

MINUTES
OF THE SESSION
OF THE
NOVA SCOTIA.
Baptist Association.

HELD AT

Yarmouth,

FROM JUNE 21ST TO JUNE 23RD, 1847, INCLUSIVE:

TOGETHER WITH

THE CIRCULAR LETTER, MISSIONARY, AND OTHER
ACCOUNTS, ETC.

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THE MINUTES of Corresponding Associations, and other documents relating to the N. S. Baptist Association, may be directed to Rev. WM. CHIPMAN, Pastor of the 2nd Baptist Church Cornwallis.

PRINTED AT THE "CHRISTIAN MESSENGER" OFFICE.

MINUTES, &c.

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MONDAY, 10 O'Clock, A. M. June 21st, 1847.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by the Rev. Charles Randall, from Isaiah 52:1., after which a collection was taken in aid of Home Missions, in addition to the collections taken on the preceding day.

The Association having been called to order, Rev. John Pryor was appointed Moderator, Rev. Wm. Chipman, Clerk, and bro. Isaac Chipman, Assistant Clerk.

Revs. John Pryor, John Chase, and R. B. Dickie, were chosen to read the Letters from the Churches, and Revs. Charles Randall, N. Vidito, and James Parker, to examine the same previously.

The Letters from the Churches were read, from which was obtained the following table. The names of ordained Ministers are in SMALL CAPITALS; those of Licentiates in *Italics*; Ministers not present are marked with an asterisk*; Churches from which no information was received are marked thus; and vacant churches are distinguished by a dash——.

N. B. Churches from which no information was received, are returned as they stood last year; as well as those where the number of members is not stated in the letters.

STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES.	MINISTERS AND MESSENGERS.	ADDED			Removed.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Died.	Total.
		Restored.	By Baptism.	By Letter.					
1st Yarmouth.	HARRIS HARDING, WM. BURTON; Deacs. John Crosby, A. Baker, Joseph Robbins, Zachariah Chipman, Thomas Purncy, Amos Scott; Brethren John Durkee, Edward Huestis, Nelson Corning, Joseph Rogers, Nathaniel Holmes, Thomas Hunt, Ansel Robbins, Sam'l Brown, Wm Churchill.	1	2	1		9	10	7	506
Annapolis and Upper Granville.	JOHN CHASE, Deac. John A. Morse, bro. Jeremiah Bancroft.			1			1	5	198
Lower Granville.	Percy Murray, Benj. Reed.						4		202
Wilmot.	NATHANIEL VIDITO, Ambrose Poole, James Cornwall.						4		303
Newport.	GEORGE DIMOCK.*	1							133
Onslow.	DAVID W. C. DIMOCK.*	1	4	2			1	3	188
1st Clements.	ISRAEL POTTER, Senr.* ISRAEL POTTER, Junr.*	1		1					259
Lunenburg.	BENNET TAYLOR.							2	67
Nictaux.	I. E. BILL*, Deac. Caleb Shaffner, Samuel Wheelock.					2		1	466
1st Digby neck.	JAMES C. MORSE,* Wm. Saunders.	1	2				1	1	99
†River Philip.	JOHN E. COGSWELL.*								39
Horton.	THEODORE S. HARDING JOHN PRYOR, Isaac Chipman.						2		399
1st Cornwallis,	EDWARD MANNING,* A. S. HUNT,* JOHN PRYOR, Messenger.					3	4		231
Windsor.	JOHN MILLAR.*								60
Rawdon.									86
Up'r Granville Mountain.	AARON COGSWELL.	1				5	1	3	108
†Parsboro'.	Deac. Jas. Mosher, John Melvin.		4	1		2		1	43
Chester.	CHARLES TUPPER.*		1	1			1		278
Amherst.	JAMES STUBBARD.								66
Port Medway.	WILLIAM CHIPMAN, David Lyons.					1	2		64
2nd Cornwallis,									238
†Sissiboo or Weymouth.									66
1st Aylesford.	W. C. RIDEOUT,* EBENEZER STRONACH.	1				8	3	1	295
Waterford or Pugwash.									
New Albany.		19	1			1	1		69
Liverpool.	ROBERT B. DICKIE.						1	2	208
Brookfield.	JAMES PARKER, THOS. DELONG.	1	1				2		156

STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES.	MINISTERS AND MESSENGERS.	ADDED.		Removed.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Died.	Total.
		Restored.	By Baptism.					
Sydney, C. B.	GEORGE RICHARDSON.*							94
1st Hillsburg.	Deac. J. R. Purdy, bro. Geo. Harris.						1	84
Bryer Island.	Deac Potter.						2	99
1st Falmouth.	BENJAMIN VAUGHAN,* JOHN PRYOR, Messenger.			26		2	1	170
† Ragged Islands.	WELLINGTON JACKSON.							78
† West Chester.	HEZEKIAH HULL.*							35
Granville Street.	E. A. CRAWLEY, Deac. J. W. Johnston, breth. J. W. Barss, J. Ferguson.							199
Manchester and Guys- boro'	_____	1	4			2		30
Windsor Road, Sack- ville.	WILLIAM HOBBS.*							41
† Mabou.	_____							29
Tracadie.	_____		2			8	2	79
† Sherbrook.	_____							31
Stewiacke.	_____							80
† Jeddore.	DAVID PINEO.							106
Margaret's Bay.	WILLIAM HOBBS.*					2		82
Economy.	_____							38
Three Rivers, P. E. I.	JOHN SHAW.*							45
East Point P. E. Island.	JOHN SHAW.*							101
Canso.	_____							12
3rd Cornwallis,	ABRAHAM STRONACH.*			1	4	3	2	211
Wilmot Mountain.	R. W. CUNNINGHAM.*					2	1	129
Tusket.	JAMES LENT,* Deac. John Gavill, Andrew Gavill, Wells Hamilton.				32			65
Wellington and Chel- sea.	JAMES STUBBARD.		1			1		78
Springfield	_____	15	4					30
† Dalhousie.	_____							34
2nd Yarmouth.	HARRIS HARDING, Deacs. J. Patten, Caleb Cook.				51		2	240
† Long Island.	_____							81
Charlotte Town, P. E. Island.	SILAS T. RAND.*	2	1	1				28
2nd Aylesford.	OBED PARKER.*						1	105
† 2nd Digby neck.	JAMES C. MORSE.*							55
† Bay of Islands.	_____							17
† Indian Harbour.	_____							14
Advocate Harbour.	_____						1	13
† Barrington.	_____							8
Digby.	JOSHUA B. COGSWELL.							18
† 2nd Hammond Plains.	_____							42

STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES.	MINISTERS AND MESSENGERS.	ADDED.		Removed.	Dismissed.	Died.	Total.
		Restored.	By Letter. By Baptism.				
Preston.	_____		7			2	137
†Wallace River.	_____						18
Antigonish.	_____		17		1	1	35
†Lot 49, P. E. Island.	JOHN WHIDDEN.*						36
2nd Horton.	BENJAMIN SCOTT.*					1	149
New Germany.	DAVID HARRIS.*		1		2		37
2nd Hillsburg.	BENNET TAYLOR.						36
†Petite Passage.	JOSHUA B. COGSWELL.						33
†Kempt.	_____						85
Portapique.	DAVID W. C. DIMOCK.*		3			1 2	67
3rd Yarmouth.	S. M. RANDALL, Deac. Rufus } Simonds.		2				50
Sable River.	WELLINGTON JACKSON.						53
Indian Harbour West.	WILLIAM HOEBBS.*						29
Amherst Shore.	CHARLES TUPPER.*				1		10
1st Hammond Plains.	WILLIAM HOEBBS.*		1		1		53
†Cavendish, P. E. I.	_____						7
Dartmouth.	_____		3		1		41
†Little Forks.	_____						20
York and Elliott Point, P. E. Island.	MALCOLM ROSS.*						117
2nd Falmouth.	BENJAMIN VAUGHAN.*						17
Digby Joggins.	CHARLES RANDALL.						42
New Tusket.	CHARLES RANDALL, Carleton } Sabeau, S. Sabeau.						34
St. Mary's Bay.	CHARLES RANDALL.		1			3	64
Margaree.	_____	2 36	1	4			63
†Port Piswick & Mus- quodoboit Harbour.	DAVID B. PINEO.*						7
†Lawrence Town.	DAVID B. PINEO.*						14
†Tryon.	_____						56
†Minudie.	_____						13
Indian Harbour East.	WILLIAM HOEBBS.*		3			1	59
Burton Church, New Guysboro' Road.	_____				2	1	27
†Mira Bay, C. B.	HUGH ROSS.						69
Upper Aylesford.	WM. CHIPMAN.		3		2		36
St. Mary's.	_____			1			24
Isaac's Harbour.	_____						27
Coddal's Harbour.	_____						15
New Harbour.	_____						10
	Henry Thompson.		1	1			
Beaver River.	WILLIAM BURTON.						51
Argyle.	_____						29
	Levi Marshall.						

The two Churches last named were received during the present session, the right hand of fellowship having been presented by the Moderator, in behalf of the Association, to the brethren who were appointed, and are named above, as their representatives for such purpose.

The Rev. Mr. Spurden, Principal of the Baptist Seminary, Frederickton, N. B., took his seat as Messenger from the N. Brunswick Association.

The Rev. Henry Saunders, and brethren W. L. Bent of the Digby Church, and Deacon R. Hankinson of the Church at Sissiboo, were invited to a seat in Council.

The following brethren were appointed a Committee to examine and report upon any questions referred by the churches in their letters to the Association. viz : E. A. Crawley, T. S. Harding, C. Spurden, R. B. Dickie, Thos. Delong, A. H. Scott, C. Sabeau, J. Mosher, J. W. Barss, and C. Shaffner.

The following Committees were also appointed :

On Temperance, N. Vidito, Peleg Murray, J. W. Barss, and J. Bancroft.

To report on the prevailing religious depression, name a day of fasting and prayer, and call public attention thereto, J. Chase, Perez Murray, J. B. Cogswell.

To prepare a Resolution of respect to the memory of the late Rev. J. Dimock, also to take under consideration the preparation of a biographical sketch or Memoir—J. W. Johnston, T. S. Harding, and I. Chipman.

To examine the Circular Letter—J. Ferguson, C. Randall.

On the Bible Translation Cause—C. Spurden, J. Pryor, J. W. Barss, and R. B. Dickie.

It was then Resolved that Bro. Ebenezer Stronach be our Messenger to the N. B. Baptist Association, and receive in this capacity £7. 10. 0.

Voted to refer the consideration of the place of the next annual meeting to the Committee on Questions, in Letters.

Appointed I. E. Bill to write the Circular Letter for the year ensuing.

Chose N. Vidito to preach the Introductory Sermon, and J. Chase his alternate,

Appointed J. W. Nutting to superintend the printing of the Minutes, with information from the Clerk of the Association, what number it will be advisable to print.

Voted to print for distribution to the churches under direction of the Clerk, and in company with the Minutes, but in detached form,

1500 copies of the Articles of the Association, with a reservation by the Clerk for extra circulation.

Voted to hear the Report of the Committee on Union with Baptists in Canada, presented by Dr. Crawley. (See Appendix A.)

The following were appointed Delegates from the Association to the ensuing Convention at Nietaux, T. S. Harding, C. Shaffner, J. Mosher, Chas. Baker, E. Catten.

From the Foreign Missionary Board, W. Johnson, Esq.

