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Baptists . Vermont . Shaftsbury Association, 1814.

Minutes . . . at Schodack, June First and Second, 1814.

Lansingburgh, [ N.Y. ], Tracy & Bliss, 1814. 16 pp.

NRAB copy.

MINUTES  
OF THE  
*SHAFTSBURY*  
Baptist Association,

HELD AT  
SCHODACK,  
*JUNE FIRST AND SECOND,*

1814.

—00\*00—

TOGETHER WITH THEIR  
CIRCULAR AND CORRESPONDING  
LETTER.

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LANSINGBURGH:  
PRINTED BY *TRACY & BLISS.*

.....  
1814.

# MINUTES, &c.

WEDNESDAY, June 1, 1814.

1. **A**T 10 o'clock, A. M. agreeably to appointment, Elder JUSTUS HULL delivered the introductory Discourse from Ezek. x, 5,—“*And the sound of the cherubim's wings was heard even to the outer court, as the voice of the Almighty God, when he speaketh.*” Elder WEBB was sick, and therefore failed.

2. After worship, chose Elder ABIJAH PECK, Moderator, and Elder ELI BALL, Clerk.

3. Adjourned until 2 o'clock, P. M.

2, P. M.—Met according to adjournment.

4. Received letters from the churches, and took the following account of the members added, dismissed, excluded, or who have died the year past, and the present number in each church.

*N. B.*—The names of ordained Ministers in the following list are in SMALL CAPITALS: Licentiates in *italics*. Those ministers with this mark [\*], were not present. From churches marked thus [†], we had no information this year, and have given their numbers as when last represented. Vacant churches are distinguished by a dash [—].

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dism.</i>	<i>Excl.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Albany,	ISAAC WEBB.*	4	1	3	1	77
	Joseph Annable.					
	Friend Humphrey.					
Adams,	—	6	2	1	2	58
	Dn. Otis Blackinton.					
Berlin,	JUSTUS HULL.	5	3	7	8	55
	ALDERMAN BAKER.					
	Dn. Asa Lewis.					
	Dn. Joseph Lee.					
	Benjamin Rogers.					
	Benjamin Obit.					
	Joseph Hastings.					
	Philip L. Cook.					
Ebenezer Mattison.						
Philip P. Rich.						

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Recd.</i>	<i>Deat.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Cambridge,	{ OBED WARREN. Robert Bennet. Leonard G. Senter.	5	6	3	4	100
1st Canaan,	{ SILAS SPALDING. Jonathan Parke.	1	5	1	0	38
2d Canaan,	{ _____ A Letter.	0	0	0	0	112
1st Cheshire,	{ _____ Dn. Steph. Carpenter. Allen Brown.	0	0	0	0	20
2d Cheshire,	{ _____ Dn. Daniel Comcr. William Fish. Josiah Stone. Amos Pettibone.	6	11	1	3	204
Chatham,	JOB CHAMPION.	0	1	0	0	34
Charlotteville,†	TITUS FINCH.*	0	0	0	0	54
Cliftonpark,	{ ABIJAH PECK. Abel Harrington. Ebenezer Evans.	1	0	3	1	275
Clinton, (U. C.)†	_____	0	0	0	0	24
Egremont,	{ DANIEL SHERWOOD,* Joshua Millard, Jun.	0	1	1	0	103
East-Hillsdale,	{ ABEL BROWN.* A Letter.	10	0	1	0	122
West-Hillsdale,	{ _____ Richard Kinyon.	0	0	2	0	45
Lansingburgh,	{ ELI BALL. Dn. Daniel Seymour.	3	0	0	1	42
Hoosick,	{ THO'S PURRINGTON. Nathaniel Otis. Solomon Gale.	4	3	2	1	116
Nassau,	{ ENOCH FERRIS. Dn. — St. John. Dn. Abel Hodges. Dn. Peter Brown.	22	4	1	1	108
Pitt-field,	{ _____ Joel Redway. Luke Francis. Daniel H. Francis.	6	0	0	2	57

