

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The Hudson River Association, to the the Associations with which we Correspond.

BELOVED FATHERS AND BRETHREN,

WE rejoice in the intercourse of love that prevails among the children of the same parent, the subjects of the same King. The accounts you transmit of the dealings of the Lord Jesus, by your messengers, are truly pleasing; and we feel animated by the prospect of happy days of hope and joy for you on the earth, as the prelude of the high and supreme glory of Jerusalem.

You will in some sort know our state, by a reference to our minutes. The Lord has added to the churches some whom we rejoice in, as the excellent ones of the earth; though, in general, no special demonstration of divine power has been made throughout our borders. The Lord is sovereign, and it is our prayer that he should do all his pleasure, by adding to us only such as shall be saved. Experience and observation show, that the multiplying of mere professors has been the distraction of the house of God, and the disgrace of the name they bore. The church of Christ rejoices only in the truth, and fellowships them who love it, as the testimony of that grace which reigns through righteousness.

We have great reason to bless God, that we are at peace among ourselves. The exercise and exhibition of gospel charity, is the most influential argument for the reality of the religion of Jesus. With it, the practical effects of the name we bear, become the object of respect and fear to all; without it, the system of the New Testament is a mere speculation, stripped of that honorable characteristic which raises its importance and claims above the religions of the nations. Charity being the substance of true religion, the basis of all its other properties demands our constant cultivation, that the vital power of the whole fabric may be daily invigorated. Then Faith will embrace the whole truth without modification or exception—Hope will substantiate the realities of the upper temple—Patience will count manifold temptations the reason of joy—and Zeal will assume its power to discriminate, and Fortitude to defend, the truth once delivered and as delivered to the saints. Need we be reminded that in vain do we talk of individual transformation in the spirit of our mind, so long as collectively we are identified (in things not commanded) with the religion and ordinances of the world. It is essential to order, safety and success, that we take a side, and keep it without the meanness of courting the smile of a neutral or an enemy. Whether in doctrine or practice, the same decision must pervade our movements; for we may be assured the cause is not to be advanced, or our souls to be benefitted, by any thing which participates of the spirit of cowardly condescension. If our love and friendship one to another is bottomed on a regard to God's glory, pursued according to the rule of the Bible, it will be permanent and pure as the throne of the Eternal. If not founded in truth, it may appear close and for a time operative, but will at last vanish as vapour in the heat of experiment.

With earnest prayers to God, for the abundant gift of his spirit, to rest upon you and all the Israel of God, we remain your affectionate brethren in the Lord Jesus.

CHARLES G. SOMMERS, Clerk.

JOHN WILLIAMS, Moderator.

MINUTES

OF THE

HUDSON RIVER

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD IN THE

BAPTIST MEETING HOUSE,

IN THE

CITY OF HUDSON,

AUGUST 1st & 2d, 1821.

HUDSON:

PRINTED FOR THE ASSOCIATION.

BY J. W. DUTCHER.

1821.

**DR. RIPPON'S
ARRANGEMENT OF WATTS
AND
SUPPLEMENTAL SELECTION
OF
HYMNS.**

This work, containing under one cover Watts' Psalms and Hymns and Rippon's Selection, has now been printed in this country, and meets the most decided approbation of all who examine its character. Winchells arrangement and supplement are in imitation of Rippons plan, but inferior to the original.

The Selection contains almost as many hymns as are in all Watts, and for loftiness of devotion, correctness of theology, sweetness of expression, beauty of poetry, and variety of subject, is not equalled by any book of hymns extant. Though no christian would willingly give up Watts' delightful book, yet no christian finds it all he would wish it to be. Many subjects of liveliest interest at the present day—such as missions, &c. are scarcely touched, some important topics are entirely omitted; and many of his hymns can scarcely ever be sung in worship. Dr. RIPPON has supplied these deficiencies by his own exquisite poetic talent, and by selections of the best hymns in the English language. It is well known that Dr. R. was a Baptist, and on this subject his selection affords a competent number of very appropriate hymns—In fact the design of the author was to give hymns on subjects which Watts omitted or did not sufficiently treat. The mere fact of the abundant and perfect indexes of scripture and subjects, which the common editions of Watts do not contain, vastly enhances its value. We now possess, therefore, a complete Hymn book which will very soon be used almost wholly throughout the denomination. Its circulation in the English Baptist churches is very great and increasing.

These books, in one handsomely printed volume, and well bound, may be had for the low price of \$1 25 of

August, 1821.

HOWARD MALCOM, Hudson.

