

Extract from Minutes of the Western Baptist Association.

CALEDONIA, QUEEN'S COUNTY, June 14th, 1856.

THE Western Baptist Association of Nova Scotia convened this day in the Baptist Meeting House in Caledonia, Queen's Co., N. S., at 2 o'clock, P. M. In the absence of the Moderator of last year, the exercises were commenced by Rev. H. Angell. After singing, and prayer by Rev. C. Tupper, Rev. W. G. Parker was chosen Moderator, Rev. J. J. Skinner, Clerk, Brother Joseph Rogers, Treasurer, and Brother Wm. Churchill, Assistant Treasurer. The Constitution and rules of order were read. The following Committees were appointed:— To examine the Letters from the Churches,—Rev'ds. C. Tupper, Jas. Parker and G. Armstrong. To read the Letters,—Rev'ds. O. Chute, H. Angell and W. G. Goucher. The Letters from the Churches were then read, from which a list of Delegates and also the Statistics of the Churches were obtained.

STATISTICS OF THE CHURCHES.

Table with columns: CHURCHES, Baptized, By Letters, Restored, Dismissed, Excluded, Died, Total, Organized. Lists various churches like Annapolis and Upper Granville, Argyle, Brookfield, etc., with their respective statistics.

The following brethren were invited to sit with us:— Rev'ds. S. Richardson, J. Miller, O. Chute, H. Ross, J. E. Balcom, and Bro. More, Licentiate.

The following Committees were appointed:— Sabbath Services:—Elders. A. W. Barss, T. Delong, and Deacon Murray.

To report on questions in Letters:—Elders. C. Tupper, S. N. Bentley, T. Delong, and H. Angell.

On Temperance:—Elders N. Vidito, S. Richardson, George Armstrong, Brethren L. Leadbetter, S. Wheelock, and J. Rogers.

Religious Publications and Colportage:—Elders O. Chute, J. Reid, T. Delong, J. Ring, A. Martell, S. N. Bentley, J. Miller, and Bro. S. L. Chipman.

Sabbath Schools:—Elder W. G. Goucher, Brethren N. Corning, D. Troop, A. Morse, W. Freeman, E. Gates, and J. H. Saunders.

Bible Cause:—Elders G. Armstrong, N. Vidito, C. Tupper, W. H. Caldwell, R. S. Morton, H. Ross, S. N. Bentley, and Bro. Wm. Churchill.

To report on the best means of raising funds for Benevolent and Religious purposes:—Elders A. Martell, G. Armstrong, C. Randall, N. Vidito, A. Cogswell, J. Parker, O. Parker, Brethren J. Shaffner, L. D. Geldert, S. Kempton, and R. Harlow.

Sabbath Observance:—Elders J. Spencer, S. Richardson, P. F. Murray, Brethren J. More, Licentiate, Calvin Wyman, Matthew Park, and John Douglas.

To examine the Circular Letter:—Elders N. Vidito, W. H. Caldwell, C. Randall, and H. Ross.

On the use of Tobacco:—Elders N. Vidito, W. G. Goucher, A. Cogswell, O. Parker, J. Spencer, S. Richardson, Brethren J. Plumb, Licentiate, J. Douglass, N. Corning, and W. Starratt.

On the Claims of Seamen:—Brethren N. Corning, J. Rogers, Rev. A. W. Barss, Brethren J. Plumb, Licentiate, Wm. Churchill, and A. Snow.

The Committee on Sabbath Services reported as follows: Prayer Meeting at six A. M., in the Caledonia Meeting-house.

MORNING SERVICES.

Caledonia, Rev. C. Tupper. Brookfield, G. Armstrong. Kempt, A. Martell.

AFTERNOON.

Caledonia, Rev. C. Randall. Brookfield, S. N. Bentley. Kempt, J. Reid.

EVENING.

South Brookfield School-house, Rev. P. F. Murray. Pleasant River do., W. G. Parker. Maitland do., J. Spencer.

Report accepted. Adjourned until Monday, June 16th, 10 o'clock, A. M. Prayer by Bro. Ross.

MONDAY, 10 o'clock, A. M.

The Introductory Sermon was delivered by Rev. H. Angell, from Acts ix. 31. Prayer by Rev. J. Miller, after which a collection was taken up for the Domestic Mission.

Brethren S. Selden, H. Gardner, C. Mosher and W. Newcomb were invited to take seats with us. Resolved,—That Brethren Calvin Wyman and Whitman Freeman be the Auditing Committee.

