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Baptists. New Hampshire. New Hampshire
Association, 1817.

Minutes of ... Held at the North Meeting-House
in Sanford, Me. June 11th and 12th, 1817.

Portland, Douglas at the Eastern Argus, 1817. 8 pp.
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MINUTES

OF THE

NEW-HAMPSHIRE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT THE

NORTH MEETING-HOUSE IN SANFORD, (ME.)

JUNE 11th AND 12th, 1817.

PORTLAND:

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1817.

MINUTES, &c.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 1817.

1. AT ten o'clock, brother **TIMOTHY HODSDON**, according to appointment, pronounced the introductory Sermon, from Psalm cii, 13.

Adjourned for an hour and an half. Met according to adjournment.

2. Chose brother **ORIS ROBINSON**, Moderator, and brother **TIMOTHY HODSDON**, Clerk. Prayer by the Moderator. The Messengers from Sister Corresponding Associations were invited to take a seat with us.

3. Proceeded to read the letters from the Churches, and took the following account of the 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 *italic*. 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 —

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Elders and Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Exclu.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Madbury,† 1st Berwick	WILLIAM HOOPER,* <i>Jedediah Goodwin,</i> Samuel Hanscom, William Frost, Ebenezer Nowell, Hercules Fernald, Stephen Hobbs,			11	1	73 142
Sanford	GIDEON COOK, <i>Jonathan Powers,</i> Nathan Powers, John Libbey, James Chadbourne,	7		1	1	123
1st Wells.	JOSEPH EATON, Dea. Jacob Perkins, Dea. Benjamin Hatch,				1	67

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Elders and Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Krchu.</i>	<i>Lied.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
2d Berwick,	NATHANIEL LORD, Robert Ford, Thomas D. Fernald, William Perkins, Jonathan Perkins,					84
Lyman,	SIMON LOCK, Dea. William Waterhouse, John Grant, Daniel Butler,	9				83
1st Shapleigh,	WILLIAM GODING, <i>John Larey,</i> Samuel Herd, Samuel Stacy, Nathan Bracket,	3	2	2	2	123
1st Waterboro' } and Alfred, }	HENRY SMITH, Dea. Archibald Smith, Eastman Hutchens Thomas Gile, Andrew Roberts,	1				99
Cornish,	TIMOTHY REMICK,* ZEBEDIAH RICHARDSON,* William Chadbourne, James Hill,	6		1		74
Newtown,† Limerick,	DAVID TUESBURY,* ————— Patrick Furlong, Jotham Day,					52 55
Parsonsfield,	WENTWORTH LORD,* Dea. Caleb Marstin, David Marstin, James Andrews,				1	136
Buxton,	ABNER FLANDERS,* Thomas Sawyer, Cyrus Libbey,	10	2			93
Lebanon and } Berwick, }	ZEEBEDIE DELANO, <i>Samuel Knox,</i> Nathaniel Guotail, Benjamin Libbey, Benjamin Libbey, jun.	4		1		97
Newmarket,†	—————					38
Exeter,†	—————					64
Limington,	JOHN SEAVEY, EBENEZER P. KINSMAN,* Isaac Small, 3d,		1		1	49

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Elders and Messengers.</i>	<i>Adm.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Exclu.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
East P. Wells, Arundel,† 2d Waterboro'	JOSHUA ROBERTS, ANDREW SHERBURNE,* ————— Dea. John Hill, Paul Chadbourne,	6			2	74 85 12
2d Shapleigh,	————— John Chadbourne, Whiting Steavens, Thomas Meldrum, TIMOTHY HODSDON,		1	5	1	52
Hollis, Newfield,† Effingham,	————— LEVI CHADBOURNE, Dea. Jacob Mills, WILLIAM CHADBOURNE,* Caleb Frost, Charles Shorey, WILLIAM TAYLOR,*	1				30 66 87
3d Berwick,	————— OTIS ROBINSON, William Cate,	3				17
Ossipee,† Hiram,† Salisbury,	————— OTIS ROBINSON, William Cate,					22 16 118
Guilford,†	—————	10		1	1	20
		60	6	21	12	2051

4. Called for the Circular Letter. Brother REMICK having failed to prepare it, according to appointment,

5. Brother ROBINSON was appointed to prepare the same.

6. Appointed Brethren SMITH, LOCK and HODSDON, to revise the Circular, and Corresponding Letters.

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

At half past 3 o'clock, P. M. brother HENRY KENDALL, preached to the people from Romans iv, 4, 5.

THURSDAY, JUNE 12th.

Met according to adjournment. Opened with Prayer by brother LOCK.