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Add.</i>	<i>Dis.</i>	<i>Exc.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Fittstown, Fownal,†	CHARLES LAHATT.	0	0	0	4	52
Schodack,	STEPHEN OLMSTEAD. Ephraim Jones. Henry Tucker. Joseph Gregory.	2	1	0	1	89
Stephentown,	JULIUS BEEMAN. Daniel Brown. Gridley Judd. Matthew Jones.	4	1	4	1	61
1st Shaftsbury, 4th Shaftsbury,	ISAIAH MATYSON. Ebenezer Clark.	2	0	4	0	124
Savoy,	PHILIP PEARCE. Dn. Wm. Ingraham. Ephraim Bliss.	7	11	1	3	53
Stanford,	AARON HAYNES. Isaac Robinson. George Sampson. Mark Bangs.	0	6	2	1	79
W. Stockbridge,	Farring Wilson. George Wilson. Elisha Hubbell.	13	1	0	2	84
Troy,	FRANCIS WAYLAND. Dn. Silas Covell. David Johnson.	2	2	2	2	57
Townsend,(U.C.)†	FAIRCHILD.	0	0	0	0	56
Sandisfield, Oxford,(U.C.)†	JESSE HARTWELL. Paul Sears, Jun.	4	1	1	3	128
3d New-Canaan,	HENRY PALMER. Platt Betts.	3	0	0	1	37
Williamstown,	Stephen Smith. David Torrey.	7	2	0	0	31
Arlington,	Rufus Spencer.	12	0	0	0	65
<i>Total,</i>		131	71	41	44	3599

N. B. The last mentioned church was added the present session.

We announce to the churches, the death of the truly pious pastor of the Baptist Church in Pittsfield, Elder JOHN FRANCIS. His highest encomiums are, an ardent thirst for the welfare of souls, a pious grief for all sin, and an unblemished character. "Be ye followers of them who through faith and patience *inherit the promises.*"

5. The Circular and Corresponding Letter, prepared by Eld. OBED WARREN, was read and referred to Elders LAHATT, WAYLAND, MORSE, and MATTESON, in connexion with its author, to revise it.

6. Received from sister Associations accounts as follows, Viz:—

<i>Associations.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Minutes.</i>
From Philadelphia,		
New-York,		
Warren,	JOSEPH CORNELL.	Minutes.
Otsego,		
Leyden,	Jos. ELLIOT & GEO. WITHERELL.	do.
Rensselaerville,	FRANCIS WAYLAND.	do.
Cayuga,		
Stonington,		
Vermont,		
Woodstock,	Letter by JOSEPH ELLIOT.	do.
Essex,		
Hartford, (formerly Danbury),	ASA'L MORSE.	do.
Saratoga,	CALVIN H. SWAIN.	do.
Sturbridge,		
Westfield,	ABM. JACKSON and Dn. Spencer.	

7. Adjourned until to-morrow, 8 o'clock A. M.

*THURSDAY, June 2.*

Met according to adjournment. Prayer, introductory to business, by Eld. ELLIOT.

8. The Circular and Corresponding Letter was brought forward by the committee appointed to revise it, read a second time, and cordially received, and committed to the clerk for printing.

9. The Missionary Committee reported as follows:—

"The Trustees of the Northern New-York Baptist Missionary Society present the following report:—

"That the monies received from the several districts, churches and individuals, the present session, amount to

\$116,54. The balance remaining in the treasury at the present session, is \$8,09. The aggregate now in the treasury is \$124,63.

“Besides the Missionaries mentioned in our last report, the Committee, to which was referred the appointment of other Missionaries, have appointed three, viz. Elder JOSEPH CORNELL, on a tour of one month; Eld. ST. JOHN, for two months; and Eld. WM. TROOP, for two months; to travel and preach at discretion. We have received returns from none but Eld. CORNELL: They are highly gratifying and encouraging to your committee. We are happy to have it in our power to say, that the hearts of many still burn with increasing ardor for missionary exertions. The friends of Zion, who have patronised this society, have not relaxed from this glorious object; notwithstanding the increase of national expences.

