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Baptists. Rhode Island. Warren Association.
Minutes ... in Middleborough, September 7
and 8, 1819.

Boston, Loring, [1819]. 15, [1] p.

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M I N U T E S

OF THE

Warren Association,

HELD AT THE

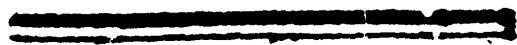
MEETING-HOUSE

OF THE

THIRD BAPTIST CHURCH IN MIDDLEBOROUGH,

SEPTEMBER 7 AND 8,

1819.



BOSTON:

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MINUTES, &c.

Tuesday, September 7th, 1819.

1. At ten o'clock, brother William Gammell delivered the introductory discourse from Luke xix. 13: *And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.* After which, collected for the widows of deceased ministers, 25 dollars 75 cents.

2. The Association then met, and chose brother Stephen Gano, Moderator, and brother David Benedict, Clerk.

3. After prayer by brother Lovell, proceeded to read the letters from the Churches, and took the following account of members added by baptism, and by letter dismissed, excluded, and deceased in the year past, and the present number in each Church.

N. B. The names of ordained ministers are in SMALL CAPITALS; the licensed preachers, in *italics*. Those ministers with this mark (*) were not present. From churches marked thus (†) we had no information this session. Vacant churches are distinguished by a dash ———. Res. number restored.

Churches.	Elders and Messengers.	Ad. by bap.	Ad. by let.	Dismiss.	Exclud.	Dielt.	Total.
1st. Boston 1668	JAMES M. WINCHELL* James Loring P. Snow, jr.	16	4		2	7	209
Warren 1764	DANIEL CHESSMAN* 1 res.			4		3	208
1st Middleboro' 1756	SILAS HALL Asahel Shaw Nathan Washburn		2	1	2		94
2d Middleboro' 1757	David Brown Moses Parris Caleb Tinkham			1		3	97
3d Middleboro' 1757	SAMUEL NELSON Elisha Clark Zebedee Cobb	4	1			2	143
Wrentham 1769	WILLIAM WILLIAMS	1		2		4	45
Attleborough 1769	STEPHEN S. NELSON Eli Blake William Pond			1	2	4	170
Barnstable 1771	JOHN PEAK* 1 res. SIMEON COOMBS SIMEON CROWELL Benjamin Hallet	7	6	1	3	3	238
Medfield 1776	WILLIAM GAMMELL 1 res. Hansel Kimball	3		1			87

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Elders and Messengers.</i>	<i>Ad. by bap.</i>	<i>Ad. by let.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Exchd.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Harwich 1757	—————	4		1	6	1	263
1st Providence 1639	STEPHEN GANO Joseph Martin George Dods	9	11	6	6	10	519
Bridgewater 1785	FLAVEL SHURTLEFF James Perkins Willis Alger	1		8	1	7	121
Randolph 1780	JOEL BRIGGS Zebah Spear Micah Orcutt Micah White	2			2		92
Carver 1791	JONATHAN SMITH Joseph Robins Ebenezer Shurtleff					3	74
Marshfield 1788	THOMAS CONANT Benjamin Hatch, jun. William Ames	49	2			3	113
2d Tiverton 1781	JOB BORDEN Robert Chappell Enoch French			1		1	104
Marshpee	—————						
Newport 1756	ROMEO ELTON Eleazer Trevett	1		2	5	4	248
Seekonk	JOHN PITMAN John Brown Sylvanus Newman	3	1			1	70
Grafton 1800	THOMAS BARRETT	1	1	3		2	115
Fauntou 1761	SHUBAEL LOVELL Caleb Atherton Daniel Shepard		2	7	1	3	98
4th Middleboro' 1761	EBENEZER BRIGGS Samuel Pickens Joel Hayford				1	1	57
2d Providence 1805	LUTHER BAKER* Benj. W. Gardner Anthony Shaw			3	3	1	169
Pawtucket 1805	DAVID BENEDICT 1 res. Remember Kent Isaac Wilkinson David Cummings	3	1	5	3	1	195
Kingston 1805	SAMUEL GLOVER Jabez Weston Seth Drew, jr. Stephen Bradford				1		100
Hanover 1806	JOHN BUTLER John Collamore		1			3	85

