



MINUTES, &c.

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FRIDAY, SEP. 29th.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Eld. Robt. McNabb, from Mark 13. 34:—"For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch."

The list of Churches was called over; a majority being present, on motion of Eld. Geo. Fennell, appointed Eld. W. J. Finley Moderator, and Eld. G. W. Hufham was chosen Clerk.

Session opened with praise and prayer by Rev. Robert Tate.

Eld. Robt. McNabb was appointed assistant Clerk.

Appointed brethren Stephen Williams, E. D. Walker, D. Wells, Jas. Matthis, and Harmon Matthis a Committee of Arrangements.

Appointed John M. Fennell, E. C. Gavin, and F. B. Millard the Committee of Finance.

The Constitution and Rules of Decorum were read.

A general invitation was given by the Moderator to the delegates from sister Associations, and to visiting brethren, who were not otherwise members of the Association, to take seats with us, and to assist in our deliberations: Whereon Eld. Wm. Dupree, one of the Corresponding delegates from the Raleigh Association, presented us with testimonials of his appointment, and was most affectionately received. The Raleigh Association presented us a number of the Minutes of their last Association by their delegate.

Bro. Robt. Melvin appeared from our sister, the Cape Fear, who was most cordially received, and invited to assist us in the business of the session.

Eld. J. L. Warren appeared from the Neuse, who was most affectionately received, and invited to assist in our business.

Proceeded to read the Church Letters, the statistics of which may be found on a subsequent page.

The Circular Letter, written by Eld. Robt. McNabb, was handed in, read, and referred to a Committee, consisting of Elders G. Fennell, D. Rogers, G. W. Hufham, and brethren J. Matthis and J. M. Fennell.

Eld. R. McNabb handed in a report of his Itinerating services for last year, which was received, and ordered to be printed. See appendix.

Resolved, That the Letter of Correspondence to our sister Associations be the testimonial upon which our delegates may be received in their bodies:—also, that Eld. R. McNabb write the Letter, and that it be printed in our minutes.

Resolved, That Eld. R. McNabb be appointed a delegate to the Cape

Fear and Neuse Associations; Eld. Benajah Carrell, and brethren Henry Moore and F. B. Millard to the Raleigh; and that they receive one dollar per day during their attendance.

Adjourned until Saturday 10 o'clock.

Prayer by bro. R. Melvin.

SATURDAY MORNING.

Met according to previous adjournment.

Commenced business with prayer by Elder McNabb.

The proceedings of yesterday were read.

Resolved, That our next Association be held at Rowan M. H., Sampson County, commencing at the usual time, viz. on Friday before the first Sunday in October, 1838.

Resolved, That Eld. Wm. J. Finley preach the Sermon introductory to that meeting; and that Eld. G. W. Hufham be his alternate.

Resolved, That Eld. D. Rogers preach the first sermon on the stage.

Resolved, That Eld. G. W. Hufham write the Circular for our next Association, and choose his own subject.

Resolved, That the Clerk pay the Relief Fund to sister Wells, consort of Eld. Wm. Wells.

Resolved, That Elders G. Fennell and W. J. Finley, be appointed a Committee to report upon an Itinerary for next year.

Resolved, That the Clerk order 600 copies of the Minutes to be printed.

Resolved, That the Ministers of the Goshen Association be requested to itinerate *one month* each next year, amongst our churches.

Resolved, That Elders Finley and Hufham be appointed a Committee to prepare a report on the inexpediency of the Association's receiving Missionary Funds. See appendix.

Resolved, That the Churches for the future be requested, in sending letters to the Association, to give merely a brief statement of their standing.

Resolved, That, in view of the present sad declension of Religion, the Fridays before the first Sabbaths in May and September, be set apart as seasons of fasting and prayer, for a general revival of Religion throughout the world.

The Committee on the Itinerary for next year, reported unfavourable. The report was received and ordered to be printed. See appendix.

Whereas, The American Bible Society, by its managers, as appears from the recorded decisions of that body, on the 17th February, 1836, refused to grant any aid to Baptist translations of the sacred Scriptures in foreign Languages, unless conformed in the principle of their translation to the common English version.—This we view as a palpable violation of the spirit of compromise set forth in their Constitution, and an open departure from the resolutions passed at Salem, in April, 1833, in the following words:—

“*Resolved*, That the Board feel it to be their duty to adopt all prudent measures to give to the heathen the pure word of God in their own lan-

guage, and to furnish their missionaries with all the means in their power, to make their translations as exact a representation of the mind of the Holy Spirit, as may be possible."