“For the distribution of the monies now in the treasury, your committee have made the following arrangement, viz. Appointed Eld. NEHEMIAH H. RIPLEY, on a mission of three months, in the north part of the state of Pennsylvania; and Eld. JOSEPH CORNELL, on a mission to be disposed of as to the time and place in which the mission is to be performed, at the discretion of the following, viz. Elders WAYLAND and BALL, and Dn. Hinman.

“By order of the committee,

“FRANCIS WAYLAND, *Chairman.*

“ELI BALL, *Clerk.*”

10. Voted, that the above report is satisfactory to the Association.

11. Appointed Elders LAHATT, PECK, FERRIS, WARREN, CHAMPION and MATTESON, with the present committee, to co-operate with the Northern New-York Baptist Missionary Society.

12. Appointed the following brethren, as messengers to corresponding Associations, viz:—

To Leyden—Elders LAHATT, PURINGTON and MATTESON, and Brother Otis.

Rensselaerville—Elders FERRIS and OLMSTEAD.

Vermont—Elders WARREN & WAYLAND, and Brother Galusha.

Woodstock—Elders OLMSTEAD, WAYLAND & SPALDING.

Westfield--Elders HULL, MORSE and WITHERILL, and Brother Readway.

Hartford (formerly Danbury)--Elders FERRIS, HARTWELL and PECK.

Union—Elders PALMER and CHAMPION.

Saratoga—Elders PECK, OLMSTEAD, WARREN, PRINGTON and Brother Johnson.

Philadelphia—Brother John Buttolf.

New-York—Elder FRI BALL.

Warren—Elders CORNELL, MORSE and SPALDING.

Stonington—Elders OLMSTEAD, MORSE and Deacon Newton.

Otsego—Elder RIPLEY, and Breth'n Rich and Kinyon.

Cayuga—Elder TINKUM and Brother Kinyon.

Essex—Elder TINKUM and Brother Howard.

Sturbridge--Elders CORNELL, TODD, MORSE and SPALDING.

13. Appointed Elder BALL to write the Circular and Corresponding Letter for next year.

14. Voted, to hold our next session of the Association at the new Baptist meeting-house in Newtown, 9 miles N. W. of Waterford village, on the first Wednesday of June next, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

15. Appointed Elder WEBB to preach the introductory Sermon, and in case of failure, Elder PURINGTON.

16. Appointed Elder BALL to superintend the printing and distribution of the minutes.

17. Voted, through the medium of the Moderator, to present the thanks of the Association to the church and people of Schodack, for their kindness and respect to their brethren.\*

18. Called on the committee appointed last year to look into some difficulties existing in the 2d church in Cheshire; and after hearing their report, voted, that in our opinion, the church has been negligent in discipline, and also

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\* At 10 o'clock, the Association adjourned from the meeting-house to a public hall, to conclude their business; and Elder ELLIOT delivered a discourse to the congregation from Col. iii, 3



in the commemoration of the Lord's supper : But hearing that there are some appearances of a return to resume the travail of a gospel church, we feel it our duty to encourage and help them, and to exhort them to arise and let their light shine, in the character of a gospel people.

19. Voted, that the vote taken last year respecting Mr. Aaron Haynes, and inserted in the form of a note in the minutes, is unconstitutional, and as such we rescind it.

At half past four, P. M. this session closed with an appropriate prayer, by Elder CORNELL.

Account of monies contributed at the present session to the Missionary Fund :—

From the district in Troy,	\$11 32
Do. Lansingburgh,	8 76
Do. Cliftonpark,	24
Do. Schodack,	9 06
From the church and congregation in Cambridge, by Elder Warren,	3 07
From Hoosick, by Brother Solomon Gale,	3 87
From the Female M'te Society in Shaftsbury, by Br. Clark,	10
From Miss Hubbell,	1 65
From a female Friend,	25
From Dr. Stephen Carpenter,	1
From the church in Chatham,	4
From the church and congregation in Nassau,	8 69
From the church in Pittsfield,	4 07
From the church in Savoy,	2 25
From the church in W. Stockbridge,	2 25
From a friend to mission, by Br. David Torrey, <i>W. Torrey</i>	3
Public contribution at Schodack,	21 68
Remaining in the Treasury,	8 09
	<hr/>
	\$126 94
Deducted for a mistake in receiving and counting the monies,	2 31
	<hr/>
<i>Total,</i>	\$124 63
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The Missionary Society is to meet at Newtown, on the Tuesday preceding the first Wednesday of June next, at 7 o'clock, P. M. at the house of Mr. Abraham Cortings.

