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Baptists. Vermont. Vermont Association, 1815.

Minutes . . . Held in the Baptist Meeting-House in
Rupert, October 4 & 5, 1815.

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MWA copy.

MINUTES

OF THE

VERMONT BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD IN THE

BAPTIST MEETING-HOUSE

IN

R U P E R T,

OCTOBER 4 & 5, 1815.

WITH THE

CIRCULAR AND CORRESPONDING

LETTERS.

MINUTES, &c.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1815.

1. At 10 o'clock, A. M. Brother Henry Green delivered the introductory Sermon, from Isa. 2, 2.—*And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills ; and all nations shall flow unto it.*

2. Chose brother Clark Kendrick Moderator, and brother Abial Fisher, jun. Clerk. Adjourned till 1 o'clock.

Met according to adjournment.

3. After prayer, proceeded to read the letters from the churches, and took the following account of the members added, by baptism and by letter, dismissed, excluded, and died, the year past, with the whole number in each church.

N.B. The names of ordained ministers are in SMALL CAPITALS, licensed preachers in *italics*. Those ministers with this mark [*] were not present. Churches marked thus [†] were not represented. Vacant churches are distinguished by a dash (—).

Churches.	Elders and Messengers.	Added by baptism	Added by letter	Dismissed	Excluded	Died	Total
Salem,	{ THOMAS BAKER, Dea's. Stephen Eastee, Charles Ford,	2	2	4	2	1	76
Hubbardton,	{ NATHAN DANA, Amos Churchill,	0	0	0	0	0	38
Brandon,	{ ABIAL FISHER, jun. John Conant, Dea. Jon. Meriam, 1 restored,	21	0	4	0	0	90
Whiting,	{ *SAMUEL CHURCHELL, Dea. Ezra Allen, Jonas Hubbard,	6	1	2	0	1	37
Pittsford,	{ WILLIAM HERRINGTON, Samuel Griggs,	13	3	0	0	0	137
Poultney,	{ CLARK KENDRICK, Daniel Mallary, Joseph Pitkin,	2	6	0	1	1	37
Monkton(—)	{ *John Stearns,	0	0	0	0	0	48
Rupert,	{ WERDEN P. REYNOLDS, Roswell Flowers, Daniel Waldo,	4	1	0	0	1	97
Middletown,	{ SYLVANUS HAYNES, Samuel Wait,	0	1	1	3	2	133
Bridport,	{ ELISHA STARKWEATHER,	4	0	4	0	0	76
Cornwall,	{ HENRY GREEN, Dea. P. Converse, Ransom Robinson,	4	3	0	1	3	173
Bristol, (—)	{ Jonathan Eastman, Reuben Abords,	0	4	1	2	1	52
Charlotte,(—)	{ Letter,	1	1	0	1	0	36
Granville,	{ SAMUEL ROWLEY, Samuel Everts, Noah R. Leet,	1	1	1	4	1	134
Dorset, (—)	{ Horace Grisnold, Dea. Isaac Gray, Milo Gernsey,	1	2	0	0	0	22
Orwell,	{ ISAAC SAWYER, Dea. Eber Murray,	30	2	4	0	0	84
Hinesburg(—)	{ Dea. John Beacher, Thomas Ravlin,	4	4	0	0	0	29
Middlebury,	{ *NATH. KENDRICK, Jona. Whitmore,	0	6	2	1	3	51
Shoreham,	{ JOHN SPAULDING, Hopkins Rowley,	0	2	0	2	0	72
Benson, (—)	{ Jeremy H. Dwyre, John L. Carter,	8	0	1	2	0	59
Ira,	{ WILLIAM McCULLAR, Dea. Hez. Horton,	1	4	0	1	6	174
Panton,	{ ABEL WOODS, 1 restored,	0	1	4	3	2	84
22 Churches, 15 Ordained Ministers, 5 Licentiates.		102	44	28	23	22	1836

4. Called for the Messengers and Minutes from the Corresponding Associations, and received as follows :

<i>Associations.</i>		<i>Messengers.</i>
Warren,		
Woodstock,	Letter and Minutes,	JOSHUA BRADLEY.
Sbaftsbury,	Letter and Minutes,	OBED WARREN.
Leyden,		
Fairfield,	Letter and Minutes,	<i>Joseph W. Sawyer.</i>
Essex,	Letter and Minutes,	
Saratoga,	Letter and Minutes,	} EDWARD BARBER & } <i>Samuel M. Plumb.</i>
Black River,		
Boston,		
Danville,	Letter and Minutes,	<i>Joseph W. Sawyer.</i>
Otsego.		