From the Home Missionary Board, J. W. Barss.

From the Education Committee, J. W. Johnston.

Voted, that brethren Spurden, Vidito, and Crawley, be a Committee to prepare whatever may be necessary to be done by this Association in relation to the Convention, and to devise means for extending information relative to the Convention, by circulating the Report or otherwise.

Appointed J. W. Barss to receive monies for Foreign Mission, J. Chase for Home Missions, J. Pryor for General Education, Sam'l M. Randall for Infirm Ministers, and J. Bancroft for Ministerial Education. Time of payment, 8 o'clock ensuing day.

Voted, That the Chairmen of the several Committees to report during the session, be requested to arrange the particulars of their meeting, and notify accordingly.

Adjourned to meet at 7, P. M.

Met according to adjournment, when a public meeting was conducted in promotion of Home Missions. The following Resolutions were presented and adopted, in connexion with which the assembly were occupied to a late hour with addresses from several Gentlemen, consisting chiefly of valuable information from missionary fields in this country. Mr. J. W. Barss, of Haliux, gave a donation of £25, of which he designed £5 for the instruction of a Teacher of religion for the Acadian French, when this is found practicable.

Resolved, That the abundant success which has attended the labours of our missionaries during the past year, together with the increased demand for the continuation of their labours, in watering and strengthening those churches in connection with our body, scattered over so large a portion of the Province, and looking wholly to us for that supply,—also the new and extensive fields opening on every hand, call upon us as with a voice from heaven, to increase our exertions, in sowing the seeds of truth, and thus increasing the Redeemer's kingdom.

Resolved,—That inasmuch as the mind of our beloved brother Rand has been directed to seek the enlightenment and salvation of the Indians located in different parts of these Provinces, and, as he has already made some advancement in obtaining a knowledge of their language; it therefore appears to be the mind of God that the Baptists of this Province should make immediate and systematic effort to convert from error and sin these natives of our country.

Resolved,—That as the Acadian French of these Provinces have not, in the view of this Association, the amount of scriptural knowledge which it is desirable they should possess, it becomes therefore the duty of this body to adopt measures as soon as practicable, to send to them colporteurs, who may circulate among them copies of the word of God, religious tracts, &c.

Resolved, That the officers of the Home and Foreign Missionary Board be continued, and that Rev. Chas. Randall, Brethren Wm. Johnson, Abel Parker, and Jas. Mosher, be added to the Board.

Adjourned to meet at 10 o'clock, Tuesday morning.

Tuesday, 10 o'clock, met according to adjournment, when the business of the N. S. Baptist Education Society, by established usage, was attended to. The proceedings will appear in the Report of the Education Society for the present year.

Adjourned to meet at 7 P. M.

Met according to adjournment, when a public meeting was conducted in promotion of Foreign Missions. For proceedings see appendix B.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the churches to attend the Monthly Concert for prayer on the first Sabbath evening in every month, and that a collection be taken up at such meetings in aid of the Foreign Mission Fund as heretofore.

Adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock on Wednesday morning.

Wednesday morning—Met according to adjournment. In accordance with the recommendation of Committee of arrangements for the business of the Association, the following Committees were then appointed, with instructions to report in June, 1848.

On means of guardianship of feeble Churches, and suggestions as to ripeness for organization,—I. E. Bill, N. Vidito, J. Chase.

On regulations between churches, with a view to saving members who change residence from the district of one church to that of another, or from one country to another,—W. Chipman, C. Randall.

Suggestions as to qualifications of ministers for ordination, with the best mode of conducting the same, and the same in relation to licencing ministers,—E. A. Crawley, C. Tupper, S. T. Rand.

The best mode of conducting *quarterly meetings*, in relation to impressions on the public, and to ministerial conference,—R. B. Dickie, J. Parker, J. Stubbart.

The Committee on the low state of religion reported as follows:—

Your Committee beg leave to recommend that the first day of January next be observed as a day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer, and that Brethren J. Ferguson and J. W. Barss be requested to bring the importance thereof before the denomination by a Circular through the Christian Messenger.

Report received, and adopted.

The Committee on Temperance, reported as follows:—

Your Committee have to regret the growing indifference and great apathy that prevails in our churches, and in the community generally, in regard to Temperance, and consequently the growing and widespread evils of Intemperance in almost every class in society, and they are therefore of opinion that some more vigorous and efficient means are required to call up the attention of our churches and congregations, and the friends of the cause generally; and they recommend that the Rev. Dr. Crawley, and J. W. Barss, be a Committee to adopt such measures as they may deem advisable for the accomplishment of the above object, and report the same through the columns of the Christian Messenger.

Report received, and adopted.

The Committee on Questions in Letters reported as follows:—

Your Committee having had presented to them for consideration the question, whether a member of the Church should be excluded on the Lord's day before the whole of the congregation, report: That the Committee are of opinion that it is not necessary, while at the same time they cannot say that circumstances may not in some cases render it expedient.

In relation to the question whether baptism administered by Mormons should be considered valid by our churches, when those who have been members of Mormon churches present themselves to Baptist churches for admission,—It is the opinion of the Committee that inasmuch as the Mormons cannot be recognized as a Christian denomination, it would be improper to admit into a Baptist church an individual on his baptism by a Mormon.

The Committee recommend that the Association be held next year at Liverpool.

In reference to the difficulties in Margaret's bay church, your Committee would recommend a counsel to meet that church, to be composed of the following persons: Brethren Crawley and Barss of Halifax, Brethren Delong, Mosher, and Melvin, of Chester.

In reply to the question from the church at Argyle, your Committee are of opinion that the Association has no authority to ordain pastors over churches, but recommend that a council from sister churches be invited to advise them as to the expediency of ordination, and assist them if advisable.

Report received and adopted.

