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Warren Association of Baptists, 1775.

Minutes of the Proceedings . . . September 12th and 13th,
M, DCC, LXXV.

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M I N U T E S

O F T H E

P R O C E E D I N G S

O F T H E

B A P T I S T A S S O C I A T I O N

A T

W A R R E N,

S E P T E M B E R 12th A N D 13th, M, D C C, L X X V.

N O R W I C H:

P R I N T E D b y R O B E R T S O N S A N D T R U M B U L L, 1775.

MINUTES

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION AT WARREN, September 12th AND 13th, M, DCC, LXXV.

ACCORDING to appointment the messengers of our respective churches met at Warren, September 12th, when Elder Hunt preached a suitable sermon from *Rom. xii. 4, 5*. After which Elder Ebenezer Smith was chosen moderator, and Elder Thompson clerk; and the letters from our churches were read, and a list of their messengers was taken, with an account of how many have been admitted, either by baptism or letters of recommendation, have died, been excluded, or been dismissed in the year past; with their present number of members.

*Ministers with this † mark were not present. Churches with this * mark we had no account from, but their numbers stand as they did last year.*

CHURCHES.	MINISTERS.	bapt.	let.	di.	ex.	dis.	no.
1* Boston,	† Samuel Stillman,						147
2* Boston,	† Isaac Skillman,						42
Bellingham,	Noah Alden,	2		1		2	42
	Samuel Darling,						
	Eliphalet Helbrook,						
	John Leland,						
*Haverhill,	† Hezekiah Smith,						140
Warren,	Charles Thompson,						
	Amos Fisk,	6				2	83
	John Comer,						

CHURCHES.	MINISTERS.	bapt.	let.	di.	ex.	dis.	nc
1 Middleboro'	<i>Isaac Backus,</i> <i>Nathaniel Shaw,</i> <i>Job Macomber,</i>	2		1		1	6
2 Middleboro'	<i>Ebenezer Hinds,</i> <i>Amos Nelson,</i>	19		4		44	5
3 Middleboro'	<i>Afa Hunt,</i> <i>Sylvanus Cottle,</i> <i>Enoch Thomas,</i>	5		3		2	10
Charlton,	† <i>Nathaniel Green,</i> <i>Daniel Bacon,</i>	8				4	19
* Wilbraham,	† <i>Setb Clark,</i>						39
* Enfield,	† <i>Joseph Mechem,</i>						30
* Ware,							16
Ashfield,	<i>Ebenezer Smith,</i>	5					54
Montague,		4					29
Sutton,	<i>Elisba Ransom,</i>						46
* Royalton,	† <i>Whitman Jacobs,</i>						45
* Richmond,	† <i>Matturean Belau,</i>						79
Wrentham,	<i>Ebenezer Guild,</i>	2				1	17
Attleborough,	<i>Job Seaman,</i> <i>Joshua Everett,</i>	27	2	1			7
* So. Brimfield,	† <i>Elijab Coddin,</i>						16
* Sturbridge,							14
* Woodstock,	† <i>Biel Ledoyt,</i>						48
Chelmsford,	† <i>Elisba Rich,</i>	11					70
* Barnstable,							9
New-Salem,	<i>Samuel Bigelow,</i>	3	2		1		20
Grafton,	<i>Ebenezer Wheeler,</i>	6					28
Leicester,		119					32
		101	23	10	1	56	193

Adjourned to eight o'clock to-morrow morning.

September 13th. Met according to adjournment. And

1st. Elder Backus laid before the assembly an account of his proceedings through the year past, as agent

for these churches, which was approved, and the thanks of this association were returned to him for those services and labours of his to promote religious liberty.

2d. He was again chosen agent for these churches for the ensuing year; and Messrs. Samuel Stillman, Isaac Skillman, Hezekiah Smith, Noah Alden, Nathan Plimton, Philip Freeman, Asaph Fletcher, Richard Gridley and Philip Freeman, junior, were chosen our committee, to advise and assist our agent in every prudent measure for procuring a removal of oppressions that we have long laboured under, and to promote the general welfare of our churches; not less than three of them to be a quorum.

