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Am. Bapt. Hist. Society

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NORTH DISTRICT

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

AT ITS

TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING,

HELD AT

JERSEYVILLE, ILLINOIS,

SEPTEMBER, 6, 7 & 9, 1850.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE ASSOCIATION.

CARROLLTON:

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1850.

JERSEYVILLE, ILL., Friday, Sept. 6, 1850.

THE NORTH DISTRICT ASSOCIATION convened with the Baptist Church in JERSEYVILLE, at 11 o'clock, A. M. The introductory sermon was delivered by Joel Terry, of KANE, from Psalm, 126, 5.

2. The Association then adjourned to 2 o'clock, P. M. Prayer by E. Rodgers.

FRIDAY, 2 o'clock, P. M.

3. The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by I. D. Newell.

4. The letters from the Churches were read, reporting the following messengers and statistics:

CHURCHES AND CLERKS.	MINISTERS AND MESSENGERS.	Baptiz'd.	Restored.	Rec. by let.	Dismiss'd.	Excluded.	Died.	Pres't No.	Money for Minutes.
BETHEL,* <i>E. M. Pease.</i>	E. M. Pease, John Reddish, D. P. Pritchett.	2	1	2	2			32	1 05
BLUFFDALE, <i>D. Woolley</i>	No intelligence.								
CARROLTON, <i>J. O. Graves.</i>	J. N. TOLMAN, Heman Goodrich, Wm. Crane, W. Fales, James O. Graves, and Henry L. Graves.			2	1	2		61	2 00
DELAWARE, <i>A. Eastham</i>	WM. ROBERTS, Chauncy Lee, Lewis T. Love.			5	1			37	1 06
JERSEYVILLE, <i>J. C. Graham</i>	JUSTUS BULKLEY, J. E. Cooper, J. K. Stelle, Jas. C. Graham, Joel Corey, Orrin Chaffe, A. Hill.	41	3	7	5		2	111	2 00
KANE, <i>M. Bowman</i>	JOEL TERRY, WM. HILL, J. C. Bower, N. M. Perry, Wm. B. Hill.			4	5	2	2	107	2 56
LOFTON'S PRA'IE,* <i>Jno. W. Utt.</i>	Jasper Terry, Jas. Bentley, J. A. Campbell, Jno. W. Utt, Jacob Utt.	12		11		6		55	1 50
MT. GILEAD,* <i>R. H. Scroggins.</i>	Moses Under- wood.			4		3	1	30	1 00
TAYLOR'S CREEK,	No intelligence.								
WHITEHALL,	No intelligence.								
		55	3	35	14	13	5	433	11 05

*Supplied with preaching part of the time,
though destitute of settled Pastors.

5. J. E. Cooper, was elected Moderator, J. N. Tolman, Clerk, and David Pierson, Treasurer.

6. Corresponding members and visiting brethren were invited to a seat with us. The invitation was responded to as follows:

From *Edwardsville Association*—Washington Leverett, Warren Leverett, E. Rodgers, E. Adkins, W. H. Briggs, Z. B. Lawson, W. D. H. Johnson, Geo. I. Newell.
 “ *Springfield Association*—E. G. Miner.
 “ *Ill. River* “ O. L. Barler.
 “ *South District* “ D. L. Phillips, D. M. Howell.
 “ *Apple Creek* “ John Brown.
Shurtleff College, I. D. Newell, Agent.
Am. Bap. H. Mis. Soc., D. L. Phillips, “
Bap. Pub. Society, W. H. Briggs, “
 H. T. Chilton, late of Virginia.

7. A circular calling for a convention of Baptists, to be held at Bethel, in October next, was read, and on motion, laid on the table, to be taken up at the pleasure of the Association.

8. The Moderator announced the following Committees:

On Religious Exercises—Graham, Stell, and Pritchett.
 “ *Amer. Bap. Mis. Union*—J. Terry, J. Bower, Warren Leverett, John Brown.
 “ *Amer. & For. Bible Soc.*—W. D. H. Johnson, J. N. Tolman, E. G. Miner, Washington Leverett.
 “ *Amer. Bap. Home Mis. Soc.*—I. D. Newell, Wm. Roberts, and N. M. Perry.
 “ *Publications*—W. H. Briggs, W. Fales, J. K. Stell.
 “ *Sabbath Schools*—Wm. Hill, Wm. Roberts, O. L. Barler, H. T. Chilton.
 “ *Next Session of the Association*—Wm. B. Hill, James C. Graham, J. Utt.