5. The Circular and Corresponding Letters prepared by brother Fisher, were read and accepted.

6. Voted to appoint a committee to examine the queries from the churches and report to-morrow. Brethren E. Barber, O. Warren, J. Bradley and W. Herrington were appointed accordingly.

7. Voted to adjourn to 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded by prayer.

A number of lectures were preached in different parts in the evening.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1815.

8. Met according to adjournment. Prayer by the Moderator.

9. The committee appointed last year to visit New-Haven church, reported that they visited said church, and advised them to dissolve, with which advice they complied.

10. The committee appointed to visit Charlotte church, made report that they found many things disagreeable, but a prevailing disposition to reform.

11. Brother Warren, on the part of the committee appointed yesterday to examine queries, reported as follows :—

On the query from Middlebury church, viz. What is the duty of a church towards a member that leaves them and joins the methodists; but in other respects is an exemplary christian? We state in answer, that in such a case, it is the duty of the church to endeavor to convince the person of his error; but if, after suitable labor, the delinquent be not reclaimed, he ought to be considered no longer in fellowship.

On the query from Cornwall church, viz. If a person wish to be admitted to any of our churches, who has been baptised by

the methodists, on a profession of faith, shall he be baptised again? We report, that we think it inexpedient for the association to give an explicit answer to their question; considering the several churches must act according to their own judgment, when such cases occur.

12. The Salem church, on account of local situation, requested a dismission to the Saratoga association. Voted to grant the request.

13. Proceeded to appoint messengers to corresponding associations—

Warren, A. Fisher, jun.

Woodstock, T. Baker and Wm. McCullar.

Shaftsbury, T. Baker and H. Griswold.

Essex, { A. Wood, S. Rowley, J. Spaulding, I. Sawyer,
W. P. Reynolds, and H. Green.

Saratoga, C. Kendrick, E. Starkweather, H. Green, and S. Rowley.

Leyden, Leland Howard.

Otsego, { W. P. Reynolds, S. M. Plumb, Wm. Herrington,
E. Starkweather and Daniel Hascal.

Black River, S. Haynes.

Boston, Wm. McCullar, A. Fisher, jun. and L. Howard.

Danville, Wm. McCullar and T. Ravlin.

Fairfield, I. Sawyer, E. Starkweather, Wm. McCullar.

14. Appointed brother Horace Griswold to write the Circular and Corresponding Letters for next year.

15. Voted to hold the association next year at Ira, the first Wednesday in October, at 10 o'clock A. M. Brother Starkweather to preach the introductory sermon, & brother I. Sawyer in case of failure.

16. Voted to accept the report of the committee on domestic missions. The following is an extract :

“Brother Starkweather has made returns of his mission, which are acceptable to the committee.

Brother Sawyer has not performed the tour which was allotted him last year; but his reasons are satisfactory to us.

Brother Mears has performed his tour, but his returns are not made. It is presumed they will be acceptable.

For the year to come, we have appointed brother Isaac Sawyer on a mission of seven weeks, to the west of Lake George, and to the Schroon.

Brother Rowley, a mission of nine weeks along the western shore of Lake Champlain, and to the river St. Lawrence.

Brother Herrington, a mission of eight weeks in the northern parts of Vermont, or to employ some one else.

There were in the treasury, October, 1814,	\$ 95,84
Paid brother Starkweather,	1,50
Paid brother Mears for eight weeks services,	40,00
Balance of what remains from last year,	54,34
Received this year,	70,61
Total in the treasury,	\$ 124,95

By order,

WILLIAM HERRINGTON, President.

SAMUEL ROWLEY, Secretary.

Rupert, October 5, 1815."

The committee meet next year at Ira, on the Tuesday before the sitting of the association, 6 o'clock, P. M. at Esq. Collins'.

17. Voted that we approve of the correspondence of our standing secretary with the Baptist Board for foreign missions.

18. We receive with pleasure the report of the said board with the communications of their agent, which have been read in the association.

19. Voted that the standing secretary be requested to sell the remaining copies of the report, if any, after distributing one to each church, and appropriate the money to the use of the foreign missionary society.

