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 corresponding Associations, from Warren no messengers, from Meredith, Elder John Crockett.

From Bowdoinham, Elder Isaac Case and brother Elisha Williams.

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

Chose Elders Peak and Batchelder, brother Williams and Sherburne to prepare the corresponding letters.

Adjourned, until to-morrow morning 8 o'clock.

### JUNE 15.

Met according to adjournment, and after prayer by Elder Lock, read and accepted the circular letter prepared by Elder Peak.

Then took under consideration the request of the Churches in the District of Maine the last year.

Voted to postpone the request of said Churches till our next association.

A sermon by Elder Peak, 11 o'clock, Psalm xlv: 3, 4.

Chose Elder Batchelder to prepare the Circular Letter for next year

Read the minutes from corresponding associations.

Also read minutes from Philadelphia association.

Voted

Voted to accept the letters to the corresponding associations prepared by Elders Peak and Batchelder, brother Williams and Sherburne.

Voted, Elders Hooper and Shephard, messengers to Warren association, Elders Batchelder and Chadbourn, and Brother Morris Witham, messengers to Bowdoinham association, Elders Peak and Smith, messengers to Woodstock, Elders Peak and Batchelder, messengers to Meredith.

Adjourned till two o'clock in the afternoon.

Met according to adjournment, and after prayer by Elder Hooper,

Voted to hold our next association at Elder Batchelder's meeting house in Berwick second Wednesday in June, 1798 two o'clock P. M.

Elder Simon Lock to preach the introductory Sermon.

A Sermon at 3 o'clock by Elder Nehemiah Davis, John xii. 21.



T H E

## CIRCULAR LETTER.



DEARLY BELOVED,

**P**ERMIT us at the close of this anniversary interview to address you on the important subject of *Practical religion*, while we invite your attention to that expressive passage of sacred writ 1 John v. 3. **FOR THIS IS THE LOVE OF GOD, THAT WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS.**—By his commandments we may understand either his moral Government, or positive institutions. His moral government is that by which all rational beings are under perpetual obligations of perfect and unceasing love to God as their creator, possessed of every divine and amiable perfection : and also that we love our neighbour as ourselves. These holy and upright affections are essential to the practice of our holy religion. It is for this purpose that the Divine Redeemer is appointed head over all things to the church “that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto himself a peculiar people zealous of good works.”—Whether we consult the holy law or blessed gospel, they equally dictate to a life of holiness, “for the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to



to all men ; teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world."

Holiness is the constitution of heaven, it becometh the house of the LORD forever, and without holiness no man shall see the LORD.

Therefore the infinitely wise and glorious Jehovah, was graciously pleased to make a display of grace and truth in the salvation of fallen sinners, in a way of holiness. And to this end he hath predestinated some of the children of men to everlasting life, from before the creation, to be conformed to the Image of his son, as it is written "according as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love ; having predestinated us to the adoption of children by Jesus Christ, to himself according to the good pleasure of his will." Eph. 1. 4-5. Thus we see how holiness and salvation, are inseparably connected in the display of redeeming mercy toward guilty sinners ; That the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh but after the spirit.

It is highly reasonable that christians should keep the commandments of God, for they have experienced the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost, the Law of God is in their minds and written in their hearts, they are experienced in a divine life, and have the love of God shed abroad in their souls : the fruit of all which is unto holiness, and the end eternal life. See 1 John ii. 29, "Ye know that every one that doth righteousness is born of God." Without this heavenly birth, we neither keep his commandments, do justice, love mercy, nor walk humbly with God. It is not in the power of

B) miracles

miracles, tongues, gifts nor fiery zeal to supply the want of Love; "for this is the love of God; that we keep his commandments."

Secondly. If we understand by his commandments, that positive institutions are enjoined upon us, then let us hear him who speaketh from heaven. We are intirely dependent on revelation for the knowledge of positive institutions, and the principal reason why we should regard them is, that it is the will of the Lawgiver. Herein we have opportunity to try the strength of our love and faith. The institutions of preaching, prayer, publick and more private worship, Baptism and the Lord's supper, are plainly taught in the last will and testament of our LORD; and are peculiarly binding on christians.— And now dear brethren, can we pretend to be followers of the Lamb, and trifle with these sacred things? Shall we temporize with, mutilate, neglect and disown the ordinances and institutions of the Gospel, and yet profess to be under the influence of a divine life? Hear the voice of our beloved, Luke vi. 46, "And why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say."—Since we profess the religion of the holy Redeemer, let us heartily receive the doctrine of the Cross, and remain stedfast in those precious truths which are revealed as laying at the foundation of experimental and practical godliness. Let us not be content with a nominal profession only, but let us ever be found walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the LORD blameless: that they who are of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of us. May it ever be our steady and uniform endeavour through grace, as parents and children, ministers and people, to fill our stations with usefulness and duty. Take  
encouragement

encouragement to persevere in our holy warfare in the midst of abounding errors and profaneness, from a consideration of the *excellency of the christian religion*.

Here we view a finished atonement, reconciliation, and complete redemption, accompanied with the holy spirit of promise. Who by his divine energy changes the hearts of such as are universally opposed to all moral good, restoring them to rectitude, order and obedience. Hereby we receive a sealed pardon, peace of conscience, joy in the holy Ghost, and many great and precious promises. It is by this religion that we obtain a lively hope of immortality, and experience a prelibation of heavenly bliss. The same infinitely glorious Jehovah, who hath laid the foundation of his Kingdom in the perfections of his own nature; is constantly fulfilling his kind designs of love, by gathering precious souls to himself through the riches of his grace. When we indulge our reflections upon the present prosperous state of our Churches, our hearts may justly expand with gratitude to the King of Zion.

Beloved in the LORD, prize and improve your privileges, stir up one another's pure minds by way of remembrance, speaking to one another in Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Be faithful witnesses for the truth, strict in discipline, gentle toward all men, walking in wisdom toward those who are without. Be liberal to your ministers, compassionate to the distressed, patient in tribulation, diligent in business, fervent in spirit, serving the LORD, so shall ye shine as lights in the world.

JOHN PEAK, *Moderator,*

WILLIAM HOOVER, *Clerk.*