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Minutes ... at Wallingford ... October, 1795.

Rutland, 1795. 12 pp.

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MINUTES
OF THE
Baptist
Vermont Association,

AT THEIR

ANNUAL MEETING,

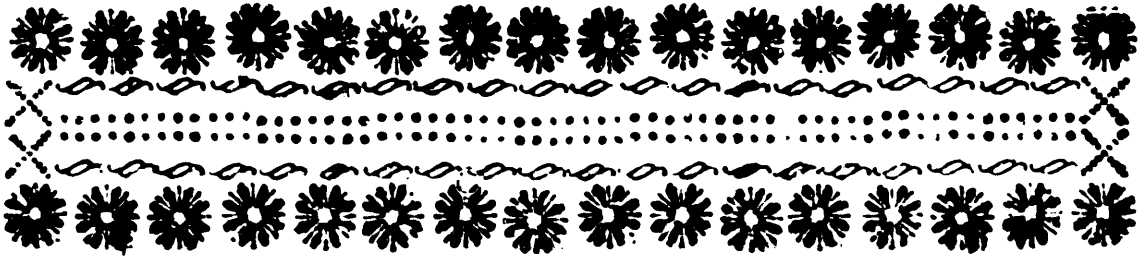
HOLDEN AT

WALLINGFORD, VERMONT,

OCTOBER, 1795.]

RUTLAND,

PRINTED IN THE YEAR M,DCC,XCV.



MINUTES, &c.

WEDNESDAY, 7th October.

1. **A**T two o'clock, P. M. Brother SILVANUS HAYNES delivered the introductory sermon, from Prov. iv. 18.

After which a Moderator and Clerk were chosen.

2. Letters were read from the several Churches; and the following account taken of the members added, dismissed, excluded, or who have died the year past, and of the present number in each Church.

*N. B. No accounts were received from the Churches marked with an *. Dashes — denote no settled minister. Ministers names in Italic. Those marked thus † were not present.*

Churches.

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Ministers & Messengers.</i>	<i>A. Add.</i>	<i>Dis.</i>	<i>Exc.</i>	<i>Died</i>	<i>No.</i>
Clarendon,	{ <i>Isaac Beali,</i> <i>Lewis Walker,</i> <i>Nehemiah Rogers,</i> <i>Moses Buck.</i>	0	2	0	0	44
Manchester,	{ _____ <i>Ebenezer Hulbart.</i>	0	0	1	1	30
* Granville,	{ _____ _____	0	0	0	0	15
Middletown,	{ <i>Silvanus Haynes,</i> <i>Caleb Smith,</i> <i>Ashur Blunt,</i> <i>Nathan Walton.</i>	4	1	2	0	47
* Hubbardton,	{ _____ _____	0	0	0	0	23
Ira,	{ _____ <i>Hezekiah Carr.</i>	4	8	0	3	42
Wallingford,	{ <i>Henry Green,</i> <i>Colburn Preston,</i> <i>Joseph Randall.</i>	3	0	2	0	89
Orwell,	{ _____ <i>Joseph Needham,</i> <i>James Noble.</i>	0	1	15	0	92
Pittsford,	{ † <i>Elisha Rich,</i> <i>John Mott.</i>	0	0	0	0	45
Brandon,	{ <i>Calvin Chamberlin,</i> <i>Edward Cheney.</i>	1	0	2	1	63
Salem,	{ <i>Obed Warren,</i> <i>Edward Harris,</i> <i>Simeon Smith.</i>	0	0	2	1	106
Pawlet,	{ _____ <i>Joseph Haseal.</i>	0	0	0	0	
Kingsbury,	{ <i>Hezekiah Eastman,</i> <i>Abel Wood,</i>	6	0	3	0	70
Shoreham,	{ <i>Nathan Sanders,</i> <i>Eli Smith,</i> <i>Hopkins Rowley.</i>	18	0	0	0	32
Georgia,	{ _____ _____	0	0	0	0	12
TOTAL,		36	14	27	6	832

3. Received a letter and minutes from the Shaftsbury association, by their messengers, *Caleb Blood* and *Samuel Rogers*. Also, a letter from the Woodstock association, by their messengers, *Aaron Leland*, *John Asplund*, and *Ariel Kendrick*.

