

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

FLAT-RIVER

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

GRASSY CREEK CHURCH, GRANVILLE CO., N. C.

August 10--13, 1849.

RALEIGH:

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1849.

PROCEEDINGS, &c.

FRIDAY, August 10th, 1849.

The members of the Flat River Association convened according to adjournment, when in the absence of Elder James King, who was appointed last session to preach the Introductory sermon, it was by request preached by Elder R. I. Devin from Luke 24: 46. "Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, &c."

After half an hour's intermission the members again met. The Moderator being absent, the Association was called to order by the Clerk. On motion, brother Drury A. Harris was appointed Moderator, pro tem.

After singing and prayer, the letters from the Churches were called for, read, and the delegates' names enrolled as they appear in the Statistical Table.

The Association proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, when bro. D. A. Harris was unanimously chosen Moderator, and R. I. Devin, Clerk.

Ministering brethren were then invited to take seats, and participate in our deliberations, when Elders J. J. Finch, T. Meredith, J. Smith and John Culpeper, were announced and invited to take seats in the Association.

On motion, correspondents from sister Associations were invited to present themselves and take seats with us, when bro. Isaac Winston, from the Raleigh, J. M. Beaver, from the Sandy Creek, J. Solomon and G. Lewis, from the Tar River, M. Smith and E. A. Williams, from the Concord Association, appeared and took their seats.

On motion appointed brethren John E. Montague, John Stovall, and Jas. Hobgood, a Committee on Finance.

On motion, appointed brethren Wm. H. Lawson, Lewis Parham and Jas. P. Montague, together with Moderator and Clerk, a Committee to arrange the order of business for the Association.

On motion, the Deacons of Grassy Creek church, were appointed a Committee to arrange the religious exercises during the session of the Association.

On motion, the Association then adjourned until to-morrow morning nine o'clock.

Prayer by Elder R. I. Devin.

SATURDAY, Aug. 11.

The Association met according to adjournment, and after religious services conducted by bro. John E. Montague, proceeded to business.

Called the roll and marked absentees.

On motion, the Committee of Arrangements called upon to report, the report was read, received, adopted, and the Committee discharged.

Called for the reading of Constitution and Rules of Decorum.

Corresponding Messengers to neighboring Associations were called upon to report, which was done as far as they were present.

Elder Samuel Wait attended Beulah.

Brethren H. B. Bridges and R. Hester attended Tar River.

Brethren L. B. Stone and T. Hester attended Concord.

On motion, correspondents to sister Associations were appointed, as follows:

To Raleigh—Wm. Jones, Sander Penny, Wm. Duskin, E. Hester, and R. I. Devin.

To Tar River—E. Hester, R. I. Devin, J. P. Montague, S. H. Cannady, and R. Hester.

To Concord—J. Stovall, J. E. Montague, A. Overbey and Jas. King.

To Sandy Creek—G. W. Jones, Wm. Jones, Wm. Duskin, H. Parker, B. Rogers, and W. A. Rogers.

To Dan River—D. A. Harris, W. H. Lawson, Jas. King, Jas. A. King, J. E. Montague, J. Y. Wilkerson and R. D. Bumpass.

The Committee of Finance reported that they had received from the churches \$30.10, which was received, and the Committee discharged.

A petition from the newly constituted church in Oxford was presented, asking admittance into our union, and, on motion, was unanimously received. The Moderator gave the delegates the right hand of fellowship.

The Association proceeded to appoint the place of its next meeting; when, it was agreed that the next session be held with the Corinth church, Granville county, N. C., commencing on Friday before the second Sabbath in August, 1850.

On motion of brother J. P. Montague, Elder John Culpeper, the Agent of the Southern Baptist Publication Society, who was present, was respectfully invited to make such communication to the Association as he might think proper; when brother Culpeper came forward and addressed this body on the subject of his Agency.

On motion, the following resolution was offered by Rev. Jas. P. Montague:

Resolved,—That we rejoice in the formation of the Southern Baptist Publication Society, and we commend it to the prayers and liberal support of all Southern Baptists. On motion, adjourned until Monday morning 10 o'clock. Prayer by Elder Thomas Meredith.

SUNDAY, Aug. 12th.

A very large congregation assembled at an early hour. Elder Thomas Meredith commenced the services of the day with a sermon from 1 John, 5: 4,—“And this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”

Elder Samuel Wait followed with a sermon from 2 Corinthians, 4: 3.—“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them which are lost.” After which, the claims of the N. C. B. S. Convention, were laid before the congregation, and a collection taken up amounting to \$25.51. After a short recess, Elder John Culpeper followed with a sermon from Rom. 3: 23, 24.—“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God,” &c. O! that the Lord may crown the labors of the day with his blessing!

