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Baptists. New Hampshire. New Hampshire Association,
1808.

Minutes ... in ... Gilmanton... June 8 and 9, 1808.
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PROCEEDINGS

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OF THE

NEW-HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION,

HELD IN THE

PARISH OF GUNSTOCK,

CLINTON,

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY,

JUNE 8. and 9, 1808.

PORTLAND :

**PRINTED BY W. WEEKS AND J. M'KONN
1808.**

MINUTES, &c.

WEDNESDAY, June 8, 1808.

At 1 o'clock a sermon by Brother William [unclear], from Psalm l. 5.

At 2 o'clock the introductory sermon, by Brother Joshua Roberts, from Titus ii. 14.—
Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people zealous of good works.

2. Chose Brother Otis Robinson, *Moderator*, and Brother Andrew Sherburne, *Clerk*.

3. After prayer by Elder Hooper, proceeded to read the letters from the churches, and took the following account of members added, dismissed, excluded, or who have died the past year, and the present number in each church.

N. B. The names of ordained ministers are in SMALL CAPITALS; licensed preachers in *italics*. Those ministers with this mark* were not present. Churches marked thus † we had no information from this session. Vacant churches distinguished thus —

Churches.	Elders and Messengers.	Added	Dismissed	Excluded	Died	Total
Madbury	WILLIAM HOOPER James Church	2				
1st Berwick	JOSHUA CHASE Benjamin Knight Jedediah Goodwin, jr. Daniel Goodwin Herchs. Fernald	23	11	3	9	
Brentwood, and branches	*SAMUEL SHEPHERD Eliphalet Merrill *JONATHAN THING				4	500

Churches.	Elders and Members	1850	1851	1852	1853
Brentwood, &c.	Joshua Lane Israel Rowel Moses Davis				
Sanford	OTIS ROBINSON Eleazar Chadbourn				
Gilmanton	WALTER POWERS Hozea Hatch Andrew Gilman George Grayham Daniel Clough Ebenezer Smith Samuel Row Jacob Blasdel	3			
1st Wells	*JOSEPH EATON Jacob Perkins		6	1	73
2d Berwick	NATHANIEL LORD William Perkins Jonathan Perkins William Staple John Fall Tristram Fall	1			66
Lyman	*SIMON LOCK Samuel Dennet	17		1	55
1st Shapleigh	WILLIAM GODING	2	3		87
1st Waterboro'	HENRY SMITH Samuel Dam		3		84
Cornish	TIMOTHY REMICK *ZEB. RICHARDSON William Chadbourn	1		4	81
Newtown	Anthony Kelly David Tukesbury	9			69
Berwick	Penuel Clark Partrick Furlong Gideon Straw	1	5	1	56
Presfield	WENTWORTH LORD John Doe Caleb Marston David Marston Harvey More	6		1	156

Churches.	Elders and Messengers.	Add.	Dis.	Exp.	Died	Total.
Parsonfield Buxton	Samuel Knap ABNER FLANDERS Moses Woodman Isaac Andrews		3		1	69
Leh...	ZEBEDEE DELANO Thomas Murray Benjamin Libby Daniel Key Richard Yeaton, jr.	1				64
Newmarket Exeter	Thomas Kimball STEPHEN WEBBER	6			1	38 49
Limington	Thomas Spencer		4			33
2d Wells	JOSHUA ROBERTS David Ross	1	1		1	53
Arundell Goffston	ANDREW SHERBURNE Job Kidder	4	2		2	62 15
2d Waterboro'	John Hill <i>Oliver Leonard</i>	1				17
2d Shapleigh	Jonathan Ross		2			19
Philipsburg	TIMOTHY HODSDON Gibeon Edgcomb Ezekiel Bragdon	2			1	26
Newfield	* <i>William Goodwin</i> Daniel Jones Joseph Dam Joseph Dam, jr.					
Effingham	Lemuel Rich John Drake Jacob Mills John Andrews John Seavey					48
3d Berwick	WM. CHADBOURN				14	

N. B. The two last churches were received at the present session.

4. Voted, to open a correspondence with the Lincoln Association.

5. Voted, that the brethren and sister Associations who are present, take a seat with us.

6. Adjourned until 9 o'clock tomorrow morning. Brother Goding concluded by

THURSDAY, June 9.

