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Baptists. Massachusetts. Leyden Association, 1800.

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AAS copy.

MINUTES

OF THE

LEYDEN ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT THE

Baptist Meeting House,

IN

RICHMOND:

M, DCCC.

TOGETHER WITH THEIR

*Circular & Corresponding
Letters.*

BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT,

PRINTED BY B. SMEAD,

FOR THE ASSOCIATION.

1800.

MINUTES, &c.

WEDNESDAY, October 8, 1800.

1. **A**T 1 o'clock, P. M. the Association was opened by a Discourse, from Phillippians, ii. 5.—*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.*—By Elder RUFUS FREEMAN.

2. After choosing a Moderator and a Clerk, solemn Prayer was attended.

3. The Letters from the Churches were read, and the following List taken of the Messengers, additions, diminutions, and the present state of the Churches.

N. B. Ordained Ministers' names are printed in *italics*.—Churches marked thus (*) have no settled Ministers.—Churches that have no Messengers inserted were not represented.

CHURCHES.

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	Added.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Died.	Number.	Cts. paid.
Leyden,	{ <i>Afa Hebbard,</i> <i>Jared Crandal.</i>					18	50
* Hinddale,	— <i>Jerijah Tayer.</i>			1		55	50
Montague and Leverett,	{ <i>Elijah Montague</i> <i>Joshua Thayer,</i> <i>Calvin Thayer.</i>	2				118	50
1st Guilford,	{ <i>Jeremiah Packer</i> <i>Jabez Franklin.</i>	13	6	10	2	131	50
2d Colrain,	— <i>Edm. Littlefield.</i>	2		1		82	50
Richmond,	{ <i>Nathaniel Bolles,</i> <i>Molton Bullock,</i> <i>Amos Garney.</i>		5	3	3	108	50
* Somerset,	— <i>Eli Waste.</i>	1			1	27	37
* Dunmerston	—					138	
* Putney,	{ <i>Abiel Fisher,</i> <i>Amos Beckwith.</i>					52	49
Halifax,	{ <i>Abner Bemis,</i> <i>David Allen,</i> <i>Samuel Wood,</i> <i>William Hewes.</i>	31				71	50
Marlborough and New Fane	—					81	
* 4th Guilford	{ <i>Edward Barney,</i> <i>Joseph Olden,</i> <i>Gid. Goodspeed.</i>	3		1		36	40
1st Colrain,	{ <i>Rufus Freeman,</i> <i>David Smith,</i> <i>Thos. Purrington.</i>	4			3	102	75
* Warwick,	{ <i>Jacob Estey,</i> <i>Chr. Bullock,</i> <i>Rich. Waistcoat.</i>	2			1	25	50
* Charlemont,	—					52	
* Royalston & Winchendon,	{ <i>Afa Nourse,</i> <i>Jona. Bosworth.</i>	2			1	81	50
* Wendell,	{ <i>Ezra Kendale,</i> <i>Samuel Osgood,</i> <i>Paul Ellis.</i>	16			1	47	37

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	Added.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Died.	Number.	Cts. paid.
Guilford united Church.	Simeon Snow, Benja. Bucklen, Darius Bullock, Jacob Stoddard, Nathaniel Cole.					62	65
* Hardwick,	Jacob Whipple, John Sellon, Samuel Haskins.					56	50
* Royalston,	Simeon Jacobs, Ebenezer Tingalls Ephraim Whitney					111	50
* Brookline,	Lemuel Blanden.					48	50

Total, 76 11 16 13 1346 903

N. B. The four last churches were received this session.

4. Requested the Messengers from the sister Associations, and other visiting brethren who stand in public lots, to take seats with us. They accordingly did.

5. Appointed Elder Montague to prepare the Circular Letter—brother Wakefield not being present.

6. Adjourned until tomorrow morning, 8 o'clock.

THURSDAY, October 9.

Met according to adjournment, and opened by prayer.

1. Received Letters from the Woodstock Association, by their Messengers Elder Aaron Leland and Ebenezer Carpenter—from that of Shaftsbury, by Elder Peter Worden—and from that of Vermont, by their Messengers Elders Obed Warren and Henry Green.

2. Received the Circular Letter, prepared by Elder Montague—and the Corresponding Letter, by Elder Freeman.

3. Appointed Elder Elijah Montague, Elder Asa Hebbard, and John B. Carpenter, Messengers to the Warren Association, at their next anniversary meeting, in order to open a correspondence with them, if agreeable—and John B. Carpenter to prepare a letter for the purpose.

4. Appointed Messengers to the sister Associations.—

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To

To that of Shafisbury, Elder Littlefield; to that of Woodstock, Ezra Kendale and Elder Freeman; to that of Vermont, Elders Snow, Bolles and Littlefield.

5. Appointed Darius Bullock to prepare the Circular Letter—and Thos. Purrington, the Corresponding Letter.

6. Darius Bullock to superintend printing the Minutes, and forward them to the churches.

7. In compliance with the request of Montague and Leverett Church and Society, voted, that our next annual meeting be held at the Baptist Meeting House in Leverett, on the 2d Wednesday of October next, at 1 o'clock, P. M.

8. Elder Snow to preach the Introductory Sermon—or, in case of failure, Elder Littlefield.

9. Vacant Churches supplied with preaching as follow:

Churches.	Ministers' Names.	Sabbath.	Month.
Royalston and Winchendon,	Elder Snow,	3	in January.
	Elder Andrus,	last	December.
	Elder Littlefield,	2	February.
	Elder Montague,	4	January.
Royalston,	Elder Bolles,	1	January.
	Elder Snow,	last	June.
	Elder Andrus,	last	July.
4th Guilford,	Elder Hebbard,	2	September.
	Elder Freeman,	last	May.
Brookline,	Elder Packer,	first	January.
	Elder Snow,	last	April.
	Elder Littlefield,	last	July.
Marlborough & New Fane,	Elder Snow,	2	January.
	Elder Kenney,	4	February.
	Elder Packer,	1	June.
Somerset,	Elder Bolles,	1	April.
	Elder Bemis,	2	January.
	Elder Hebbard,	1	November.
	Elder Freeman,	last	June.
	Elder Packer,	1	September.