The Committee appointed to consider what might be necessary to be done by this Association, in relation to the Convention, and to devise means for extending information relative to the Convention, by circulating the report or otherwise, reported as follows :—

That inasmuch as in the 3rd Article of the constitution of the Convention, a hope is expressed that the several Associations in the Provinces will obtain from the churches connected with them, statements respecting statistical information, this Committee recommend that the Secretaries of the Association be requested to collect, at their leisure, such statistical information as may be gathered from the letters of the churches, and submit the same to the Convention; and to extend such information, they further recommend that breth. Crawley and I. Chipman, be appointed by the Association to prepare a list of questions on matters of statistical interest, to which the churches may be requested to respond, to be printed together with the Minutes of the Association.

In regard to more united action, the Committee beg to submit the question, whether a general agency for the promotion of Educational, and all other objects of common interest, in which the Provinces are respectively engaged, might not be extended to both Provinces, as a common field to be occupied by one and the same agent.

For the purpose of extending information respecting the Convention, the Committee recommend that brother Spurden be requested to take means to have parcels of the Minutes of the Convention forwarded to prominent points in Nova Scotia for sale; and that the Editors of the Christian Messenger be requested to publish the Minutes in that Journal about the end of August.

Report received, and adopted.

The Committee to prepare a Resolution relating to the late Joseph Dimock, reported as follows :—

Resolved,—That the death of our beloved brother Joseph Dimock, who at the close of the Association last year, after partaking in its duties, was called to his reward, in the neighbourhood of Bridgetown, at a distance from his home and people—calls upon the Ministers and Messengers of the churches, again assembled in Association, to record their sense of his character, and of the loss the church and the country have sustained in his removal.

The early missionary labours of this self-denying servant of the Lord Jesus Christ, in the infancy of this country; his fatherly oversight

and christian care of the church of Chester, of which he died the Pastor, after sustaining that endeared relation on the happiest terms for nearly fifty years: The holy affection and living faith, the untiring energy and never failing benevolence which stimulated our departed brother, in advancing the cause of his Master, and promoting the eternal welfare and temporal happiness of his fellow creatures regardless of personal considerations—and the meekness and modesty of his deportment, as they long endeared Joseph Dimock to his brethren—his church—his friends, and all capable of appreciating the excellencies of his character, now render his memory precious. We mourn in him one of the fathers of our churches taken from us.—We rejoice in the assurance of his removal from the conflicts of life, to the bliss and triumphs of the redeemed.—We pray that the example of his labours and his virtues, may be sanctified to those who remain.

Resolved further,—That a Committee be appointed to prepare materials to submit to the next Association, for a biographical sketch, or more extended memoir of the departed, as may be judged best; and that the Revds. John Pryor and D. W. C. Dimock, and brother James Mosher, be that Committee, with power to publish it if they deem proper in the C. M.

Report received and adopted.

[The Deputation charged with the formation of Union Societies, and the general guidance of the benevolent operations of the denomination, presented their Report, but at too great a length to admit of insertion in the Minutes.]

Resolved, That the report, now read, be received and adopted, and published in the C. M.

Resolved further, That the warmest thanks of the Association be given to the Deputation—breth. I. Chipman, Vidito, and Dickie, for the able, diligent, and faithful manner in which they have thus far fulfilled the trust committed to them, and for the admirable report in which they have unfolded plans that promise to give to the benevolent efforts of the Denomination, the organization necessary, for drawing from the philanthropic disposition and exertions of the Baptists of Nova Scotia, the permanent effects and sustained action so much and so long desired.

Resolved also, That the Rev. J. Chase be appointed to succeed Rev. N. Vidito in accompanying Professor Chipman in prosecuting the business of the Deputation.

For the purpose of carrying out the measures of the foregoing Report, bro. I. Chipman was instructed to prepare for insertion in the Minutes such Resolutions as would sufficiently represent its recommendations, it not having been in the power of the Deputation, to get the same in readiness in time for the meeting of the Association.

[The Deputation will venture to substitute for this a presentation of the business before the Missionary Board and Education Committee at Nictaux, during the Session of the Convention.]

The Committee on the Bible Translation Cause reported as follows :—

That since an intimate acquaintance with the Sacred Writings of the Old and New Testaments, is an object of paramount importance for the production of correct views of divine truth, and the preservation of the spirituality of the churches, and since our Brethren cannot but be sensible of the obligation which rests upon them to diffuse, both at home and abroad, the word of God, which is to them the only guide and arbiter in things divine;—this Committee recommend that the churches be requested to aid the American and Foreign Bible Society, with their contributions, either by the formation of distinct organizations, where it is deemed practicable, or in conjunction with Union Societies, where the effort likely to be made would be too inconsiderable to warrant the establishment of Auxiliary Societies, not however intending, by this suggestion, to impose on the general union effort the necessity of incorporating the Bible cause, together with the other objects for the present.

Resolved, That this report be adopted.

Resolved, That the Historical Committee be continued as before.

[Memorandum. The Jubilee year of the Association being more remote than was anticipated, some assignments of a previous session bearing upon this were not fulfilled. Any special action relating to this business was prevented during the session by means of pressing engagements, which occupied the attention of leading members of the Committee. The same may be said with respect to Sabbath Schools.]

The following Resolutions were then adopted.

Whereas, this Association continue deeply sensible of the value of the Christian Messenger to the Baptist Denomination, of which, although sustained upon private responsibility, it is the recognized organ, and is exerting an extensive influence among our churches in promoting the great Educational, Missionary, and other objects which the Baptists of this Province are labouring to advance, and is also exerting the most beneficial influence over the youth of the country in enlarging their minds, and increasing their knowledge—

It is therefore *Resolved*, That this Association urge upon their churches the duty of extending the circulation and promoting the interests of the Christian Messenger, in every way possible; and they also

urge upon their Missionaries who are sent out by the Board, the duty of recommending the paper to the churches, increasing its circulation, and also of urging on subscribers the necessity of punctual payment, as well as rendering to the Editors all assistance in their power for the collection of outstanding subscriptions.