Minutes.

1. At 10 o'clock A. M. brother CHARLES G. SOMMERS, of Troy, preached the introductory sermon, from I. Thess. v. 23. 24: "*And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly: and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.*"

Took up a collection for poor widows of Baptist ministers, amounting to \$15 56.

2. Brother WILLIAMS took the chair, and on motion, *Resolved*, That JACOB H. BROUNER be Moderator, and HOWARD MALCOM Clerk.

3. Moderator prayed.

5. *Resolved*, That the ministers present, who are not delegates, be affectionately invited to a seat; on which the Rev. Mr. RICE of Washington, CHASE of Philadelphia, GRAHAM of Beaufort S. C. BALENTINE of New-York, and SMITH of Vandame-St. (N. Y.) took their seats.

Proceeded to read the letters from the churches; the following is their statistical account.

N. B. The names of Ministers are in CAPITALS—of Licentiates in *Italics*,—those of lay brethren not present are omitted.

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	Baptized	Rec'd by let.	Excluded.	Deceased.	Total.	
Poughkeepsie,	LEWIS LEONARD						
	<i>Daniel H. Barnes</i>	7	1	2	0	2	
	Dea. John Forbus Abraham Mills						
Oliver-Street, N. Y. late Fayette-Street,	JOHN WILLIAMS						
	DANIEL HALL						
	Dea. William Colegate						
	— John Withington	Rest. 1	21	13	10	6	9
	— John Cauldwell						
	James Wilson Ebenezer Rand William Butler						
<i>Carried forward,</i>		28	14	12	6	11	591

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	Baptized.	Rec'd by let.	Dis. by let.	Excluded.	Deceased.	Total.
	<i>Brought forward,</i>	28	14	12	6	11	598
Mulberry-St. N.Y.	ARCHIBALD MACLAY Dea. T. Stokes Wm. Winterton Stephen Hyde Thomas Powell W. T. Burlingham Henry C. Porter	10	2	15	11	4	407
Mount-Pleasant.	JACOB H BROUNER Daniel DeLanoy	0	0	1	2	0	68
Hudson,	HOWARD MALCOM <i>William Sturges</i> Dea. William Whiting — Samuel Gifford — John W. Dutcher Henry Anable William Vann George C. Morgan Jesse Storey Ira Peak Benjamin M. Hildreth Walker Noble John Norman Daniel Dunbar Simeon S. Hathaway	31	9	5	3	3	120
Troy.	CHARLES G. SOMMERS & Dea. Platt Titus — Thomas Skelding Asa Sheldon Lemuel Brintnat Henry Hoyle	7	7	21	6	4	258
Albany.	Friend Humphrey Joshua A. Burke Salem Dutcher	2	7	13	20	3	163
Catskill	REED BURRITT Dea. Hiland Hill George M. Kendall James Cole	25	2	0	0	0	87
King-Street							80
Newburgh*	WILLIAM PEARCE Dea. Thomas Herbert John A. Howard John M'Lugan						18
Albany African,*	NATHANIEL PAUL						12
		103	41	67	48	25	1804

* Added this session. Constituted in the village of Newburgh, May 16, 1821.

* Also added this session. Was constituted in Albany, July 24, 1821.

6. The Newburgh and Albany African churches presented letters, and solicited an union with this body—whereupon, *Resolved*, That Elders WILLIAMS, CHASE, SOMMERS and LEONARD be the committee to examine their faith and practice.

7. *Resolved*, That brother BABCOCK preach at 1-2 after 3 o'clock, and that we adjourn until the close of public worship.
Prayer by brother HALL.

5 o'clock.

8. Moderator resumed his seat. Bro. IRA CHASE prayed.

9. The Committee on the case of the church of Newburgh and the African church of Albany reported a recommendation that they be received into fellowship.

Resolved, That this report be accepted. The Moderator then gave their representatives the right hand of fellowship.

10 Communications from

CORRESPONDING ASSOCIATIONS.

