

MINUTES of the Salem Association of BAPTISTS, held at Otter Creek Meeting House, in Harden County, on the second Friday and Saturday, in October, being the 11th and 12th of the said month,

1st. The Introductory Sermon was preached by brother Walter Stallard, from the 12th chapter of the Epistle of Paul, the Apostle, to the Hebrews—14th verse,—"Follow Peace with all men, and Holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord."

2d. Received Letters and Messengers from the following Churches,—to wit:

KENTUCKY BAPTIST CHURCHES. HIS ORIGINAL LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY	MESSENGERS.									
	apptd.	by l.	rec. a. b. r.	exam. l.	restor. ed.	Heads.	recd by rels.	with.		
Cedar Creek,	Josh. Morris, W. Abel, Dal' Farce, Jas Rogers	12	3	7	2					100
Cox's Creek,	Moses Pierson, Isaac Taylor, James Craig.	47	11	1	3	3	2			195
Simpson's Creek,	Walt. Stallard, Wm. Davis, S. M. Kay, D. Lewis	35	5	5	1	5				224
Mill Creek,	Thos. Hubbard, Wm. Kendrick, sen. Samuel Summers, T. Lillison.	68	6	1	1	1	1			4.
Mount Moriah,	Jos. Brown, Isaac Irvine, John Brown.	27	4	0	1	5				101
Wilson's Creek,	Daniel Walker, Sam'l Abell, Benj. Irvine.	12	1	3		5				59
Bethel, B. C.	James H. L. Moreman.									48
Rock Creek.	Benj. Owens,	5		1	1		1			41
Rolling Fork.	Sam'l Miller, James Edelin, Thos. Devers.	4								11
Seyern's Valley,	Sam'l Holmes, Wm. Quinn, S. Philips.	1	5	0	2					30
Nolin,	Alex. M. Dugal, Caleb Carman, Henry Coutts.	1	7	5						71
Beaver Dam Creek,	Philip Dale, Owen Willis.	1	4	1	2	1				38
Bacon Creek,	Geo. Coonrod, John Smoot, Suddeth Meeks.	1	4	5	5	1				52
Bethel, Hardin C.	Warren Cash, Martin Utterback, John Cash.			5	1					53
Mill Creek, H. C.	Jacob Vanmeter, J. C. Hinton, John Shelton.	1	7	7		1				42
Union,	Eneas Keau, Eneas Harrod, John Howe.	2								5
Goshen,	James Moreman, Lewis Moreman, Ch. Clarkson		2	5	1					40
Little Union,	Elij. Wigginton, Alex. M. Donnell, Wm. Wells,	61	3	0	3	1	2			124
Caney Creek, G. C.	(No Messenger, but a Letter.)			1	1					27
Pleasant Run, G. C.	Joseph Wilson, Gabriel Smith.									2
Gilead, In. State,	Adam Shoemaker.	4		3	3	1	1			24
Otter Creek, H. C.	Henry Johns, Thompson Kendal, John Lane.	7	3	10			1			66
Rough Creek, O. C.	Samuel Lewelling;	2		2	2					32
Concord, G. C.	Abr'm Vanmeter, Jos. Wilson, Wm. Meeks.	1	7	6	7					33
Pisgah, B. C.	Charles Polke, Thos. Polke, Sam. H. Bates.	4		2						18
New Hope,	(No Messenger.)									
Mount Pleasant, O. C.	John Tharp, David Hall, Benj. Kelly.	1	15			1				45
Salem.	Jos. Lewis, Benj. Meason.	15		4						31
Panther Creek, O. C.	John Philips, Zachariah Briant.	2		10						30
Walnut Grove, B. C.	Isaac Whitaker, John Adkinson.	12		2						27

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3d. Brother Walter Stallard, chosen Moderator, and Jos. Lewis, Clerk.
 4th. Received Letters and Messengers from the following Corresponding Associations : to wit. From Elk-horn, by Elders, Brethren Edmund Waller, J. Vardiman, from Long Run, by Elders William Keller, Sam. Vanleave, Benj. Allen, from south district, [A Letter, but no Messenger] From Russel's Creek, by Elder Stanley Walker, and brother John Richardson, from Green River, by Elder Jacob Lock, from Jasper River by Elder Thomas Downs.
 5th. The Church at Panther Creek, Daviess County, petitioned for admittance into our Body, and was received; and Brethren John Philips, and Zachariah Briant, (their Messengers) took their seats. 6th. The Church at Walnut grove, Breckenridge county, petitioned for admittance—which was granted.—James Whitaker, and John Adkinson took their seats. 7th. Brethren Walter Stallard, Jo. Lewis, Joshua Morris, Alexander M. Dugal, and J. H. L. Moreman, appointed to arrange the business of the association. 8th. The Circular Letter called for to read, and referred to the brethren appointed to arrange the business of the association. 9th. Agreed, that our next association be held at Mill Creek, Nelson County, on the last Friday of September next. 10th. Appointed brethren to write Letters of Correspondence, Broth...