The Committee to examine the Circular Letter reported. Report adopted. (See Appendix A.) The Circular Letter was read by the writer, Rev. S. N. Bentley.

Resolved,—That Rev. N. Vidito be requested to furnish a copy of the Circular Letter of last year for publication in the C. Messenger. The Report of the French Mission Board was read by the Secretary, Rev. W. G. Goucher. Addresses by Rev. A. Martell and O. Chute.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M. Prayer by Bro. Balcom.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Prayer by Bro. Delong.

Resolved,—That a Committee be appointed to report in reference to a different arrangement of our Associations, that Rev'ds. S. N. Bentley, N. Vidito, and Brother S. Selden be that Committee.

The Committee on Questions in Letters reported. Report adopted. (See Appendix B.)

The Treasurer of French Mission presented his report which was accepted.

Elders T. Delong C. Randall and O. Chute addressed the meeting on the subject of the Mission. Secretary's report adopted. (See Appendix C.)

The following resolution was brought before the meeting and passed unanimously.

Whereas, We have listened to the report of the French Mission Board, as well as interesting communications from the Missionary with peculiar interest,

Resolved,—That this Association hereby express its satisfaction with the past success, present circumstances and prospects of the French Mission, and most heartily commend the interests of the Mission to the prayerful consideration of our churches, and as an object peculiarly requiring their liberal contributions.

A collection was taken up in aid of the Mission.

Resolved,—That collections be taken up by the Churches composing this Association, on the first Sabbath in September in aid of the French Mission.

Resolved,—That the following Brethren constitute the French Mission Board for the ensuing year. Elders R. W. Cunningham, C. Randall, J. C. Morse, W. H. Caldwell, J. A. Stubbert, J. Reid, W. G. Goucher, A. Martell, P. F. Murray, H. Angell, Brethren S. Brown, S. T. Bacon, C. Sabean, H. E. Payson, A. M. Gidney, J. Shaw, L. Churchill, W. Raymond, J. Vickery, B. B. Moses, Jesse Shaw, W. Harris, J. Rogers, W. Churchill, A. Lent, A. Scott, R. Crosby, E. Heustes, C. Wyman, N. Corning, C. Pinkney, and Wm. Robins.

The Secretary of the Home Mission Board, (including Gaelic Mission) presented his report.

Addresses by Elders T. Delong, C. Tupper, H. Achilles, A. Martell, P. F. Murray, H. Ross, R. S. Morton, N. Vidito, S. N. Bentley and J. Spencer.

Report adopted. (See Appendix D. and E.)

Resolved,—That the Domestic Mission Board of last year be continued, with the addition of the following Brethren, H. Saunders, W. Robins, A. Lent, Esqrs., J. Rose, Wm. Churchill, A. Scott, Wm. Raymond, B. Moses, R. Crosby, 3rd, and J. H. Saunders, and that the locality of the Board be in Yarmouth.

Resolved,—That this Association instruct the D. M. Board to appropriate the same amount to the Gaelic Mission as last year.

Adjourned till 10 A. M., Tuesday, 15th.

Prayer by Bro. Ring.

TUESDAY, 10 o'clock, A. M.

Prayer by Bro. Richardson.

The Committee on Sabbath Observance reported. Addresses by Elders C. Tupper, T. Delong, J. Parker, and J. Reid.

Report adopted. (See Appendix F.) The Committee on Sabbath Schools reported. Addresses by Rev. J. Miller and S. Richardson.

Report adopted. (See Appendix G.) The following resolution passed unanimously.

Inasmuch as this Association is being held some time previous to the Summer vacation of Acadia College, by which circumstance we are not in possession of Educational reports of the Baptist Education Society, nor of the condition of the College and Academy, we are not in a position to make any statistical or full report on the subject of Education.

Resolved therefore,—That this Association do express their sympathy with the friends of Education in their laudable exertions in that important department, and recommend increased efforts in the cause of Education, particularly in connection with the rising Ministry and the Salaries of the Professors of Acadia College.

The Committee on a different arrangement of our Associations reported.

Addresses by Rev'ds. N. Vidito and Jas. Parker. Report adopted. (See Appendix H.)

Committee on Religious Publications and Colportage reported.

Addresses by Elders N. Vidito, C. Tupper, J. Spencer, H. Angell, S. N. Bentley, and Bro. Geldert.

