

23153

Baptists. Vermont. Vermont Association, 1791.

Minutes ... at Wallingford ... October, 1790.

Bennington, Haswell, 1791. 8 pp.

AAS copy.

M I N U T E S

OF THE

Vermont Association,

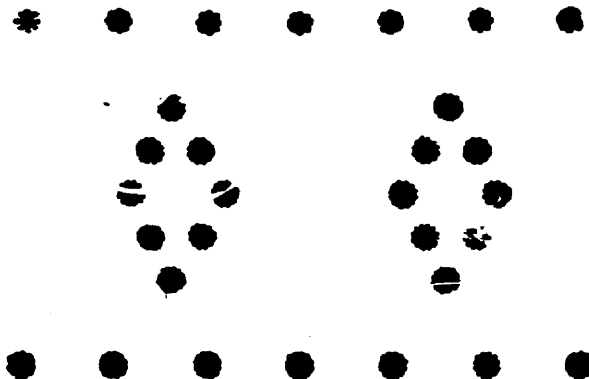
AT THEIR

Annual Convention :

HOLDEN AT

WALLINGFORD, VERMONT,

OCTOBER, ⁶ 1790.



Printed at BENNINGTON, [Vermont,] in the year 1790.
By ANTHONY HASWELL.



MINUTES, &c.

WEDNESDAY, October 6.

AT two o'clock, p. m. elder Peter Werden preached the introductory sermon, from Heb. xiii, 2. *Be not forgetful to entertain strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.*

2. Proceeded to business; chose elder Werden moderator, and brother Sylvanus Haynes clerk.

3. letters were received and read from the several churches, and the following accounts taken of those who have been added, dismissed, excluded, or died the year past, and the number in each church.

N. B. Ordained ministers names in italic. Dashes denote no settled ministers.

| <i>Churches.</i> | <i>Messengers.</i> | Add. | Dis. | Exc. | Dic. | To. |
|--|--------------------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| 1 Clarendon, <i>Isaac Beall</i> , Lewis Walker, | | 4 | 2 | 5 | | 38 |
| 2 Manchester, <i>Joseph Cornell</i> , | | | 13 | 1 | 1 | 57 |
| 3 Granville, <i>Jordan Dodge</i> , deacons Benjamin Baker, Joshua Corkins, _____ | | 35 | 1 | | 1 | 114 |
| 4 Middletown, Sylvanus Haynes, Caleb Smith, John Sunderland, _____ | | 3 | 1 | 3 | | 32 |
| 5 Hubbardton, Nathaniel Culver, Abner Ashley, _____ | | | | | | 23 |
| 6 Wallingford, <i>Henry Green</i> , deacon Randle, | | 8 | 3 | | 1 | 62 |
| 7 Ira, Reuben Baker, Rufus Bates, _____ | | 4 | | 2 | | 45 |
| 8 Orwell, <i>Elzathan Phelps</i> , Eber Murray, Samuel Wheeler, | | 73 | 1 | | 1 | 109 |
| 9 Pittsford, Deacon Handy, deacon Preston. | | 1 | | 2 | 1 | 48 |
| 10 Brandon, <i>Isaac Webb</i> , Edward Cheney, Thomas Tuttle, | | 3 | | | | 67 |
| 11 Kingsbury, <i>Hazakiah Eastman</i> , Ezekiel Smith, | | | | | | 93 |
| 12 Selma, Joseph Wood, Silas Estee, _____ | | | | | | 34 |
| 13 Pawlet, Solomon Brown. _____ | | | | | | 18 |

1311211351740

The

The three last churches were received the present year.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning nine o'clock.

THURSDAY, *October 7.*

Met pursuant to adjournment.

A sermon was delivered by elder Jordan Dodge, from Psalms cxxxiii, 1. *Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.*

1. Received and read the letters from the different associations, and desired their messengers to take a seat with us, viz. elders Werden and Blood from the Shaftsbury, elders Hebbard and Peak from the Woodstock, and brother Haynes from the Warren.

From the Woodstock association members, we received an extraordinary account of the outpouring of the spirit of God upon the hearts of sinners, causing many, as it is hoped, to believe in Christ, to the salvation of their souls, and sanctification of their lives. This work (as we hear) is north and east from this place.

2. Chose brother Haynes to write a letter to the first church in Westfield, Newyork.

3. Received, read and approved the same, which signified, that the door was open for their reception, if application is made.

4. Chose elder Beal to write a letter to the several sister associations.

5. Received, read and approved the same,

6. Received, read and approved also the circular letter prepared (according to appointment) by elder Beall.

7. Query from Hubbardton church: *How and in what manner ought heads of families to deal with their households in regard to feasting?* Answer, It is the opinion of this association, that such a practice is contrary to the oracles of God, and ought to be restrained

strained by family government ; but the different circumstances attending such practices, renders it difficult to be more particular.

8. Received information from the church in Granville, that they had a messenger with letters from those worthy fathers and brethren in the ministry,* belonging to the Warren association, who had recommended elder Jordan Dodge, agreeable to our advice the last year ; with a request still for our advice, whether we think the church in Granville may safely proceed and settle elder Dodge as their pastor, without making any further enquiries into the conduct of the church at *Sturbridge* towards him ? It is the opinion of this association, that as the above said church has received their answers from those worthy ministers before mentioned, with their fullest approbation of elder Dodge's character, together with the testimony of worthy councils who have been on the spot, that there is no danger in their receiving him, as a worthy minister in good standing.

9. Elder Werden being necessitated to leave us, on account of previous engagements, elder Blood was chosen to succeed him in moderatorship.

Voted to adjourn till tomorrow morning 9 o'clock.

