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Baptists. Vermont. Leyden Association.

Minutes ... Holden at Whitingham, Vt.

October 14th. and 15th. 1818.

Greenfield, [Mass.], Denio & Phelps, 1818. 12 pp.

NRAB copy.

MINUTES

OF THE

LEYDEN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HOLDEN AT WHITINGHAM, Vt.

October 14th. and 15th. 1818.

TOGETHER WITH THEIR

CIRCULAR AND CORRESPONDING LETTERS:

WITH AN

APPENDIX

CONTAINING A STATEMENT OF THE TRANSACTIONS OF THE
MISSIONARY SOCIETY.



GREENFIELD:

PRINTED BY DENIO AND PHELPS.

1818.

MINUTES, &c.

1. AT one o'clock, P. M. Elder PETER ROGERS, delivered the introductory discourse, from I. *Timothy*, iv. 2. —*Preach the Word.*

2. After public worship, made choice of Elder ELIJAH MONTAGUE, as *Moderator*, and Elder GEORGE WITHERELL, as *Clerk.*

3. Voted to invite corresponding and visiting brethren to take a seat with us.

4. Proceeded to read the letters from the churches, and took the following account of the numbers added, dismissed, excluded, or who have died the year past; and the present number of each church.

The names of ordained ministers are in SMALL CAPITALS, and licentiates in *italics*. Ministers not present are distinguished by this mark (*). Churches marked thus (†) we received no information from this session. Vacant churches distinguished by a dash (—). The numbers of churches not present, are given as last year.

Churches.	Names.	Added.		Exp.	Died.	Dis.	Tot.
		Bp.	Let.				
Leyden.	{ ASA HEBBARD, Benj. Baker, Benj. Kelton, Taber Babcock.	1	0	0	1	0	56
Leverett & Montague.	{ ELIJAH MONTAGUE, Dea. Silas Hosmer, Dea. Samuel Puffer.	10	0	2	1	2	218
1st. Guilford.	{ — Uriah Thayer, Wm. Holmes, Isaac Noyes.	1	0	7	1	2	110
Dover & Somerset.	{ — Daniel Leonard, Eben'r. Copeland.	4	0	0	3	18	31
Putney,	{ ASAHEL WOOD, Joseph Joy.	7	3	0	1	5	79
Halifax,	{ PAUL HIMES, Boomer Jenks,	18	0	0	0	15	204

Churches.	Names.	Added.		Ex.	Died.	Dis.	Tot.
		Bp.	Let.				
Marlboro' & Newfane.	{ MANSFIELD BRUCE, Nehemiah Fisher. John Phillips, Stephen Otis.	3	2	2	2	0	110
5d. Guilford.	{ BENJ. BUCKLIN, Saml. Fisk, Jr.	0	0	0	1	1	47
Dummerston, (†)	{ JONA. HUNTLY. (*) GEORGE WITHERELL Dea. Isaac Chapin, Calvin Smith, Ira Donelson, Jona. Totman,	83	9	0	3	4	252
1st. Colrain.	{ GEORGE WITHERELL Dea. Isaac Chapin, Calvin Smith, Ira Donelson, Jona. Totman,	0	1	2	2	1	156
Charlemont,	{ NATHL. RICE, Dea. Jona. Hawks.	0	3	3	1	7	47
Wendell.	{ DAVID GODDARD, Joseph Osgood, Joseph M. Graves, Amos Piper.	2	2	1	0	0	81
Guilford United Church.	{ JONA. WILSON, Dea. Peter Briggs, Dea. Jona. Allen, Amherst Lamb, Ezekiel Gore.	3	0	0	1	3	111
Royalston & Warwick.	{ LEVI HODGE, (*) Daniel Shepardson.	2	2	0	1	4	108
Brookline,	{ ISAAC WELLMAN, Dea. Daniel Bixby,	5	0	1	0	1	175
Heath.	{ STEPHEN BARKER, (*) Dea. Vernon Gleason, Sullivan Taft.	0	0	0	0	0	25
Newsalem,	{ ——— Dea. David Hunt.	24	0	1	2	8	81
Wilmington.	{ Dea. Enoch Winslow, Dea. Josiah Stearns, David Haskins.	2	1	5	0	2	97
Hinsdale.	{ JEREMY PACKER, Benj. Stone.	5	0	0	1	0	52
Whittingham.	{ LINUS AUSTIN, James Carpenter, Dea. Jonas Brown.	6	0	0	1	3	98