"*Resolved*, That all the missionaries of the Board who are, or who shall be, engaged in translating the Scriptures, be instructed to endeavour, by earnest prayer and diligent study, to ascertain the exact meaning of the original text, and to express that meaning as exactly as the nature of the languages into which they shall translate the bible permit."

The Baptist Missionaries did precisely what we conceive they were required to do; and to have done otherwise would be doing the work of the Lord deceitfully, obscurely, and unjustly. This strong sectarian and unjust decision of the American Bible Society, in refusing aid to the translations of the sacred Scriptures in foreign languages, after they (the Baptists) had contributed more than forty-five thousand dollars, besides a large amount of donations by individuals, roused the Denomination generally throughout the United States, and at once led to the formation of another national Society, exclusively under the direction and control of the Baptists, and called the American and Foreign Bible Society. The object of this Society is to aid in the translation, printing, and circulation of the sacred Scriptures. And further, the said Society has requested the Denomination to make known their views on the propriety of its engaging in the work of home distribution, in the following words:—

"*Resolved*, That the Baptist Denomination in the United States be affectionately requested to send to the Society, at its annual meeting, during the last week in April, 1838, their views as to the duty of the Society to engage in the work of home distribution":—therefore,

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this Association, it is the duty of the American and Foreign Bible Society to engage in the work of *home* as well as *foreign* distribution.

The ministers appointed to preach on Sunday proceeded in the following order:—Wm. J. Finley, Job 13. 15.—G. W. Hufham, Jer. 4. 8, 9.—Robert McNabb, Ps. 8. 4.

The congregation was unusually large, and seemed to manifest a good feeling towards the close of the meeting. We pray that a blessing may follow.

Resolved, That the thanks of the Association be given to the people in this vicinity, for their unwearied kindness and hospitality to make us comfortable and happy during our session.

Association adjourned.—Praise and prayer by Eld. Robt. McNabb.

N. B.—The Association adjourned apparently in the most harmonious manner.

WILLIAM J. FINLEY, *Moderator*.

GEORGE W. HUFHAM, *Clerk*.

REPORT ON FINANCE.

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|---------------------------------|---|---|---|------|---------------|
| To balance on last year's fund, | - | - | - | \$45 | 52 |
| Contributions—Association fund, | - | - | - | 47 | 90 |
| Relief fund, | - | - | - | 5 | 83 |
| Itinerant fund, | - | - | - | 17 | 14 |
| | | | | | —————\$116 39 |

CONTRA.

| | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|------|--------------|
| By printing last year's minutes, | - | - | - | \$25 | 00 |
| Eld. R. McNabb for visiting the Cape Fear and Neuse Associations, | - | - | - | 14 | 00 |
| Clerk's services for last year, | - | - | - | 15 | 00 |
| Itinerant fund now paid, | - | - | - | 17 | 14 |
| Relief fund, do. | - | - | - | 5 | 83 |
| | | | | | —————\$76 97 |

This is the full amount now in the Treasury, - - - \$39 42

Note by the Clerk.—You will perceive that the funds are not sufficient to defray the expenses of the Association this year; therefore it is hoped they may be increased next.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The Goshen Association, to the Cape Fear, Raleigh, and Neuse Associations.

Dear Brethren,—

Through the goodness of God, we have been permitted to meet at this our annual meeting. We regret that we have nothing peculiarly interesting to write you. Our Churches, with a few exceptions, are living in peace; and although we have much reason to lament our coldness and indifference in matters of religion, yet there are some indications of better times, which justifies the hope that the time to favour Zion is not far distant.

A large majority of the members of the churches which compose our Association, and all or nearly all our ministers, are decidedly in favour of the objects patronized by the Baptist State Convention. We do not think it prudent to enter in our associated capacity, into those benevolent measures at present. Our reasons you will learn by reference to the report of the Committee on the unexpediency of the Association's receiving funds for foreign missions at this time. (See appendix.)

We had the pleasure of receiving delegates from our corresponding Associations, viz. bro. R. Melvin from the Cape Fear, Eld. Wm. Dupree from the Raleigh, and Eld. J. L. Warren from the Neuse. We have appointed Eld. R. McNabb to visit the Cape Fear and Neuse, and brethren F. B. Millard, H. Moore, and Eld. B. Carrell the Raleigh, at your next sessions. We trust you will continue to correspond with us; and we pray that you may enjoy the presence of the Great Head of the Church during your meetings, that sinners may be converted to God, and that the light of truth may continue to spread, until the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ.

STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

| COUNTIES AND CHURCHES. | DELEGATES. | Bap. | | Dis. | Exp. | Rest. | Excl. | Died. | Total | Asso. | | Itin. | | Relief fund. |
|------------------------------|---|--------|---|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----|-------|----|-----------------|
| | | Rec'd. | | | | | | | | \$ | c. | \$ | c. | |
| Duplin Co. | H. Moore, | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bear Marsh, | James Dickson, Benj. Oliver. | 3 | 2 | 6 | | | 2 | 3 | 133 | 4 | 00 | 1 | 00 | |
| Johnson's m h | T. Phillips, A. Best, R. Best. | 1 | 2 | | | | | | 67 | 1 | 50 | | | |
| Island Creek, | Richard Chason, Wm. Chason, | 1 | | 2 | | | | 1 | 50 | 1 | 50 | 1 | 50 | |
| B. Dam M.H. | Hiram Murray. W. Rich, J. Car- rell, Ed. Carrell. | 3 | | 6 | | 1 | 1 | | 41 | 1 | 75 | 2 | 75 | |
| Concord, | W. Stallings, John Williams, S. Williams. | 14 | | | | | | | 53 | 3 | 00 | | | 75 |
| Kenansville, | James Carrell, D. C. Moore, Steph. Herring. | | | | | | | | 7 | 2 | 50 | | | |
| Sampson Co. | Job Pearson, | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rowan M.H. | S. Peterson. | 2 | | | 3 | | 1 | 1 | 71 | 2 | 00 | | | |
| Beulah, | F. B. Millard, E. C. Gavin, R. McNabb. | | | | | | | | 17 | | 80 | | | |
| Brown's M.H. | Har. Stephens, A. Brown, Y. R. Royal. | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | | 50 | 1 | 50 | | | |
| New Hope, | D West, D Ches- nut, D. Rogers. | 2 | | 2 | | | | 1 | 42 | 2 | 10 | | | |
| Lisbon, | G. Fennell, Amos Herring, J. O. Anderson, | 1 | 2 | 3 | | | 1 | 2 | 89 | 4 | 00 | | | 1 00 |
| Red Hill, | J. Matthis, Har. Matthis, J. Van. | | | | | | | | 21 | 1 | 50 | 1 | 50 | |
| Pleas. Union, | Jos. Underwood, Jno. Underwood. | | | | | | | | 30 | 1 | 25 | | | |
| N. Hanover. | C. B. Corbett, | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lebanon, | O. Alderman, Jos. Stringfield. | | | | | | 2 | 3 | 41 | 2 | 00 | | | 1 00 |
| Well's Chapel | G. W. Hufham, Geo. Newton, J. M. Fennell. | 4 | 1 | 4 | | | 1 | | 108 | 3 | 75 | 1 | 64 | 1 33 |
| Riley's Creek, | D. George, Theo. Swinson, Thos. G. Sikes. | | | | | | | | 16 | 1 | 00 | | | |
| Wilmington, | J. J. Bryan, C. Ross. | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | 5 | 65 | 3 | 00 | | | |
| Bethlehem, | W. J. Finley, A. Larkins, S Lewis | 2 | | | | | 2 | 1 | 89 | 3 | 00 | | | |
| Mt. Holly, | W. Lamb, John Moore, H. Croom | 9 | | | | | 4 | 1 | 48 | 2 | 00 | | | |
| Moore's Cr., | E. D. Walker, D. Jones, I. M. Alderman. | 2 | | 5 | | | | | 135 | 4 | 00 | | | 1 00 |
| Marshal's m h | G. W. Marshall, Ezekiel Smith, John Marshall. | | | | | | | | 23 | 1 | 50 | | | 75 |

APPENDIX.

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ELD. ROBERT McNABB'S

Report on his last year's Itinerary.

Dear Brethren,—

Since our last meeting I have travelled two hundred and forty days ; two months of that time beyond the limits of this Association. I have travelled two thousand eight hundred miles, and received from the churches twenty-one dollars and five cents. I was providentially prevented from travelling nearly four months out of the twelve. Although I have done, to all human appearance, but little good, yet I have reason to believe that my labours have not been entirely in vain. I regret to say, much coldness and indifference is manifested by many who ought to feel concerned about the prosperity of Zion.

There are some who are waiting for the consolation of Israel ; and they have not prayed in vain ; for though we are not enjoying a special revival of religion, yet the incipient stages of better times begin to be witnessed and felt.