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Elders and Messengers.</i>	<i>Ad. by bap.</i>	<i>Ad. by let.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Exclud.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Harwich and Coventry 1805	LEVI WALKER* 1 res.	1	1	2	2	1	214
Holden 1807	JOHN WALKER*	23	3	1	2	1	163
3d Tiverton 1808	Benjamin H. Pitman		1			3	42
Plymouth 1809	—————	2				2	37
Northbridge 1780	—————						27
Pawtuxet 1805	DAVID CURTIS						55
1st Bristol 1811	————— Lemuel W. Briggs 1 res. Charles Shaw Royal Thrasher			4	2	3	56
Pembroke 1812	JOSEPH TORREY Levi Thomas Thomas Turner	3		3	4		80
Worcester 1812	JONATHAN GOING		1	3	2	2	111
New Bedford 1813	JAMES BARNABY Thomas Barstow		3				55
Canton 1814	————— Oliver Houghton	2				1	50
Bellingham 1812	ABIAL FISHER, jr.	3	1		3	1	43
Sharon 1814	SAMUEL WAIT 1 res. Leavitt Hewins Jeremiah Richards	2		1	1	2	61
North Providence 1818	ZALMON TOBEY John Ormsbee						41
Foxborough	Warren Bird Elijah Bird, jr. John Allen						41
2d Taunton	————— Abiathar Hall Thomas C. Brown						18
Number restored, 7. Total		146	12	61	51	83	1797
Nett increase of the Association, 113.							

N. B. The three last Churches were admitted this session.

4. The reading of the letters was suspended for a short time, whilst brother Joshua Bradley, from Albany, N. Y. preached from Rom. viii. 31. After which a collection was made for the Education Society, of twenty four dollars.

5. Voted, that brethren present from sister Associations be admitted to a seat with us.

Two letters having been received from Bristol, R. I. both in the name of the Church in that place,

6. Voted, that this case be referred to a committee, consisting of Dr. Gano, and brethren Stephen S. Nelson, and William Gammell.

7. Adjourned till to-morrow morning at 8 o'clock. Brother Fisher prayed.

8. In the evening, brother Bentley, from Weathersfield, Conn. preached from Rom. iii. 31. and a number of meetings were held in different parts of the town.

Wednesday, September 8th, 1819.

9. Met according to adjournment. Brother Curtis prayed.

10. The Committee for the consideration of the two letters from Bristol, reported as follows :

“ The Committee to whom was referred the subject of the letters from Bristol,—*Report*, That the letter first read, signed by Lemuel W. Briggs and Charles Shaw, be received as from the First Baptist Church in Bristol.

11. Voted, that this Report be accepted.

12. Read the Circular Letter prepared by brother Barnaby, and the Corresponding Letter prepared by brother Conant.

13. Appointed brethren John Pitman, Romeo Elton, and Flavel Shurtleff, a committee to examine the letters.

14. Proceeded to read the letters from Corresponding Associations.

Associations.

Messengers.

Charleston	Letter and Minutes.	
Philadelphia	do. and do.	
Hartford	do. and do.	Wm. Bentley.
Sturbridge		
New-Hampshire		
Woodstock		
Vermont.	Letter and Minutes.	Dea. Jonathan Merriam.
Leyden		
Cumberland	do. and do.	John Tripp.
Boston	do. and do.	
Westfield	do. and do.	
Dublin		
Shaftsbury		
Hudson River	do. and do.	Avery Briggs.

15. The committee for distributing the money collected for the indigent widows of deceased Ministers, reported, that they have allotted to Mrs. Thompson, 5 dollars, Mrs. Read, 5 dollars, Mrs. Burroughs, 5 dollars, Mrs. Anderson, 3 dollars; which report was accepted.

16. Proceeded to appoint messengers to sister Associations.

Charleston	Dea. Charles Shaw.
Hartford	Zalmon Tobey, S. S. Nelson.
Sturbridge	J. Going.