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Names.</i>	<i>Added.</i>		<i>Ex.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Dis.</i>	<i>Tot.</i>
		<i>Bp.</i>	<i>Let.</i>				
Wardsboro'.	{ Eben'r. Wakefield, Jacob Batchelor.	2	0	2	2	2	102
Bernardston.	{ PETER ROGERS, Dea. Jona. Sanders, Daniel Slate.	1	0	3	1	4	109
Dover.	{ <i>Calvin Pratt,</i> Dea. Eben'r. Sear, Jonathan Thompson.	0	0	0	0	0	40
2d Colrain.	{ EDWARD DAVENPORT, Arad Hall.	1	2	0	0	0	53
Athol.	{ ELISHA ANDREWS, Elder Vaughn, Isaac Briggs, Levi Briggs.	1	2	0	1	0	34
Rowe.	{ SAML. CARPENTER.	0	0	0	0	0	45
The last mentioned Church joined this session.							
<i>Total,</i>		182	27	29	32	82	2515

5. Voted to appoint a Committee of five to consult upon the important subject of educating pious young men for the ministry.

6. Appointed for that committee Elders MONTAGUE, HEBBARD, ROGERS, ANDREWS and WITHERELL.

7. Voted that the committee above named examine and revise the Circular Letter prepared by Elder Witherell, and the Corresponding Letter by Elder Austin.

8. Voted that they also prepare answers to the following Queries, from Brookline and Wardsboro' Churches.

Query from Brookline :

Is it most proper to send the numbers of those brethren who have removed at a distance from us, we know not where, or to leave them out, in our returns to the Association ?

Query from Wardsboro' :

Is a minister, who is ordained over a particular Church, a gospel administrator in other Churches ?

9. By the request of the church in Rowe, voted to receive them into the Association.

10. Voted to adjourn till to-morrow morning, 8 o'clock:

11. Elder David Pease preached in the evening at the meeting house, from I. *Timothy*, i. 15.

THURSDAY, Oct. 15th.

Met according to adjournment—Prayer by Br. BUCKLIN.

1. Received communications from corresponding Associations.

<i>Associations.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Minutes.</i>
Shaftsbury,	Elder Rucklin,	—
Sturbridge,	{ Elder D. Pease,	Minutes.
	{ Dea. Peckham,	
Westfield,	Elder Kingsley,	Do.
Woodstock,	Elder Ewer,	Do.
Boston,	—————	Do.
Warren,	—————	Do.
Saratoga,	—————	Do.
Vermont,	Elder Ewer,	Do.
Dublin,	Elder Wood,	Letter.

2. Appointed Messengers to Corresponding Associations, viz :—Shaftsbury, Elders Witherell and Himes. Dublin, Elders Wood, Witherell, and Bucklin. Sturbridge, Elders Montague and Witherell. Boston, Elders Andrews, Rice, & Davenport. Westfield, Elders Himes, and Carpenter, and Dea. Hawks. Woodstock, Elders Austin, Bruce, Wood and Witherell. Saratoga, Elder Ewer. Vermont Elder Bruce. Warren, Elder Andrews.

3. The Circular and Corresponding Letters were presented by the committee, read, and ordered to be printed with the Minutes.

4. The committee also present the following answers to the Queries from Wardsboro and Brookline.

1st. We believe the power of ordination is in the hands of the Presbytery, and that every minister thus regularly ordained, is authorized to administer ordinances in any regular church.

2d. It is the duty of the church to call on those members, by letter or some other way, and admonish them to their duty, and to obtain letters of dismission ; and after suitable exertions, if they are not to be found, erase their names from the records.

5. By a request from the Westfield Association, the public are warned against the impositions of one John Johnson, who is travelling and preaching in the character of a Baptist minister, but is an immoral character. The churches are warned to beware of him.

The public are also warned against the impositions of one Henry T. Smith, who is an excommunicated member from a church in this vicinity, for repeated falsehoods.—Said Smith is a man of middling size and stature, remarkably round shouldered—professes to be a great school master and carries with him a certain sign of an impostor, a large bundle of recommendations from individuals.

The public are likewise warned to beware of one Samuel Clark. He is a man of a public education, but a bad character.

6. Voted to hold the next session of the Association at Wendell.

7. Appointed Elder Andrews, to preach the introductory Sermon, and in case of failure, Elder Witherell.

8. Appointed Elder Goddard to write the circular letter, and Elder Wood the corresponding letter.

9. Voted that the clerk superintend the printing and distribution of the Minutes.

10. The committee appointed to take into consideration the subject of educating pious young men for the ministry—Report, that it is an important subject, and that the Association ought to take measures to encourage it. They also present a Constitution, to form a Society for that purpose.

11. Voted to accept the Report.

At the close of the Association a Society was formed, consisting of 24 members, and 12 dollars 50 cents paid in advance.

The following Officers were appointed :—Elder George Witherell, Secretary. Capt. Calvin Smith, Treasurer. Elders Elijah Montague, Elisha Andrews, David Pease, Linus Austin, Nathaniel Rice, executive committee.