The advocates and supporters of the benevolent institutions of the day, are gradually increasing ; while the prejudices of those who were twelve months ago inflamed against all such objects, have lost their cavilling disposition, with few exceptions, which induced them to find so much fault. And such as have long occupied a neutral position, have increasing confidence in the purity of our motives. The leaders of the opposition party, are losing their influence among the well informed. And in short, we have no reason to fear, at present, those who have hitherto attempted to sow the seed of discord amongst our Churches, for they are on the eve of breathing their last. In fact they are dry like Gideon's wool. The Holy Spirit refuses to accompany the abusive lectures which they deliver from the pulpit, and call preaching ; hence they are dwindling away in this and all parts of the country.

I have no disposition to confine my labours to so small a circle, and consequently cannot accept of an itineracy within your bounds for the next year. Could the services of an efficient itinerant minister be secured, I have no doubt but what a further effort on that plan would be crowned with abundant success.

ROBERT McNABB.

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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

On the inexpediency of the Association's receiving funds for the Missionary cause.

Dear Brethren,—

Ever since this became an Association, a spirit of compromise has existed, in regard to the Missionary enterprise ; the exercise of which has crowned our deliberations, for the most part, with harmony. Those

for and against, generally, were willing that every individual should enjoy his own opinion on such matters, and act according to a sense of duty.— Therefore we do not feel willing ourselves, under existing circumstances, to disturb that principle which until latterly has kept us united in the bonds of peace and fellowship. And so long as the funds of these objects can do as much, and perhaps more, to promote the primary objects of Christian benevolence, and still retain the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace, on the plan which they now pursue, we do not see the propriety of bringing them into the Association. If introduced, it would lead to a division in several of the churches. Moreover, there is a good many pious and devoted Christians, who favour the objects of the Convention with their contributions, who perhaps would not, if they were carried against the wishes of the minority in the Association. There is a large and respectable Missionary Society, composed of all or nearly all of the ministers in the Association, and many of the most efficient lay brethren, who feel disposed to promote the object of Missions. Conducted as it is by experienced and good officers, we feel no hesitation in saying, that the Missionary enterprise will, for the present, prosper abundantly more where it is, than if brought into the Association.

WILLIAM J. FINLEY, *Chairman.*

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 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

On the Itineracy for next year.

Dear Brethren,—

Whereas, preaching on the above plan, as adopted at our last session, has been generally well received, and productive of much good in several of our churches:—Therefore, it is with extreme regret we cannot recommend to your body a continuance of the practice for lack of funds: the slenderness of contributions already made, giving no reason to hope, that, for the year now about commencing, an Itinerant minister would be sustained by our churches.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

GEORGE FENNELLS, *Chairman.*

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 CIRCULAR LETTER.

Dear Brethren,—

We take the liberty to invite your attention to the support of the Ministry. No doubt most of you are aware of your duty in regard to this matter, yet existing circumstances plainly indicate that it is not attended to as it should be: hence, the necessity of stirring up your pure minds by way of remembrance. The Scriptures are very plain on the subject. A few passages only, will be sufficient for our purpose. Our Saviour in the first place, hath told us the labourer is worthy of his hire.— Luke 10. 7. “And we beseech you brethren,” said the apostle Paul, “to

know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you, and esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake." 1 Thess. 5. 12, 13. "Let the Elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine."—"For the Scripture saith, thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, the labourer is worthy of his reward."—1 Tim. 5. 17, 18. "If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things? Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things, live of the things of the temple, and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? Even so hath the Lord ordained, that they which preach the gospel, should live of the gospel." 1 Cor. 9. 11—14. "Let him that is taught in the word, communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things." Gal. 6. 6.

These Scriptures are so explicit that they need no comment; they cannot be misunderstood. Ministers should be more generously supported than they have hitherto been, because of the sacrifices they have to make. Most of them have families, and of course are bound to support them.—They are under the same solemn obligations to do so that other men are. See 1 Tim. 5. 8. Now who among you could leave your homes and neglect your business, say one half of your time at least, and receive little or nothing for it—at any rate so little that you would scarcely feel it to be of any assistance to you—and yet provide for your families so as to make them comfortable, educate your children, and raise them up in a proper manner, to say nothing about laying up something for them which the apostle Paul speaks of, and which most people try to do? We know you would say at once, 'we could not do it.' How then can you expect your ministers to perform that which you could not possibly perform? Most, if not all, of our local preachers are just about in the situation above mentioned; and if any do not leave home so much, it is because they cannot possibly do it and keep their families together. It is apparent then, even if they are in easy circumstances, or wealthy, they cannot keep their affairs in proper order, and must be sinking as to their worldly concerns.—And if poor, extreme poverty, and even starvation must stare their companions and little ones in the face. Our churches are far more liberal in bestowing their bounties upon travelling preachers than upon those who labour among them in word and doctrine. Moreover there are pecuniary expenses to a very considerable amount, necessarily connected with, and attendant on, the business of travelling and preaching the gospel, of which you must be convinced, if you will only give the subject a moment's reflection.