Martin Utterback, to Elkhorn, and Brother Isaac Taylor, and Martin Utterback, to bear the same. James Craig to write to Long Run, and J. H. L. Moreman Warren Cash, and Samuel Miller to bear it. James Merreman to write to South district, and W. Stallard, Jos. Lewis, and Henry Couts, the bearers, — Charles Clarkson to write to Russels' Creek, and Alex. M'Dugal, Daniel Walker, Caleb Carman, our Messengers. Thos. Hubbard to write to Green River, and Warren Cash, J. H. L. Moreman, Jas. Moreman, Alex. M'Dugal, and Eneas Keith, our Messengers ;— and brother Benjamin Kelly to write to Jasper River, and Alex. M'Dugal, Charles Clarkson, Charles Polke, and Adam Shoemaker, our Messengers. 11th. Brother Joseph Lewis, our corresponding Secretary, reported a letter of correspondence, from the Rev. Doc. Slaughter, corresponding Secretary to the Baptist Board of Foreign Missions—in the following words :

TO GEN. JOSEPH LEWIS, STANDING SECRETARY OF THE SALEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

Dear Sir,

Instructed by the Baptist Board of Foreign Missions, I have the pleasure of addressing you.— Your heart has no doubt, been enlarged and gladdened at a view of the signs of the times, in which we have the felicity to live. In the rise and spread of Missionary and Bible Institutions, the Lord has opened prospects before us of the near approach of the latter days, which prophets and kings, which Martyrs and Reformers never saw. While other religious communities are clad with zeal, and with a cloak, the reflection is pleasant, that our own denomination has been stirred up to holy and vigorous action. It is not assuming too much, to say, that a large proportion of the Mission ardour, which is felt by thousands, may be traced to the influences of the Spirit of our GOD, in the heart of our excellent brother, Dr. William Carey.

The success, attendant on the Mission, whose more immediate seat is at Serampore, on the waters of the Ganges, has excited no common degree of surprise and gratitude. Our American Churches have heard of the display of the arms of the Redeemer in the East, with those thankful sensations which the translations of Scripture, the conversion of idolators, and the visible growth of the empire of the Messiah, are calculated to originate and support. Twenty stations have already been formed by that favoured Institution, and about forty preachers, most of them natives, and a few years ago worshippers of ideal divinities, false and dead, are now teaching men to turn from their vanities, and to serve the living and the true God.

One of these mission stations, highly important on account of the greatness of the population, and the wretched condition of the inhabitants, and its proximity to the Chinese empire, is the kingdom of Burmah. The God of mercy, who a few years ago gave to our denomination our worthy brethren, Luther Rice, and Adoniram Judson, has, in His Providence, itout any concurrence on our part, placed the latter at Rangoon, a principal sea-port of the Burman dominions. By the present time himself and his companion in life, have, no doubt, surmounted the difficulties attendant on an acquisition of the language of the country. O, that in this new tongue, our brother may be assisted to preach the wonderful things of the kingdom of God !

In December last, our brother, G. H. Hough, member of the Baptist church, in Pawtucket, R. I. with his wife and two small children, together with our sister Charlotte H. White, member of the Baptist church, in Sansom Street, and who, it was believed, would not only be an acceptable associate of Mrs Hough, but might become useful as an auxiliary, in the mission, set sail from the port of Philadelphia, for Calcutta, on their way to Rangoon. Edward Thompson, Esq furnished a passage, and provisions for the voyage, without any expence to the Board. They are now, probably, at their destination. May the heat of the church send great prosperity.

For the purpose of inciting, with the blessing of God, a missionary flame among our churches, and Associations, and of encouraging the formation of auxiliary Institutions, the Board have believed it their duty to continue brother Rice some time longer in this country. His labours during the last year and the preceding, have been wonderfully blessed. He is appointed to fulfil a similar course during the current year, at the close of which a meeting of the General Convention will ensue. His amiable disposition, his exemplary deportment, his self-devotion to the most excellent of causes, must ensure him the kind attentions of all who love the kingdom of the Son of God.

The attempt, which in the course of the good Providence of the Lord has recently been made to combine the Baptist denomination in the United States, in one ardent effort to transmit the gospel to the heathen, is indeed something new and unexpected, but it is beautiful and prosperous. Our European brethren have commenced the glorious race before us. We have wished them God speed. We have endeavoured to assist them. The time, however, has come when the Lord calls on us as a body, ourselves to act for the glory of his name. This conviction is generally felt, and the brethren throughout the Union come forward in the work with holy readiness, awakened zeal, and humble joy.