New-Hampshire	Samuel Abbott.
Woodstock	J. Going, J. Kimball, A. Briggs.
Shaftsbury	A. Briggs.
Leyden	J. Going.
Boston	Gano, Benedict, Lovell, S. S. Nelson, Samuel Wait
New-London	Levi Walker.
Dublin	J. Kimball.

17. Voted, that the next Association be held at the Meeting-House of the 1st Church in Providence.

18. Voted, that brother Elton preach the introductory sermon, and brother Torrey in case of failure.

19. Proceeded to hear the Report of the Secretary of the Education Society.

REPORT.

*The Secretary of the Education Society of the Warren Association,—
Reports—*

That from September 9, 1818, to May 26, 1819, the Treasurer has received \$ 328,26 cts. ; and that in the past year, the Society has had under their patronage the following students, viz.

Brethren Joshua Eveleth,	Ephraim Eveleth,
Henry Paine,	Ebenezer Myrick,
Joel Hayford,	Silas Kenney.
Hosea Trumbull,	

The collections and donations brought forward at this session of the Warren Association have been very generous and encouraging ; and the Executive Committee of the Education Society have at their present meeting received another beneficiary, viz.—Brother Berial N. Leach.

The appropriations at this meeting will nearly exhaust the whole amount of funds in the Treasury ;—but it is confidently hoped that the benefit which the Churches may expect to reap from the improvement of the present students, and the unspeakable importance of education for the ministry, to the cause of vital religion, will stimulate the Churches and individuals to continue and increase their exertions for the future countenance and support of this grand object.

Although the applicants for patronage are numerous, and it is regretted that the present funds are not competent to the solicitations of those who are needing assistance ; yet the Executive Committee are so much gratified by the aid which has been afforded, and so greatly encouraged by that which they have good reason to anticipate, that they confidently indulge the hope, that a new Theological Institution for the Baptists, in a central part of New-England, may be expected speedily to arise.

J. L. Secretary *pro tem*.

20. Voted, that it be accepted.

21. The Moderator then called for the monies which had been collected in the Association for benevolent purposes, when the following sums were brought forward.

For the Education Society.

Church in Medfield, by Rev. Mr. Gammell,	-	\$ 14,00
Church in Pawtucket, by Rev. Mr. Benedict,	- -	4,00
First Church in Providence, by Rev. Mr. Gano,	-	16,00
From Rev. Stephen S. Nelson,	\$ 2,00	} by Rev. S. S. Nelson, 6,00
Mrs. Emilia Nelson,	1,00	
Miss Eunice Mann,	1,00	
Collection in Attleborough,	2,00	
Collection at Worcester,	\$ 23,00	} by Rev. Jonathan Going, 38,17
Female Friend in Sutton,	1,00	
do. do. in Charlton,	50	
Friend in Worcester,	6,00	
Levi How, Worcester,	2,67	
Solomon Parsons, Worcester,	1,00	
Daniel Rand, Worcester,	1,00	
Rev. Jonathan Going, Worcester,	1,00	
Rev. Thomas Barrett, Grafton,	1,00	
Friend in Holden,	1,00	
Rev. Abial Fisher, jr. Bellingham,	- - - -	2,00
Rev. Samuel Glover, Kingston,	- - - -	1,00
John Sullivan, Boston,	- - - -	2,00
Edmund Parsons, do.	- - - -	1,00
James Loring, do.	- - - -	7,00
Rev. Joseph Torrey, Pembroke,	- - - -	1,00
Caleb Atherton, Taunton,	- - - -	1,00
Rev. James Barnaby, New-Bedford,	- - - -	1,00
Rev. Ebenezer Briggs, Middleborough,	- - - -	1,00
Benjamin Hallett, Barnstable,	- - - -	1,00
Rev. David Curtis, Pawtuxet,	- - - -	1,00
Andrew Cole,	- - - -	1,00
Thomas Nelson,	- - - -	1,00
Israel Wilkinson, Pawtucket,	- - - -	1,00
Thomas C. Brown, Taunton,	- - - -	2,00
Jeremiah Richards, Sharon,	- - - -	1,00
Rev. Thomas Conant, Marshfield,	- - - -	1,00
Collected from different persons, by Rev. James Davis,		1,17
Collection at this session of the Association at Middleborough, Sept. 7, 1819, after Sermon by Rev. Joshua Bradley,		24,00
		<u>\$ 229,34</u>

The following Donations to the Education Society were contributed previously to their annual meeting.