Resolved further, That the Brethren in New Brunswick be affectionately requested, to use their best exertions in calling forth the energies of the Denomination in that Province, in the support of a Journal, which has most ably and efficiently supported and advanced the cause of truth, and the best interests of society.

Resolved, That R. B. Dickie, J. Parker, T. Delong, J. Stubbart, A. Kempton, Stewart Freeman, and W. S. Jacobs, be a Committee of arrangements for the next meeting of the Association, having in view the following objects:

1. Direction in reference to preaching. 2. Nomination of Committees. 3. Hours and order of business.

Resolved, That the sincere thanks of this Association be given to the members of the Baptist church and congregation, and the community generally at Yarmouth, for the great kindness and hospitality which they have shown to the ministers and messengers of the churches during the present session of the Association. And also to our Methodist brethren, for their kindness in permitting us the use of their Chapel for Divine Service.

Adjourned to meet in the Meeting House of the Baptist Church at Liverpool, on the first Monday after the 20th of June, 1848, at 10 o'clock, a. m. The session was closed by singing the *Union Hymn*.

APPENDIX.

A.

The Committee on Union with Baptists in Canada report as follows—

Although the Committee have been unable by any actual operation to carry out the resolutions of last year, yet they feel that they cannot too strongly restate the importance of union in action in all practicable cases. Union with the Baptists in Canada they cannot but regard as of this character. Several grounds of united action may be suggested or repeated.

1. Religious publications suited to our population, to promote reading and general improvement, as well as to furnish libraries for Sabbath Schools or for charitable distribution. For these we are now indebted to Great Britain or the United States, with great accompanying inconveniences, and what is worse, great practical destitution in consequence of these inconveniences being too great to overcome.

Our people in a multitude of instances do not read, and Sabbath Schools do not arise, or work feebly; and popular ignorance abounds, because books and other religious publications are hundreds or thousands of miles away.

A system of extended publication to be conducted by the united Baptists of the British North American Provinces and sustained by the pledged custom of all our churches, the Committee consider at once practicable and highly desirable.

2. The Acadian French form another ground of common interest and action with our brethren in Canada. They are the same people in origin with those among whom the Swiss Mission at Grand Ligne labours so successfully. That region is called L'Acadie from the circumstance of having afforded a home to many of the expatriated French from this Province. Why should we not engraft on some stock in this country the spirit and zeal of those beloved missionaries, that the numerous Acadian French at Clare, Argyle, Minudie, Westmoreland, Chizzetcook, Isle Madame, Cheticamp, and else-

where, may no longer be regarded with apathy by Baptists of the lower Provinces? And for such an effort how important union with our brethren in Canada, that we may benefit by their counsel, and their experience, and their labours!

3. Much also might be usefully done by interchange of views in regard to education, perhaps by united effort with them to carry on some broad system of denominational education, from the root upwards; from the common schools, to the College, and Theological Academy.

4. Interchange of ministerial talent ought also in the opinion of this Committee to be attempted when practical, as tending to many important ends; and especially the Committee feel themselves called on at this time to press on the attention of the Association and of Baptists at large, the importance of aiding our brethren in Canada in the support of "The Colonial Protestant," a monthly religious Periodical, adapted to circulate that sort of religious and other literature which can but imperfectly find its way into the weekly journals.

All which is respectfully submitted.

B.

The report of the Committee of the Foreign Missionary Society, proposed to be presented at the Convention so far as now prepared, was read by Dr. Crawley, and after numerous effective addresses, listened to with a solemn attention, which shewed impressively that there is no diminution of interest on this deeply interesting subject, the following resolutions were adopted unanimously:—

1st. That this Association highly approve of the report of the Foreign Missionary Board, prepared to be submitted to the Convention, and now read by the Secretary, and beg respectfully to express to the Convention their desire and hope that it may be adopted and published.

2nd. That inasmuch as this Association are deeply impressed with the importance of a just proportionate regard to the maintenance of all the objects of religious benevolence to which the Providence of God has called the Baptist Denomination in these Provinces, as set forth in the Missionary Report, they earnestly recommend to their friends a united effort for the maintenance of all these, especially of home missions, and ministerial education in connection with Foreign missions, as otherwise our foreign missionary operations must unavoidably be crippled.

3rd. That the Association desire earnestly and solemnly to request information with regard to persons called by the Holy Spirit to the Foreign Missionary field, both by communications from individuals who may themselves be impressed with a desire for the work,

and from others who may be acquainted with such persons—and request such information to be forwarded to Dr. Crawley, the Secretary of the Missionary Board, at Halifax.

4th. That while this Association would devoutly unite in solemn and heartfelt thanksgiving to Almighty God, for his gracious favour extended to our beloved Missionaries up to the period of the last accounts from them, they feel at the same time deeply impressed with a sense of the necessity of earnest prayer on their behalf, and do now solemnly pledge themselves to one another, to bro. and sister Burpe, and to God, that they will endeavour earnestly, seriously, and without remission, to approach the throne of Grace, in supplication for them and for the success of their labours.

5th. That, inasmuch as it is highly necessary in order to promote interest in missions, that information should be received, and the people gathered in prayer as extensively as possible, and the meetings on the first Monday of each month have often been thinly attended, in consequence possibly of interruption by worldly occupations of pressing necessity, it is now earnestly recommended to the Churches, that in conformity with the practice beginning widely to obtain in other countries, the concert for prayer, &c. so far as can be effected consistently with other important considerations, be held for the future on the evenings of the first Sunday in each month, as affording opportunity to enlist the feelings and interest of a much larger number of persons than is now done.