9. On motion, a Special Committee was raised on the destitution of ministerial labor within the bounds of this Association. Bulkley, Hill, and Terry, Committee.

10. On motion of J. Terry, a Special Committee was raised to inquire into the claims the Amer. Bible Union may have upon us for our support. Committee—Terry, Adkins, Bulkley, and Rodgers:

11. On motion of J. Bulkley, a resolution was offered to amend the Constitution, by striking out the word Friday, in Art. 8, and inserting Wednesday. *Lost.*

12. Messengers were appointed to Corresponding Associations, as follows:

To *Edwardsville Association*—Terry, Cooper, Bulkley, Roberts, Hill, Lee.
 “ *Springfield* “ Wm. B. Hill, N. M. Perry.
 “ *South District* “ Tolman, J. W. Utt.
 “ *Quincy* “ Bulkley, A. Hill, Graves.
 “ *General Association*, - - Terry, Tolman, Bulkley, Utt, Wm. Hill, Wm. B. Hill.

13. On motion, adjourned to 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Prayer by W. H. Briggs.

SATURDAY, Sept. 7, 9 o'clock, A. M.

14. The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by J. Bower.

15. The Circular calling for a Convention at Bethel, was taken up, and on motion, referred to a Committee, consisting of E. Rodgers, J. Terry, and D. L. Phillips.

16. The Committee on Publications made the following REPORT:

Your Committee on Publications would submit the following Resolution:

Resolved, That we regard the Amer. Bap. Publication Society, with its colporteur system, and the character of its books, as a very important auxiliary to Home, and Foreign, missions, to the circulation of the Bible, and the ultimate triumph of evangelical truth in all lands. And we earnestly recommend this Society to the prayers, contributions, and patronage of all who love our Lord Jesus Christ.

Adopted.

WM. H. BRIGGS, Chairman.

17. Committee to whom was referred the Circular, calling for a Convention at Bethel, made the following

REPORT:

Resolved, That Joel Terry, Wm. Roberts, Wm. Hill, J. Bulkley, and David Pierson, be appointed delegates to the missionary mass meeting, to be held at Bethel, St. Clair county, Oct. 25, 1850, and that they be instructed to participate in no scheme having in view the formation of an organization independent of the General Association of Baptists in this State.

Adopted.

E. RODGERS, Chairman.

18. Committee on the Amer. Bap. Miss. Union, made the following

REPORT:

The reports from the various missions under the care of the *Union* show plainly that the favor of God has rested on them during the past year. Many souls among the heathen have been brought to a knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus.

There are now connected with the Union 141 churches. The additions by baptism during the past year, are 1237. The whole present number of members is about 12,000.

The success attending this great enterprise from year to year, claims our devout gratitude to the God of Missions, and calls upon us for more implicit faith, in His predictions and promises—more earnest prayer and more liberal contributions for its promotion.

God has signally blessed our missionary operations; yet, the world is still perishing. The heathen are calling for the bread of Life. The political and commercial changes among the nations, are rapidly aiding to prepare the way for the introduction of the Gospel. Doors of usefulness, wide and effectual are opened, and are opening on every hand, We believe our

churches have means enough to meet every emergency. Hence, your committee recommend the following Resolutions :

Resolved, That this Association approves of the late determination of the Amer. Bap. Miss. Union, to endeavor to increase the Treasury for the present year, by at least \$20,000, and that we will continue our sympathies, prayers and contributions, for the promotion of its missions.

Resolved, That we recommend as valuable sources of missionary intelligence, "The Missionary Magazine" and the "Macedonian." Respectfully submitted,

Adopted.

J. TERRY, Chairman.

19. The Committee on Shurtleff College and Education, made the following

REPORT :

In the Divine arrangement for publishing the plan of Salvation to our fallen race, the living ministry is made prominent. Whatever consolation or instruction we may draw from the lively oracles of God, "the effectual proclamation of the truth demands the voice and visibility of the heralds of the Cross. It pleases God by the foolishness of preaching to save those that believe. The first, the indispensable qualification, for the minister of Christ, is devout piety and devotional zeal for the high object of his calling—a profound experimental acquaintance with the transforming power of that Gospel which he stands to proclaim. We are of the opinion that sanctified learning is also necessary to the full efficiency of the ministry. The vigor of cultivated mind, can be employed to enforce the denunciations of wrath against sin, or to commend the message of mercy to the penitent and believing.