20. The business of the association being completed, we adjourned.

Immediately after, the Vermont Society, auxiliary to the Baptist Board for Foreign Missions, met and heard the report of the Board of Directors, by which it appeared, that the receipts into the treasury the year past amounted to about \$ 381.

The Board of Directors hold their next meeting at Esquire Collins', the Tuesday before the sitting of the Association, at 6 o'clock, P, M.

Unanimity and brotherly love prevailed through the interview.

The whole was closed by an excellent sermon from brother Dodge, of Wilmington (Del.) founded on Acts 16, 17.—
"These men are the servants of the Most High God, which shew unto us the way of salvation."

Moneys contributed for Domestic Missions.

Bridport contribution,	\$ 7 20
Pittsford do.	9 30
Orwell do.	4 65
Cornwall do.	5 00
Poultney do.	6 00
Benson do.	2 00
Panton, individuals,	0 50
Brandon, do.	3 00
Middletown, Br. Haynes,	1 00
Hubbardton, Br. Churchell,	0 50
Received of Br. Mears, con- tributed on a mission,	8 40
Of Brother Starkweather,	23 00

CIRCULAR AND CORRESPONDING LETTERS.

*The Vermont Baptist Association to the Churches of their
connection.*

BELoved BRETHREN,

Providence has indulged us with another annual interview.— For this we feel renewed obligations to render thanksgiving to God. The power of the Lord has not been so visible in the churches the year past as in some former years; yet we have reason to rejoice that he has not forsaken us. Most of them are united and happy; and, to a number, additions have been made, as we trust, of real believers. We wish for perfect union and harmony in all the members of this body, and that they may increase in the knowledge of the truths, and improve in the practice of the duties of the christian scriptures. In order for your improvement, we shall, in this circular, address you on the subject of missions.

It is a source of pleasure, that the public mind has been so active on this subject, and that so much has already been done. But much yet remains to be effected. None of us doubt for a moment that the gospel is the ministration of life, and furnishes the only ground on which a lost sinner can hope. Of what infinite value then is this gospel to us? How wretched should we be if it had not been published in this land? The inhabitants of every land where it has not been preached are as wretched as we should be without it. Who does not feel an ardent desire that this wretchedness may be removed by the gospel of Christ? None it is presumed who ever felt its efficacy on their own hearts. To such persons it is cause of great regret, that the word of life is known in so small a part of the world.— Asia, containing five hundred millions of inhabitants, is, the greatest part of it, enveloped in the darkness of paganism; and the remaining parts, with a very few exceptions, are paying their devotions to the bloody shrine of the impostor Mahomet. Both of which are equally adverse to the religion of the cross. It makes but little difference whether a man worship stocks and stones or obey the sanguinary dictates of Mahometanism.

The state of Africa, containing one hundred and fifty millions of inhabitants, is much like that of Asia. There is scarcely the vestige of christianity in that quarter of the world. America, except the United States and a few adjoining provinces, is overspread with those who worship idols, or are following the fooleries of popery. In Europe there is but little paganism; but there is much of popery and much of Mahometanism.— Nearly all the places where the gospel is preached, are Great Britain and Ireland, some of the northern powers of Europe and the United States. In these it is preached with various degrees of purity. In some places that form of religion which exists is very little better than none; and in others, where truth is generally propagated, there is much mixture of things not found in the bible.

According to these statements more than eighteen-twentieths of mankind are perishing for lack of vision. Can any christian contemplate this vast waste, and not pray with earnestness to heaven that the light of the gospel may spread? And can he make such prayers, and do nothing? Such a view, and the feelings naturally excited by it, will lead him to enquire what has already been done, and what is now doing, to spread the light of the gospel in these benighted quarters of the world? In answer, we state, that compared with what ought or need be done, but very little has been accomplished; but considering the individuals engaged, much has already been effected.

A society was formed many years ago among the episcopals in England, for the purpose of sending the gospel to the east; and another in Scotland, among the presbyterians, for the purpose of converting the Indians of the west. Some good was done by these; but the spirit which once pervaded them had become partially extinct, when a society was formed among our baptist brethren in England in 1792, which, though small in its beginning, has done wonders, both in translating the scriptures, and in causing the gospel to be preached to the natives of India. The missionaries have partly translated the bible into twenty-seven languages, and the printing of most of them has commenced, and is in a greater or less degree of forwardness. Their missionary stations are twenty, and the number who have been baptised more than five hundred. The missionaries are in this way giving the word of life to a vast many millions of human beings, and by this means preparing them for the reception of divine truth. The London Missionary Society, formed in 1795, has sent a number of missionaries to Africa, Asia, and the South Sea islands. These missionaries have done much in teaching many the way of life.