Also; that it be earnestly recommended that on these occasions collections be taken towards missionary objects, and especially towards obtaining missionary reports and papers, out of which information may be read to the people at the respective meetings.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The Ministers and Messengers composing the N. S. Baptist Association, to the churches which they represent, send Christian salutation:—

DEAR BRETHREN,

In addressing you on the present occasion, we beg leave to urge on your consideration the Necessity and Manner of studying the Holy Scriptures.

The solemn fact that we are individually responsible for our religious sentiments and practice, makes a careful and constant study of the sacred scriptures absolutely necessary. The Bible is the only uncorrupted source from which a correct knowledge of our religious principles and duties can be drawn. All other fountains of knowledge are more or less polluted with human weakness and error. The best written books, and the most approved preaching, are worthy of our confidence in just the same proportion as they approximate to the Word of God. By this they must be tried;—this is the judge that ends the strife;—“To the law and to the testimony—if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” So far as all practical purposes are concerned, the Scriptures are easily understood by those who are humbly and prayerfully inquiring for truth. Our infinitely wise and benevolent Creator, has made certain duties obligatory upon us in this present state of existence, and these duties, in connexion with the motives by which they are enforced, are plainly exhibited in the Bible. How overwhelming then is the necessity of making it our study, since no excuse can be presented at the judgment seat of Christ, if found guilty through ignorance of our duty. Unfounded excuses may be indulged in the present life, thus lulling the conscience to sleep, but when the Judge of quick and dead shall declare to every man, that the doctrines which he was required to receive, to love, and to prac-

tice, were clearly revealed in the sacred writings, all refuges of lies will have fled, leaving the precious and immortal soul a perpetual prey to the worm which never dies.

The preaching of the gospel will be very inefficient, unless the scriptures are carefully examined. Preaching is designed by the adorable Redeemer to hold the most prominent place in the means he employs to advance the cause of moral truth on earth. It supposes, however, that those who avail themselves of its advantages, will be conversant with their Bibles. Its power, beyond the conveyance of the great elementary truths it contains, depends chiefly on this habit. It is possible for one greatly to deceive himself in relation to this point ;—the mind may have entertained general notions of the gospel from the pulpit and other sources, but not having digested them, it remains ignorant of their relation to other truths, and it feels not the weight of their practical bearing.

Every pastor who has an efficient Sabbath School connected with his congregation, must be sensible of the difference between those who are deeply interested in the school and those who are not, in reference to the attention given to his instructions from the pulpit. The one class, from the fact of their habitually referring to the Bible with a view to know how to instruct others, easily become attentive to preaching, and quite naturally compare it with the unadulterated source of divine knowledge—whilst the other class of persons, who read their Bibles without any rule or object, consider preaching as mere declamation on certain subjects, to which from custom they listen year after year, assenting to general truths, and consequently, as they perceive nothing definite, their feeling and practice correspond therewith. “But be ye doers of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any one be a hearer of the Word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass, for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”

An intimate and constant acquaintance with the holy scriptures, is necessary to produce deep, healthy, and manly piety. True piety is begotten in the soul by the uncorrupted seed of truth, under the agency of the divine Spirit. Truth, in relation to the gospel, is as necessary to its growth and permanency, as is milk to the health

and growth of the infant. There can be no more piety in one's heart, than there is love for and practice of God's blessed and revealed will;—and as one can neither love nor practice that of which he is ignorant—and as this necessary knowledge is only to be obtained from the Holy Book in the ordinary way, by carefully studying it—hence the paramount importance of this duty.

Piety may exist with a small degree of vital gospel truth, it will be however proportionably weak;—it may exist also, when the mind is much confused with contradictory views,—it will in such a case make no steady, powerful impression. The more clear and extensive one's knowledge of divine Revelation is, other things being equal, the firmer and the more elevated will be his piety. In a word, to expect that one can be born of God, and advance from one degree of grace to another, until he shall be capable of enduring temptation, trials and hardships, as a good soldier of Christ, without a definite, practical, and continued acquaintance with the Holy Bible, is like hoping to raise an infant to mature age without giving it the necessities of life.

Again; inasmuch as our usefulness is dependant on a very great extent on a deep and correct knowledge of the Sacred Writings, it is necessary to study them carefully. The Christian life is a warfare—a warfare of a peculiar kind. Whether the believer look within or without himself, he finds enemies to be resisted. With what weapons shall he attempt to meet these spiritual foes? He must be armed with the sword of the spirit, the word of God. It must not, however, be a sheathed sword. It is not enough that one has the Bible in his pocket, or that he has a vague knowledge of its contents; to meet successfully those spiritual enemies, one needs something more than a mere belief in the existence of such a book as the Bible. Only such as have a living, overcoming faith, will find themselves completely armed for the battles of the Lord, and ready to execute his righteous will, under all the varied and perplexing circumstances of life.

There are various modes of usefulness in the Church of Christ; some are of a public, others of a more private character; but in no department of life can it be reasonably expected that one can be useful whatever may be his field of operation, whether limited or extensive, if he be not familiar daily with the unerring standard of truth. The man who, on a sick bed, exhibits practically the patience and submission inculcated in the Bible; he who stands bold-

ly in defence of its doctrines and precepts ; the one that supplies the wants of the poor, and the minister of Christ who proclaims publicly the gospel of peace, are all equally, according to their several spheres in life, doing good.

The whole scriptures are designed by their Author to have a practical bearing ; their doctrines should be perceived for the purpose of moving the affections, and being embodied in benevolent and righteous acts before the world. One of the most important objects which the Lord has in view by allowing his people to remain on earth, is to exhibit His blessed Word in its lovely proportions, so that the world may come to know and fear Him. Therefore the usefulness of the church will be in proportion to its practical knowledge of the holy scriptures.