7. Met according to adjournment. Prayer introductory to business by Brother Robinson.

8. The Circular Letter prepared by Brother Hodsdon, was read and accepted; also the Corresponding Letter by Brother Smith, was read and accepted.

9. Received from sister associations accounts as follows:

From the	Letters.	Minutes.	Messengers.
Warren	Letter	Minutes	_____
Woodstock	Letter	Minutes	EBEN. BAGLEY
Bowdoinham	Letter	Minutes	_____
Meredith	Letter	Minutes	{ JOHN CROCKETT PETER WEBSTER
Lincoln	Letter	Minutes	{ _____ SWAIN NATHL. ROBINSON

10. In answer to the request of the Meredith Association presented to us last year,

Voted, that if any of the churches of this Association are disposed to join them, they have the approbation of this Association therein.

11. Chose the following brethren Messengers to sister Associations. To the Warren, Brethren William Hooper, Otis Robinson, Brother Leonard and Brother Kimball. To the Woodstock, Brethren David Tukesbury and Sml Rowel. To the Bowdoinham, Brethren Sml Goding, Delano and Sherburne; and also

to the Lincoln, (to be holden at Ballstown on the third Wednesday in September next, at 10 o'clock, A. M.) To the Meredith, Brethren William Chadbourn and Uriah Morrison.

12. Appointed Brother Joshua Roberts to write the Circular Letter; and Brother Stephen Webber to prepare the Corresponding Letter for the next year.

13. Voted to hold our next Association at Brother Goding's meeting house in Shapleigh, on the second Wednesday in June next, at 2 o'clock P. M.

14. Chose Brother Henry Smith Treasurer to the Association.

15. Supplies for Limerick; Brother Goding 3d Lord's day in June, Brother Sherburne 4th in June, Brother Webber 1st in July, Brother Roberts 2d in July, Brother Smith 3d in July, Brother Remick 4th in July, Brother Hodsdon 5th in July, Brother Chase 1st, 2d, 3d, and 4th in August.

16. Supplies for the Second Church in Shapleigh; Brother Goding 2d Lord's day in August, Brother Smith 3d in August, Brother Hodsdon 4th in September, Brother William Chadbourn 1st in October, Brother Delano 3d in October, Brother Robinson 2d in February.

The business of the Association being finished at 12 o'clock, the Moderator closed by prayer.

As a Council having been called by the request of the Baptist Church at Gilmanton, and having attended the usual modes of examination, at half past two o'clock the people assembled again, and Brother Uriah Morrison was Ordained to the work of an Evangelist.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

*The ELDERS and MESSENGERS of the NEW-HAMPSHIRE
ASSOCIATION to the Churches they represent.*

BRETHREN,

BEING convened together as your representatives, and servants, we feel constrained by love, and bound by lasting obligations, to recommend to you the things which accompany salvation, and belong to your peace.

Since our reciprocal utility, and happiness, essentially depend upon the fellowship to which we are called by the gospel, it must be of great importance to us, that we continue steadfast in the same, holding fast the profession of our faith without wavering, while we confide in the veracity of him who cannot lie. We can never excel in the fruits of the Spirit, nor any valuable undertaking, without unremitting watchfulness and perseverance ; without cultivating that divine heroism, that fortitude, patience, and charity, which the gospel requires.

It is granted that in consequence of the depravity of our moral constitution, the darkness of the mind, and the fallibility of the judgment, we often see ample cause to change our sentiments, and relinquish our purposes ; yet we should endeavour through divine assistance, to acquire such a degree of firmness of mind, and uniformity of manners, as the infirmities of our nature will admit. If we fix our determinations and form systems indeliberately, we shall often see sufficient cause to retract. Hasty and precipitate resolutions introduce suspense, fluctuation, and disorder. Hence the double minded man is justly