ASSOCIATIONS.	Min-utes.	MESSENGERS.	No. of Ch's.	No. of Min.	No. of Bap.	Total
Warren	Min.	GANO	37	23	733	4544
Boston	Min.	—	31	24	233	3388
Hartford	Min.	BABCOCK and MARTIN,	28	22	87	2205
New-London	Min.	—	17	23	86	1970
Shaftsbury	Min.	{ OLMSTEAD, HALL, HUBBELL, BROWN and Mallory. }	25	21	173	3377
Lake George	Min.	—	6	3	46	407
Saratoga	Min.	—	25	25	265	3851
Rensselaerville	—	—	18	16	132	1759
Cayuga	Min.	—	38	18	283	3598
Franklin	—	—	22	16	20	2201
Warwick	Min.	—	15	11	178	1760
Madison	—	—	39	29	564	5001
Union	—	—	15	9	17	1049
New-Jersey	Min.	—	23	22	123	2225
Philadelphia	—	—	25	30	165	3038
Charleston	Min.	Inglesby	37	24	291	3900

11. *Resolved*, That we agree to the propositions of the Saratoga Association and Lake George Association to open a correspondence.

12. *Resolved*, That brethren Stokes, Burke and Colgate be a committee to examine the minutes of Corresponding Associations.

13. The Circular Letter, written by brother MALCOM, and the Corresponding Letter by brother BURRITT, were read and referred to WILLIAMS, HUBBELL, LEONARD, OLMSTEAD and Stokes, with their authors for revision.

14. *Resolved*, That in consequence of the request of the Hudson Church to have our assistance in ordaining *William Sturges* their licentiate, he be requested to preach before us to-morrow morning at 6 o'clock.

15. *Resolved*, That Dr. GANO of Providence be appointed to preach to-morrow evening at early candle light.
Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow.
Prayer by brother IRA CHASE.

In the evening according to appointment, brother BROUNER preached. The collection for the Education Society amounted to \$5 64.

Thursday Morning, 9 o'clock.

16. Association convened.

Prayer by brother RICE.

17. *Resolved*, That we now appoint Delegates to corresponding associations.

The following brethren were chosen, viz :

To the Philadelphia,	MALCOM and SOMMERS.
New-Jersey,	MALCOM.
Warren,	Cauldwell and LEONARD.
Boston,	LEONARD and Cauldwell.
Hartford,	LEONARD and MALCOM.
Harwick,	Howard, Herbert, and Sharp.
Madison,	HUBBELL and Mallory.
Shaftsbury,	SOMMERS, and Hoyle,
Franklin,	Burk,
Rensselaerville,	Humphrey and Burk.
Lake George,	SOMMERS.
Saratoga,	SOMMERS and Hoyle,

18. The committee on the Letters, reported that in their opinion the Corresponding Letter should be accepted ; but that the Circular, on Christian Marriages, it is not expedient to adopt.

After much deliberation,

Resolved, That the report be concurred in.

19. It was stated by that committee that the author of the Circular had a fragment of a letter, which, before writing the one which was presented, he had commenced and discarded yet unfinished—that he had, at their repeated solicitation, consented to offer it—that they had examined it, and recommended it to the acceptance of the Association.

Hereupon the piece was read.

20. *Resolved*, that the Letter be adopted, and that brethren SOMMERS, Colgate and Withington be, with the author, requested to review it.

21. The Corresponding Secretary presented a copy of the last report of the BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS: also a circular letter containing an interesting summary of their proceedings for the past year, which was read.

22. *Resolved*, That we receive with very great gratification the letter and report; and particularly the interesting additional information, imparted by their valued Agent, whose presence gives us much pleasure.

23. *Resolved*. That Deacon Withington be the Treasurer of the WIDOW'S FUND.

24. The collections advised by the Association were called for.

EDUCATION FUND.	
Hudson Church	\$5.
Mulberry St. do.	5.
DOMESTIC MISSIONS.	
Hudson Church	\$5 30
FOREIGN MISSIONS.	
No Monies.	

25. *Resolved*, That we recommend to the churches the laudable practice of taking collections at the Monthly Concert Prayer Meeting.

26. *Resolved*. That a circular letter be written, and addressed to all the regular Baptist Associations within this state, inviting them to express distinctly on their minutes, their deliberate opinion on the propriety of constituting a "General Convention of the State of New-York," to be composed of delegates from every Association in the state, which may be favourable to the measure; and that a committee be appointed to draft such a circular, expressing the objects to be gained by such Convention, and present it at the next Association.

27. *Resolved*, That brethren MALCOM, LEONARD and SOMMERS be that committee.

28. *Resolved*, That we earnestly recommend to all the members of the churches composing this body, to make *daily prayer* to GOD for the increase and success of Missionary operations and for the General Theological Institutions of our denomination.

Brother Leonard stated that a balance from the printing of last year's minutes remained in his hands:—Whereupon, *Resolved*, That it be added to the widow's fund, after deducting the bill of Postage due to him as Corresponding Secretary.