Tho' its beginnings are small, we hope it will become a thousand. Elder Going, from Worcester, agent for the Board of Foreign Missions upon this interesting subject, was influential in forming this Society.

12. At eleven o'clock, Elder Going preached from *II. Cor. vi. 1.*

13. Voted to adjourn until the second Wednesday in Oct. next, then to meet in Wendell, at 1 o'clock, P. M.

14. The Missionary Society to meet at 9 o'clock, at the above named place.

15. Elder Montague preached, "ready to depart," from *Eph. ii. 1.*

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The Elders and Brethren of the Leyden Association, to the Churches we represent, send greeting.

DEAR BRETHREN,

THE Lord hath done great things for us whereof we have reason to be glad. We received information by the returns of the churches last session, that the Lord had granted them a refreshing shower of divine grace.

Five hundred and sixty were added by baptism. The blessing was not confined to this Association, but other Associations of our denomination, and christians of different denominations have experienced the blessings of divine grace in various parts of our highly favoured country.

As we have often witnessed great declensions, and departing from the faith after revivals of religion, permit us, dear Brethren, to address you upon the important subject of practical piety: a subject too much neglected in our families, our churches, and our pulpits.

It is to be feared that numbers of professed christians but little realize their accountability to their Heavenly Father, for the blessings spiritual and temporal that are conferred on them, or their duty to their offspring who are growing up as plants around their tables.

Instead of contributing of the abundance they possess, bountifully to the support of the servants of Christ, and to aid in the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom, (which requires much temporal property) they contribute but sparingly; and what they do appears not to be done of a ready mind, but of necessity. Such will reap sparingly, at least in spiritual blessings.

Too many professors of religion are culpable for their neglect of duty in their families. Reading and expounding the scriptures—coming around the family altar morning and evening—cultivating the young and tender minds of their children with religious instruction, teaching them the importance of remembering their Creator in the days of their youth—and suppressing the early habits of vice, are too much neglected by them. With what awful reflections must such professors meet their families before the judgment seat.

Is not practical piety too much neglected in our church-

es? Do we not discover too great conformity to the world, in following its customs and habits? Are there not too many who are too negligent in attending the public worship of God? A small excuse is sufficient to detain them in loitering away sabbath after sabbath. Covenant obligations, and the appointments of the church, by many, are treated with total indifference; a degree of shyness is manifested, and coolness of affection to their brethren; that solemn institution the Lord's supper (which is binding on all the members of the organized Kingdom of Emmanuel) is passed by as a subject too indifferent to be observed, while indifference on the part of the churches, or the want of energy to execute discipline, too much tolerate these evils. Brethren, these things ought not so to be.

If the zeal and spirit of the reformation has not so abated as to suffer these things to exist in the churches, these remarks may be a hint in season.

The spiritual health, prosperity and perseverance of young christians, greatly depend on the example and faithfulness of those to whom they look up as leaders and fathers in Zion. Are we engaged in cultivating union and brotherly love? Do we exhort to perseverance, and rebuke and reprove each other? Is the subject of religion the subject of our conversation when we meet our brethren, or make them a neighbourly visit? Or do we spend hours together and converse about customs, fashions, the times and the world, and other subjects of no consequence, and not mention the precious name of Jesus, or speak of religion, that valuable jewel, or of Heaven that blessed abode to which we hope we are bound, or of the invaluable souls of our fellow mortals, or of that awful pit of destruction to which so many are thoughtlessly hastening. Oh! Brethren, if the latter is the case with any of us, let us be astonished at our stupidity—awake unto righteousness—work while the day lasts—and as we have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, dealing justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with our God, and

*So let our lives and lips express,
The holy gospel we profess;
So let our works and virtues shine,
To prove the doctrine all divine.*

It seems, Brethren, as though there can be no necessity of exhorting you to watch and pray, since the blessed Jesus has said, "What I say unto you, I say unto all, watch." And an inspired apostle has said, "Pray without ceasing." May we never suffer ourselves to fall asleep on our watch tower, lest the enemy divest us of our holy weapons of defence, and lead us into captivity. And may we never forget to pray until we cease to breathe.

*Long as they live should christians pray ;
For only while they pray, they live.
Prayer makes the darkest clouds withdraw,
Prayer climbs the ladder Jacob saw ;
Gives exercise to faith and love,
Brings every blessing from above.
Restraining prayer, we cease to fight,
Prayer makes the christian's armour bright ;
And satan trembles when he sees
The weakest saint upon his knees.*

Satan cannot withstand the effectual fervent prayer of the least child of grace.

