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Baptists. Pennsylvania. Philadelphia Association, 1770.

Minutes of the Philadelphian Association in MDCCLXX.

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M I N U T E S
OF THE
PHILADELPHIAN ASSOCIATION
In MDCCLXX.

PHILADELPHIA, October 16, 1770.

THE Association met at Three o'Clock.—Divine Service being over, Rev. Samuel Jones was chosen Moderator, and Rev. Morgan Edwards Clerk.—Letters from Thirty-four Churches were read, also from the WARREN Association, and that of VIRGINIA.—The Names of the Messengers were enrolled, viz. Rev. Messieurs James Benedict, John Sutton, Robert Kelsay, Noah Hammond, Abel Griffiths, Isaac Stelle, John Davis, John Davis, David Jones, Isaac Eaton, John Blackwell, Samuel Heaton, P. P. Vanhorn, Joshua Jones, Joseph Powel, John Thomas, Samuel Jones, David Sutton, Benjamin Miller, Morgan Edwards, Simon Dakin, William Worth, Erasmus Kelly, David Branson;—also Messieurs David Lobdel, Dr. Ebenezer Blatchey, Hugh Glasford, Seth Bowen, Samuel Sims, Samuel Jones, John M'Kim, Robert M'Kim, Edmund Talbot, Griffith Jones, Daniel Cornog, Thomas Cox, Thomas Farr, Stephen Barton, Gideon Heaton, Peter Eaton, Joseph Hart, Joseph Griffiths, Henry Green, Andrew Bowen, Alexander Edwards, Andrew Bray, Recompence Stanbury, John Carman, George Wescott, Samuel Davis, Joseph Moulder, Elisha Cole.—Adjourned.—A sermon in the evening.

Oct. 17. The Association met at Eight. And after prayer and calling over the roll, proceeded to business. Agreed, (1) That messengers from other Associations are members of this. (2) A church in Courtlands-Mannor proposed to join us; but first desired satisfaction touching two questions. Ordered, that a letter be written to said church. (3) A church in Philips-Patent, whereof Rev. Simon Dakin is minister, was received into the Association. This church is in Dutchess county, York government.

(4) A

(4) A letter from a people on Redstone Creek, near Monongehela, was read. Ordered, that a letter be written to them, and Mr. James Sutton be recommended thither. (5) The Church in the Northern Liberties of Philadelphia proposed to join the Association. But objections to it being made, the matter was referred to a Committee, who brought in their report; and the junction was deferred. (6) Newtown to be supplied by the following ministers, Mr. James Sutton, last Sunday in October,—Rev. D. Sutton, last Sunday in November,—Rev. Benjamin Miller, last Sunday in April,—Mr. Worth, last Sunday in May,—Rev. John Blackwell, last Sunday in June,—Rev. Thomas Davis, last Sunday in July,—(7) The Rev. Benjamin Miller and Isaac Stelle to assist at the yearly meeting in Cohansey. (8) Morristown to be supplied by Mr. James Sutton the first Sunday in November,—by Rev. R. Kelsay, last Sunday in November,—by Rev. Benjamin Miller, fourth Sunday in December,—by Mr. Erasmus Kelly, fourth Sunday in March,—by Rev. Isaac Stelle, fourth Sunday in April,—by Rev. Joshua Jones, fourth Sunday in May,—by Mr. Worth, first Sunday in June,—by Rev. John Blackwell, first Sunday in July,—by Rev. Samuel Jones, fourth Sunday in August.—(9) Lyonsfarms to be supplied by Mr. James Sutton, second Sunday in November,—by Rev. R. Kelsay, third Sunday in November,—by Mr. Kelly, third Sunday in March,—by Rev. J. Blackwell, second Sunday in April,—by Rev. J. Jones, third Sunday in May,—by Mr. Worth, second Sunday in June,—by Mr. Ward, fourth Sunday in June,—by Rev. J. Stelle, second Sunday in July,—by Rev. S. Jones, third Sunday in August. (10) Monahawkin to be supplied by Mr. James Sutton, fourth Sunday in November,—by Mr. Branfon, third Sunday in December,—by Rev. J. Blackwell, fourth Sunday in April,—by Mr. Worth, fourth Sunday in July.—(11) Circular letter was drawn by Mr. Stelle.—Letter to the WARREN Association by Mr. Kelly, wherein he and Rev. Simon Dakin are messengers. (12) The Contributors to the Association-fund this year; Philadelphia 5l. Hopewell 1l. Welshtract 2l. 18s. New-York 1l. Newmills 5s. Coram 7s. 6d. Pennepek 1l. 2s. 10d. Rev. Eben. Ward 7s. 6d. Mr. Vandike 7s. 6d. Kingwood 10s. Montgomery 10s. Philips-Patent 7s. 6d. Baltimore 10s. in all 14l. 5s. 10d. which Sum was received by Rev. S. Jones, to be deposited in the Treasurer's hands. This, added to 72l. 16s. 6d. upon interest, makes 87l. 2s. 4d. The last year's interest to be added to the principal for this year, because too inconsiderable to be otherwise employed.

