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Minutes . . . in Cornwall, Oct. 6 & 7, 1813.

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# MINUTES

OF THE

VERMONT

Baptist Association,

HELD IN THE

BAPTIST MEETING-HOUSE

IN

Cornwall, Oct. 6 & 7, 1813,

WITH THE

CIRCULAR AND CORRESPONDING

LETTER.



RUTLAND :

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# MINUTES.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1813.

1. AT 10 o'clock A. M. Elder Clark Kendrick delivered the introductory sermon, from Prov. xviii. 24 :—  
*'A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly : and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.'*  
 It was a regular, serious, and instructive discourse.

2. Made choice of Elder C. Kendrick, Moderator, and Elder S. Rowley, Clerk—then adjourned till 1 o'clock P. M.

Met according to adjournment, and opened by prayer.

3. Messengers from corresponding associations were invited to a seat with us.

4. The letters from the churches were read. The following is an account of their messengers, alterations, and present numbers.

N B. The names of ordained ministers are in SMALL CAPITALS, licentiates in *italics*. Ministers marked thus\*, were not present. From churches marked thus†, we had no information this year, and have given their number as when last represented. Vacant churches are distinguished by a dash ———.

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	Present	Dismissed	Expected	Present	Total	Members
Salem,	{ <i>Samuel M Plumb,</i> <i>Aaron Grover</i>	6		1	4	84	94
Hubbardton,	{ NATHAN DANA, David Rumsey, Abos Churchill.		1	1		32	30
Brandon,	{ ———— John C. ———— Isaac Merritt,	9			2	75	50

Whiting,	{	D'n Ezra Allen, D'n Moulton Needham.				3	30	50
Pittsford,		WM HERINTON.	1	3		3	122	75
Poultney,		CLARK KENDRICK.	2	5		1	86	1,00
Monkton,	{	John Stearns, Nathan Douglass.				6	48	50
Rupert,		Peter W. Reynolds.	1			1	72	50
Newhaven,	{	Lemuel Phelps, Israel Marsh.				4	24	50
Middletown,		SYLVANUS HAYNES	1	3	2	7	191	50
Bridport,	{	E. STARKWEATHER, D'n Caleb Smith.	11		1	3	62	27
Cornwall,	{	HENRY GREEN, D'n Asahel Field, D'n Nath'l Pond, D'n Salmon North.	14	1	1	8	156	
Bristol,	{	D'n Timothy Allen.		5	2	1	61	50
Charlotte,	{	Daniel Horsford, James Videto.	1	1	5	1	32	37
Granville,	{	SAMUEL ROWLEY, Job Leonard.	8	6	4	4	137	1,00
†Dorset.							15	
Orwell,	{	ISAAC SAWYER, D'n Nehemiah Royce.	2	1		4	62	50
Hinesburgh,		SAM'L CHURCHILL.	2			1	23	50
Middlebury,	{	N KENDRICK, D'n A. Weller, Horace Griswold, Abiel Fisher	4	1		1	48	50
†Shoreham	{	EPH'L SAWYER,* Hopkins Rowley.					125	50
Benson,	{	Jeremy H Dwyre D'n Fobes *			2	2	52	56
Ira,	{	Letant Howard, Joseph Collins,	3	78	13	9	177	1,00
Panton,	{	ABEL WOODS, D'n Joseph Powers, Waram Brown.	2	1		1	80	50

23 Ch's. 12 Ord. Min. 7 Licent. 67 100 32 66 1794

Within the bounds of this association, there are five churches and seven ordained ministers, not included in the above account, by reason of their not being represented to us.

Br. S. Churchill being sent to the association by the church in Hinesburgh, enquiry was made respecting his

qualifications and standing as a minister ; found them good, and voted to receive him as a fellow-labourer in the gospel.

5. From corresponding associations we received accounts as follow, viz :

From Warren no intelligence ; Woodstock, minutes by their messenger, Br. Leland Howard ; Shaftsbury, minutes ; Leyden, minutes ; Fairfield, no intelligence ; Essex, minutes by Deac. Wm. Taylor ; Saratoga, minutes by Eld. Timothy Day ; Black River, no intelligence ; Boston, no intelligence ; Danville, opened a correspondence with.

