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2 Aug 1840

OF THE

## FIRST ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

## LIBERTY ASSOCIATION

OF

## UNITED BAPTISTS,

HELD AT

## MOUNT TABOR, BARREN COUNTY, KY.

ON THE

6ist of JULY; and 1st and 2d of AUGUST.

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ON FRIDAY AN INTRODUCTORY SERMON WAS DELIVERED BY

JAMES M. PENDLETON,

*From Matthew, 5th Chapter and 16th Verse;*

"Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in Heaven."

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A. R. MACKEY, GAZETTE OFFICE,  
BOWLING-GREEN, KY.

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## ASSOCIATION.

The Association met, praise and prayer by Elder Thos. Scrivner. Elder Jacob Lock was chosen Moderator, and Richard Garnett Clerk. Letters from the following churches were read and the names of their messengers enrolled, viz:

	<i>No. of Members.</i>
<i>Mount Tabor</i> —Jacob Lock, Andrew Chapman, and Fleming Short.	216
<i>Salem</i> —R. W. Garnett, Branch Hatcher, and Dan- iel Hatcher.	45
<i>Glasgow</i> —Henry Eubank, Rh. Garrett, and Wm. R. McFerran.	65
<i>Bowling-Green</i> —Jas. M. Pendleton, J. C. Wilkins, and John Burnam.	194
<i>Mt. Olive</i> —Robt. C. Blakey and Harrison Barner,	39
<i>Liberty</i> —Peyton Cooke, R. W. Thomas, and James M. Anderson.	16
<i>Three Springs</i> —Absalom Ford,	40
<i>Union Chapel</i> —Beverly B. Burge, Thos. J. Swiney and David T. Busby,	39
<hr/> <i>Total,</i>	654

This last church petitioned for admittance and was received.

On motion, invited visiting brethren to seats with us. Elder Edward Kingsford, agent of the American and Foreign Bible Society, and Elder Thomas Scrivner and James Wheeler accepted the invitation.

The Constitution, Articles of Faith, and Rules of Decorum prepared by the Convention of our delegates, in Glasgow, in June last, were read and unanimously adopted as the governing principles of this body.

Appointed J. M. Pendleton to write a circular letter and report it to-morrow.

Agreed to solicit a correspondence with the following Associations, viz: Barren River, Bethel, Russell's creek, Gasper and Goshen, and requested Brethren Wilkins, Cooke, Burnam, Eubank and Anderson, to prepare the necessary letters.

Appointed the Moderator and Clerk, with Bro. Cooke a committee to arrange the unfinished business of the Association, and report to-morrow.

Adjourned till half past 9 o'clock, to-morrow.

*Saturday Morning, August 1st.*

Met according to adjournment—praise and prayer by the Moderator. The committee of Arrangements reported and were discharged.

Corresponding letters were called for, read, approved, and messengers appointed to bear them, viz:

To Barren river, Wm. R. McFerran, H. Eubank, Jas. Lock, Richard Garnett and J. M. Pendleton.

To Bethel, J. M. Pendleton, John Burnam and J. C. Wilkins,

To Russell's creek, Wm. R. McFerran, H. Eubank and R. W. Thomas.

To Gasper, B. B. Burge, D. T. Busby, John Burnam, and R. C. Blakey.

To Goshen, James M. Anderson.

Agreed that the Association meet annually, on Saturday before the third Lord's day in August; and that its next session be held with the Salem Church, Barren county. The circular letter was called for, approved, and ordered to be printed with these minutes.

Appointed Bro. Jas. Lock to preach the next introductory sermon, J. M. Pendleton his alternate.

Appointed Bro. James M. Anderson to write the next circular letter.

Appointed Richard Garnett treasurer of this Association.

Appointed Brethren Kingsford, Scrivner and Pendleton to preach to-morrow—divine service to commence at 10 o'clock.

H. Eubank and W. R. McFerran were appointed a committee of Finance, who reported \$15 75 cents, which was paid to the Treasurer.

Agreed that 400 copies of these minutes be printed, and that Brethren Burnam and Wilkins superintend them.

The following resolutions were adopted:

*Resolved*, That the plans and objects of the American and Foreign Bible Society, as unfolded in its constitution and subsequent action, meet with our entire and cordial concurrence.

*Resolved*, That we deem it a duty and privilege to give to said society all the aid which pecuniary contributions,

prayers, and personal exertions can supply, to carry into effect their benevolent intentions.

**Resolved,** That we recommend to each of the churches composing this body, to hold a protracted meeting during the present associational year, and that the brethren in the ministry be requested to attend them.

Adjourned.      **JACOB LOCK, Moderator.**  
**RICHARD GARNETT, Clerk.**

[On Lord's Day, the ministers appointed preached to a very large audience, and at the close of the services a collection was taken up for the American and Foreign Bible Society, amounting to \$31 38 cents.]

**Dear Brethren:**—

We are much gratified to inform you that the first meeting of the Liberty Association has been characterized by a spirit of christian love and union. Our deliberations have been harmonious, and every important resolution has been passed with unanimity. We trust that we devoutly realize the import of the inspired exclamation, "Behold how good and pleasant a thing it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." May we ever enjoy this "unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." How different the proceedings of *this* Association from those of the *Green River* Association last year. *There* all was confusion and distraction. *Here* all is harmony and love.—*There* an effort was made to fetter our consciences in religious matters. *Here* we are permitted to serve God according to the requisitions of his word. We felicitate ourselves and congratulate you on the favorable change which has taken place. The causes of our secession from

the Green River Association are familiar to you. We need not repeat them. We will only say that the high estimate we place on religious liberty has led us to protest against ecclesiastical tyranny and flee from its power. You are aware, dear brethren, that many unkind remarks have been made in relation to us, because we have dared to act independently, and maintain rights which we deem sacred. A part of our anti-mission brethren have denounced us—they have misrepresented us—they have cast out our names as evil, considering us the offscouring of all things: but let us indulge no revengeful feeling. Let us return good for evil, blessing those who persecute us. We are the disciples of him who when he was reviled reviled not again, and who, when he suffered threatened not. May we ever bear with patience and meekness the injustice that is done us, “rejoicing in the testimony of our consciences that in simplicity and godly sincerity we have our conversation in the world.” Our time is too short and too valuable to be spent (even if it were allowable) in retaliating the injuries we receive. Every moment should be profitably employed. We have much to do. We are engaged in the work of the Lord. This work is to be carried on through the agency of the church. Look round you, brethren, and see many portions of your own country comparatively destitute of the preaching of the gospel, Surely such destitution calls aloud for *home mission* effort. Take also a survey of heathen lands, involved in superstition and idolatry—clad in robes of moral darkness—listen to the last command of the king of Zion, preach the gospel to every creature. Then you will see the importance and grandeur of the *Foreign Mission*

enterprise; and with your prayers and pecuniary contributions, aid in the prosecution of that enterprise. How little have we done for him who bowed his head in death for our redemption. Let shame mantle our cheeks, and let the love of Christ, in its sacred energy, constrain us to give not to ourselves, but to him who died for us and rose again. Let us be faithful unto death, which will be the period of our release from labor in the vineyard of the Lord. That period is not remote, and upon its arrival we will in rapture ascend to the right hand of God, to rest from the toils of earth and participate in the enjoyments of heaven. Animated by considerations like these, let us be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as we know that our labor is not in vain in the Lord. With brotherly affection, farewell.