In addition to this, it is required of preachers to be given of hospitality. How can they do this if they receive not the necessary aid? Some to be sure, whose hearts are enlarged, have given more for charitable and benevolent purposes than their duty to themselves and families would seem to justify, and have groaned silently under the pressure of this and other burdens.

But again, it is their business to "study to shew themselves approved unto God, workmen that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." All the time, therefore, in which they are not actually engaged in preaching and travelling to and from their places of worship, should be devoted to study, together with visiting the sick, the people of their charge, &c., instead of being occupied in hard labor or constant attention to secular affairs. The apostle Paul, you know, directed Timothy to "give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine." "Meditate upon these things," said he, "give thy self wholly to them, that thy profiting may appear unto all." Ministers should be superior as to knowledge. Though many have been useful without any high degree of literary attainment, yet none have been so without some portion of wisdom and knowledge. They should certainly have their minds enlarged and stored with useful knowledge; especially the Bible should be well studied by them, that they might be able to bring forth out of their treasure, things new and old. People are improving in every department of life. In the arts and sciences they are constantly and even rapidly progressing; knowledge is running to and fro,—and this is emphatically an age of improvement,—and shall those whom God hath placed as watchmen upon the walls of Zion, who watch for souls as they that must give an account, be tied down to earth, and have no chance to keep pace with the march of improvement, and thus make full proof of their ministry? Brethren,

'Tis not a cause of small import
The Pastor's care demands,
But what might fill an Angel's heart,
And fill the Saviour's hands.

The Apostles felt it to be their duty to give themselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word. Acts, 6. 2—4. Should not ministers be so aided now that they might pursue the same course? Most undoubtedly. You all admit that the preaching of the gospel is of Divine appointment, and that it is the bounden duty of those whom God hath called to the work, to be engaged therein. Well, brethren, from the proofs that have been adduced, is it not equally plain that it is the duty of Churches to support them? It cannot be denied. And have we any reason to expect God will bless and prosper our Churches while we continue to neglect this duty? Let us awake to a sense of our duty; and although we do not expect an entire reform in this matter, yet let us at all events so loose the hands of our pastors, that, if they cannot give themselves *wholly* to the work, they may have it in their power to read and study more, and consequently be prepared for greater usefulness.

And finally, brethren, as we are not our own, but are bought with a price, let us glorify God in our bodies and spirits which are his, and which is our reasonable service. A number of us grieved the Holy Spirit long before we took the yoke of the Redeemer upon us. We all have been too inactive since we made a profession; and our stay upon earth, in all proba-

bility, will be short. Therefore, "whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might, for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge nor wisdom in the grave whither thou goest." Let no one conclude that there is nothing for him to do. "For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants and to every man his work." Though saved by grace, and delivered from the curse of the law, yet it is our duty to show that we are under a law of love to Christ, by yielding obedience to his commands. We shall soon all have to give an account of the deeds done in the body. Have we the evidences of having passed from death unto life? What have we done to promote the honour and glory of Christ, who hath loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood? Brethren, we have been unprofitable servants. Do we feel as much grieved as we should, at the present sad declension of religion? And are we waiting and praying for the consolation of Israel, or are we at ease in Zion?

Although it may be considered rather a digression from the subject, we do not feel willing to close without reminding you of the destitute condition of many parts of the world, as to a preached gospel; even within the limits of our Association. In some of the churches they have preaching very seldom, and in many other parts of the State there is little or none; and the case is still worse in some of the newly settled States.—The poor heathen, more than six hundred millions of them, have no Bibles—are utterly destitute of the gospel—have never heard of *him* who came into the world to save sinners. In view of this lamentable fact, brethren, who would not help to send them the gospel, which in truth is the source of all our joys? Ministers are scarce, as you know, in this section of country, and should God, before our next meeting, remove some of them who now labour among us, where shall we find others ready and qualified to fill their places? The harvest is truly great, and the labourers are few; "pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send more labourers into his vineyard."

WILLIAM J. FINLEY, *Moderator.*

GEORGE W. HUFHAM, *Clerk.*

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Note by the Clerk.—About 44 members have seceded from Riley's Creek Church, because their pastor and some few other brethren, were in favor of the Missionary cause; and 1 from Moore's Creek church.—The Limestone church has entirely withdrawn from our Association.

Price for printing 25 dollars.