6. The Circular and Corresponding Letter, prepared by Elder Green, was read and referred to the missionary committee for examination.

7. Adjourned till to-morrow, 9 o'clock A. M.

There was preaching this evening in different neighbourhoods ; in the meeting-house by Elder Day.

            
*THURSDAY MORNING, OCT. 7.*

8. Met, and opened by prayer. The Circular and Corresponding Letter was recommended by the committee, and received by the association.

9. Heard the report of the missionary committee, of which the following is an extract :

The missionary directors now report--That there were in the fund, Oct. 7, 1812,	\$ 43 43
Received, Nov. 1, 1812, in contribution by Foulney church,	5 00
Received, Nov. 26, 1812, from Salem chh.	7 00
Received, Oct. 6, 1813, interest on money due,	72
	56 15
One dol. proved to be counterfeit, and was burnt,	1 00
Four dolls. on the Coos bank considered bad,	4 00
	51 15
Deduct the loss, and there remains	\$ 51 15
Received this year from churches & individuals,	50 00
	101 15
Total in the treasury,	\$ 101 15

Our missionaries, last year appointed, were providentially prevented from performing their tours. The reasons they assigned were acceptable.

We have, this year, appointed Elder Isaac Sawyer on a mission of six weeks, on the west side of Lake Champlain, and to the Scroon ; also appointed Elder Elisha Starkweather, on a mission of ten weeks, to the River St. Lawrence.

By order of the society,

WM. HERINTON, *Pres't.*

S. ROWLEY, *Sec'ry.*

Cornwall, Oct. 7, 1813.

N. B. The missionary society is to meet at Esq. Conant's, in Brandon, on Tuesday before the first Wednesday in Oct. next, 6 o'clock P. M.

10. Approved the doings of the missionary board.

The liberality of many churches and individuals, in contributing for missionary purposes, this year, far exceeded our most sanguine expectations ; which, we hope, will stimulate to a continuation in well doing, and excite others to go and do likewise.

11. Appointed messengers to sister associations.

To the Warren, Eld. Dana ; Woodstock, Br. Leland Howard ; to the Shaftsbury, Eld. Rowley ; to the Fairfield, Elders Churchill, I. Sawyer, and Starkweather ; to the Essex, Elders Wood, N. Kendrick, and D'n Weller ; to the Saratoga, Elders W. Herinton and C. Kendrick ; to the Leyden, Eld. Carpenter ; to the Otsego, Elder Starkweather, brethren Fisher, Griswold, Howard, and D'n Weller ; to the Black River, Eld. Haynes to send our minutes ; to the Boston, Br. Abial Fisher ; Danville, Elder Churchill and Br. Fisher.

12. Appointed Eld. N. Kendrick to write the Circular and Corresponding Letter for next year.

13. Voted, that our next association be holden in the Baptist meeting-house in Brandon, the first Wednesday in October next, at 10 o'clock A. M. Eld. N. Kendrick to preach the introductory sermon ; in case of failure, Eld. Haynes.

This friendly interview was closed by an appropriate sermon, by Eld. Herinton, from John xiv. 18 : *'I will not leave you comfortless ;'* which was followed by several moving solemn exhortations. It was a good time.

*MONIES CONTRIBUTED FOR MISSIONARY  
PURPOSES.*

By the church and congregation in Pittsford,	§ 4 00
do. Brandon,	4 00
do. Poultney,	2 25
do. Monkton,	4 85
do. Bridport,	6 00
do. Cornwall,	7 15
do. Hinesburgh,	2 20
do. Benson,	2 45
do. Salem,	6 52
do. Panton,	4 00
By Br. Lemuel Phelps, Newhaven,	50
Deac. Murry, Orwell,	50
Deac. Royce, do.	50
Mr. Benj. Stevens, Cornwall,	1 00
Eld. Dana, Hubbardton,	50
Br. D. Rumsey, do.	1 00
Br. A. Churchill, do.	50
Eld. N. Kendrick, Middlebury,	1 00
Deac. Weller do.	50
Br. Joseph W. Sawyer, Orwell,	50
By counting, found over,	8
	<hr/>
	§ 50 00
There were in the fund, (see the report)	51 15
	<hr/>
Total in the treasury,	§ 101 15



CIRCULAR AND CORRESPONDING  
LETTER.