3d. Our agent read a memorial and petition that he has drawn up, to the general assembly of the Massachusetts, concerning our religious liberties; and it was voted unanimously that it should be presented, and the matter be perused according to his and the committee's best discretion.

4th. Every church is desired seriously to consider of the nature and importance of these affairs, as religious liberty is the greatest; and also that the removal of encroachments thereon would have a great tendency to enlarge and secure our civil liberties; and that they would speedily collect and send to our agent such sums as they think expedient, to defray the expences of his agency.

5th. We received a letter from the association of Charlestown, in South-Carolina, by the hand of our brother Elhanan Winchester, wherein they manifest their desire to open a correspondence with us, and express their sympathy with us in troubles, and a willingness to do any thing in their power for our relief. We fully concurred with the proposal of a correspondence, and returned them an answer by our beloved brother who brought it.

6th. Our beloved brother William Williams was chosen our messenger to the association of Philadelphia, by whom we sent a letter to them.

7th. Elder Thompson was chosen our messenger to go with a letter to the Swanzey association.

Adjourned. Met at two in the afternoon.

8th. A motion being made and seconded, it was agreed that our agent and committee be desired to draw up a letter to all the Baptist societies on this continent, stating the true nature and importance of religious liberty, and signifying that we think that a general meeting of delegates from our societies in every colony, is very expedient as soon as may be, to consult upon the best means and methods of obtaining deliverance from various encroachments that have been made upon that liberty, and to promote the general welfare of our churches, and of all God's people throughout the land; and to desire that our friends in each colony would communicate their sentiments concerning the design, and the time and place of meeting, with all convenient speed.

Agreed upon the following supplies for destitute societies :

Framingham. Mr. Foster, the last Lord's-day in September; Elder Backus, the first in October; Elder Alden, the third in November; Elder Seamans, the third in December; Mr. Lewis, the third in January; Mr. Jones, the second in April; Elder Hinds, the first in May.

Ashford. Elder Thompson, the second in October; Mr. Foster, the first in November; Mr. Lewis, the second in November; Mr. Jones, the first in December; Elder Hicks, the first in April; Elder Seamans, the first in June; Elder Alden, the second in July.

Dudley. Elder Hunt, the last in October.

Grafton. Mr. Ransom, the last in October; Elder

Hicks, the second in November; Elder Alden, the second in December; Elder Hunt, the second in June; Mr. Jones, the first in August.

The association is to be at Grafton, next year, on the Tuesday after the first Wednesday in September, at two o'clock, afternoon: Elder Thompson to preach the sermon; and in case of failure, Elder Seamans.

A short ADDRESS to our CHURCHES.

Beloved in the Lord,

THROUGH divine goodness we met in peace, and by letters from our churches, find that in general they are at peace among themselves; and tho' many complain of the low state of religion among them, yet, thanks be unto God! this is not universal. We received very agreeable accounts of the revival of religion among some of our churches; as also a particular relation of a glorious work at Providence last winter and spring, so that about an hundred and ten have been added to the Baptist church there in the year past, besides many more who have been hopefully converted in the several other societies in that town; which we would mention to the praise of God's glorious grace, in this time of public calamity and distress. O that this work may abound and prevail universally! We have attended to the business that came before us in love, and trust God has condescended to be with us. And now, brethren, suffer us to exhort you with our own souls, to search the scriptures daily; to read them in your families, and maintain all parts of family worship, walking in your houses with a perfect heart. Keep your places in the house of God, and hold fast your profession without wavering. Let your lights shine before all men.

Encourage the improvement of all useful gifts among you, according to the rules of the gospel, and guard against every thing of a contrary nature. And as the

judgments of almighty God hang heavy and threatening over our land and nation, we recommend it to you, to set apart such days of fasting and prayer in the year ensuing, as you shall think expedient, to beseech the Lord to remove those calamities, and to restore peace and tranquility to our colonies and to the nation again, and to revive pure religion, and the increase of holiness, unity, and comfort, through the world. Finally, brethren, live in love, and the God of love and peace will be with you, which is the hearty prayer of your's in gospel bonds.

EBENEZER SMITH, Moderator.
CHARLES THOMPSON, Clerk.