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Minutes of the Proceedings ... October 19 ... 21, 1791.

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MINUTES

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS

OF A

CONVENTION

OF

BAPTIST CHURCHES,

In New-York, October 19, 20, and 21, 1791.

IN FORMING

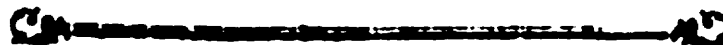
THE NEW-YORK ASSOCIATION.



*Sing to the Lord above,
Who deigns on earth to raise
A Temple to his love,
A monument of Praise:
To Saints around, through all its frame,
Harmonious sound the Builder's name,*

*Beneath his eye and care
The edifice shall rise
Majestic, strong and fair,
And shine above the fairs:
There shall be place the polish'd stone,
Ornam'd the work of grace to crown,*

Rippon's Selection.



NEW-YORK:
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M,DCC,XCI.

MINUTES, &c.

WEDNESDAY, October 19, 1791.

A GREEABLY to an appointment of a Convention of Churches, by their messengers, in the city of New-York, on the 12th of April last, again to meet in said city on the third Wednesday of October ensuing, at 2 o'clock, P. M. in order if it should then be thought expedient, further to proceed in forming an Association, Messengers from several of the Churches in the vicinity assembled.

Public worship was attended: and brother Foster preached on the occasion from Daniel xii. 4. "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."

At the conclusion of public worship agreed on an intermission of half an hour.

Met as proposed, and proceeded to business. Brother Holmes was chosen Moderator, and brother Foster, Clerk.

Some account was given of matters connected with the proceedings of the last Convention.

Adjourned till nine o'clock the next morning.

Brother Holmes preached in the evening from Psalms cxxii. 9. "Because of the house of the Lord thy God I will seek thy good."

MET on Thursday Morning, Oct. 20.

Letters from the Churches were produced by their Messengers, and read.

After this the plan of a new Association, which already had been submitted to the Churches, or their examination, was distinctly read and considered.

The question was then formally and individually put to all the Messengers who were present If they judged the constitution of the proposed new Association expedient ? And the answer without a single exception, was given in the affirmative.

Agreed that a committee be chosen, consisting of one Messenger from each church, to consider what amendments to the proposed plan might be expedient ; and also to attend to a proper mode of procedure in constituting the Churches, represented for that purpose a body united in Association. And our brethren Samuel Dodge, Francis Van Dyke, William Van Horne, Isaac Price, Jacob Fitz Randolph, Michael Pearce, Benjamin Coles, and Edward Tylee were appointed the committee.

Adjourned to half after two o'clock, P, M. then to attend to the report of the Committee.

MET in the afternoon according to adjournment.

The aforesaid committee then appeared ; and as requested made their report : agreeably to which, proceeded as follows :

1. The Plan, as now amended, was read.
2. On its being called for, it was read a second time.
3. It was then read paragraph by paragraph, and subjected to further corrections.
4. The plan being thus carefully examined and corrected, was signed by the following Messengers of the Churches.

<i>Churches,</i>	<i>Messengers,</i>
Scotch Plains,	William Van Horne, Benjamin Blackford, John Stites, Robert Fitz Randolph.
Oyster-Bay,	Benjamin Coles. Albert Albertson.
Morris-Town,	John Brookfield, Michael Pearce.
1st New-York,	Benjamin Foster, Samuel Dodge, Abraham Cannon William Norris, John Bedient.

ed New-York, Francis Van Dyke,
Joseph Stout.

Canoe-Brook, Isaac Price:

Staten-Island, Elkanah Holmes,
Nicholas Cox.

V. The Churches, by their Representatives, presenting themselves before the Moderator were pronounced by him, to be an Associated body.

VI The Moderator then prayed: And after prayer gave to the Messengers, the right-hand of fellowship; which was concluded with mutual expressions and congratulation.

Our worthy brethren; the Messengers of the Church in Mount Bethel. Jacob Fitz Randolph, John Worth, David Ayres, and Benjamin Enyart; and of the Church in Mount Pleasant, Elijah Hunter, John Willis and Edward Tylce; though the Churches they represented are not in Associated union with us at present, were pleased, notwithstanding, to give their entire approbation of our plan and proceedings.

We were favoured also with the assistance and approbation of brother Lyon from Kings-street.—

THE PROPRIETY AND UTILITY OF ASSOCIATIONS.

STATED meetings of Christian Churches are attended with important information, respecting the state of religion in general—the situation of Churches and Christians in particular—opportunities of guarding against intruders into the work of the ministry—of giving and receiving advice in cases of difficulty—of sympathizing with our brethren in their afflictions, and of partaking of the joys of those Churches on whom God has smiled by showers of divine grace. They are often the occasion of the restoration of peace and harmony—the knowledge of each other's wants and trials—the increase of Christian love and fellowship, and the knowledge of gospel doctrines and discipline. By those means also Christ's ministers are led to understand in what part of his Vineyard they are called to labor; and remote and destitute Churches obtain supplies. In a word, when Churches from a regard to the glory of God and the good of Zion, unite in Association, Jerusalem appears to be builded as a city that is compact together; peace is to be expected within her walls, and prosperity within her palaces.—

THE PLAN, OR REGULATIONS OF THIS ASSOCIATION.

I. This union of Churches shall be stiled the NEW-YORK ASSOCIATION.

II. The articles of faith to which the Churches of this Association subscribe, in a summary way, are as follow—Three equal persons in the divine essence; eternal and personal election

