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Baptists . New Hampshire . 1816 .

Minutes . . . 1816 .

Kennebunk, [Me.], Remick, 1816 . 8 pp .

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MINUTES

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1753

OF THE

New-Hampshire Baptist Association,

HELD AT THE

NORTH MEETING-HOUSE

IN EFFINGHAM, N. H.

JUNE 12th & 13th, 1816.

KENNEBUNK,
PRINTED BY, J. K. REMICK,

1816.

MINUTES, &c.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 1816.

1. AT ten o'clock, A. M. brother WILLIAM GODING delivered the introductory Sermon from Ecc. XII. 13, 14. *Fear God, and keep his Commandments; for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil.*

2. Chose brother OTIS ROBINSON, Moderator, and brother ANDREW SHERBURNE, Clerk.

3. After prayer by the Moderator, read the Letters from the Churches, and took the following account of members added, dismissed, excluded, or who have died in the year past.

N. B. The names of ordained ministers are in SMALL CAPITALS; licenced preachers in *Italics*.—Those ministers with this mark (*) were not present. Churches marked thus, (†) have not been represented the present session. Vacant churches are distinguished by a dash —

Churches.	Elders & Messengers.	Added.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Died.	Total.
Madbury,	*WILLIAM HOOPER, Eliphalet Cloutman, Noah Hooper,	1				73
1st Berwick,	————— Dominicus Goodwin,				1	142
Sanford,	GIDEON COOK, *Jonathan Powers, John Libby, Jeremiah Moulton, Nehemiah Littlefield, Enoch Littlefield,	47				118
1st Wells,	*JOSEPH EATON, Jacob Perkins,	1			1	68
2d Berwick,	NATHANIEL LORD, Thomas D. Fernald, William Perkins, Jonathan Perkins, Isaac Perkins,	5				84

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Elders & Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dismissed.</i>	<i>Excluded.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Lyman,	Tristram Fall, Ephraim Twambly, SIMON LOCK, Thomas Gould,	4			1	74
1st Shapleigh,	WILLIAM GODING, <i>John Larey,</i> Nathaniel Brackett, Paul Downs, John Witham,	43	2	2	2	126
1st Waterboro',	HENRY SMITH, Dominicus Ricker, Andrew Roberts,	9				98
Cornish,	TIMOTHY REMICK, *ZEBEDIAH RICHARDSON, Noah Jewett,		2		3	69
Newtown,† Limerick,	*DAVID TUKESBURY, ————— Penuei Clark, Jacob Bradbury, Simon Fogg,	1				52 55
Parsonsfield,	WENTWORTH LORD, Caleb Burbank, James Andrews, John Tuck,	1		3	5	137
Buxton,	*ABNER FLANDERS, Thomas P. Sawyer,	3	2	2		82
Lebanon & } Berwick, }	ZEBEDEE DELANO, Nathaniel Guptail, Benjamin Libby, Samuel Knox, Edward Stackpole, Benjamin Libby, jr.	12			1	92
Newmarket,†	—————					38
Exeter,†	—————					64
Limington,	<i>John Sevey,</i> *EBENEZER P. KINSMAN, Barzellai Small,	8		4		39
In the East Par- } ish in Wells, }	JOSHUA ROBERTS, Abner Littlefield,	3			2	70
Arundel, 2d Waterboro',	ANDREW SHERBURNE, ————— William Woodward, John Hill,	4	1	1	4	85 12

<i>Churches</i>	<i>Elders & Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dismissed.</i>	<i>Excluded.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
2d Shapleigh,	_____	26		1		59
	Lemuel Twomley, Benjamin Pillsbury, Rufus Wadley,					
Hollis, Newfield,	TIMOTHY HODSDON, _____	2 1			1	29 66
	David Moulton, Isaac Getchell, Samuel Stone,					
Effingham,	LEVI CHADBURN, Joseph Drake, Thomas Lord, John S. Dearbourn,	2				84
3d Berwick, Ossipee,	*WILLIAM CHADBURN, *WILLIAM TAYLOR, Joel Fernald,				1	17 22
Hiram,† Salisbury, Gillford,	_____	52		1	4	16 110
	OTIS ROBINSON, _____				1	20
	Andrew Gillman, Jacob Blasdel,					
		224	7	14	27	2001

4. Adjourned until 8 o'clock tomorrow morning At 4 o'clock brother NICHOLAS FOLSOM delivered a sermon from Psal. CIII, 15.

THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 1816.

Met according to adjournment. Opened with prayer by brother GIDEON COOK.

5. Read and accepted the Circular and Corresponding Letters.

MISSIONARY CONCERNS.

Although there have been no auxiliary societies organized in this association, agreeably to the request of last year for the support of the foreign mission, yet the subject is not relinquished ; several Churches and Societies have manifested a spirit of liberality, and set a laudable example for others :

The following sums of money, have been received from the following Churches and Societies, for the support of the foreign mission, viz.

	D.	C.
1st Wells.	10	15
Cornish,	5	00

East Parish in Wells,	5	38
Salisbury,	9	50
Contributed in the Associations,	10	21
Arundel,	10	65
Hollis,	9	75
From Lt. Barnabas Palmer,	1	00
	<hr/>	
	61	59

6. The Association therefore recommend to the Churches, to have an annual contribution for the support of the foreign mission.