said to be "unstable in all his ways." The firmness of mind which we would recommend, is founded upon trust in God. The soul of man can repose herself on no other foundation with safety; no person can stand on any other basis shaken by the vicissitudes of fortune, undaunted and composed at the apprehension of approaching death. None of these things move the steadfast man; "he will guide his affairs with discretion: surely he shall not be moved forever. The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance; he shall not be afraid of evil tidings; his heart is fixed trusting in the Lord." As soon as we cast the cares and burdens of human life upon the Lord, we are sustained; when we take hold of his strength we become strong. It consists in a constant adherence to divine truth, the evidence of which has been ascertained by the understanding. It stands equally opposed to that arrogance and tenacity which triumph in the possession of their own errors and folly, and bid defiance to the evidence of truth; and to that vanity of mind which "is tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the slight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive." To that anxiety and agitation of mind which prevail at the suggestion of any thing new, or uncommon; that promises without fulfilling; that determines without accomplishing; that begins to build, but is not able to finish. This character is strongly marked by the venerable old patriarch in his address to his son Reuben, "unstable as water, thou shall not excel." Stability of mind is coincident with that charity that never faileth; which "worketh no ill to its neighbour; that suffereth long and is kind, that

envieth not, vaunteth not itself; is not puffed up; doth not behave itself unseemly; is not easily provoked; thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; heareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth, and endureth all things."

To avoid those evils, which to expose we contrasted with the virtue recommended, let us always keep in view the revelation of truth which we profess to believe; that we may remember not only what manner of persons we are, but what manner of person he is, in whom we trust, even "the same to day, yesterday, and forever; he is the Lord, he changes not, therefore we are not consumed."

If we hear of wars and rumors of wars, and are apprehensive of experiencing the calamities of a war in our own country, let us with the assistance of prophesy, anticipate that happy day when "nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." If sable clouds hang over our land, charged with divine judgments, threatening a ruinous tempest; if "darkness cover the earth, and gross darkness the people"—let us turn our eyes to the gospel; here a delightful prospect opens to our minds; here we may behold the Sun of righteousness arising to clear our horizon, and disperse the gathering storm; let us see that our minds are furnished with a store of good principles; "let the word of Christ dwell in us richly in all wisdom;" and make his commands, and examples the rule of our lives. "Whosoever heareth these sayings of mine," says our Lord, "and doeth them, I will liken him to a wise man, which built his house upon a rock, and the rain de-

scended and the floods came, and the winds blew, and it was upon that house, and it fell not, for it was founded upon a rock.”

And now, brethren, we commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.”

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CORESPONDING LETTER.

The NEW-HAMPSHIRE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, convened at the Baptist Meeting-House in the parish of Gunstock, in Gilmanton, N. H. June 8 and 9, 1808—to Corresponding Associations sendeth Christian salutation.

BELOVED IN CHRIST JESUS,

THE religion of our Lord Jesus is calculated to happify and comfort the real christian, while passing through this vale of tears. The commotions among the nations, at home and abroad, are distressing, and the event unknown. But godliness is profitable, having promise of the life that now is and that which is to come. Godly sorrows are so different from the sorrows of the world, that the former gives life and peace, while the latter brings death. In all the commotions of the present world, the followers of the Lamb having a view of an unchangeable God, whose promises are irreversable, from whence he draws strong consolation, that of the “increase of government and peace there shall be no end upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to overthrow it and to establish it with judgment and justice, from hence forth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”

Intelligence from many of our churches is truly pleasing; the Lord is going on among

them with his bow and crown conquering and to conquer. The information from our sister Associations, is as cold water to a thirsty soul.

The maxims of the wise king of Israel, that "two are better than one; and a three-fold cord is not quickly broken," force their weight upon our minds, while we reflect that by our correspondence light is diffused abroad; our knowledge is increased; and opportunity presents for the heralds of Jesus to hear the precious word as well as their brethren; consequently their hearts are comforted, and they return to their little flocks as Noah's dove to the ark, with an olive leaf in their mouths, and tell their brethren that the waters are assuaged; and are further led to bless and give glory to God that the bush is not consumed, although burning for thousands of years.

Errors in doctrine and practice appear to have increased, and some of our brethren entangled therein, while the ambassadors of Jesus (of our connexion) appear to remain unshaken; and in some places have had the happiness of seeing their brethren again established on the rock CHRIST.

May we hereby take encouragement to go forth in the name of him who hath said, "lo, I am with you alway till the world shall end."

Beloved Brethren, we unfeignedly entreat a continuance of your correspondence, and that you would pray for us that we may persevere in goodness, that hereby we may glorify God in our bodies and spirits while on the short journey of life; that we may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. Finally, brethren, farewell.

OTIS ROBINSON, Moderator.
ANDREW SHERBURNE, Clerk.