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*The Vermont Baptist Association, assembled in Cornwall, October 6th and 7th, 1813, to the churches they represent, and associations with whom they correspond, sendeth christian salutation.*

BELOVED BRETHREN,

OF the times and seasons ye need not that we should write unto you. That it is a day in which God's judgments are abroad in the earth, and that he has a controversy with the nations of this world, you know. Could we invite your attention, in such a time as this, to that line of conduct which every class of professors ought to observe, it might be of some utility.

We need not inform you that God is fulfilling his immutable word by shaking not only the earth, (earthly powers and dominions); but the heavens also, (his visible church) and nothing will eventually remain in either, but that which cannot be shaken. All the systems of government and policy of nations, founded in pride, or selfish ungodly ambition, shall be shaken down; for God has vials of wrath to pour on the heads of those who make and support them.

Every thing in civil government, inconsistent with justice and the rights of man, God will shake out. And all the doctrines, ordinances, traditions and superstitions of men, found in the militant church, must be removed; and all false hearted, hypocritical preachers or professors, like hay, wood or stubble, must be burnt up. So that all civil buildings, not founded in righteousness, and all spiritual buildings not on Christ, must fall, and great will be the fall of them.

The shaking tempest has now begun; God has taken his fan in his hand, and will thoroughly purge his civil and ecclesiastical floor. The red horse is going forth; and power is given him that sits thereon, with a great sword, to take peace from the earth, that they should kill

one another. Rev. vi. 4. Although in the order of prophecy, this event was placed at the opening of second seal, and should, perhaps, be applied to the Trojan and Hadrian wars, the account of which makes humanity shudder, (and will not after generations shudder to read the history of these times) yet is not this red horse now going forth, even in America? How is the dove of peace on her flight! Dangerous divisions prevail among ourselves, while our land witnesses the horrid sound of war, and garments rolled in blood.

The pale horse, emblem of death, has also gone forth, the winter past, through our land. A large portion of our country has been made familiar with the scenes of death. Multitudes have been sent to their long home, and mourners have crowded our streets. But where is the people who have learned righteousness? Where has reformation begun and completed a good work? The minds of men are alarmingly unmoved at the displays of God's wrath. Surely we live in a dark and gloomy day. But he who permits the tempest to rise, rides on the wings of the wind and directs the storm. The immutable plan of Jehovah is still going on. War and peace, sickness and health, life and death shall subserve the accomplishment of his wise and holy purposes. A world in commotion or hushed to peace, shall equally accomplish God's eternal designs. The achievements of justice, as well as the trophies of mercy, will redound to the honor of God, and the glory of his kingdom.

But it is lamentable that when God is contending with us as a people, for our sins, that we like the ancient Jews, should go to contending with each other; so that our once happy nation, once united people, now display little else but a spirit of envy, malice and slander, in so much that we have reason to fear the fulfilment of this text, "A kingdom or house divided against itself cannot stand."

Furthermore, it is to be lamented that those national commotions and political fomentations unreasonably affect the visible church and the fellowship of saints. A heated party spirit which stretch up strife, is a dangerous contagion, of which every christian should be aware, and never drink of that bitter cup.