FRIDAY, *October 8.*

Met according to adjournment ; opened the meeting by prayer ; and proceeded to business.

1. Chose elders Cornell and Dodge as our messengers to the Shafsbury association ; elder Cornell and brother Haynes to the Warren association ; and in behalf of this association to request union in fellowship and correspondence with them ; elders Beall and Green to the Woodstock association ; and to enquire into their faith and order, and if said brethren have

fellowship

* Doctor Manning, elder Ledwith, Thompson, and Pitman.

fellowship therewith, they are empowered to join in fellowship and correspondence with them.

2. Chose elder Webb to write a circular letter for the next year.

3. Chose brethren Dodge and Haynes to superintend the printing of these minutes.

Agreed on the following supplies for vacant societies.

Society in Wells.

Elder Thomas Skeel, last Lord's day in January.

Elder Jordan Dodge, first Lord's day in February.

Elder Isaac Beall, last Lord's day in June. Elder Henry Green, second Lord's day in August.

Salem church.

Brother Solomon Brown, first Lord's day in Nov.

Elder Joseph Cornell, third Lord's day in December.

Elder Jordan Dodge, first Lord's day in January.

Elder Henry Green, second Lord's day in June. Elder Isaac Webb, last Lord's day in June.

Hubbarton church.

Brother Silvanus Haynes, last Lord's day in Nov.

Elder Henry Green, last Lord's day in December.

Elder Joseph Cornell, third Lord's day in February.

Elder Isaac Webb, first Lord's day in May. Elder Isaac Beall, second Lord's day in May.

4. Voted that this association convene in Orwell, on the first Wednesday in October next, at 2 o'clock p. m.

5. Voted elder Dodge to preach the introductory sermon; in case of failure, elder Beall.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

Dear beloved,

ALTHOUGH it has not been our former practice of addressing you by a circular letter, yet, considering the melancholy times in which we live, of so many who profess godliness, but deny the *power*, by
 lives

lives so opposed to their profession, turning back again to the course of this world, like the washed swine to his mire, and the dog to his vomit : we wish to be indulged in hinting a few thoughts to your minds upon *practical godliness*.

You, dear brethren, who profess to be followers of the meek and lowly Jesus, cannot but be refreshed upon contemplating the increase and glory of *his* kingdom, which will prove to be more than mere conjecture. *He* must sit king upon *his* holy hill of Zion, until all *his* enemies are completely conquered. True religion is not of one age or of one nation : it is *consistency*, planted in the world, by God himself, and will continue to grow and spread, until it has filled the whole earth with its glory ; unobstructed in its course, and boundless in its extent, it cannot be limited by time or space : the earth is too small for a display of its effects, and the accomplishment of its grand objects ; it looks forward to eternity. The blessed Jesus, tho' the " Heaven must receive him, until the time of restitution of all things," yet, in that glorious era, he will appear again in our world, as an absolute judge ; rid the world of sin, sinners, and that curse that was bro't upon it for man's rebellion, gather all his saints from the four winds, and reign with them on this earth a thousand years ; then take them to the brilliant fields of his paradise above, where he will solace himself with them in one eternal round. If these are some of the important things which our holy religion teacheth, and such the events we look for, what manner of persons ought we to be, in all holy exercises of heart, lip and life ? You must be sensible, that a mere belief or assent to the great doctrine of the bible, will not cleanse our hearts from sin, denominate our conduct consistent, nor prepare us for that state of glory, into which the righteous will shortly be admitted. We may

may assent to the most important and interesting truths of christianity, and, from a view of their secondary beauty, feel great animal operations on our minds, and ecstasies of joy in our spirits ; and, at the same time, for want of a true discovery of the primary beauty and excellency of those objects, the heart may be left destitute of a proper sense of their weight and importance ; which is only productive of the genuine fruits of religion ; on these shoals have thousands made total shipwreck in their voyage for the *Newjerusalem*, and come short of the heavenly rest. True it is that God has given us every grace of his holy spirit, which is necessary for the purifying of our hearts and preparing of us for his kingdom and glory ; and it is as true that where God bestows the graces of his spirit, those desirable effects will appear, in their daily life and conversation, and if the religion we profess, has not such an effect upon us, what better fare can we expect, than he who folded his talent in a napkin, and hid it in the earth ? From such a consideration suffer us to exhort you to reduce religion to practice ; to walk in all the commands and ordinances of the Lord blameless. And let his precepts influence and direct you in every branch of life. Retire often from the world, for secret devotion with Jesus : in such solemn seasons, the fluctuating scenes of time will withdraw, and you will find yourselves left alone with God, and feel yourselves standing (as it were) at his tribunal. The feverish dreams of airy fancy, and vain imaginations, will then vanish, and the important realities of another world appear in their proper colour. And while you thus tread the path of the muse, the holy fire of divine love will kindle in your breasts, every wheel of the soul be put in regular motion, and all the graces of the holy spirit properly exercise themselves in your minds. These things will have a mighty tendency to regulate

regulate your walk before, and animate your minds to the performance of religious devotions in your families. In fine, it will engage you to the right discharge of every duty, which you owe to God, your fellow creatures, and yourselves.

And while we thus address you, from this little assembly, our bosoms begin to swell with the thoughts of joining with you in a much larger association, (yea, of all the elect of God, on Zion's hill above) in addresses to God, and the lamb, who has, does now, and will then, love us; and in whose blood we shall have washed our robes, and made them white; and by whom we shall have been brought out of those great tribulations, that we are incident to in this militant state: to whom be glory forever. AMEN.

Signed by order and in behalf of the association,

CALEB BLOOD, moderator,
SILVANUS HAYNES, clerk.