There can be no question then of the importance in the ministry, of an extensive, thorough course of intellectual discipline. To confer this discipline, is the object of Collegiate Education. This object presents high motives to our ecclesiastic organizations, to found and sustain, by prayer and contributions, Institutions of learning, trusting that God will make them fountains of sanctified influence, to invigorate the church and bless the world.

With this view, Shurtleff College was founded by the Baptists of Illinois, and has long shared in their prayers and contributions; and to her must they still look with the earnest hope that an annual class of ministers will soon be supplied, to their destination.

The patronage of the institution is increasing. The number of students during the last year was greater than in any former year—and the fact that there are *now* regular classes in the Institution, and that it is the purpose of the Faculty, authorized by the Board, to follow the regular course of study, may encourage the friends to expect soon that the College will graduate a class every year.

Your Committee recommend the following Resolutions :

Resolved, That the recent action of the Board in appointing

a committee to secure a President, is calculated to increase confidence in the institution.

Resolved, That the interests of the Institution must suffer greatly if there be delay in effecting this object of the committee, till funds be secured to sustain a President.

Resolved, That we will contribute our reasonable proportion to sustain so desirable an acquisition to the Faculty.

Resolved, That the Ill. Bap. Ed. Society, is an indispensable auxiliary to our plan of Ministerial Education, and with the prayers of the churches, demands their utmost pecuniary aid.

Adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

D. L. PHILLIPS, Chairman.

20. On motion, the Association adjourned to 2 o'clock, P. M. Prayer by Wm. Hill.

SATURDAY, Sept. 7, 2 o'clock, P. M.

21. The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by E. Adkins.

22. Brethren E. J. Palmer, D. Pierson, and A. Hubbard being present, were invited to a seat with us, and to participate in our deliberations.

23. Committee on Destitution of ministerial labor within the bounds of this Association, submitted the following

REPORT:

Few Associations with which we are acquainted in the State, present a field so woefully destitute of the living ministry, as the North District Association.

Three churches only, are supplied every Sabbath with the preaching of the Gospel; others have a partial supply. The effect of this destitution is every where visible; churches once flourishing, are now extinct.

Feeble bands of worthy brethren and sisters, are now struggling against well organized and powerful opposition, and are hardly able to retain their visible organization. Vast multitudes of the impenitent are perishing within our own borders. At Whitehall, one of the best meeting-houses in the Association, is entirely unoccupied by Baptists; and many other points of importance have no Baptist preaching. The Association has diminished within a few years, from ten churches, to seven; and in the number of its members, it has diminished about one-third.

This diminution has taken place while a population vastly more dense, has settled on the broad bosom of our Western prairies.

While our souls bleed over the condition of the degraded and lost millions in heathen lands, and we would not diminish our contributions for Foreign missions, ought we not greatly to increase our efforts at home? Can we see the thousands within our own bounds perishing, and make no effort to save them?

In view of the above, we present the following Resolutions:

Resolved, That the perishing within our own bounds have peculiar claims upon our prayers and contributions.

Resolved, That an Executive Board of three be appointed to correspond with the churches—obtain pledges—procure, if practicable, an itinerant preacher—solicit aid, if necessary, from the Home Mission Society for his support, and exercise a general supervision over his labors.

Resolved, That messengers present be now requested to give pledges to this object. Respectfully submitted,

Adopted. J. BULKLEY, Chairman.

The Moderator appointed as the Executive Board, called for in the second Resolution:

J. BULKLEY, of Jerseyville;
J. N. TOLMAN, of Carrollton;
JOEL TERRY, of Kane.

24. Committee on Sabbath Schools, made the following

REPORT:

Your Committee consider Sabbath Schools of the greatest importance, having witnessed their beneficial effects for more than a score of years.

We have known instances of children, by constant and persevering attendance, being taught like Timothy, to know the Scriptures from their youth; who have, also, acquired a useful education. Your Committee believe that Sabbath Schools are great aids in the observance of the Lord's day—as they mark out employment for every man, woman and child, during that Holy day. Therefore,

Resolved, That as an Association, we recommend Sabbath Schools to the earnest attention of all our members and churches. Adopted.