The ministers of Christ, in this trying day, ought to strive to quench the coals of growing strife. They need now to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. With the old prophet, they should be much between the porch and the altar, crying, "spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thy heritage to reproach." They should now exercise double vigilance in their care over their flocks, as the present trials and temptations are calculated to divide and scatter them. They should strive to hold fast that which they have wrought; and in much humility and patience preach, reprove and exhort with all long suffering and doctrine. Deacons, fathers and leaders in Israel should take the alarm, and feel impressed with the thought that visible churches and religious societies are exposed to be scattered and disunited. They should make every possible exertion for the support and promotion of religion, and religious societies in the regions where they dwell. They should so wisely arrange and dispose of the temporal affairs of society as not to leave the minister to serve alone, or to go a warfare at his own charges. In such a day as this, unless the deacons and economical fathers in society are indefatigable in their labors to keep up the faith and ambition of every member, to be faithful and punctual to his duty and obligations in the support of the gospel, societies will jumble into confusion, and their pastor's hands will be made weak and their hearts faint. Almost all depends on you, fathers and deacons, as it respects the temporal concerns of society; and we hope for much from you, in promoting the spiritual order and union of the church and congregation.

All the brethren and sisters in the church should look well to the religion of their own soul, and keep up a close walk with God. They should take great care not to make the pastor, deacons or fathers needless trouble; be punctual to your solemn covenant and vows in spiritual and temporal things. See that you are divested of a heated envious party spirit. Let not the political dispute of our nation make inroads among you. Every christian should be a patriot; a friend to God, a friend to his country, a friend of man; and study the things that make for peace.

But in all these things we expect the false hearted professor, the hypocrite to fail; and because iniquity abounds the love of many will wax cold; but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. Let us, therefore, hold fast and adorn our profession to the end. Let us strengthen the things that remain, that are ready to die. O ye followers of the meek and lowly Jesus, put on the whole armor of righteousness, that you may be able to stand in this evil day. Then in the wreck of antichrist, you may hear your Redeemer say, "come my people, enter into your chambers and shut the doors about you, until the indignation be over and past." Surely the enlightened christian is not disappointed in the times and seasons; for the scriptures have taught him that this tempest, this shaking time, lay between him and the millennial state; and that the world must see and feel more terrible things than these, before antichrist will make her last groan, and fall to rise no more forever. Let us not be partakers of her sins, nor strive to hold her up, lest we be partakers of her plagues. But let us take the humble path of obedience and self-denial; and with unshaken faith surrender the disposal of all nations and things to the only wise God our saviour. Amen.

The present session has been peculiarly friendly and agreeable. The information we received from our churches, may be learned by our minutes. To sister associations we affectionately say, your messengers and minutes have been joyfully received. And God grant that our correspondence may continue with increasing delight. With sentiments of affection we beg leave to subscribe ourselves your brethren in the gospel of Christ.

Signed by order of the association,

CLARK KENDRICK, *Moderator*,  
SAMUEL ROWLEY, *Clerk*.

N. B. Agreeable to the request of the Shaftsbury association, we insert a part of the 21st vote of their minutes, viz. That the churches of our order be cautioned against one *John W. Cary*, who says that he is from North Carolina. He has been guilty of a variety of immoral acts, since he has been in these parts. We consider him an

impostor ; and request our sister associations throughout the United States, to publish his character, as he appears to take an extensive range of traveling.

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THE PILGRIM STRANGER.

1. Whether go'st thou pilgrim stranger ?  
Passing thro' this darksome vale ;  
Know'st thou not, 'tis full of danger ;  
And will not thy courage fail ?
2. " Pilgrim," thou do'st justly call me,  
Wandering o'er this waste so wide ;  
Yet no danger will befall me,  
While I'm bless'd with such a guide.
3. Such a guide ! no guide attends thee ;  
Hence for thee my fears arise ;  
If some guardian power befriends thee,  
It's unseen by mortal eyes.
4. Yes, unseen, but still believe me,  
Such a guide my step attends ;  
He from ev'ry strait relieves me,  
He from ev'ry snare defends.
5. Pilgrim, see that stream before thee,  
Darkly winding thro' the vale ;  
Should its deadly waves roll o'er thee,  
Would not then thy courage fail ?
6. No ; that stream has nothing frightful ;  
To its brinking steps I'll bend ;  
Thence to plunge will be delightful,  
Then my pilgrimage will end.
7. While I gaz'd—with speed surprising,  
Down she plunged out of sight ;  
Gazing still—I see her rising,  
Like an angel cloth'd in light.