8. Read, and accepted the Circular and Corresponding Letters, prepared by Brethren, ROBINSON and COOK.

9. Received communications from the following Associations.

<i>Associations.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Minutes.</i>
Lincoln,	STEPHEN DEXTER,	
Bowdoinham,	HENRY KENDALL,	Minutes.
Boston,		do-
Warren,		do.
Woodstock,	Dea. William Gunnison,	
Meredith,		do.
Cumberland,		

10. Appointed the following Messengers to Corresponding Associations. To the Warren & Boston, HOOPER, Doct. Jonathan Kittredge, GODING & HODSDON.—Lincoln, FLANDERS and Dea. J. Mills.—Bowdoinham & Cumberland, LOCK and GODING.—Meredith, ROBINSON and SEAVEY.—Woodstock, Doct. Jonathan Kittredge.

11. Appointed Brother LOCK, to write the Circular Letter, and Brother GODING, the Corresponding Letter, for next year.

12. Chose brother HENRY SMITH, Treasurer.

13. Voted to hold our next Association in Wells, 1st Parish, on the second Wednesday in June next, at 10 o'clock A. M.

14. Appointed brother SIMON LOCK, to preach the Introductory sermon, and in case of failure, brother COOK.

15. Voted that the Minutes of this Association be deposited with the Treasurer for distribution.

16. Adjourned until 2 o'clock P. M.

At 11 o'clock, brother NELSON preached from 1. Cor. iii, 21, 22, 23. After which there was a collection taken for Missionary purposes.

17. Met according to adjournment. Prayer by brother DELANO.

18. Voted to recommend to the several Churches, composing this Association, to take a collection, by the 1st of November next, to aid the Baptist Board of Missions.

19. Voted to recommend to our Churches to meet together, on the first Monday evening in every month, for the purpose of uniting with their Brethren in different parts, who engage in prayer on that evening, for the more general diffusion of the light and liberty of the Gospel.

20. Appointed brethren, EATON, DELANO, & Dea. Archibald Smith, committee, to consider the expediency of altering the time of our Annual Session; and report at our next Association.

21. Chose brother TIMOTHY HODSDON, Secretary, to correspond with the Baptist Board of Missions.

22. Voted that the thanks of this Association be tendered to the worthy citizens of this town, for their judicious arrangements, hospitality and promptness to accommodate and entertain us in our present session.

At 3 o'clock, the business of the Association being finished, the Moderator addressed the Assembly in a very interesting and solemn manner, and concluded by imploring the Divine Benediction on them.

Prayer by brother SEAVEY.

Elder DEXTER, then preached to the Assembly.

The following sums of money were received and deposited with the Treasurer, for Missionary purposes.

Contributed in the Association	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$20	79	
By brother } From the Female Society, in Salisbury	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	76	
Robinson. } Church and Society in Salisbury	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	28	
									<hr/>	
TOTAL									\$34	83

CIRCULAR LETTER.

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

DEAR BRETHREN,

WE still consider it a duty to continue our former practice in addressing you in a short epistle. Many have been the subjects, to which your attention has been called; and perhaps, none can be found of more consequence, or of more utility than that, on which you were addressed in our last circular, (*viz.*) *Covetousness*;—which we hope you have, and will improve to the best advantage. We now ask your attention to a few remarks on *Benevolence*. Dear brethren, if covetousness is inconsistent with the Christian character, and produceth such baleful consequences as the Lord hath stated in his blessed word—ought we not to consider it as the most detestable and destructive thing that ever was found in the camp of Israel? Certainly those, who are found under the governing influence of it, must be the greatest sufferers; and whatever may be our pretences to a benign principle, we may be assured, that our real character cannot be concealed; for “*The tree is known by its fruit.*” Beloved brethren, if we are *Christians*, we have known by happy experience the blessed effects of genuine benevolence, which has been the brightest ornament of the Church of Christ, in every age. The very foundation of the Church, and the believer’s hope, is but the effect of Divine Benevolence. Our great Benefactor has given us so many precepts and examples to designate a benevolent mind, that we cannot remain ignorant of the true Christian character. If the Lord has delivered us from the bondage of sin, we ought to stand fast in that liberty, wherewith Christ has made us free. If our glorious Redeemer hath given his life a ransom for us, shall we refuse to lay down our lives for the brethren, or withhold any thing that duty calls for, to promote the true interest of His Kingdom in the world?

Ever remember, that “*the Lord loveth a cheerful giver.*” and has said, “*it is more blessed to give, than to receive.*” Let us endeavor to reduce to practice every Divine injunction, that we may prove to ourselves, and the world, that we are what we profess to be. We may expect many foes to encounter while in this militant state; and what encouragement can we have, that we shall obtain the victory, unless we have on the whole Gospel armor?—remember, that our enemy is continually watching to take the advantage of us; and doubtless, will appear in different forms and will accede to any thing consistent with himself, if thereby, he may gain an ascendancy over us. But it is important that we receive the exhortation, “*watch, and pray, that you enter not into temptation.*” Neglect not the duties of the closet, nor those of a more social and public nature. May the Lord make you faithful in every good word and work; “*working in you that, which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ. To whom be glory, forever!*” Amen!