1818. Sept. 23.	Caleb Atherton, Taunton,	- -	\$ 1,00
	Samuel Hunt, jr. do.	- -	1,00
	James Loring,	- - - -	2,00
Dec. 5.	Dea. Ezra Allen, Chilmark, by Rev. James Davis,	- - - -	15,00
	Thomas Cathcart, Tisbury, by Rev. James Davis,	- - - -	6,00
1819. March 6.	Major Nathaniel Tucker, Milton,	-	20,00
May 26.	Female Mite Society of Bellingham, by Mrs. Elvira Spear,	- -	23,60

For the Foreign Mission Board.

From the Church in Marshfield, by Rev. Thomas Conant, for translations of the Bible, - - -	\$ 13, 8
From the Female African Society, Newport, R. I. for the support of the Mission to Africa, - - -	5,00
Friend to Foreign Missions, - - -	,50
Female Friend, - - -	,50
George Ide, Cumberland, R. I. by Rev. S. S. Nelson, -	2,00
	<hr/>
	21,8

For the Western Domestic Mission.

From the New-Bedford Female Mite Society, by their Sec- retary, Mrs. Emily Pope, - - -	\$ 12,00
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For the Massachusetts Domestic Missionary Society.

From "a small Female Cent Society, not yet fully form- ed," Wrentham, - - -	3,75
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21. Voted, that the thanks of this Association be given to those who have contributed the foregoing sums, and that it be recommended to each Church to take a collection during the ensuing year, for these increasingly interesting objects.

22. Voted, that brother Warren Bird be appointed to write the Circular, and brother Flavel Shurtleff the Corresponding Letter for the next year.

The Churches of Worcester, Bellingham, Grafton, and Holden, having requested a dismissal from this Association, for the purpose of uniting with other churches, to form a new Association in the neighbourhood of Worcester,

23. Voted, that this request be granted, and that we dismiss them in love and affection, and wish them much success and enjoyment in their new undertaking and proposed relation.

Whereas the former standing Treasurer of the Association has resigned his office,

24. Voted, that brother David Benedict be appointed to fill this office.

25. The Trustees of the Education Society made choice of the following persons to manage their funds the ensuing year.

James M. Winchell, Secretary.

James Loring, Treasurer.

Stephen S. Nelson,
David Benedict,
Samuel Glover,
Jonathan Going,
Abial Fisher, jun.
James Barnaby,
John Butler,

} *Executive Committee.*

At one o'clock, the closing Sermon at the Association was very solemnly and affectionately delivered by Dr. Gano, from 1 Cor. xvi. 13, 14. *Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. Let all your things be done with charity.* A collection for the Foreign Mission was made, amounting to \$13,59 cts.

~~The business of the Association was conducted with the greatest~~

Circular Letter.

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The Ministers and Messengers of the WARREN ASSOCIATION, to the several Churches they represent, send Christian Salutation.

BELOVED IN THE LORD,

WHILST we survey the scenes, which have heretofore gladdened our hearts, we rejoice in the indulgence of another opportunity, as an associate body, of meeting with the Church of God in this place. Associated by similar feelings,—united in the same distinguishing sentiments, and relying on the same ALMIGHTY SAVIOUR; whilst we are enabled reciprocally to receive, we hope to be enabled also, reciprocally to impart assistance to each other.