A society has been formed in Massachusetts by the pædo-baptists, which has sent out five missionaries to India, two of whom, Judson and Rice, have become baptists. A number more missionaries, we understand, are either preparing to go out, or have already gone, under the patronage of this society. The change of sentiment with regard to baptism in brothers Judson and Rice, has awakened the missionary spirit in our denomination in this country. One general society has been formed, and many others auxiliary to that. This society has taken into its employ the two above named brethren, the first of whom is in the empire of Burmah, and the other in this country, acting as agent for the society. A brother Hough has also been accepted as a missionary, who, with his family, has probably before this set out on his voyage to join brother Judson. Among those who have been active in aiding this society, we may reckon honorable women not a few.

Besides what has been done for the promotion of foreign missions, much has been effected by domestic ones. In England foreign and domestic missions have kept hand in hand.—When the spirit for missions abroad has been most alive, then has been the time when most has been done at home. In our own country much has been done in enlightening those who have not the means of gospel instruction. And it is believed that the spirit now so much alive for sending the gospel to the heathen will greatly increase missionary exertions in this country.

After this brief statement of facts, we scarcely think arguments necessary to lead christians to exert themselves in so benevolent a cause. The very consideration that so great a portion of the world are in total ignorance of the only way of salvation ought to make us anxious to promote their best interests by sending them the gospel of Christ. The openings for doing it at the present time are a powerful addition to this argument. If there were no probable way in which the gospel could be communicated to the unenlightened heathen, we might sigh in vain for their miseries; but it is not so. The experience of the missionaries who are now engaged in communicating the knowledge of divine truth to the heathen, is a practical refutation of any such suggestion. That spirit of enquiry which is already excited in various heathen countries ought to be gratified. If we suffer ourselves to remain idle and the heathen to perish, how shall we feel on meeting one of these in a future world, who shall say, “I doubted the efficacy of my sacrifices and oblations to take away sin, and was anxious to find the true way of salvation; but alas! no minister of peace was at hand—I travelled through my journey shrouded in impervious dark-

ness, and now eternal realities have just burst upon my sight, how wretched am I!" Suppose he should continue, "You had the knowledge which I needed, and for the want of which I perish; yet you never made one effort to communicate that knowledge to me and my fellow heathen. Had you regarded the sympathies of human nature; had you been influenced by the benevolence of your Master; had you obeyed his commands, you would not have left us thus to perish!" Such reflections must be painful. Let us act, then, so as to avoid them. The consideration, too, that two brethren have for the sake of truth left their former connexions with the paedobaptists, and thrown themselves on us for support, ought to move us to exertion.— This is an evident indication that God calls us to be active now. We rejoice that arguments like these have not been presented to you in vain. We hope and believe you will continue to aid the society formed in the association last year.— The arguments for the domestic missions are not less powerful than for the foreign. How many are there in all parts of the country who do not regard the concerns of their souls! And how many christians are there who have no opportunity of being comforted with the waters of the sanctuary? We ought then to remember the heathen and the destitute in our own country, and exert ourselves to promote the interests of both.

And in imitation of the examples of others, let us throw in our portion of what the Lord has given us, to aid in extending his knowledge. Glorious things are spoken concerning Zion; and if we do not take the honor of being instrumental in bringing them to pass, other instruments will be raised up, and we be left.

To Corresponding Associations.

The associations with which we correspond, will believe us, as usual, to have for them the most sincere friendship, and accept our best wishes that the blessing of God may rest on them. The state of things is rather favorable among us than otherwise. A good degree of union prevails among the churches, and in several instances the Lord has granted some accessions to our numbers. The missionary spirit prevails in our body to a considerable degree, and we confidently hope that it will still prevail.

Our present meeting has been agreeable, and attended with the divine presence. We wish a continuance of your correspondence and prayers.

CLARK KENDRICK, Moderator.

ABIAL FISHER, JUN. Clerk.