29. *Resolved*. That the ordination of brother Sturges be attended to this afternoon; that brother RICE preach the sermon at 4 o'clock—that Elders BALENTINE, RICE, OLMSTEAD, SMITH, LEONARD, BURRITT, SOMMERS, and MALCOM be a committee to ordain, if, on an examination of the candidate, they derive satisfaction.

30. The committee on the minutes of corresponding Associations made the following report, which was accepted :

"The Committee appointed to examine the minutes of Corresponding Associations report:—That in the 25th article of the New-Jersey Minutes taken from the Chemung minutes, the public are cautioned against Nehemiah H. Ripley, who, under the character of a Baptist minister, propagates the doctrine of universal salvation."

"In the examination of the minutes we have perceived, with grateful impressions, that a peculiar missionary spirit pervades and increases in the several associations. We believe it to be the fruit of that faith which is productive of good works, but recommend to ministers and officers of the churches, actively and perseveringly to exert themselves to give *such a direction* to this spirit as shall promise the greatest good."

31. *Resolved*, That brother LEONARD be appointed to open our next Association with a sermon, substitute brother MALCOM.

32. *Resolved*, That brother SOMMERS preach the sermon for the benefit of the Education Society, on the evening of that day.

33. *Resolved*, That brother BROUNER write the next Circular Letter and brother WILLIAMS the Corresponding.

34. *Resolved*, That the request of Oliver-st. Church, N. Y. (lately called Fayette-st.) be granted, and that the next Association be held in their church on the first Wednesday of August, 1822, at 10 o'clock A. M.

35. *Resolved*, That the Clerk attend to the printing and apportionment of the minutes.

36. Received the monies for minutes.

Adjourned till after service this afternoon.

Prayer by brother Leonard.

Brother RICE preached according to appointment. After service collected for the Convention \$10 60.

Brother WILLIAM STURGES was solemnly set apart to God's holy ministry. Ordaining prayer by Mr. SOMMERS, of Troy. Charge by Mr. VALENTINE, of N. Y. Right hand of fellowship by Mr. LEONARD, of Poughkeepsie. Concluding prayer by Mr. SMITH of N. Y.—Benediction by Mr. BURRITT, of Catskill.

Thursday aft. 1-2 after 6 o'clock.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by brother PAUL.

37. Minutes were read and corrected.

38. *Resolved*, That the minutes be approved.

39. Distributed minutes of sister associations.

Prayer by brother Colegate.

Adjourned.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The Hudson River Baptist Association met in the city of Hudson August 1st, A. D. 1821.

To the Constituent Churches.

WELL BELOVED IN THE LORD,

In consistence with our regular custom, we send down to you, not merely a numerical account of the present state of the churches, and their changes in the year past; but lay before you a subject, maturely to consider which, will be to your profit.

Urged by the superior magnitude of some leading doctrines of christianity and points of discipline, our letters for the most part discuss such topics. But as "in a great house, there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also wood and of earth," [II Tim. ii. 20.] so in the Church of God, there are subjects of various value and comprehensiveness. And, as in the great house, the wood and earthen vessels are most in use, so the church finds many points intrinsical of minor importance and narrower scope, recurring so frequently as to make highly important that they should be well understood. We therefore, at this time, adduce such a subject, the actions growing out of which are of almost daily recurrence:—viz. THE PROVIDING OF A FUND FOR THE ERECTING AND REPAIRS OF CHURCHES.

We are continually witnessing the embarrassment, under which churches are frequently organized, labour, by reason of the difficulty of erecting a house for worship. To enable these, immediately to proceed, we know of no easy method while in a state of infancy they must expect to be in a state of weakness. But with such a church a question of moment always occurs, in deciding which may render them some assistance:—viz. *Ought we to erect a convenient and ample house, for which we are able to pay part in only, or accommodate ourselves as usual as possible with such funds as we can now raise?*

In arriving at a conclusion, several things must be taken into account. If it is determined to go no farther than warranted by funds already had, two methods offer themselves: To build a small edifice and finish it properly; or a large one, and leave it unfinished. If a small well finished house be erected, the present congregation may, perhaps, be accommodated, but the possibility of increase is precluded. If, when some respite has been gained, it is resolved to enlarge it, the expense almost equal to the entire erection of an house of those increased

mensions is incurred, an ill shaped building is constructed; and, in the mean time, some other denomination has stepped in, and engrossed those who before could not be provided with seats.

But, on the other hand, should it be resolved with the same funds, to edify a spacious house, leaving it, for the present unfinished, the place will be wholly unworthy of its sacred designation, disreputable to the church, uncomfortable in winter, and above all, repulsive to the world, to attract, and accommodate whom, was a laudable motive of the builders.