It is the wish of the Board to concentrate the common exertions to the utmost practicable degree. They will be happy to maintain with yourself and your brethren a constant and intimate correspondence. Their Second Annual Report you will shortly receive. They will find pleas-

...in communicating to you all the...
will be gratified by any useful observations or intelligence which you may find it in your power
to impart.

Wishing you, most sincerely, much of the presence and blessing of the Lord Jesus, and uniting
with you in prayer and effort that the "sons of the stranger" may "join themselves to the Lord,
to serve him, and to love the name of the Lord."

I am, dear Sir, very respectfully yours,

WILLIAM STAUGHTON, *Cor. Secretary.*

Philadelphia, July, 1816.

12th. Adjourned, by prayer, till to-morrow morning, 9 of the clock.

13th. Saturday, the 12th of October, 1816. The Association met, according to adjournment
and, after prayer, proceeded to business. 14th. The brethren, appointed to arrange the busi-
ness of the association, made their report, which was read and received. 15th. Query, from
Seuax' Valley, "can no means be adopted, whereby a fund might be raised, in and under the
direction of, and for the use of the Association. *Answer*—Yes; and we recommend it to the
churches to forward what they please to the next Association for that purpose. 16th. Brother Th.
Hubbard.——Resolution deferred from last association, was taken up, and considered by the As-
sociation. *Answered*—We are not in favour of raising an Education fund, to be under th controul
of the association. But recommend it to the churches to use their discretion, and take such
measures as they may deem proper to educate candidates for the Ministry. 17th. A request
from Goshen, B. C. We have thought it would be a good plan for the association to be laid off
into sections, and at least two preachers to be appointed to visit the different churches in each
section, at least twice a year, and preach to them. We wish the Association to take up the sub-
ject, and act in that way they think most advisable." *Answer*, We have no controul over the
Ministers of our Association, but recommend it to them to visit the Churches as often as they can.
18th. A request, from Salem Church, Bardstown, to take under consideration a Pamphlet, ad-
dressed to the advocates of a partial Gospel, wrote by Mr. Henry Davidge, and give their opinion
thereupon. *Answer*—We have had under consideration the said pamphlet, and do unanimously
declare it to be our opinion, That it is a composition of unsound doctrines, and do recommend to
the Churches to have no fellowship with said book. 19th. The Circular Letter was read, and
approved. 20th. Brethren James H. L. Moreman, to preach the Introductory Sermon, for
the next year; and, in case of failure, Brother Charles Polker. 21st. Brother Isaac Taylor,
appointed to write the Circular Letter for the next year. 22d. The corresponding Letters to
the different Associations, read and approved. 23d. Brother Thomas Hubbard, appointed to
superintend the printing of the Minutes, and circular Letter. 24th. New-Hope Church, failed to
represent herself in this association; we, therefore, appoint brethren W. Cash, and J. H. L.
Moreman, to visit the said church, and enquire the reason of such failure, and report to our next
association.

J. LEWIS, Clk.

WALTER STALLARD, Mod'r.

Beloved Brethren.—THROUGH Divine permission, being once more assembled, as your Mes-
sengers, and having gone through the business which came before us, as our Minutes will shew,
we proceed to address you, by way of circulars, on the important subject of the necessity of holi-
ness, Watchfulness, and good works. Love to God being, by Regeneration, implanted in the
heart of a sinner, he is fitted for spiritual communion with the great object of all religious wor-
ship, in his ordinances, and with his people, in the Church below, and for a more perfect commu-
nion with him, in the world of glory, in the Fellowship with the Father, and with his Son, Jesus
Christ, with which Believers are indulged, in the present state, and the more intimate fellowship
with God! enjoyed by the Spirits of the Just, made perfect, above;—but the unsatisfied soul is
absolutely incapable of such refined pleasures. There must be a Spiritual discernment, and an
heavenly taste, before things of this kind can be either enjoyed, or desired; for while a man con-
tinues in his natural state, at enmity with God, in love with sin, he neither has, nor can have, any
real pleasure, in approaching his Maker. Two cannot walk together, except they be agreed;—
hence it is, that our Lord says, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God;"
with whom the Apostle agrees, when he asserts---that, "Without Holiness no man can see the
Lord; that holiness, which the scripture so expressly requires, in order to the enjoyment of God;
as possessed by every one that is born from above, and in a justified state, for every subject of re-
generating grace, loves God; love to God, being the grand principal of Holiness, and the source of all
acceptable obedience. None can enjoy it, and not be possessed of some degree of real holiness;
hence we may venture to assert, that whosoever loves the infinitely amiable character, is possessed
of all that holiness in principle, that shall, at any time, flourish and adorn his future conversation;
or that shall shine in him to all eternity. Such an one, therefore, must not only have a title to
heaven, but, also, be in a state of preparation for it, while here in this world. Some Professors