Having briefly set before you a few reasons which make a close and continued study of the scriptures necessary ; permit us, before we conclude, to suggest a few thoughts in reference to the best mode of accomplishing this object.

Endeavour to obtain a knowledge of ancient manners and customs. There are several small, cheap works in print at the present day, which almost any one may possess, by the assistance of which he can get all the necessary information on the subject. It is a very happy circumstance that those passages of the Holy Writings which relate to the nature, object, and fruits of faith, are so plain that he who runs may read ; yet no one ought to be satisfied with a circumscribed view of the Bible. Therefore every means that can throw a ray of light on any portion of divine truth, should be cheerfully embraced. There are several parts of the scriptures which cannot be understood independently of the knowledge referred to ; and there are others which appear quite plain from the connexion, yet they derive much of their spirit and power from a knowledge of ancient customs.

Another mode of studying the Scriptures is the practice of comparing one part with another. This habit cannot be too highly commended. In some passages some things are implied which are expressed in others ; in some other places there is much obscurity, which a parallel passage will immediately remove. All who please, at this age of the world, may possess a reference Bible, by which with all imaginable ease, pleasure, and profit, they may compare scripture with scripture, and thus strengthen and enrich their minds in Biblical knowledge.

Again, we would urge the necessity of studying the scriptures for a practical effect. If what we have stated in another place be correct, that the whole Bible is intended to be practical, it follows, except one recognizes this truth, he cannot see the spirit of the sacred pages; and consequently all the knowledge he may obtain from them will be perverted and become injurious, rather than beneficial. Come, then, daily and hourly to the pure fountain of light, fully resolved not to bend any passage of truth to a beloved system, but rather be determined to receive cordially and to practice promptly whatever is taught therein. Let it be forever banished from your mind that any doctrine is cold, dry, or speculative. Think not, that you have perfectly understood any portion of the holy Writings until it has been inwrought in your hearts, and has come to form a part of your moral constitution. In the holy life and preaching of our blessed Redeemer, we see this sentiment clearly and forcibly exemplified. Between his preaching and practice there was a beautiful harmony. His principles were the basis of his holy actions. What his life was, ours should be.

Dear brethren, suffer the word of exhortation from those who love you, and who live and labour for your religious prosperity. On your christian example, so far as instrumentality is concerned, hangs the salvation of many exceedingly precious souls. Imagine vast numbers passing rapidly down the stream of time, dropping one after another, into the burning lake of eternal misery. Reflect on the awful scene, until your hearts overflow with tender compassion for immortal souls. Bring yourselves up to the judgement seat of Christ, summoned with your children, your neighbours, and all those on earth over whom you ought to have exerted a holy influence. See the piercing eyes of the Judge detecting all your motives, and reminding you of the character of your affections; listen also to his voice, directing your attention to the numerous opportunities to do good, and as you will then wish you had acted, now act;—as you will then feel in reference to eternal things, feel now, so far as it is possible under present circumstances. Be assured, beloved brethren, that nothing short of living according to the scriptures, breathing their spirit during your intercourse with others, will produce on the minds of sinners serious impressions. The present state of the world calls for a holy church—a church remarkably elevated in relation to true piety. Light on the subject of religion has spread through many portions of our world for some years past, but it is

questionable whether the holy living of its professors has kept pace with their knowledge. Let, then, the blessed Book of God be exhibited in all its bearings, on the hearts and lives of those who profess attachment to it ; let it be carried into all the duties and usages of life ; let the church bow in all things to its supremacy, and then may we reasonably hope to see happier days, then may we confidently look for the renewing influences of divine grace—then will God appear again in Zion, to grant her a victory over all her foes.

It is scarcely necessary to add that if the Bible have the effect in reference to us which it is designed to produce, prayer, fervent, humble, persevering, must not be omitted. God's holy spirit is needed at all times and under all circumstances, that our duties may be acceptably performed. His spirit is received in answer to prayer. Such is the depth of moral evil in the human heart, that the plain precepts of scripture will not be sufficiently felt, unless the spirit abide in the heart. Those men, in all ages, who have drunken the most deeply from the fountain of the water of life, have been pre-eminently men of prayer. Remember, then, that though you use all other means to know the mind of God in His Word, neglecting prayer you will certainly fail. Knowledge, if it be not sanctified, will puff up ; and sanctified it cannot be, unless by prayer. Let this duty, therefore, begin and close all your attempts to study the scriptures. And may you always be able to adopt the language of the Psalmist, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Board of Foreign and Domestic Missions.

Rev. Edward Manning,	Rev. R. B. Dickie,
" Theodore S. Harding,	" C. Randall,
" William Chipman,	Abel Parker,
" David Harris,	Wm. Johnson,
" John Pryor,	James Mosher,
" I. E. Bill,	J. W. Nutting,
" William Burton,	William Cogswell,
" Edmund A. Crawley,	Walter Reid,
" C. Tupper,	Simon Fitch,
" J. Chase,	Dr. E. F. Harding,
" N. Vidito,	John Ferguson.
" S. T. Rand,	

Mayhew Beckwith, Esq., *Treasurer.*

Rev. William Chipman, *Secretary.*

Professor I. Chipman, *Assist. Secretary.*

J. W. Nutting, Esq. *Treasurer for Foreign Missions.*

Rev. E. A. Crawley, *Secretary for do. do.*

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Nova Scotia Sabbath School Union.