ployed. (13) The report of the abovesaid Committee, and the vote of the Association, relative to last year's minute, to abide in Philadelphia. (14) By the letter from the WARREN Association it appears, that our brethren in New-England are sorely oppressed this year again, and no redress obtained tho' diligently sought for; their case is to go home soon to be laid at the feet of our gracious Sovereign.—Rev. Hezekiah Smith is appointed agent, who purposes to sail about the beginning of November. They request their brethren belonging to this Association, to help them to defray the expences of the agent. The request was attended to with much sympathy;—collections to be made in all our churches immediately, and to be sent either to Mr. George Wescott, of Philadelphia, or Mr. Williams, of New-York, to be by them remitted to London.—And in case more be raised than will be spent, the remainder to be returned to the donors, or otherwise disposed of by their order;—also a committee was appointed to draw a memorial, addressed to Rey. Dr. Stennett, and others, in favour of our New-England brethren's design. (15) Application was made to the Association in favour of Mr. Eustick and Mr. Vanhorn, jun. for Mrs. Hubb's bounty towards educating youth for the Ministry;—it was granted to the latter, he to give a bond to return the moneey in case the association should be disappointed in him.—Agreed also, that any person hereafter applying for said bounty, shall produce a recommendation from the church he belongs unto, relative to his ministerial gifts, upon such trials as they shall put him to. (16) Alexander Edwards, Esq; and Mr. George Wescott are desired to treat with the Trustees of the Grammar-school, and urge, that they will endeavour to promote the design of their trust.

Oct. 18. (17) Collections for the Association-fund to be continued. (18) The next Association to meet at Philadelphia on Tuesday after the second Sunday in October.—The sermon by Rev. Abel Morgan, or, in case of his absence, by Rev. Robert Kelsay.

The

The CIRCULAR LETTER.

The Ministers and other Messengers of the Congregations in Pennsylvania, Jersey, and Provinces adjacent, met in Annual Association at Philadelphia, the 16th, 17th and 18th of October, 1770, to the several Churches we respectively relate unto, send GREETING.

Dearly beloved Brethren,

WE, whom you in your letters are pleased to address as Ministers and Messengers of the churches of CHRIST, have again, through the protection and blessing of GOD, been permitted to assemble together according to our annual custom, professedly with views to the honour of GOD and the profit of men; and some good degree of love and union subsisted among us during our stay together. The sermon was preached by our much esteemed brother, Rev. John Davis, of Baltimore, from Heb. ii, 16. By your letters we find that our churches are mostly at peace, and some ingathering from the field of unregenerate men. From the WARREN Association we find, that three churches joined them this year; and that the increase is 56: Great additions have been made to the VIRGINIA Association. We rejoice that the LORD JESUS doth still walk in the midst of his golden candlesticks. O may he continue and increase his glorious work so that the number of converts to him may be as the drops of morning dew! And while we hear good news from distant places, may it excite in us earnestness productive of fervent prayer to GOD for a revival of his work amongst us, which, of late, is rather decaying. We feel chastisement from heaven by the death of our beloved brother, Rev. John Walton; and pray that GOD will not suffer that church, with whom he resided, to be like sheep without a shepherd. Now, dear brethren, as we are about parting from each other, we would write to you as though we were writing our last; and this should induce you to attend as though you were never to hear from us again. We would attempt to stir you up to love and good works, though we have cause to be grieved for our own deadness. This we say to you all, Strive to walk together in unity of the spirit and bonds of peace;—neglect not the use of the bible,—nor public worship,—nor private prayer:—Set the best example before, and give good and wholesome advice to all under your care.—Watch
over