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## CIRCULAR AND CORRESPONDING LETTER.

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*The ELDERS and MESSENGERS of the SHAFTSBURY ASSO-  
CIATION, (convened at Schodack, June 1 & 2, 1814), to the  
CHURCHES we represent, and CORRESPONDING ASSOCIA-  
TIONS; SEND CHRISTIAN SALUTATION.*

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,

**I**T is the duty every of rational creature, to realise the station that an all-wise God has qualified him to fill in the great scale of being; and to be disposed, faithfully and devotionally, to improve his talents for HIS glory and the general good of HIS creatures.

In order for this, it is necessary, that in some good measure we should know ourselves, both as to the talents bestowed upon us by the God of nature, as creatures, and the God of grace, as christians. Otherwise we shall be liable to undertake to perform that which we are incapable of doing; or, of neglecting that which we are qualified to effect. In either case, God would be dishonored and society injured. It is still more important for us to have just views of our relation to God, our Creator, as his creatures and servants, and to God, our Redeemer, as his children and property; and our accountability to him, as the righteous judge of all the earth. It is of equal consequence to know our relation to the great society of man, being children of one family; our connection with the inhabitants of the country in which we live, being under the protection of the same civil administration; and especially, our connection *with* and relation *to* the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth; being *born* of one spirit, *born* from above, *born* of God, and baptised with the *one* baptism, *in-*stituted by Christ; *buried* in the likeness of HIS death; *in-*troduced by free and sovereign grace to the privileges of the sons of God, and made heirs of a blessed resurrection, a glorious immortality and eternal life. In order to a right discharge of duty, it will be of great advantage to know

signs of the times ; and particularly, to mark the dispensations of divine providence in the world at large, and towards the church in particular ; whether God, in rich profusion, is snowering down temporal blessings on the world, and pouring the spirit of grace into the hearts of his children, and blessing his church with an abundance of the dews of heaven, or either of them ; or is visiting the inhabitants of the world with his righteous judgments, and pouring upon them the vials of his wrath, for their multiplied and aggravated transgressions, and withholding the showers of grace from his chosen people, so that they mourn and wander in a dry and thirsty land.

Having premised these things, we would observe, that the times in which we live are highly eventful. Our nation has (until the last two years) enjoyed the blessings of peace and unexampled prosperity in temporal things, while the countries of Europe have been manured with human bodies, and drenched with the blood of our fellow-men.—Millions of our species have been sacrificed to gratify the ambition of aspiring tyrants, and the ancient predictions of holy men of God, who spake as they were inspired by the Holy-Ghost, have been accomplishing ; in that a just God has given *those nations* a great measure of blood to drink, who have been *made drunk with the blood of the saints and martyrs of the Lamb.*

The scene is now changed, as it respects our once highly favored country ! While there is but little or no mitigation of the horrors which have long attended the European nations, the cup of wrath has passed the Atlantic. War is waving her bloody banner over our land, while many of our brothers and sons are numbered to the sword ; and the pestilence, which walketh in darkness, has, within the two last years made an extensive desolation among persons of both sexes and all ages ; particularly ministers of our order. Elders FURMAN, OSBURN, WHIPPLE, A. PARMER, BREWSTER, HARRIS, ORCUTT, KING, LEDOIT, W. RATHBONE, FRANCIS, ATWELL, WICHHEL, and WATERMAN, have within twenty months past, fallen asleep, as we trust, in Jesus. On the sixth of last March, our much esteemed brother, Elder CALER BLOOD, who was many years connected with this Association, finished his course ; and it