Rev. I. E. Bill, *President.*

" S. Robinson, } *Vice Presidents.*
 " W. Chipman, }

Rev. J. Stevens, Rev. J. Pryor, Rev. J. Chase, } *Committee.*
 T. Harding, Jun. J. Ferguson, Dr. Fitch, }

Professor I. Chipman, *Secretary.*

John Scott, *Depositary.*

Dr. *The Baptist Missionary Board in Account with Mayhew Beckwith, Treasurer.*

1846.			£	s.	d.
Aug. 13.	To paid postage on Letters,			0	1 4½
Sept. 1.	“ Rev. A. Stronach, 19 days,	£4 15 0			
	Received in aid,	2 13 2			
				2	1 10
Sept. 25.	“ Rev. I. E. Bill, as Delegate to N. B. Association,			1	0 0
“	“ Rev. I. E. Bill's expenses in meeting the Union,			1	10 0
“	“ “ J. Chase, “ “ “			1	10 0
“	“ “ N. Vidito, “ “ “			1	10 0
Oct. 17.	“ “ Wm. Hobbs, Eastern Shore and Margaret's Bay,	11 15 0			
	Received in aid,	2 16 10½			
				8	18 1½
Nov. 7.	“ “ D. Pineo, 6 weeks,	9 0 0			
	Received in aid,	4 0 0			
				5	0 0
Dec. 28.	“ “ J. Stubbert, 6 weeks,	9 0 0			
	Received in aid,	2 13 4½			
				6	6 7½
“ 29.	“ “ D. Harris, 2 weeks Hammond Plains,	3 0 0			
	Expenses,	0 5 11			
	Received in aid,	0 3 8			
				3	2 3
1847.				4	10 0
Feb. 16.	“ “ J. Millar, 3 weeks, Hammond Plains,				
March 17.	“ “ D. Harris, 8 weeks and 3 days,	12 15 0			
	Expenses,	0 19 3½			
	Received in aid,	5 1 11			
				8	12 4½
April 7.	“ “ J. E. Cogswell, 6 weeks, Economy, Five Islands, &c.,	9 0 0			
	Received in aid,	3 15 0			
June 20.	“ postage on 2 letters,	0 1 2			
				5	6 2
	“ S. T. Rand, per order,			6	6 0
	“ postage,			0	0 7
	“ “ Mr. Stevens, on acct. mission,			15	0 0
				70	15 4

The Baptist Missionary Board in account with Mayhew Beckwith, Treasurer. CR.

1846		£	s.	d.
Aug. 22.	By balance from last year's Minutes,	72	2	6½
1847				
	“ Received from Miss Cunningham,		0	2 6
	“ “ “ Rev. A. Stronach, 3rd Cornwallis en. sub'n,		2	0 0
			74	5 0½

Dr. N. S. Bapt. Domestic Mission Special Fund, in act. with M. Beckwith, Treas'r.

		£	s.	d.
1846.				
Oct. 28.	To paid Rev. H. Ross, 9 weeks, P. E. Island, £13 10 0	13	10	0
	Expenses,	0	17	0
	Received in aid,	2	15	0
	Amt. rec'd in June on act. miss.	5	0	0
			6	12 0
Nov. 21.	" " J. Shaw and M. Ross, mission,		16	10 0
Dec. 23.	" " Rev. C. Tupper, 6½ weeks. P. E. Island,			
	Expenses,	9	15	0
		0	10	5
	Received in aid,	4	14	11
1847.			5	10 6
March 17.	" J. W. Barss for Rev. G. Richardson's mission,		12	0 10
May 11.	" " W. Rideout's mission, J. Ferguson, balance on orders his favor, from Missionaries, from last account,		13	0 0
			7	5 3½
			131	13 11½
	To balance in hands of Treasurer,		4	3 2½
			135	17 2

Special Fund.

Cr.

		£	s.	d.
1847.				
Oct. 5.	By balance from last year's Minutes,	61	12	1½
	" do. from general fund,	74	5	0½
			135	17 2
	" balance in hands of Treasurer of last year's money,		4	3 2½

Dr. The Baptist Missionary Board in act. with Mayhew Beckwith Treasurer.

		£	s.	d.
1847.				
June.	To paid Rev. W. Jackson,		5	0 0
	" " Ebenezer Stronach, Messenger to N. B. Association,		7	10 0
	" " Martin Randall, 6 weeks, Long Isld.	9	0	0
	Expenses for detention, Montagon,	0	10	6
	Received in aid,	8	3	0
			1	7 6
	" " B. Taylor, 6 weeks Lunenburg,	9	0	0
	Received in aid,	1	3	0
			7	17 6
	" To Eds. C. M. printing Minutes,	20	0	0
	" Stitching, etc. do. 1600 copies,	2	10	0
			22	10 0
	" " T. S. Harding, for services,		4	17 6
	" W. Rideout, bal. miss. C. B. Isld.	13	0	0
	Sum allowed by Miss. Board, value in part for Mr. R's horse,	15	0	0
			28	0 0
	" " Wm. Burton, 4 weeks, Argyle, Barrington and Shelburne,	6	0	0
	Received in aid,	2	0	0
			4	0 0

Dr. *The Baptist Missionary Board in act. with Mayhew Beckwith, Treasurer.*

1847.	To printing 1600 copies Articles of Churches,	£	s.	d.
	Postages paid by Eds. C. M.	4	0	0
	1846—Oct.			
	1847—Jany. 5s. 5d. April, 4s. 11d.	0	6	11
	June, 4s. 5d.	0	14	9
	Rev. C. Tupper, bal. on mission to Advocate, &c., 4 weeks,	1	1	8
		1	5	0
		87	8	8
	To amount in hands of Treasurer,	83	16	2½
		171	4	10½

The Baptist Missionary Board in act. with Mayhew Beckwith Treasurer. Cr.

1847.		£	s.	d.
June.	By rec'd at the Association, £171 4 10½—the particulars of which will be arranged and published by Professor Chipman, General Agent for Union Societies.	171	4	10½

1847.		£	s.	d.
Oct. 5.	By balance from page 26,	4	3	2½
	“ do. as above,	83	16	2½
	“ Cash in hands of Treasurer this date from Special and General fund—	887	19	5