over all your thoughts, words and ways, remembering that the glory of GOD and your present comfort much depend thereon—Be careful to encourage men of useful gifts among you, tho' they may not have the advantage of a liberal education—Let your moderation appear to all men, and let the world see by every part of your conduct, that there is a divine reality in your religion—May the LORD open your ears to our words, and abundantly bless our advice to your hearts. So pray your brethren, who would serve you in the LORD.

Signed by the Moderator and Clerk,

SAMUEL JONES,
MORGAN EDWARDS."

The STATE of the Thirty-four Churches belonging to the PHILADELPHIAN ASSOCIATION in 1770.

<i>Churches</i>	<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Bapt</i>	<i>Resto</i>	<i>Dead</i>	<i>Excom</i>	<i>Memb</i>
Pennepek	Samuel Jones	1	0	0	0	50
Middletown	Abel Morgan	2	0	0	0	144
Piscataqua	Isaac Stelle	8	0	2	0	73
Cohansey	Robert Kelsay	1	0	4	1	110
Welshtract	John Sutton	3	0	1	0	112
Greatvalley	John Davis	2	0	3	1	115
Capemay	P. P. Vanhorn	0	0	1	0	61
Hopewell	Isaac Eaton	2	0	5	0	202
Brandiwine		3	0	0	0	32
Montgomery	John Thomas	14	1	1	0	104
Tulpehokon	Thomas Jones	0	0	0	0	16
Kingwood	David Sutton	9	0	2	1	76
Mountbethel	Henry Crossley	6	0	0	0	38
Southampton	Erasmus Kelly	0	0	0	1	52
Philadelphia	Morgan Edwards	6	0	3	2	150
Scotsplains	Benjamin Miller	4	0	1	1	124
Horseneck		0	0	0	0	7
Oysterbay		1	0	0	0	15
Morristown		3	0	2	0	46
Knowlton		0	0	0	0	26

Churches

<i>Churches</i>	<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Bapt</i>	<i>Resto</i>	<i>Dead</i>	<i>Emcom</i>	<i>Memb</i>
Baltimore	John Davis	14	0	1	1	131
Newbritain	Joshuah Jones	3	0	2	0	57
Salem	Abel Griffiths	3	0	1	0	22
Newtown		2	0	0	0	27
Beckmansprecinct	Samuel Waldo	0	0	0	0	113
Dividingcreek	Samuel Heaton	7	0	1	0	44
New-York	John Gano	9	0	5	0	129
Newmills	David Branfon	3	0	0	0	45
Konoloway	Joseph Powel	0	0	0	0	29
Coram	Noah Hammond	4	0	1	0	30
Croswicks	David Jones	0	0	2	0	41
Goshen	James Benedict	5	0	1	2	61
Lyonsfarms		5	0	0	0	20
Philips-patent	Simon Dakin	1	0	0	0	65
		121	1	39	10	2367

N. B. Forty-five have been dismissed to churches belonging to other Associations; and 15 to constitute a new church which has not yet joined this Association. So that the increase in reality is 71, tho' it appears to be but 1, by comparing this year's number with the last.

CONTENTS of Letters from NEW-ENGLAND, relative to the Sufferings of our Brethren at ASHFIELD, in BOSTON Government.

