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Minutes ... at Buxton, June ... 1804.

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MINUTES

OF THE

NEW-HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION,

HELD IN THE

NORTH BAPTIST MEETING-HOUSE

IN

BURTON,

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY,

JUNE 13 AND 14,

1804.

PORTSMOUTH, N. H.

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MINUTES
OF THE
NEW-HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

JUNE 13, 1804.

A SERMON by Elder Bailey, at 10 o'clock,—Matthew 11, 5.

At 2 o'clock the introductory sermon, by Elder Powers, from Galatians 5, 4—"Whosoever of you are justified by the law, ye are fallen from grace."

Chose Wm. Batchelder moderator, and Wm. Hooper clerk.

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

		Added.	Dismiss.	Excl'd.	Died.	No.
Madbury,	{ <i>William Hooper,</i> <i>Eliphalet Cloutman.</i>	0	0	0	1	64
1st in Berwick,	{ <i>William Batchelder,</i> <i>Benjamin Knight,</i> <i>Stephen Hobbs.</i>	13	2	4	3	123
Brentwood,	{ * <i>Samuel Shepard,</i> <i>Joshua Chase,</i> <i>Moses Clark.</i>	12	1	0	4	511
Sanford,	{ <i>Otis Robinson,</i> <i>Ebenezer Chadbourne,</i> <i>Ezra Thompson,</i> <i>Ebenezer Linscot,</i> <i>Joseph Chaney.</i>	10	1	0	2	125
Gilmanton,	{ <i>Walter Powers,</i> <i>George Graham.</i>	1	0	0	0	83
Northwood,	—————	0	0	0	0	90
Wells,	{ <i>Joseph Eaton,</i> <i>Jacob Perkins,</i> <i>Thomas Bragdon,</i> <i>Nathaniel Hubbard.</i>	5	76	0	5	82

		<i>Adm.</i>	<i>Dis.</i>	<i>Exc.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>No.</i>
2d in Berwick,	{ <i>Nathaniel Lord</i>		0	0	0	75
	{ Thomas D. Fernald,					
	{ William Perkins,					
Lyman,	{ Robert Pease					
	{ <i>Simon Lock,</i>	18	12	0	3	46
	{ Daniel Kimball,					
Shapleigh,	{ William Waterhouse.					
	{ Nathan Brackett,	2	15	5	0	35
Water- borough,	{ <i>Henry Smith,</i>	1	2	0	5	96
	{ William Woodward,					
	{ Eastman Hutchins,					
	{ Dominicus Ricker,					
Cornish,	{ Paul Chadbourne, jr.					
	{ Joseph Smith,	11	3	1	0	61
	{ Noah Jewett,					
	{ Joseph M. Thompson,					
	{ William Chadbourne.					
Fryburg,	{ David Rundlett,					
	{ John Clark.					
Newtown,	{ * <i>Zebediah Richardson,</i>	0	0	0	0	38
	{ James Lord.					
Limerick,	{ * <i>Samuel Ambrose,</i>	3	0	0	0	51
	{ <i>Ebenezer P. Kinsman,</i>	24	0	1	1	64
	{ Jacob Mills,					
	{ Penuel Clark,					
	{ Richard Dearborn,					
Parsonfield & Newfield,	{ Simon Fogg.					
	{ <i>Levi Chadbourne,</i>	17	0	2	2	186
	{ <i>Wentworth Lord,</i>					
	{ Joseph Dame,					
	{ Abraham Drake,					
	{ Phineas Graves,					
Buxton,	{ John Doe,					
	{ Caleb Marston.					
	{ <i>Abner Flanders,</i>	14	0	0	0	79
Lebanon & Berwick,	{ Joseph Atkinson,					
	{ Samuel Woodson.					
	{ <i>Zebedee Delano,</i>	0	1	1	0	57
	{ Nathaniel Gubtail,					
	{ Joshua Stackpole,					
	{ Edmund Stackpole.					

		Added.	Dis.	Exc.	Died.	No.
Newmarket,	{ Thomas Cheswell, Joseph Doe.	0	0	0	0	38
Exeter,	Thomas Kimball,	9	0	0	2	37
Limington,	{ <i>Stephen Webber,</i>	8	0	0	0	30
	{ John Andross,					
	{ Ebenezer Sawyer.					
Deerfield,	{ * <i>Peter Mores,</i>	1	0	0	1	24
	{ Enos Sanbourne,					
	{ Joseph Cram.					
2d in Wells,	{ <i>Joshua Roberts,</i>	8	2	0	0	35
	{ Samuel Burnham,					
	{ John Taylor,					
	{ Joseph Taylor,					
	{ Timothy Kezer,					
	{ Benjamin Harmon,					
Arundel,	{ Abraham Burnham.					
	{ <i>Andrew Sherburne,</i>	0	0	0	0	28
	{ Josiah Hutchins,					
	{ James Whitten,					
	{ Nathaniel Walker.					