Is not the subject of practical piety too much neglected in our pulpits? Dear Fathers and Brethren, do we not slip over this important subject with too much silence? While we are engaged in vindicating the fundamental doctrines of the gospel, and defending our distinguishing sentiments; the important subject of practical religion we do not make the subject of our addresses, or impress it with energy on the minds of our christian brethren and endeavour to show them the vast importance of practical piety so frequently as would be useful. All our discourses should be enriched with this important branch of the gospel.

But, Brethren, are we in a situation to impress this subject on the minds of our brethren, who attend our ministry? What will be the use, if we do not reduce what we preach to practice? When our lives and conversation essentially contradict our preaching, will it not be said, physician heal thyself.

They that bear the vessels of the Lord should be holy, and impress by their example among their flocks the reality of what they preach.

We live in an eventful period. Much within a few

years has been done for the advancement of the kingdom of Christ—and much remains to be done. May we be found workers together with God.

According to the calculation on the prophecies in our corresponding epistle last year, it is not fifty years before the man of sin, that monster of iniquity and cruelty, shall be consumed by the spirit of God's mouth, and destroyed by the brightness of his coming. Whether these calculations shall prove to be correct or not, it is evident according to the signs of the times, that the joyful period is not far distant when "Jesus will have the heathen for his inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession." "When the mountain of the Lord's house will be established upon the top of the mountains, and exalted above the hills, and all nations will flow unto it." May the Lord hasten it in his time.



CORRESPONDING LETTER.

*The Leyden Association to Corresponding Associations
sendeth christian love.*

DEAR BRETHREN,

THE year has revolved and we are brought to another anniversary. We rejoice in the opportunity presented of learning the present state of Zion from your Messengers and friendly letters. We hope we shall not be unmindful of the goodness of God. From a few we have become many. The Lord hath done great things for this nation, and for us as a denomination, whereof we are glad. We are under infinite obligation to that God who overrules all things, for the civil and religious liberty we enjoy. Liberty should be defined, and guarded. It becomes us not to use our liberty as a cloak of maliciousness. While in a state of prosperity there is danger of our forgetting our dependence on God. As we increase in numbers, in ability and popularity, may we increase in humility and grace.

The present period is eventful, and calls for every liberal exertion. We may do much for the advancement of the kingdom of Christ, and much to the glory of God. At

such a time, all our wisdom should be called into action to devise liberal schemes for the advancement of the gospel; and much exertion should be made to carry them into effect, and much prayer should be made to God for his blessing.

We heartily cooperate with our brethren in promoting the Foreign and Domestic Missions, as well as the ability and qualifications of the ministers of Christ.

The present session has been truly delightful, and attended with evident tokens of the Divine approbation. The preaching has been instructing and animating. We can say we have sat together in heavenly places in Christ, his banner over us was love. † We felt loth to leave the place, but in hopes of meeting the redeemed in one general assembly above, we parted in peace, and could truly say, it was good for us to be there.

Yours in a precious Saviour,

In behalf of the Association,

ELIJAH MONTAGUE, *Moderator.*

GEORGE WITHERELL, *Scribe.*

MISSIONARY CONCERNS.

Treasurer's Report for last year.

Elder ELIJAH MONTAGUE, Treasurer, in Account with the Country B. M. Society,

Dr.—To money received into the Treasury before last meeting,	\$145 29
To money received since last meeting,	32 53
To Do. Do. in Nathan Ripley's Note,	5 00
	\$182 82

Cr.—By cash delivered to Linus Austin, for Foreign Missions,	100,00
By Nathan Ripley's Note,	17 00
By Jona. Wilson's Do.	10 00
By George Witherell's Do.	10 00
By postage,	29
	\$137 29

Balance in the Treasurer's hands,	45 53
<i>Received this session.</i>	
Paid in by the members of the Society,	21 00
Donation from Mrs. E. Kendall,	4 00
Do. from female friends in Wendell,	7 55
Do. by Mrs. Zilpha Jewett, Putney,	4 50
Do. by E. Peckham,	50
By the sale of a Report,	25
Do. by Doct. Wilder, Whitingham,	1 00
By public contribution in Wendell,	7 36
From a female society in Colrain,	13 72
By public contribution in Do.	11 12
By public contribution at the close of the Association,	28 37
By sale of a Report,	25
	<hr/>
	\$99 62
Voted to let Elder Going have 14 dollars of the last mentioned contribution, to be conveyed to the Baptist Board of Foreign Missions, for the use of education,	14 00
Voted to send 50 dollars to the Board of Foreign Missions, to be appropriated to the use of Foreign Missions,	50 00
	<hr/>
	\$64 00
Which leaves	35 62
In the hands of the Treasurer at the commencement of this session,	45 53
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Now in the Treasury,	\$81 15
<i>By order and in behalf of the Society,</i>	
GEORGE WITHERELL, Sec'y.	