7. Chose brother **TIMOTHY HODSDON** Corresponding Secretary.

8. Received communications from the following Associations.

<i>Associations.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Minutes.</i>
Warren,		
Boston,		
Bowdoinham,	ELIAS TAYLOR,	Minutes.
Lincoln,		
Cumberland,	DANIEL MASON,	Minutes.
Merideth,	NICHOLAS FOLSDOM,	do.
Woodstock,		

9. Appointed the following Messengers to Corresponding Associations. To the

Warren & } **OTIS ROBINSON** and **ANDREW SHERBURNE.**
Boston, }

Lincoln, **GIDEON COOK** and **JOSHUA ROBERTS.**

Bowdoinham & } **HENRY SMITH, WILLIAM GODING** and **ZEBEDEE**
Cumberland, } **DELANO.**

Merideth, **OTIS ROBINSON, Joseph Dam** and **Joel Fernald.**

Woodstock, **OTIS ROBINSON.**

10. Appointed brother **TIMOTHY REMICK** to write the Circular Letter for next year, and brother **GIDEON COOK** the Corresponding Letter.

11. Chose brother **HENRY SMITH** Treasurer.

12. Voted to hold our next meeting at Sanford, on the second Wednesday of June next, at 10 o'clock A. M.

13. Appointed brother **TIMOTHY HODSDON**, to preach the introductory sermon.

14. The business of the Association being finished at 11 o'clock, the Moderator closed by prayer—After a few minutes intermission, brother **ELIAS TAYLOR** delivered a Sermon from Ps. XLII. 2.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The Elders and Messengers of the New-Hampshire Association, to the Churches they represent.

DEAR BRETHREN,

AMONG the subjects on which we address you, none are perhaps, of more importance at this time than that contained in the words of our Lord Jesus, Luke XII. 15. *Take heed, and beware of covetousness; for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.* This is a sin that easily besets every man; and for which more excuses are plead than for any other. It often walks in disguise, as Paul shows the Thessalonians in speaking of a cloak of covetousness. It frequently goes under the mask of prudence, hence the Apostle's language is by many perverted in the following text. "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." Against this sin God hath shown his displeasure in every age.

The indignation and fury of the Lord against Jerusalem is shown us by the prophet, Jere. 6. 11, 12, 13, here we discover the judgments of God upon children, youth, husband and wife; the hand of the Lord was stretched out against the inhabitants of the land; for from the least of them even unto greatest of them, every one was given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest, every one dealt falsely. Ministers are often infected with it, and regard the fleece more than the flock; People are infected with it and are reproved by the prophet Mal. 3. 8, 9. Will a man rob God? yet ye have robbed me: but ye say, wherein have we robbed thee? In tiths and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me even this whole nation. Through the covetousness of the people, the Levites, the Priests of the Lord received not the portion that the Lord had appointed them; they had to leave God's altar, and go into the fields to obtain the necessaries of life. For the iniquity of covetousness the Lord was wrath with the Jews and smote them, yea, hid himself and was wrath. Isa. 57. 17. The case of Gehazi, is to our purpose; when the prophet refused a gift from Naaman the Syrian, Gehazi, through covetousness followed him with a lie in his mouth, and obtained two talents of silver, and two changes of garments; and having secreted them, returned to his master, who inquired where he had been; he replied, "thy servant went no whether." But Elisha detected his covetousness and falshood, and inquired whether it was a time to receive money, and garments, and olive yards, and vineyards, &c. He then denounced the judgments of God against him and his family. "The leprosy of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed forever. And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow." The covetousness of Achan who troubled Israel, brought destruction on himself and whole family. The wrath of God was dis-

played in the death of Ananias and Sapphira for their covetousness, pride, and falsehood ; they deliberately agreed to all this wickedness ; they lied against the Holy Ghost. Ahab king of Israel with all his possessions, could not be contented, he yet coveted Naboth's vineyard. Naboth virtuously declined parting with the inheritance of his fathers : But the detestable Jezabel, contrived and effected the death of Naboth, and Ahab took possession of the vineyard ; but did not long enjoy it. God's wrath fell on the whole household of Ahab, to death and destruction.

Judas, could sell his divine master, even to be crucified, for thirty pieces of silver : But his end, his dreadful end should be a warning to us and all others to *be ware of covetousness*. Finally covetousness is ranked among the most atrocious crimes, and excludes the soul from the kingdom of Heaven. Therefore brethren agreeably to our Lord's words let us take heed, and *be ware of covetousness*. But to do good and to communicate forget not, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. Cast thy bread upon the waters ; for thou shalt find it after many days. There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth ; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet ; but it tendeth to poverty. Therefore having these warnings against *covetousness*, let us practice beneficence. Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come. Truth is a girdle, let us wear it—Charity never faileth ; let us follow after it—Honesty is the best policy—God delighteth in a just weight and a just balance—let us use no other.

And while our brethren in so many different places are contributing of their abundance, for the spread of the gospel, in different lands ; let us also cast in our mite ; this is the only world in which we can do good to our fellow men ; and it will soon be said to us give up thy stewardship, for thou mayest no longer be steward. Let us then as wise stewards improve our time and talents, so that our Lord may have to say unto us, well done good and faithful servants, enter into the joy of your LORD.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The New-Hampshire Association, to Corresponding Associations.

BELOVED BRETHREN,

HAVING been, by grace, raised up to sit in heavenly places, and to take sweet counsel together ; we realize the benefits resulting from Christian Society and fellowship in the truth, to which nothing can be so essential as that genuine Charity which is the fulfilling of the Law, out of a pure heart and a good conscience and faith unfeign-

ed. In our present interview we have been much favoured, the intelligence from a number of our Churches has been truly pleasing.

We cordially congratulate you, on the interest which you are taking in the Missionary cause ; we have some pleasing anticipations that this spirit will obtain among our Churches.

While we regret that we have not the happiness of receiving Messengers and Minutes, from some of our sister Associations, we gratefully acknowledge those with which we are favoured. Our interest in your correspondence is not in the least diminished, we therefore renew our solicitations for a continuance thereof.

OTIS ROBINSON, *Moderator.*

ANDREW SHERBURNE, *Clerk.*