who espouse the notion of sinless perfection, and look upon themselves as uncommon friends to the interests of holiness, they talk of persons being in a regenerate and satisfied state, while they are yet unsatisfied, and destitute of the true principles of holiness; but as the doctrine of sinless perfection in this life is a bold opposition to the Testimony of God, and contrary to all Christian experience we shall pass it by without a moment's regard, as holiness of heart is absolutely necessary to communion with God, and the enjoyment of him, so watchfulness and holiness of conduct or conformity to the Divine will, is highly useful, and answers various important purposes in the christian life; the principle of which we shall now consider. By obedience to the commands of God, we evidence the sincerity of our holy profession, by this our faith is declared genuine before men, who have no other way to conclude that it is unfeigned, but by our works. Whoever pretends to believe in Jesus, and is not habitually careful to perform good works, his faith is barren, or dead. By a good conversation, in which our light shines before men, we edify our brethren, silence opposers, and preserve the gospel from those reproaches which otherwise would be cast upon it (as if it were a licentious doctrine) an exemplary conduct in christian professors, has often been owned of the Lord, and made happily useful by convincing the ignorant, and removing the prejudices against the truth, so as to make them impartial enquirers after it, and frequently of winning them over to an approbation of it, by walking in the paths of duty. We express our gratitude to God for his benefits, and also glorify his holy name,—which is the great end of all Christian obedience. Dear Brethren, we exhort you to a conscientious attendance on all the publick means of grace, and by maintaining communion with your heavenly Father, in every private duty, to make a progress in vital religion, and in real holiness, remembering that holiness is the health, beauty, and glory of your immortal mind; seek after it as a divine and heavenly blessing; watch and pray against the insurrections of indwelling solicitations of worldly pleasure, and the assaults of Satan's temptations. The more you grow in real holiness, the more sensible you will be of the power of your own corruptions, and of the imperfections attending all your duties, you will be more and more convinced, that if the gospel did not warrant your dependence on Christ, under the character of a sinner, you could have no hope even after ever so long and zealous a profession of religion. You should live under a continual remembrance, that you are poor, unworthy sinners, redeemed by Christ, and freed from every curse; this will keep you truly humble, and provoke to self-abhorrence; this will make you really happy, excite to prayer, and every other duty. Again, watch against carnal security, and spiritual sloth. Forget not that you have many enemies. Therefore be sober, be vigilant—time is short, and uncertain—husband well your precious moments—lay them out for God—be careful that the fruits of gratitude to your infinite Benefactor may adorn your whole behaviour—make the life of Jesus your constant example—copy after that brightest of patterns—remember that the eyes of God, of angels, and of men are upon you, both friends and enemies. Inspect your conduct, and mark your steps. How necessary, then, is watchfulness and circumspection, lest falling into sin, your spiritual joys be impaired, your brethren and friends be grieved, and your adversaries triumph. Have you received the earnest of your future inheritance, and had some joyful foretastes of that immense bliss of which you are heir unto,—make it your constant business, as it is your indispensable duty to live above the world, whether your temporal circumstances are opulent, or adverse, let your conversation be in heaven, as becomes a citizen of the New-Jerusalem. It is your duty and blessing to live in the prospect of the world to come. converse much with the Lord in prayer, praise, and holy meditation; so shall you contract a blessed intimacy with that sublime Being, whose favour is better than life—by such an intercourse with the Lord, you will taste more exquisite delight than all the pleasures of sin can boast, or an applauding world can bestow. Yes, brethren, by such conversations with God, you shall find your mercies sanctified, and your afflictions alleviated, your holy dispositions invigorated, and corrupt affections weakened—be it your constant endeavour that when your glorious Bridegroom comes, he may find you ready, having your loins girt, your lamps burning, waiting for his glorious advent; so shall your soul be peacefully soaring, as it were, on the wings of faith, and holy meditation, in order to explore the wonders of redeeming love, and taste the joys Divinely sweet, which are included in the covenant of Redemption.—To conclude, from this imperfect and brief survey, we shall remark, that the favor of God is manifested in our salvation, is a theme so copious and sublime, that all there can be said by the most evangelical and eloquent preachers, all that can be written by the most accurate and descriptive pens; yes, after all that can be imagined or sung by angels or men, in the Church below, or the Choirs above, the charming subject will remain unexhausted to eternity—for the riches of Christ are unsearchable, and the grace of God is unbounded.

J. LEWIS, Clerk.

MARTIN UTTELBACH, Composer,
WALTER STALLARD, Moderator.