10. After an interview, blessed with some tokens of the divine presence, which rendered the transactions agreeable and instructive—closed, with a very refreshing Discourse, from Matthew, xvi. 18.—*And upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*—By Elder AARON LELAND.

CIRCULAR

Circular Letter.

DEAR BRETHREN,

YOUR Messengers in convention with humbly to address you. Since the overtures of Divine Providence are such, as to bring us together in one place, we trust we are of one accord in directing our epistle to you. Impressed with the important idea of the truth of the scriptures, originating in the divine mind, bearing the sacred image, and replete with ideas expressive of spontaneous goodness, we feel it our indispensable duty to enforce a close attention to its important declarations and precepts, as being the only sure word of prophecy, to which we do well to give heed, as to a light which shines in a dark place. For, if that is not the principal standard to regulate our conceptions of God, of his requirements of us, and our obedience to him, we are of necessity in a vagrant situation of mind respecting moral obligations and future contingencies:—Therefore, having a consoling evidence of its authenticity, by the almighty power which attends it to the hearts and consciences of men, the proffer of eternal life to the believing and obedient soul, and the clear statement of the just judgment and wrath of God on the obstinate and ungodly—we boldly, heartily and dependantly, rally around this conspicuous standard, and shew ourselves the subjects of its love and power, and defenders of its truth, while we wish for your personal and hearty concurrence therein.

Brethren,

Brethren, be no longer children—but, leaving the first principles of the oracles of God, let us go on to perfection; which implies, practical godliness, and an increase of knowledge and grace, arising from the possession of that love and obedience which the first principles afford.—The inheritance which Zion possesses in this militant state is temporary; though the promissory comforts are great, arising from the authority of the Promiser:—Therefore, she is called to leave her native state, to leave her wilderness, and come up leaning on her beloved; which implies, a dependence on, and support from, the word of God; for Christ Jesus is the word of God—the express image of his mind; for in and through him he hath made known his mind and will to the children of men. Let us bear with patience the trials through which we pass, and faint not in the day of adversity: For wisdom hath appointed, that through much tribulation we shall enter into the kingdom of God. Deal gently with offending brethren, as different circumstances may require—Support the weak—Explain more perfectly the way of the Lord to the unlearned—Reprove the unruly—Correct the mistaken—and comfort the faithful—Avoid unprofitable altercations about things of the greatest moment; but receive with meekness and fear the ingrafted word. Consider the great duty we owe to God, in covenant relation with him, by the spirit—and to our neighbour: For pure and undefiled religion before God the Father, is, to visit the widow and the fatherless in their afflictions, and to keep ourselves unspotted from the world. In thus doing, we shew that the spirit of the law possesses our hearts.

May God make us faithful unto death, that at last we may receive a crown of life. AMEN.

CORRESPONDING

Corresponding Letter.

**THE LEYDEN ASSOCIATION,
TO THE CORRESPONDING ASSOCIATIONS,**

SENDETH CHRISTIAN LOVE.

Dear'y Beloved Brethren,

THROUGH the great goodness of the Father of mercies and God of all grace, the happy time hath rolled round, in which we have the pleasure of addressing you, from another of our anniversary meetings; and to rejoice, while we have the happiness to congratulate you upon the theme of divine love, and shew our zeal for Zion's King. "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God." Behold the love of the Father, for "love is of God," and "God is love."—Therefore, while we view God as the fountain of love, the unfathomed deep of life and grace, the wellspring of all our joys—while we consider, in this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him—we feel the necessity of our hearts' being melted into love, praise and thanksgiving, before the all prevailing name of Jesus; and

and desire to be possessed of that divine love to Christ and his cause, which naturally flows to its original, in obedience to the requirements of our God; feeling assured that so long as our hearts are stimulated with love to him that beget, we shall love him also that is begotten. We rely on the veracity of God's word, believing that all things shall work together for good, to them that love God, who are called according to his purpose, and bless his name for the degree of harmony and union which prevails among our churches; while we mourn our stupidity of mind and coldness of affection; and to see infidels hurling the shafts of unbelief, and inventing systems, which will finally work their own ruin; which loudly calls upon us, to enforce the idea of practical godliness, that the church of God may be as a city set on an hill, which cannot be hidden—that it may hush to silence the enemies of the cross of Christ, and prove a convincing evidence of the eternal truths contained in God's word.

May we all be enabled, through the strength of the divine Redeemer, to march on our christian course, rejoicing in the Lord and joying in the God of our salvation; cordially receiving, and reducing to practice, the exhortation of the apostle Paul—"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith—quit yourselves like men—be strong; put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh to fulfil the lust thereof."

Dear Brethren, we desire to continue our correspondence with you, as a token of our mutual love and fellowship: And our most ardent prayers are, that the enemies of Christ may bow to his love, and truth ride triumphantly through the habitable part of the earth.

Now may the God of peace establish you in his unfeigned love.

We have the satisfaction of informing you, that we have at this time enjoyed a happy interview. From several of our churches we have the joyous tidings of pleasing additions in the year past. And in our present meeting we have enjoyed a good degree of the presence of God, and the blessings of him who dwelt in the bush. We are, Dear Brethren, yours in the bonds of the gospel.

Signed by order and in behalf of the Association,
ASA HEBBARD, Moderator.

Attest, DARIUS B. OCK, Clerk.