* This mark Ministers not present.
Ordained Ministers in *Italics*.

The church of Arundel was received this meeting of the Association.

The 2d church in Berwick was dismissed from the church in Wells, and is now a distinct church in this Association.

Chose Elder Batchelder to prepare the Corresponding Letter.—Adjourned until to-morrow morning eight o'clock.

JUNE 14—Met according to adjournment.

Prayer by Brother Titcomb.

Received minutes from the Warren Association, but no messenger.

Letter and minutes from the Bowdoinham Association, by their messengers, Elders Boardman and Titcomb.

Letter and minutes from the Meredith Association, by their messenger, Elder Bailey.

Received and adopted the Circular Letter prepared by Elder Henry Smith. Likewise the Corresponding Letter prepared by Elder Batchelder—In answer to the question, "How the

Comforter reproveth the world of sin, righteousness and judgment." We reply, that the words then spoken by our Saviour referred to the miraculous display of the spirit of God on the day of Pentecost ; and that the same spirit that reproveth ungodly men through the Disciple's testimony, and through Stephen's preaching, does now reprove the world of their sin, by extorting from them an acknowledgement similar to the answer returned to the rulers—John 7, 4, 6, Never man spake like this man ; or the confession of Agrippa, Acts 26, 28, to the trembling of Felix, Acts 24, 25—or the Centurion's confession, Matt. 27, 54, implying that they have no cloak for their sin.

Chose Elders Titcomb and Boardman, in addition to the committee to consider the question from the church in Deerfield.

Chose brethren Hooper, Smith, Powers and Batchelder, messengers to the Warren Association. Brethren Chadbourne and Flanders to the Bowdoin. To Meredith, brethren Kinsman, Chadbourne, Webber and Remick. To Woodstock, brethren Roberts, Roberson, Batchelder and Smith.

Voted to hold our next Association at Epping.—Brother Hooper to write the Circular, and brother Sherburne the Corresponding Letter.

Collected by contribution 44 dollars and 34 cents for the mission. A sermon by Elder Peter F. Roots, from 1 Timothy 1, 15. A sermon in the afternoon by Elder Boardman, from 1 Corinthians, 1, 18.

Supplies for Exeter—Eld. Delano, 1st in Sept. ; Eld. Kinsman, 3d in Sept. ; Eld. Lock, last in Sept. ; Eld. Batchelder, 3d in Oct. ; Eld. Chadbourne, last in Oct. ; Eld. Roberts, 2d in Nov. ; Eld. Sherburne, last in Jan. ; Eld. Flanders, Lord's Day before the Association at Epping.

Supplies for the 1st Parish in Shapleigh—Eld. Levi Chadbourne, last Lord's Day in June ; Eld. Kinsman, 1st in July ; Eld. Robinson, 3d in July ; Eld. Webber, the last in July ; Eld. Roberts, 3d in August ; Eld. Wentworth Lord, 1st in Sept. ; Eld. Eaton, 3d in Sept. ; Eld. Smith, 3d in Oct. ; Eld. Lock, 2d in November.

Supplies for Newmarket—Eld. Roberts, 1st in July ; Eld. Kinsman, 2d in Sept. ; Eld. Batchelder, 3d in Sept. ; Eld. Chadbourne, 1st in Nov. ; Eld. Sherburne, 1st in February ; Eld. Robinson, 1st in April.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

Dearlly beloved Brethren,

THROUGH the tender mercies of our God, we have been favoured with another annual meeting; suffer us brethren to put you in mind of the exhortation of Paul to the church of Galatia; to “stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free; and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. This exhortation was at a season when those brethren had fallen from the doctrine of grace, and seeking justification by the works of the law; this they were taught by those Jewish teachers who taught the necessity of circumcision, which bound them to fulfil the whole law. To all such we would say Christ shall profit you nothing; Christ is become of no effect unto you; whosoever of you are justified by the law, ye are fallen from grace; this the apostle calls a yoke of bondage, which neither they nor their fathers were able to bear. This doctrine though pleasing to the natural man giveth no liberty, but gendereth to bondage. This is the doctrine of the Pharisees, against which our Lord warned his disciples, saying, “beware of the leaven of the pharisees, which is hypocrisy.” One justly observes, between law and gospel there is a near connection, but at the same time a very material difference; the blending of these together, has been the cause of great error in the christian church; therefore we ought to keep them in their proper place; we are naturally wedded to the law as a covenant of works,