4. Brethren *Cornal*, *Hawley*, *Sawyer*, and *Brown*, being present, were desired to take a seat with us.

5. Read and approved the circular letter, prepared by Brother *Isaac Beall*. Also, the corresponding letter, by Brother *Obed Warren*.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

THURSDAY, October 8th.

MET pursuant to adjournment.

A sermon this morning, by Brother *Samuel Rogers*, from Prov. x. 24.

1. The several committees, appointed last year, to visit several of the Churches, who had neglected to send delegates to the association, made their report.

2. Appointed Brother *Obed Warren* to prepare

pare a circular letter, and Brother *Silvanus Haynes*, a corresponding letter, for next year.

3. Our messengers to corresponding associations are as follows :—To the Shaftsbury, Brethren *Warren, Beall, and Green* ; to the Woodstock, *Beall, Green, and Randall* ; to the Warren, *Warren and Haynes* ; to the Otsego, *Henry Green*.

4. On motion, made by Clarendon Church, to have some alteration in the present plan of this association, after some debate, voted, That an amendment is necessary.

5. Appointed Brethren *Beall, Blood, and Warren*, a committee to revise said plan, and make the necessary amendments.

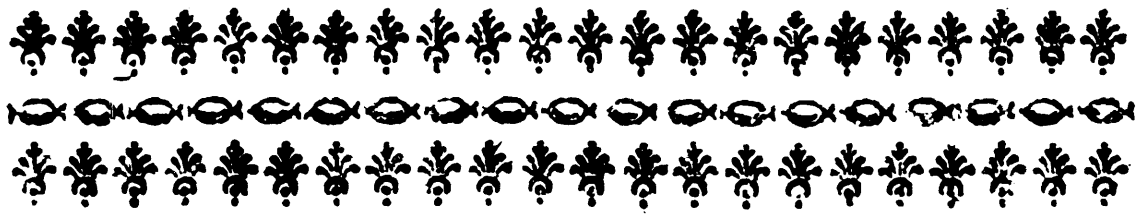
6. Appointed a convention of the Churches of this association (by two delegates from each Church) to convene at Wallingford, on the first Wednesday in January next, ten o'clock, A. M. to see whether the Churches will accept the amendment of the plan of this association, which may be made by the above-named committee.

7. Appointed Brother *Isaac Beall* to superintend the printing these minutes.

8. Our next annual meeting to be held at
Clarendon

Clarendon, in Brother *Beall's* Church, on the first Wednesday in October, 1796. The introductory sermon to be delivered at two o'clock, P. M. by Brother *Abel Wood*, in case of failure, by Brother *Calvin Chamberlin*.

9. Whereas a number of well disposed people on this continent, have agreed to unite in a *general concert* of prayer, (for the out-pouring of God's Spirit) on the *first Tuesdays* of *January, April, July, and October*; this association, with heart-felt satisfaction, approve of the same: We therefore recommend the observance of said days to the Churches we represent. In this *concert*, we hope there will not be any distinction of denominations, but that all may unite in the fear and love of God.



C I R C U L A R L E T T E R .

BELOVED BRETHREN,

SUFFER us (at the close of this interview) to communicate to you a few thoughts upon *Christian Fellowship*.

FELLOWSHIP signifies communion, joint interest, and agreement: And when applied to the people of God, signifies that harmony and agreement which subsists among them in matters of religion, both as it respects the doctrines and ordinances they profess, and the discipline and lives they maintain. This is declarative of the uniformity of that religion which is owned and acknowledged, received and practised, by all deserving the Christian name.—
“One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism,” &c.