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

DEAR BRETHREN,

WHEN we reflect on the manifestation of God's love in accomplishing his ancient purpose of man's redemption, we are constrained to say with the Apostle, "*without controversy, great is the mystery of Godliness.*" In this glorious plan, the holy Prophets rejoiced; when the promise was revealed unto them, they confided in the veracity of an immutable God. While they believed, indeed, the word spoken by Angels was steadfast; they were fully persuaded concerning the truth of *the promise, confirmed before of God, in Christ.* In this promise *A Seed* is embraced in all nations; in whom the Father anticipated delight when, as yet, they were unborn; and *when the fullness of time was come*, the long expected *Messiah* appeared, agreeably to the language of ancient Prophecy;—"Lo! I come, in the volume of the Book it is written of me, to do thy will, O God!" This Divine Person was born of a woman; *made under the law*; suffered in our stead; endured the contradiction of sinners; laid a glorious foundation for our salvation; brought in everlasting righteousness; opened a way to justify the ungodly; finished the work assigned him to do; and gave up the ghost; arose a mighty conqueror over all his enemies, and ascended to his God, and our God; there to reign, forever. This is the last day, brethren, and all things that are written, must be fulfilled. *The promise is sure to all the Seed.* Zion's foundation is *A Tried Stone*, and her walls are salvation. Her watchmen shall never hold their peace; "*their sound shall go out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.*" Truth is now prevailing, and light is greatly increasing. The nations, who have been long in gross darkness, are now illuminated with the light of life. And since our land is wonderfully blessed with the light of the Gospel, may we feel more of its saving influence; and may transgressors be taught the ways of Jesus, and sinners be converted to Him, till His church shall be complete, and His Kingdom universal.

Although the intelligence from our Churches is not so pleasing, as at our last session, yet Zion must increase, and her friends shall prosper. In our present interview, we have been much favored, we hope, with the divine presence. We are much pleased with the general interest which the Missionary cause excites, and we hope this will greatly increase. We regret, that we have not the happiness of receiving messengers, and minutes, from a number of our Sister Associations. We, however, duly appreciate those which we have received.

We have ever prized your correspondence, and shall always be ready to reciprocate your communications; and still solicit a continuance thereof.

By order of the Association.

OTIS ROBINSON, *Moderator.*

TIMOTHY HODSDON, *Clerk.*

RESPECTED BRETHREN,

At the meeting of the Convention of the Baptist Board for Foreign Missions, the following resolution was unanimously passed.

“That the thanks of this Convention be presented to the Associations, Societies, and Churches that have contributed to the funds of the Institution, with a view of aiding in the diffusion of the knowledge of the Lord Jesus. The Corresponding Secretary is requested to communicate to them this resolve, accompanied with the hope and persuasion that they will continue to abound in the service.”

With the liveliest satisfaction this Resolution is offered for your affectionate acceptance. The Report of the Convention and Board, now in the press, will be forwarded as early as practicable. Your zeal and piety will provide the earliest and most efficient channels for its circulation.

Among the articles which the Report will more particularly exhibit, you will be gratified to learn, that the meeting of the Convention has been distinguished by an uninterrupted and exalted harmony, by the spirit of fervent prayer, and jealousy for the Lord of Hosts.

Our sister White, who accompanied brother Hough and family to India, is married to Rev. Mr. Rowe of the Serampore mission, and is settled at Digah, nearly 400 miles up the river Ganges, where she superintends a growing and important female seminary. Brother Hough and family have arrived at Rangoon, to the joy of brother and sister Judson. Two additional young missionaries from New-England, have been appointed to go out and join them. Brother Ranaldson has been chosen a missionary to officiate in New-Orleans and its vicinity, and brethren Peck and Welch to commence a Western mission, to be extended as Providence shall direct, to the Indian tribes. Its commencement will be at or near St. Louis, on the western banks of the Mississippi. Brother Rice has requested the sentiment of the Convention as to the propriety of his sailing immediately for India. The opinion was unanimous and decided, that, owing to the high importance of his services, he ought to remain longer in the United States. Should he visit you, you will, I am convinced, receive him as a brother beloved for the Saviour's sake.

Relying on “the God of our salvation” for ultimate success, who is “the confidence of all the ends of the earth and of them that are afar off beyond the sea,”

I am, your brother and servant,

WM. STAUGHTON,

Corresponding Secretary of the Board.

*To the New-Hampshire
Baptist Association.* }

Philadelphia, 23 May, 1817.