may truly be said, *he kept the faith* ; and although his loss is lamented by thousands, yet we have reason to believe he is gone to be with Christ, which is far better than to remain in this world of tribulation and adversity. We have been visited with the judgments of war and pestilence, with which God was pleased in ancient times to chastise sinful and idolatrous nations ; and it may truly be said, as it was of Israel, *yet have ye not returned to me, saith the Lord*. Instead of repenting and turning to the Lord, the inhabitants in general appear to be left to hardness of heart, and to have their minds so blinded as not suitably to view the operations of the divine hand. It ought never to be forgotten, that while we have formerly enjoyed temporal blessings to the full, God was pleased to pour out his spirit in many places like showers on the mown grass ; and the saints have been made to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. But at present there is a melancholy reverse in most of our churches. The spirit of the world, and a zeal to promote *worldly policy*, have in a great measure taken place, instead of the spirit of religion, and a zeal to promote the *all-glorious kingdom* of Jesus ; and while the world lieth in wickedness, the love of many Christians has waxen cold.

It is not our business, as messengers of the churches, or ministers of the gospel, to enquire into the *political* causes which involved our nation in a war ; but it is our duty as creatures accountable to God, and christians who hope for eternal life, and watchmen placed on Zion's walls, to search for, and find out the *moral* causes which have procured the divine displeasure, and brought upon us the just judgments of righteous God ; for such evils could not have fallen on the nation, if the Lord had not sent them. Some of the sins of Sodom were pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness. While *we* have enjoyed fulness of bread, pride and abundance of wickedness has overspread our land. With an increase of wealth, covetousness, extortion and luxury have increased ; and that sin of all sins, *ingratitude*, has risen to a high degree, and provoked a benevolent God, in a small measure, to lay righteousness to the line, and judgment to the plummet.

There is also a spirit of discord between neighbor and neighbor ; and brother is at enmity against brother ; so

that social order is in a great measure interrupted, and the spirit of jealousy, *cruel as the grave*, has taken the place of the spirit of benevolence and good will in civil society.— These are some of the enormities and crying sins of the land; not to mention the great prevalence of infidelity, lying, deception, hypocrisy, profaneness, drunkenness, and a general disregard of religion, among very many of the inhabitants of this land of light and liberty, and (till of late) a land of peace. This representation, dismal and dreadful as it is, we do not think an exaggeration. If not, we are in more danger from ourselves and our sins than we are from all other enemies on earth. How far those who profess the religion of Jesus are implicated, we do not pretend to say; but should any of the professed subjects of the Prince of Peace, instead of crying fervently to the God of all grace, to revive HIS work, and reform the nations, and avert HIS impending judgments; we say, instead of this, should they arm their tongues with invectives against their neighbors, fellow-citizens, and brethren, and suffer their hearts to burn with malicious resentment against others, who differ from them in opinion and judgment; they would act more like sons of Belial than like children of the living God. Such conduct is contrary to the holy commandment, to love those who hate us, and pray for those who despitefully use and persecute us.

Brethren, let us enquire what God requires of us, in times of such general calamity. If we are ministers, he calls us to be peace-makers, and not disturbers of the peace. If we are ministers of the gospel, he calls us to be watchmen, and to give the trumpet a distinct sound. Ministers of God ought to plead for the rights of God's moral government, and the gracious government of the Redeemer. If we are redeemed from the earth, and divinely enlightened, we ought to be the light of the world and salt of the earth. As we are citizens of the world, we ought to pray for the downfall of *mystical Babylon*, that Pagan darkness may be dispelled, Mahometan imposture have an end, the rage of the mad nations be restrained, the days of tribulation be shortened, and the nations be illuminated from the rising to the setting sun. As citizens of the United States, pray for the peace and prosperity of the nation, and

act a rational and candid part, in promoting its welfare ; for in the peace of our country we may enjoy peace. As citizens of Zion, pray for the peace of Jerusalem ; for they shall prosper that love her ; especially that an all-gracious God will pour out his spirit, build up Zion, and appear in his glory.

