

S14417

Baptists . Connecticut . Stonington Association, 1808.
Minutes ... at Exeter, October 18th and 19th, 1808.
New London, Green, 1808. 8 pp.
MWA copy.

188
MINUTES

OF THE

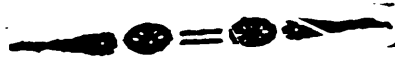
S T O N I N G T O N

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT

E X E T E R,

OCTOBER 18th AND 19th, 1808.



WITH THEIR

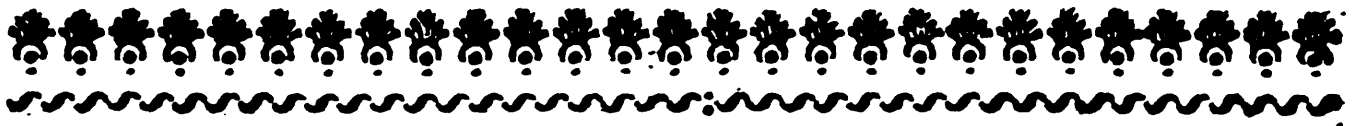
CIRCULAR & CORRESPONDING

LETTERS.

NEW-LONDON :

PRINTED BY SAMUEL GREEN.

1808.



MINUTES, &c.



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18.

1. THE Elders and Messengers being met; Elder SAMUEL WEST, preached the Introductory Sermon from John III. 7.

2. Chose Elder JOHN G. WIGHTMAN, Moderator; and Elder ASA SPALDING, Clerk.

3. Received and read letters from the churches:

N.B. The names of Ministers are in SMALL CAPITALS; those with this mark (†) were not present; from churches marked thus (*) we had no letter; vacant churches distinguished by a dash.—

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Ministers and Messengers.</i>	<i>Add.</i>	<i>Dism.</i>	<i>Excl.</i>	<i>Dead.</i>	<i>Num.</i>
1st. N. Stonington,	PELEG RANDAL, Elisha Palmer, Jabez Gallup.		1	1	4	198
2d. N. Stonington,	SIMEON BROWN,† ASA SPALDING, JEDEDIAH RANDAL, ASHER MINER,† John Stanton, Beriah Lewis, Thomas Wells.	5		2	2	178
1st. Groton,	JOHN G. WIGHTMAN, Benadam Gallup, Amos Culver, James Woodbridge.	5	1	4	1	177
Saybrook,* Exeter,	————— GERSHOM PALMER, Rodman Sisson, George Tillinghast, Samuel Cottrell, Samuel Tillinghast, James Clarke.					111
Richmond,	PHINEHAS PALMER, Samuel Barber, Jonathan Lock.	8	3	2	3	252
		3				89

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Ministers and Messengers.</i>	<i>Jidd.</i>	<i>Disin.</i>	<i>Excl.</i>	<i>Dead.</i>	<i>Num.</i>
West-Greenwich,	————— Fardon Tillinghast, Samuel Peckham, Stafford Green, Joseph Tillinghast.	9	1	2	1	115
1st. Colchester,*	—————					128
2d. Richmond,	————— William Browning, Weedon Clarke.		2			81
2d. Colchester,	Asa Wilcox.† Alpheus Rogers, Lemuel Miner, Joseph Powers.	6		1	1	100
Hampton,	Abel Palmer, Asa Bennet.	3			3	94
Montville,	Reuben Palmer, George Williams, Stephen Bishop.	1			1	186
Chatham,*	—————					112
Waterford,	Zadock Darrow.†	3		1	1	178
East-Haddam,	Simeon Dickinson,† John Bigelow, Turner Miner.	12	2			93
Plainfield,	Nathaniel Cole, James Henry, John Stranahan.		2		2	75
South-Kingston,	Benjamin Wait,† Enoch Stedman, Caleb Tift, John Sherman.	4	4		1	29
Stonington,	————— Joseph Palmer, Elihu Chesebrough.		1		1	53
New-London,	Samuel West.	5	1	1		105
Lebanon,	Nehemiah Dodge, John Dewey, Abel Buel, Abel Goodwin.	3			1	85
Total,		67	18	11	22	2444

4. Received a letter and minutes from the Warren Association by their messengers Brethren Joseph Cornell and Stephen Gano.
 Received a letter and minutes from the Danbury Association, by their messenger Elder Rufus Babcock.
 Received a letter and minutes from the Groton Conference, by their messenger Elder William Northup.

From Renssellaerville no intelligence ; from Sturbridge none ; from Otsego none ; from New-York none ; from Shaftsbury received a letter ; from Leyden a letter and minutes ; from Philadelphia a letter and minutes.

5. Appointed brethren Samuel West, Abel Palmer, Nathaniel Cole, and Matthew Clark, a committee to examine the Circular letter, and prepare a Corresponding letter.

6. Appointed brother Samuel Peckham to write the Circular, and Elder Wightman the Corresponding letters for the next year.

7. Appointed brethren Samuel West and Nehemiah Dodge messengers to the Warren Association ; brethren John Bigelow, Asa Bennet, and Turner Miner, to the Danbury Association ; brethren Samuel West, Reuben Palmer, and Nehemiah Dodge, to Groton Conference ; brethren John G. Wightman, Benadam Gallup, and Asa Bennet, to Sturbridge Association ; brethren Samuel West and Jedidiah Randall, to the Shaftsbury Association ; brother Samuel West to forward our minutes to New-York and Philadelphia Associations ; brother Jedidiah Randall to forward our minutes to Renssellaerville and Otsego Associations ; brother Beriah Lewis to forward our minutes to Leyden Association.

8. Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning—Preaching at several places in the vicinity this evening.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19.

9. The meeting opened by prayer.

10. Read and approved the Circular and Corresponding Letters.

11. Appointed brother Samuel West to superintend the printing and distributing our minutes.

12. Appointed our next Association to be held with the Church at Lebanon, on the third Tuesday in October next.

Circular Letter.

The Elders and Messengers of the Churches composing the Stonington Baptist Association, convened at Exeter, the third Tuesday in October, 1808, to the Churches whom they represent, send Christian Salutations ;

DEARLY BELOVED IN THE LORD,

WE think it our duty and privilege to address you on the importance of the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, that so often calls for our particular attention, Mat. xviii. 15, 16, and 17, which implies that a brother may trespass against a brother ; in which case he is to tell him his fault in an individual capacity, alone, and reason the case with him, and tell him plainly what his fault is, and what he ought to do ; for thou shalt in no wise suffer sin upon thy brother. If any man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual restore such an one in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself lest thou also be tempted : do as thou wouldst have him do to thyself if thou wast in his case ; labour with him in love and in tenderness with a view to gain him ; he is thy brother if he hear thee—that is, if he make thee satisfaction thou hast gained thy brother. Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one of you convert him, let him know that he which converted the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins. There is an end to the controversy, and it is a happy end ; let no more be said of it, but let the falling out of friends terminate in the renewing of friendship. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more—be not weary in well doing—two is better than one, and a threefold cord is not quickly broken. Take *one* or *two* more, as the case may be, (and you are to use discretion in this matter, according as it appears most likely to accomplish the end, which is to gain thy brother) not more than two at most, who are to be witnesses or a witness with you to him of his trespass, that he who would not submit to your testimony may have one or two more to witness with you to him, that he ought to make the satisfaction which the gospel requires. In order for this the one or two brethren must have the means of knowledge, and judge according to your complaint, that by the mouth of your united testimony and decision he may be convinced of his trespass and be reclaimed ; for by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established. If he neglect to

hear them; that is, if he will not submit to their award or admonition, after all the labour and pains has been taken to keep it as private as possible, and to save his character and hide his sins—tell it to the church, and inform them what thou hast done; produce your witnesses, and refer the whole matter to their judgment. It is the last trial, for whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatsoever ye loose on earth is loosed in heaven. And now the church, under the consideration of all these important things, and weighing all the circumstances and witnesses in the balance of divine truth, must end the controversy. If he comply all is well; it is better late than never; it is the eleventh hour, but he shall have his penny. But if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican; let him be cast out of the communion of the church; secluded from special ordinances; and degraded from the dignity of a church member: for it is written, now we command ye, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us. 2d Thessal. III. 6.

And also now I beseech you brethren to mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned, and avoid them. Rom. XV. 17. Question—Is it right for individuals to hold external fellowship with excommunicated persons? We answer, No; it is a presumptuous violation of the laws of heaven, and by so doing they exclude themselves from our fellowship. Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind, and in the same judgment. 1st Corinth. I, 10. And now as many as walk by this rule, peace on them and the Israel of God.

Corresponding Letter.

The Stonington Baptist Association to the several Associations with whom they correspond, send greeting:

DEAR BRETHREN,

THE day in which we live presents to our view great and marvelous events, both in National and Religious affairs.— In the former we behold the King of Kings executing his just judgments by giving the nations which have shed the blood of his martyrs blood to drink; whilst the hearts of men are failing them for fear, and for looking upon those things which are coming upon the earth; and the merchantmen are crying alas! alas!

at the ruining of their trade. Insomuch that the most potent monarchs and wise statesmen are subjected to great and distressing disappointments in their purposes, and their wisdom appears to be but foolishness ; whilst the angry passions seem to have superceded cool deliberation in the councils of Europe ; and gloomy doubts are entertained by many whether our nation will finally escape the destroying deluge of the European wars. It is undoubtedly our duty, dear brethren, to pray for the peace of the nation in which we live. As men and citizens of our common country, we ardently desire that our wise constitution of government may be preserved, and our *humane, just, and peaceable* administration be continued ; and that God in mercy for his elect's sake would cut short his work of judgment, and make a short work in the earth ; that the nations may cease to shed blood, be disposed to do justice and love mercy ; that peace and truth may abound where violence and slaughter long have reigned. Beloved brethren, whilst we with awe profound adore the God of Heaven, who doeth his pleasure on the earth, and breaketh the nations with his rod of iron—we have abundant reason to rejoice that his mercy is yet gloriously displayed in the salvation of poor sinners. The many and great revivals of religion in our country, and the spread of the gospel in distant parts, afford abundant cause of joy to every pious soul. If the conversion of one sinner is a great and glorious event, (and certainly it is) what a revenue of glory and praise shall redound to the God of all grace in the salvation of such multitudes of poor sinners, converted from sin, and reconciled to God by the death of his son. Whilst we rejoice at the prosperity of the Church of Christ, may we with one heart unitedly pray that God would make more abundant displays of gospel grace, till the whole earth shall be filled with his glory and praise. We conclude with acknowledging your brotherly love, expressed by your messengers and minutes, and our wish for a continuance of the same ; and subscribe ourselves yours in the Lord.

JOHN G. WIGHTMAN, *Moderator,*
ASA SPALDING, *Clerk,*