SUCH an agreement (or fellowship) as this, is essentially necessary for individuals (*righteously*) to enter into Church-relation with each other; and, no less essential, to the forming an *holy union or communion* between particular Churches.

FROM

FROM such considerations, holy brethren, we intreat you, in the first place, to see that your *fellowship* is with God the Father, and his Son Jesus Christ, *i. e.* That the doctrines of your faith are plainly asserted in the sacred oracles: The ordinances you embrace are peremptorily commanded in the New-Testament; and the commands you obey, are plain requisitions of the Holy Scriptures: And, let your faith in those doctrines and ordinances be a principle in your hearts, a power in your consciences, and a practice in your lives. Then you may truly say with the primitive saints, “Our *fellowship* is with the Father, and his Son Jesus Christ.” Short of this your *faith* will be false, your *knowledge* speculative, your *grace* counterfeit, and your *souls* reprobate. And indeed such a *fellowship* as this, and only such, is declarative of God’s glory, productive of Christian edification, and conviction to the world of the truth and reality of religion.

IN the next place, be careful not to extend your *fellowship* to any man, or body of men, professing Christianity, except those who, upon strict examination, give satisfactory evidence, that their faith and practice correspond with the plain dictates of God’s word, at least in the more essential things of religion. God does not require us to give our *fellowship* to that which has not gospel-purity in it: *the religion which is from above, is first pure, and then*

then peaceable. But to admit within the compass of the (professional) *fellowship* of Christians those who essentially differ in doctrine or practice, would be a subversion of the Christian faith, derogatory to the glory of God, and destructive to gospel purity and worship. Therefore, brethren, beware who you receive into your *fellowship*, for, perhaps, there never was a day wherein *Christian ministers* more abound than the present. But, above all, be cautious who you receive as ministers of Christ; for, according to the gospel prediction, we must expect in these days not a few, but a multitude of anti-Christian teachers, whose coming will be, not in an open, but secret manner, in sheeps' clothing, blazing professions, a great shew of wisdom and meekness, even to austerity *. *By their doctrines and practice you may know them.* Bring them to the divine touch-stone; if they endure not that trial, *receive them not, nor bid them God-speed,* though they should appear clad with great zeal and sanctity. It was through the medium of false teachers that the greatest difficulties arose; and departures from the *faith* took place in the primitive Churches — Let us then take heed.

AND should you, dear brethren, upon an impartial examination, find yourselves already entangled in your *fellowship* with those, whose principles or practice (whatever their profession may

* Col. ii, 23.

ministers

may be) does not agree with the word of God, obey the divine mandate, 2 Cor. vi. 17. *Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord.* In case of obedience, behold the gracious promise.—*I will receive you, and be a father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.* But, on the contrary, should you be disobedient, and be too lax in your fellowship, it is more than probable that you would soon grow remiss in holy duties, the discipline of the Church be neglected, or unrighteously administered—errors increase, teachers unsound in the *faith* not only tolerated, but sought after; the true ministers of Christ slighted, neglected, and rejected; and the Churches, from being *spiritual houses, and holy temples, become cages of unclean beasts, and foul spirits, synagogues of Satan:* And should you, dear brethren, in those things *walk contrary to the Lord, he will walk contrary to you,* withdraw his divine presence from you, and bring down his judgments upon you, until he has consumed you from the earth; and will raise up a more holy people in your stead, a people who will *keep the unity of the Spirit, in the bond of peace,* bringing forth the fruits of the gospel in due season.

FINALLY, brethren, if there be *any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit,* think on these things: *May the great Head of the Church enrich*

with every necessary grace of his Holy Spirit, build you up in the faith and *fellowship* of the gospel, and at last give you an inheritance among them who are sanctified. To whom be glory in the Church, throughout all ages, world without end. —AMEN.

By order of the Association,

HENRY GREEN, MODERATOR.

JOSEPH RANDALL, CLERK.