On the whole, then, it seems most wise to erect and *complete* a house somewhat larger than at the time absolutely necessary, and supply the deficiency of money by loans on interest.* By this means the members coming into the church will have some part of the expense of the house to sustain; whereas, if the house had been wholly paid for by the builders, those received would have been altogether exempt. Their burden will, of course, be very cheerfully borne, seeing the advantage is wholly theirs, for their predecessors themselves not needing so large a place, for their sakes gave it its enlarged dimensions.

When longer established churches, determine to enlarge or rebuild their houses, there seems to be no good reason why *they* should experience the same difficulty. Especially there is no cause why their agents should be continually travelling from place to place, soliciting assistance, and spreading over the whole denomination the aspect of poverty and supplication.

We advise, then, that every church now possessed of a meeting house, and out of debt, or recently constituted and not intending immediately to build, do promptly institute a permanent revenue, and call it a BUILDING FUND. Few churches can be found, where, from the members, and those attached to them, fifty subscribers to such a fund, at one dollar per annum, might not be obtained. Let this sum be put *annually* in the hands of a committee appointed by the church, and called THE TRUSTEES OF THE BUILDING FUND. Let these invest it, and receive the interest every year, which, with the appropriation for the current year, shall also be put to interest. [In the performance of this plan the Savings Banks offer complete facility.] Suppose a meeting house to last 50 years, in which time it is computed that one whole generation of men passes away—the church would possess at the end of that period \$4989 77. This sum, added to what might be collected on the spur of the occasion with moderate exertion, would rebuild the house! In the course of this time, the generation which found the church already prepared for them, will have been gathered to the dead, and *without this plan would not have left one cent for its repairs or re-edification*. But, it is by no means the case that a church substantially built will last only 30 years, or even require in that time any very expensive repairs, for many are now standing whose age is beyond *one hundred years*. Calculating farther, therefore, we find that \$50 a

* We by no means wish to advocate churches *in general* incurring large and unnecessary debts. We advise it in the case in hand, because we conceive no better way. It must be sufficiently obvious that the whole scope of our epistle is to afford a plan by which debts may be avoided.

year, funded in the above manner, would, in 40 years amount to \$10,383 45—in 50 years to \$21,090 45—and in 60 years to \$42,239 58.

Some societies may be too large to be accommodated by a sum of this magnitude; but then, of course, it could procure a greater number of subscribers say only *one hundred*. By this scheme \$100 per annum, being double the sum would produce double the amount, that is, in 30 years, about, in round numbers \$10,000 00—and in 60 years about \$85,000 00—an enormous sum!

If it be said, that ours is a day of peculiar pressure on the christian public, and that we ought not to draw from the immediate grand objects of religious benevolence, for the purpose of laying up in store for posterity: we answer, our plan directly tends the other way. It is surely a much greater deduction from the present objects of importance to devote at once the whole sum necessary for the payment of a house which the next generation enjoys without expense; than to pay in part, and leave them their share to liquidate. And in all probability the time is coming when far greater struggles and sacrifices will be made by God's people to spread the gospel, so that by adopting the proposed plan, we shall render momentous service to Christ's cause at the very crisis when most needed! Besides we have plain scripture precedent in the case of Solomon's temple; for which David devoted immense sums of money. And unless this had been done Solomon had not seen the sacred dome arise with such magnificence.

It is of the highest consequence that every church should have a suitable meeting house, for without it, it is almost impossible to maintain a Pastor. As meeting houses multiply, the precarious, and to the minister, exceedingly repugnant method of raising a salary by subscription, very justly falls into disuse. Revenues are now much more advantageously derived from annual pew rents.

Thus, brethren, we have given some hints and calculations which we trust will at least lead you to the mature consideration of a subject of every day utility.—May each of you find the delightful fulfilment of God's gracious promise, with regard to his earthly sanctuaries "In all places where I record my name, I will come unto thee, and I will bless thee."

JACOB H. BROUNER, *Moderator.*

HOWARD MALCOM, *Clerk.*

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The Hudson River Baptist Association, to the several Associations with which they Correspond.

BELOVED FATHERS AND BRETHREN,

Having obtained help of God, we continue unto this day, and are permitted to enjoy another very agreeable Association. We have been refreshed with the coming of your Messengers, and with the pleasing accounts contained in your minutes, of your harmony, prosperity, and progress in the knowledge of our Lord