works, so that we cannot easily be disengaged from it ; but should we distinguish between law and gospel, we should find a wide difference ; the law denounceth wrath, the gospel publisheth peace ; the law convinceth of guilt, the gospel brings an acquittance ; the law requireth full satisfaction to be made for sin, the gospel proclaimeth full satisfaction made by the precious attoning blood of Jesus ; in the gospel we find free grace, free mercy, free pardon, faith and repentance are freely given ; the gospel is good news and glad tidings. The prophet Isaiah, when personating the Saviour, expresseth these gospel tidings, “ The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord hath annointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek ; he hath sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and to comfort all that mourn in Zion.” These are glorious tidings to the sinner, made sensible of his need of a Saviour to the laboring and heavy laden soul. Our Lord says, “ blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” The thirsty are invited to the water of life freely ; eternal life is the gift of God ; regeneration is the work of the Holy Spirit on the heart ; and every grace that constitutes the new man, is wrought in us by the holy spirit of God, which makes us loath ourselves, and repent with Godly sorrow for sin ; he becomes dead to all hopes of salvation by the law, and looks to Christ as his only rock and refuge ; and vieweth him as his attoning sacrifice and righteousness ; and being made free by the Son,

is free indeed—All the attributes of God harmonise in this glorious plan of redemption and salvation through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Dear Brethren, Have we not reason to fear that there are many who, like the Jews, being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God? Let us study to shew ourselves approved unto God; workmen that need not be ashamed; rightly dividing the word of truth, and giving to every one his portion in due season. The scripture says, "blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall impute righteousness without works;" and the prophet Daniel, speaking of the Messiah saith, "He shall bring in everlasting righteousness;" and David saith, "I will make mention of thy righteousness, and of thine only; and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted;" and we may say of such as teach salvation by their own works, as in Isaiah, xliv. 20, "A deceived heart hath turned them aside, that they cannot deliver their own soul, and say is there not a lie in my right hand.

Dear Brethren in the ministry, let us stand in our watch-tower, and preach the Lord Jesus Christ, and feed the flock of God with the sincere milk of the word; and not cry peace, where the Lord hath not said peace.

The NEW-HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION to Corresponding Affociations.

Beloved in the LORD,

WE are happy once more to address you as fellow pilgrims, in the way cast up for the ransomed of the Lord; and would present to you the apostolic maxim, that *without holiness no man shall see the Lord*. A cultivation of this principle will promote our union... This is essential to a christian, and without it no man can have a well grounded hope, or a scriptural faith.

A vain confidence in the soundness of our principles, the accuracy of our reasonings, and the clearness of our speculations, (without holiness) is foreign; and by no means comports with that faith, *which works by love, purifies the heart, and overcomes the world*. The aim of the true believer is to be governed by that principle which shone in the conduct of his Master; and any error in his conduct not comporting with the rule enjoined in the scriptures, gives him pain, and leads him to examine his heart:—This also moves him in prayerfulness to search the scriptures, for he is doubtful whether a character like his, can be privileged in the promises of pardon, peace and heaven.—In a word, he mourns for sin, and thirsts after holiness.—Dear brethren, though our vileness by nature, oft makes us abhor ourselves and in the language of the Prophet confess, to us belong shame and confusion of face; yet holiness being the desire of our souls, we

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are happily relieved by the thought, that he who is the King of saints, is passed into the heavens, and as an High Priest, an advocate with the Father, is able to save to the uttermost ; that He, who prayed for Peter's safety, before Peter knew Satan desired to sift him as wheat, knows our wants and will not be negligent towards his people—Let us look unto him who is able and will complete our victory over sin, and perfect us in holiness—A little while, and those who have mourned, and *sowed in tears, shall reap in joy.*

Then shall we better understand how Jesus is our righteousness, sanctification and redemption, and how his grace triumphed over sin and effected the eternal purposes of his love—and the use of much tribulation to ripen his people for dissolution and raise them to glory, will doubtless heighten the song of the redeemed and fill them with eternal approbation of Him, who is worthy, to receive all praise, honor, power and dominion forever and ever.

We have received agreeable tidings from many churches ; union subsists among us, and we solicit a continuance of your correspondence ; for heretofore it has been profitable. Brethren pray for us.

WILLIAM BATCHELDER, *Moderator.*

WILLIAM HOOPER, *Clerk.*