Let our seats ever be filled in the church of God, and our talents, whether five, two or one, be improved to promote his blessed cause and kingdom in the world ; remembering that we are not our own, but are his by the purchase of the blood of the Lamb, and that we must account to the great Shepherd for the improvement of the talents he has lent us. Have we not much reason to fear, that he who walks in the midst of the golden candlesticks has somewhat against us ? Have we not in a great measure forgotten our first love ? Ought we not to repent and do our first works, lest our candlesticks should be removed out of their places ? Should the spirit of the world, and conformity to the world, expel the spirit of devotion ; and the spirit of the times expel from our churches the missionary spirit ; we might with a lamentable pleasure say, that our dear brethren, whom God hath, in his holy providence, within the two last years, removed from us, were taken from the evil to come, to the church of the first born in his temple on high.

Therefore, brethren, seeing ye are warned of these things, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness ; but grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. To him be glory, both now and for ever.—  
AMEN.

With pleasure we receive the evidence of the friendship of our sister Associations, by their letters and messengers ; and wish to make them grateful returns, and continue our correspondence with them.

In behalf of the Association, we subscribe, your's,  
in the bonds of the everlasting gospel.

ABIJAH PECK, *Moderator.*

ELI BALL, *Clerk.*

## DEATH OF ELDER BLOOD.

*Extract of a letter from Miss Betsey Blood, (only surviving daughter of the late Elder CALEB BLOOD), to a Minister of this Association, dated*

PORTLAND, March 11, 1814.

*Dear and respected Friend,*

**V**ARIOUS and dark are the scenes of providence, in which God has been pleased to pass before us ; but we have this consolation, that though clouds and darkness are round about him, yet justice and judgment are the habitation of his throne. I often feel as if true submission to the divine will was the great thing necessary, that I could heartily say, thy will be done.

My father mentioned in his last letter to you, the trying visitations of the last year, in which sickness and death invaded our little family, and his feeble state of health, which has continued ; though he has been able to preach constantly till three sabbaths past ; but not able for five weeks to go abroad, except on sabbath days to ride to meeting, and preach, but very feebly. On the 19th of February, he was violently attacked with spasms, which continued thirty-eight hours, when a paralytic shock took place, which deprived him of the use of his limbs from his hips downward. In this situation, under the most excruciating distress, he continued sixteen days, and then fell asleep in the arms of Jesus. He was perfectly composed in his mind through his sickness, and by his conversation evinced to all the reality of the religion of Jesus, to support the soul when flesh and heart fail. The sabbath before his decease, in the morning, a number of christian friends called to see him. After conversation, he requested to be raised up in his bed, and then wished them to sing the two last verses of the 31st hymn of the second book ; which they did, and he lifted his hand and beat the time while they sang. It was a solemn season, (he was not expected to live through the day), but it could not be said to be melancholy. He manifested an unshaken belief in the doctrine he had preached, and an entire confidence in God, and de-

pendence alone in the righteousness of Christ. He often said—"I am as naked as the thief on the cross, as to any thing to recommend me to God." When it was mentioned that he was going to receive the reward of his labors, he would reply—"If mere mercy through the atonement of Christ can reach such a sinner, and a soul that deserves to sink to hell can be saved, I shall arrive there: If not, I am gone." Being asked how he could give up all things below, he said, he calmly resigned his family and the dear church of Christ; but that the thought of no more warning poor sinners, was the hardest thing to resign. But at length he said—"I have done the work, and finished the ministry which I have received." He often mentioned—

"This life's a dream, an empty show;  
But the bright world to which I go,  
Hath joys substantial and sincere:  
When shall I wake and find me there?"

And often repeated these lines:—

"Tho' painful at present, 'twill cease before long,  
And then, O how pleasant the conqueror's song!"

Thus I have given a sketch of the state of his mind in his last hours, till he resigned his spirit in the full possession of his reason. His last words were—On being asked how his mind was, he replied—"Calm: I am not afraid to trust in Jesus." This was the first sabbath in March, between six and seven o'clock, A. M. and we have reason to believe he entered an eternal sabbath of rest.

My mother has been wonderfully supported. She wished me to mention, that she felt to say—"The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him." She joins in respects to yourself and family.

These from your's, in affliction.

BETSEY BLOOD.