“—The laws of this province were never intended to exempt the Baptists from paying towards building and repairing Presbyterian meeting-houses, and making up Presbyterian ministers salaries; for, besides other insufficiencies, they are all limited both as to extent and duration. The first law extended only five miles round each Baptist meeting-house; those without this circle had no relief, neither had they within, for tho' it exempted their polls, it left their estates to the mercy of harpies,—and their estates went to wreck. The Baptists fought a better law, and with great difficulty and waste of time and money obtained it; but this was not universal: It extended not to any parish until
 “ a Pres-

“ a Presbyterian meeting-house should be built, and a Presbyterian mi-
 “ nister settled there; in consequence of which the Baptists have nev-
 “ been freed from the first and great expences of their parishes,—expences
 “ equal to the current expences of 10 or 12 years. This is the present
 “ case of the people of ASHFIELD, which is a Baptist settlement. There
 “ were but five families of other denominations in the place when the
 “ Baptist church was constituted; but those five, and a few more, have
 “ lately built a Presbyterian meeting-house there, and settled an orthodox
 “ minister, as they call him; which last cost them 200l. To pay for
 “ both they laid a tax on the land; and as the Baptists are the most
 “ numerous, the greatest part fell to their share:—The Presbyterians in
 “ April last demanded the money—the Baptists pleaded poverty, alledg-
 “ ing, that they had been twice driven from their plantations by the In-
 “ dians last war;—that they were but new settlers, and had cleared but
 “ a few spots of land, and had not been able to build commodious dwel-
 “ ling-houses.—Their tyrants would not hear:—Then the Baptists pleaded
 “ the ingratitude of such a conduct; for that they had built a fort there
 “ at their own expence, and had maintained it for two years, and so had
 “ protected the interior Presbyterians, as well as their neighbours, who
 “ now rose up against them; that the Baptists to the westward had raised
 “ money to relieve Presbyterians who had like them suffered by the In-
 “ dians; and that it was cruel to take from them what the Indians had
 “ left!—But nothing touched the hearts of these cruel people.—Then the
 “ Baptists urged the law of the province; but were soon told that that
 “ law extended to no new parish till the meeting-house and minister were
 “ paid for;—then the Baptists petitioned the General Court. Proceedings
 “ were stopped till further orders, and the poor people went home re-
 “ joicing, thinking their property safe,—but had not all got home before
 “ said order came; and it was an order for the Presbyterians to proceed.
 “ Accordingly in the month of April they fell foul on their plantations;
 “ and not on skirts and corners, but on the cleared and improved spots;
 “ and so have mangled their estates and left them hardly any but a wil-
 “ derness. They sold the house and garden of one man, and the young
 “ orchards, meadows, and cornfields of others,—nay, they sold their
 “ dead, for they sold their grave-yard. The orthodox minister was one
 “ of the purchasers. These spots amounted to 395 Acres, and have since
 “ been valued at 363l. 8s. but were sold for 25l. 10s. This was the first
 “ pay-

“ payment. Two more are coming, which will not leave them an inch
 “ of land at this rate.—The Baptists waited on the Assembly five times
 “ this year for relief; but were not heard, under pretence they did no
 “ business; but their enemies were heard and had their business done. At
 “ last the Baptists got together about a score of the members at Cam-
 “ bridge, and made their complaints known; but in general, they were
 “ treated very superciliously. One of them spoke to this effect, *The General*
 “ *Assembly have a right to do what they did, and if you don't like it you may*
 “ *quit the place.* But, alas, they must leave their all behind!—These
 “ Presbyterians are not only supercilious in power, but mean and cruel in
 “ mastery. When they came together to mangle the estates of the Baptists
 “ they diverted themselves with the tears and lamentations of the op-
 “ pressed. One of them, whose name is Wells, stood up to preach
 “ a mock-sermon on the occasion; and, among other things, used words
 “ to this effect, *The Baptists, for refusing to pay an orthodox minister, shall*
 “ *be cut in pound pieces, and boiled for their fat to grease the devil's car-*
 “ *riage, &c.*”