WM. HILL, Chairman.

25. The Committee on Am. Bap. Home Mission Society, made the following

REPORT:

“The object of this Society is to promote the preaching of the gospel in North America. To accomplish this object it has employed during the past year 118 agents and missionaries, who have labored in 17 States, Territories, and Provinces. The number of stations supplied is 338, and the aggregate amount of time bestowed on the stations is equal to that of one man for 80 years.

The missionaries report 949 baptisms. Since the formation of the Society 1432 ministers of the gospel have received its Commission, who have jointly performed 1231 years of labor—baptized 18,279; organized 706 churches; ordained 342 ministers.”

These facts call for the confidence and patronage of the whole denomination in the operations of the Home Mission Society.

Adopted. WILLIAM ROBERTS, Ch'n.

26. Committee appointed last year to settle with E. Dodson, late itinerant preacher, in this Association made the following

REPORT:

Your Committee appointed last year to settle with Eld. Dodson, our late domestic missionary, would report, that they have performed that duty, and find that there still remains due Bro.

Dodson §6 13, and recommend that a collection be taken to pay the same. D. PIERSON, Ch'n.

The report was adopted, and the sum named raised, and paid over to I. D. Newell for the College, as per Elder Dodson's request.

27. Committee on next session reported recommending the next session to be held with Lofton's Prairie Church. J. Bulkley to preach the introductory sermon. H. T. Chilton alternate. Adopted.

28. Treasurer made his report which was accepted.

29. Committee on the Am., and for Bible Society, made the following

REPORT :

Your Committee would report while we repose entire confidence in the wisdom, integrity, and efficiency of the Society to accomplish the object of its organization, viz : "The wider circulation of the Holy Scriptures in *all lands*," and recommend it to the continued pstronage of our brethren and the churches, we should regret a continuance of the restrictive policy which was adopted at its last annual meeting in reference to the Bible in the English language.

We love the motto of that Society "THE BIBLE TRANSLATED," and the principles set forth in the preamble, "That the originals in the Hebrew and Greek are the only authentic standards of the Sacred Scriptures," and we believe it to be the duty of the American and Foreign Bible Society to give to the world the most faithful version of the Holy Scriptures which can be procured.

Respectfully submitted,

W. D. H. JOHNSON, Ch'n.

After some discussion the above report was, on motion, laid on the table till after the report of Committee on the Bible Union should be presented.

30. Committee on American Bible Union made the following

REPORT :

Whereas the mind and will of God as conveyed in the inspired originals of the Old and the New Testament are the only infallible standards of faith and practice, and therefore it is of unspeakable importance that the Sacred Scriptures should be faithfully and accurately translated into every living language ; and whereas, a Bible Society is bound, by imperative duty, to employ all the means in its power to insure that the books which it circulates as the revealed will of God to man, should be as free from errors, and absurdities as possible ; and whereas, in the opinion of this Committee, the American and Foreign Bible Society—at its last anniversary—by the adoption of the following resolutions, viz :

"Resolved, That this Society in the issues of the English Scriptures be restricted to the commonly received version without note or comment;" and "That it is not the province and duty of the American and Foreign Bible Society, to attempt on their own part, or to procure from others, a revision of the com-

monly received English version of the Sacred Scriptures," did impose an unnecessary restriction upon its operations, and entirely preclude the possibility of obtaining a corrected version in English from that Society; and whereas all lovers of the Bible and followers of Christ—who speak the English language—owe it to themselves, to the cause of entire truth, to the spiritual interests of the race, and are under most solemn obligation to the Redeemer to procure as soon as practicable a full and faithful translation of the entire Scriptures into the English language, and that in order to attain a result so desirable it is of vast importance that ample time should be given, extensive means provided, and the most distinguished scholars of all lands enlisted; and whereas the American and Foreign Bible Society has abandoned the great distinguishing principle of its organization, and the American Bible Union is the only Society based upon the broad principle of giving the Bible faithfully translated to all the world; therefore,

Resolved, That the American Bible Union is worthy of our sympathies, prayers, and unwavering support.