In our epistolary communications, your attention has frequently been called to the most interesting subjects, relating to practical godliness, as well as to those precious truths, which are the basis of our hope. The entire moral depravity of the heart; eternal, personal election; the sovereignty of grace in regeneration; the final perseverance of the saints; the everlasting happiness of the righteous; the everlasting punishment of the wicked,—and the personal and proper Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, are truths, which, whilst they support the believer, elevate the tone of his feelings, as he verges towards his eternal home.

Error, that noxious weed, which grows spontaneously in the depraved heart of man, though, like a chameleon, it frequently changes its hue, is nearly the same in every age. She raises her hideous head, and with formidable strength, threatens to inundate the church. Are we unseasonable then, in exhorting you “to contend earnestly for the faith, once delivered to the saints?” And particularly, for that point of your faith, which is the foundation of all revealed religion!

It is a known maxim, “that principle forms the very basis of character.” Consequently, if we would be Christians, the doctrines of the gospel must influence the moral feelings, and regulate our actions. The proper Deity of Jesus Christ, notwithstanding evasion and equivocation, is the basis of the believer’s hope. But, alas! in a truth so important, (shining as if written with a sunbeam,) all professed Christians do not agree. A combination of causes, undoubtedly, has conspired to produce variety in sentiment.

A general one is, that faith has no influence on practice: or perhaps, if a man is sincere in his belief, he is right. Hence every exertion to preserve truth in its purity in the church, is considered an usurpation of the rights of conscience, and an unjustifiable attack on the liberty of a brother.

That truth does influence to the practice of holiness, we trust none will deny. If it be a matter of indifference, what a person embraces in theory, if but honest in his endeavours, then it fol-

lows, that it is of equal indifference whether he reads the Alcoran or Mahomet's creed, or the unerring word of God, for a knowledge of truth.

But are we to be so indifferent to the character of the being whom we worship? Or does the Bible furnish us with ample proof of the Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ? Those ascriptions of praise, which so often proceeded from the lips of primitive Christians, to the Son, were dictated by the Holy Spirit. Consequently, there must have been a plurality of persons in the Divine Essence. We are not, however, to understand by the word persons, when applied to the Godhead, some separate existences of a different nature; but united distinctions of the same nature. Hence the voice from heaven said, when he brought his first begotten into the world, *Let all the angels of God worship him.* "But to the Son he saith, Thy throne, O GOD, is forever and ever." Heb. i. 6, 8.

Suffer us to offer a few remarks on the influence of truth on the heart and conduct of the Christian.

1. It is productive of that self-abasement, which leads each to esteem others better than himself. A proper acquaintance with the depraved nature of man, lays a foundation for an acquaintance with the Saviour of sinners. "The whole need not a physician, but they that are sick." Nothing short of a knowledge of the entire moral depravity of the human heart can produce that self-abasement of soul, which will bring us to the foot of the cross. Contrasting the entire depravity of the heart, with the purity and perfections of God, and with the spirituality and extent of the divine law, we are filled with abasement of soul; we loathe ourselves as a filthy garment, and extol the Divine Redeemer, as a being infinitely worthy of our highest praise. This is the foundation of the Christian's experience. But, to such as never knew themselves entirely depraved, the Saviour is "a root out of dry ground." Boasting of the dignity of their nature; trampling the atonement of the great Redeemer under their feet; discarding the idea of endless punishment as due to sin, consequently the infinite satisfaction made to divine justice by the vicarious sufferings of our Lord Jesus Christ; they rest their most sanguine hopes of heaven on works which their own hands have wrought. To them, the Christian's hope is a vain chimera; and his delightful prospects of immortal bliss, but vain and empty air. "But God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble." "To this man will I look," says the blessed Saviour, "that is of a contrite spirit, and trembles at my word."

An essential property of true religion, is humility. But where is this to be found? Does it dwell among those who are ignorant of the total depravity of the heart? No. True humility consists in having low thoughts of ourselves, and a deep sense of our unworthiness before God.