Report adopted. (See Appendix I.) Committee on the best means of raising funds for Benevolent and Religious purposes reported.

Report adopted. (See Appendix J.) Resolved,—That Elders S. N. Bentley, Geo. Armstrong, N. Vidito and A. Martell, be a Committee to prepare and submit to the next Association, some plan by means of which increased benevolence among our churches would be secured.

Committee on the Bible Cause reported.

Addresses by Elders C. Tupper, N. Vidito, S. N. Bentley, Geo. Armstrong and A. Martell.

Adjourned till 3 P. M. Prayer by Bro. Randall.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Prayer by Bro. Armstrong.

Report on the Bible Cause adopted. (See Appendix K.) Resolved,—That the next meeting of the Western Baptist Association be held with the second Yarmouth Church. Also that Rev. G. Tupper preach the introductory sermon and Rev. R. Cunningham be his alternate.

Resolved,—That Rev. A. Martell write the Circular Letter.

Resolved,—That Rev. G. Armstrong be our Delegate to the Central Association and receive £1.

Resolved,—The Rev. C. Tupper be our Delegate to the Eastern Association and receive £2.

Resolved,—That Rev. W. G. Parker, A. Martell, N. Vidito, A. W. Barss, and Brother S. Wheelock, be Delegates to the Convention.

The Committee on the Claims of Seaman reported. Rev. A. W. Barss addressed the meeting.

Report adopted. (See Appendix L.) Rev. Geo. Armstrong read a report of a meeting held at Berwick, Cornwallis, on the subject of Female Education.

Addresses were delivered by Rev. N. Vidito and Rev. Jas. Parker.

Resolved,—That Rev. O. Chute be added to the Domestic Mission Board.

Resolved,—That the following statement be published in the Minutes of this Association:—

In regard to the Document relating to the establishment of a Female Seminary at Berwick, this Association avails itself of the opportunity to express the desirableness of immediately establishing a Female Seminary under the control of the Baptist Denomination; and also our readiness to aid in this object whenever a practicable plan of operation is presented. This Association, however, does not pledge itself to Berwick or any other site just now.

Resolved,—That 900 copies of Minutes be printed at the C. M. Office, and that £10 10s. be paid for that purpose.

Resolved,—That Brother Selden be requested to send the Minutes to the Churches by Mail.

Committee on Tobacco reported. Report adopted. (See Appendix M.)

The following resolutions passed unanimously:— Resolved,—That since the use of intoxicating liquors is ruinous in the extreme, it be strongly recommended to all the members of our churches, and the community at large, to endeavour by aiding Temperance organizations, by petitioning the Legislature for a Prohibitory Liquor Law, and by all other prudent and judicious means, to assist in the suppression of intemperance with all its numberless attendant evils.

Resolved also,—That a Committee be appointed to prepare a petition to be presented to the different branches of the Legislature on behalf of this Association, praying for the enactment of a law prohibiting the manufacture, importation, and sale of inebriating liquors, except such quantities as may be required for medicinal and artistical purposes, and that Rev'ds. W. G. Parker, C. Tupper, N. Vidito, and G. Armstrong, be that Committee.

Resolved,—That the thanks of this Association be presented to the people of Caledonia, Kempt, Brookfield, and Harmony, for their kindness to them and others during the present Session.

The Treasurer of the Infirm Ministers Fund presented his report, which was adopted.

Resolved,—That the same officers be continued.

Resolved,—That this Association adjourn to meet with the second Baptist Church in Yarmouth, on the second Saturday in June, 1857, at 2 o'clock, P. M.

The Session closed with singing and prayer.

W. G. PARKER, Moderator. J. J. SKINNER, Clerk.

APPENDIX.

(G.)

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your Committee on Sabbath Schools beg to report:

That they regard Sabbath Schools as ranking high amongst modern Institutions for the suppression of vice and promotion of truth and virtue.

We know of no means employed by the Christian church more capable of diffusing religious instruction and of so readily imparting to the young a knowledge of God's word, and in which the entire talent of the church can be so profitably and delightfully employed at so trifling expense as in the Sabbath School.

We are gratified to learn by the letters from the churches, read at the Association that this cause is commanding increasing attention amongst them.

Your committee would recommend the formation of County S. S. Conventions, that by concentration of effort and mutual encouragement we may carry forward this good work.

Respectfully submitted.

W. G. GOUCHER, Chairman.