J. BULKLEY, Ch'n.

¶ 31. Upon the reading of the above report the Association adjourned to half-past seven o'clock this evening. Prayer by I. D. Newell.

SATURDAY, Sept. 7, half past 7, P. M.

32. Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by H. T. Chilton.

33. The Report on the Amer. Bible Union being before the Association, at the hour of adjournment, the consideration of the Report was resumed.

34. On motion of J. Bulkley, it was resolved that when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at 8 o'clock, A. M., on Monday.

35. Pending discussion, on the Bible Union Report, the Association adjourned. Prayer by J. Bower.

MONDAY, Sept. 9, 8 o'clock, A. M.

26. The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by D. L. Phillips.

37. Report on the Bible Union under consideration, after several hours discussion, the Report was, on motion, laid on the table till next year.

38. The following Resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That we believe the Scriptures inculcate the practice of *weekly* contributions for objects of Christian benevolence; we, therefore, recommend that the Churches of this Association, adopt such system as shall secure regular weekly appropriations from all their members, "according as the Lord has prospered them," for those institutions of our denomination having in view the spread of the Gospel, and the good of souls.

Resolved, That we recommend to the members of the churches the works of the American Tract Society, on systematic benevolence.

39. The following Resolution was presented with a motion

to lay the same on the table until the next annual meeting. Motion carried.

WHEREAS, The North District Association from the commencement of its existence, until within a few years was denominated, "Friends to Humanity," and was known as taking high anti-slavery grounds, expressing decided opposition to the system of American slavery; and, whereas, the impression has been entertained that the Association has receded from a position formerly declared. Therefore,

Resolved, That this Association has no sympathy for, nor fellowship with, American slavery.

40. On motion, the Clerk was requested to write a Corresponding Letter, to be inserted in the minutes.

41. On motion, the thanks of the Association were tendered to the Brethren and friends in Jerseyville, and vicinity, for their hospitality to the members of this body during its sitting.

42. The Clerk and Treasurer were appointed to attend to the printing and distribution of the minutes.

43. After prayer by J. N. Tolman, the Association joined in singing,

"Blest be the tie that binds,"

During which the parting hand was given. The Association adjourned to meet with the Lofton's Prairie Church, on Friday, before the second Sabbath in September, 1851.

J. E. COOPER, Moderator.

J. N. TOLMAN, Clerk, and }
Corresponding Sec'y, } Carrollton, Ill.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The North District Association to Corresponding Bodies:

DEAR BRETHREN—We have been cheered, comforted and strengthened, by the friendly participation of your messengers, with us in our deliberations.

We heartily desire a continuance of these tokens of fraternal feeling, believing that mutual benefit will be the result. Some of our ministers find it *impracticable* to be present at the meeting of Corresponding Bodies, as much as they would like, on account of the occurrence of their anniversaries so near the last of the week, as to detain them from their churches and fields of labor, on the Sabbath. Would it not be well to remove this difficulty by appointing our Associational meetings earlier in the week? This would, also, remove the temptation, placed before many, to violate the sanctity of the Lord's Day, by traveling from the place of meeting, to their homes, as is frequently done, after the first service on the Sabbath. Surely, if our ministers and messengers of Associations, do not properly regard the day of the Lord, there is an end of enforcing its observance upon the mass of the people.

Our session, just closed, has been one of more than ordinary interest. The epistles from the churches tell of increased sympathy for the benevolent objects of our denomination, and their contributions demonstrate that this is really the case.

Being a feeble body and in rather a declining state, and finding great destitution of faithful preaching within our own bounds, we feel called upon, first, to try to supply, as far as practicable, our own churches and neighborhoods, with the ministry of the Word.

The destitution of ministers, in our whole region, calls upon all Christians to pray the Lord of the harvest, to raise up in our *very midst*, young men who shall be made extensively useful in the Gospel Ministry.

Revivals have been enjoyed in some of our churches during the past year, and our number has been somewhat increased. We hope and pray for additional tokens of like favor from the Head of the Church, that this small body may become large and influential, and mighty, through God, to the pulling down of the strong holds of sin.

Our next session will be held with the Lofton's Prairie Church, six miles South of Jerseyville, on Friday, before the 2nd Sabbath in September, 1851. We hope there to greet many of our brethren in the ministry, and others, who love to labor for Zion's prosperity.

May the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all—Farewell.