2. A suitable acquaintance with the truth is productive of reverence and holy fear. Fear often deters the wicked from the commission of evil; but induces the righteous to acts of holy obedience. With the one, it is a slavish dread of punishment; with the other, a love for that which is good. The former, though he is deterred from

many sins, loves them: the latter abhors sin as the greatest of evils. His fear is that of the filial kind. To him, God is a being of infinite holiness and justice, as well as of infinite benevolence and goodness. He would not principally avoid an evil through fear of its consequences, but from love to that which is good. And what is better calculated to effect an object so important, than such an acquaintance with the truth, as communicates a knowledge of the depravity of our hearts, a sense of the divine displeasure, and a believing view of the great atonement, made by an infinite Saviour.

3. An acquaintance with the truth is productive of love. An object, which, in itself, is not discovered to be amiable, cannot be the object of our love. Hence Christ, to the unregenerate, is "without form and comeliness;" "there is no beauty in him that they should desire him." And when they behold him, they will cry, Crucify him, crucify him." But, to the righteous, he is infinitely amiable, and altogether lovely. Through the veil, he beholds by faith his resplendent glory, and cheerfully commits the salvation of his soul into the hands of a being, at once infinitely amiable, and infinitely powerful. This arises from an acquaintance with the character of Christ, as "THE ALMIGHTY GOD, THE EVERLASTING FATHER;" and from the consideration of his infinite condescension, in assuming human nature, and dying on the cross, to expiate sin. Here, every thing amiable, every thing lovely, is presented to his view. On the one hand, whatever is great, whatever is godlike, fills him with reverence; on the other, whatever is lovely, whatever is condescending, inspires him with joy and admiration. To him, Christ is "Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, which is, and which was, and which is to come, THE ALMIGHTY." But he knows this truth not in theory alone. His conviction of it produces self abasement, and those heavenly aspirations, in which consists the essence of true religion.

We might further add, wherever truth has gained an ascendancy over error; wherever the heart has been made sensible of its entire wickedness, and deeply humbled under a sense of sin; wherever the Sun of Righteousness has shone with his genial rays, and dissipated the thick mist of darkness, which veils the sinner in midnight gloom; there, contrition, and godly sorrow, have also been produced. At the same time, relying on the strength of Jesus, confidently hoping in his mercy through the all sufficiency of the atonement, the believer's heart has become the seat of heavenly joy. Such persons are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God. Though the tempests of divine vengeance may seem ready to burst upon them, yet, with confidence in GOD THEIR SAVIOUR, they are prepared to meet the conflicts that await them, and to rejoice in prospect of a speedy entrance into glory.

Permit us for a moment, to notice the effects of a sentiment contrary to that which we have advanced. It endangers the peace and safety of the soul; it pours contempt on the great Redeemer; and destroys, at once, the efficacy of his death; it divests him of those attributes, which constitute him the "true God, and eternal life." It fosters pride, the source of all evil, and of all opposition

to God. It corrupts the truth, and perverts the ordinances of God's house. Let us then imitate the humble Christian, clothed with the mantle of truth. His holy soul, under the influence of a living faith in the Son of God, aspires after conformity to him, who is the author of his salvation. He wishes to be more holy, more heavenly minded. His great object is, that the life which he now lives in the flesh may be by the faith of the Son of God. Far from being one of those, who depend on the professions they have made, he is solicitous to make such proficiency in the divine life, as to prove himself an humble and holy disciple of the great Redeemer.

4. An acquaintance with the truth, will lead a church, or an individual to the discharge of gospel discipline. "A man that is an heretick," says the Apostle, "after the first and second admonition, reject." An error in faith, is of equal danger to the safety and purity of the church, as an error in practice. If, according to the opinion of some, faith has no influence on practice, or that it is of small consequence what a man believes, if he fears God and works righteousness; then a church may become lax in its discipline; may disregard the sentiments of her members, and suffer the most important truths to sink into disrepute, and eventually into contempt.

But where do we find the exercise of real, unaffected piety? Or where shall we look for those who fear God, and work righteousness, but among the steady and unwearied advocates of truth? A church without discipline, is like a garden, whose walls are laid waste; whose beauty has faded; and which stands exposed to the ravages of every beast of the forest. Carefully, then, watch the door of the church, and let not her sacred rights be invaded. Suffer not those, who have already entered the walls, to trample on her authority; or disavow those holy doctrines, which are the basis of your hope. Put away from among you that wicked person. And, while your hearts are paralyzed with the thought, that some, who seemed to be pillars in the church, have become a prey to the popular errors of the day, "arm yourselves with the word of truth; and contend earnestly for the faith, once delivered to the saints." Let it be your great concern, dear brethren, to promote the peace and prosperity of the church; and to advance the kingdom of Christ on earth. "May the same mind be in you, that was in Christ Jesus." "Finally, brethren, be perfect, be of one mind, live in peace, and the God of peace shall be with you."

Corresponding Letter.

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The WARREN ASSOCIATION, to the Associations with which we hold Correspondence, sends Christian love.

BELoved BRETHREN,

EVERY anniversary brings us nearer the millennial glory. The way is rapidly preparing for the coming of the Lord. The various benevolent societies, the conversion of Jews and Mohometans, and the out-pourings of the Spirit in different places, announce the near approach of the latter day glory. Notwithstanding we believe in the eternal purposes of God, that he works all things after the counsel of his own will; yet we have the strongest motives for activity, as instruments in hastening that most glorious period. We esteem it a high privilege to live in a day of such wonders. The glad tidings that daily salute our ears are the occasion of joy to angels in heaven. Can any that have a spark of the love of Christ, be idle in such a day? Can we love Christ, and not wish to have him honoured and his kingdom extended? It is criminal not to do much for God at this auspicious time. When was there a period that the church could boast of more Brainerds, Vanderkempts, and Careys, than the present? men whose hearts are fired with a love and zeal bearing down all opposition, and surmounting every difficulty, to advance the cause of the Redeemer? When was there a time that such streams of benevolence were flowing into the treasury of the Lord? Who can doubt but the day of the Lord is at hand, even at the door, when the whole earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord? And as that day approaches, the church is evidently approximating to perfection. Many are running to and fro, and knowledge is increasing. The light of the moon will soon be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun seven-fold.

As an Association, we have much to encourage us; the most of our churches enjoy a great degree of union, and some have experienced refreshing showers of grace.

But in this eventful period, there are some things to excite emotions of grief. The church has survived her conflict with some of her foes, and is rising upon their ruins; but her warfare is not yet accomplished. There are within our limits those, who have made shipwreck concerning faith. These things correspond with the declarations of the scriptures. Yet we know that all things work together for good to them who love God: the wrath of man shall praise him, and the remainder of wrath he will restrain.

The communications which we have received from many of our churches, have been refreshing, and our present meeting truly pleasing and important. Referring you to our Minutes for further information, we solicit an interest in your prayers.

Our additions have not been great; but there is a spirit manifested to maintain the truth, and to purify our churches from the least appearance of corrupt doctrine.* Our intercourse with associated bodies of Christians we wish to continue.

And now may the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever, Amen.

STEPHEN GANO, *Moderator.*

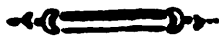
DAVID BENEDICT, *Clerk.*

* The Moderator expressed his satisfaction, that the Arian and Socinian doctrine did not prevail in the churches of this Association, and that no pastor of any church was present who held the pernicious errors of the doctrine referred to.

MASON'S
SELF KNOWLEDGE,
WITH
QUESTIONS.

JAMES LORING *has just published,*

A TREATISE ON SELF KNOWLEDGE; showing the Nature and Benefit of that important Science, and the Way to attain it: Intermixed with various Reflections and Observations on Human Nature. By JOHN MASON, A. M. To which are now added, QUESTIONS adapted to the Work; for the use of Schools and Academies.



* * * PRECEPTORS OF SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES, WHO ARE INCLINED TO ENCOURAGE THE USE OF THIS VALUABLE BOOK IN THEIR SEMINARIES, ARE RESPECTFULLY SOLICITED TO CALL AT No. 2, CORNHILL, AND RECEIVE A COPY FOR EXAMINATION. Price half bound 37 cts. bound 62.