MONDAY MORNING, Aug. 13.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder J. J. Finch.

Called the roll.

On motion, Elder R. I. Devin, Elder E. Hester his alternate, was appointed to preach the Introductory sermon, and Elder Wm. Jones, the Conventional sermon on Sabbath, at the next session of the Association.

Standing Committees called on to report. Elder R. I. Devin read a report on Foreign Missions, after which, we had interesting addresses from Elders J. J. Finch, J. Culpeper, and R. I. Devin. It was unanimously adopted.

Brother J. P. Montague offered the following resolution on the subject of Missions:—

Resolved.—That in order that our brethren be more thoroughly informed and interested on the subject of Missions in general, and in regard to the important operations of our Foreign and Domestic Boards, we would urge the brethren generally to subscribe to the Southern Missionary Journal, which is published in Richmond, Va., by H. K. Ellyson, at the low price of \$1.00 per annum. After remarks from different persons, it was adopted.

Brother Geo. W. Jones presented a report on Temperance, and after addresses from I. Winston, J. Culpeper, J. P. Montague and R. I. Devin, it was unanimously adopted.

The following resolution was offered on Sabbath Schools:—

Resolved,—That we consider the Sabbath School, as an institu-

tution, a great means of directing the minds of youth towards things of eternal moment, and as having a tendency to drive away many evil impressions, which the enemy of souls is always trying to make on the minds of the young. After addresses from Jas. P. Montague, and J. Culpeper, it was adopted.

Elder J. J. Finch offered the following resolution on Education, which he ably sustained with an interesting address, after which it was unanimously adopted:—

Resolved,—That the cause of Education in general, and of those institutions of learning under the supervision of our Denomination in particular, have special claims upon the patronage of our members generally.

The report on Changes was presented and read, and after Elder J. J. Finch had made some interesting remarks, it was adopted and ordered to be printed.

On motion, business was suspended for a few moments to allow brother Culpeper to obtain subscriptions for the Southern Baptist Publication Society.

On motion, standing Committees were appointed on the following subjects to report to the next Association:

Periodicals—W. S. Thompson, S. Penny, J. M. Mangum.
Foreign Missions—J. P. Montague, W. Parham, J. W. Dalby.
Home Missions—R. I. Devin, L. B. Stone, J. M. Satterwhite.
Education—S. S. Hicks, E. Winston, B. Rogers.
Temperance—D. A. Harris, J. G. Hester, S. H. Cannady.
Sabbath Schools—N. E. Cannady, W. D. Allen, H. Hester.
Changes—E. Hester, R. D. Bumpass, J. Gooch.

On motion, appointed Jas. P. Montague and L. B. Stone, delegates to the next Convention to be held in Oxford.

The Clerk was directed to superintend the printing and distribution of 700 copies of the Minutes of this Association, and be allowed \$10 for his services.

Resolved,—That the thanks of this Association be tendered to the brethren and friends of this vicinity, for the kind and hospitable manner in which we have been entertained during the session.

After a short and interesting address, and prayer by brother Meredith, adjourned to the time and place before mentioned.

DRURY A. HARRIS, Moderator.

R. I. DEVIN, Clerk.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

R. I. Devin, Treasurer of the Flat River Association, August 13th, 1849. In account with the Association.

Amount of contributions, 1848, \$30 10 1-2
This years, 30 10

60 20 1-2

Cr.

Paid for printing Minutes,
Freight, &c.,
Clerk's fees,

\$12 00

75

10 00

22 75

37 45 1-2

Balance in hand,

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	DELEGATES.										Contribu- tions.	Total.
Mt. Moriah, New Bethel, New Light, Brassfields, Fellowship, Concord, Mt. Zion, Shady Hill, F. R. Union, Hester's, Bethel, Olive Branch, Grassy Crk, Buffaloe, Island Creek, Poplar Creek, Tabb's Creek, Corinth, Oxford,	B. D. Rogers, Wm. Couch, T. Boronghs,* M. C. O'Neal, McT. Broadwell,* Wm. Yearby, S. Penny, Jos. Jones, Ezra Gill,* E. Winston,* S. H. Cannady, N. E. Cannady,* W. Rogers,* J. Nevils,* Wm. A. Rogers, Wm. Suit, J. W. Dally, J. G. Hester, Wm. Tippet, J. Good, Jesse Oakley, G. W. Jones, H. Parker,* D. Parker,* John Peed, J. L. Veazy, H. S. Parrish, J. B. Holgood, J. M. Satterwhite, B. D. Frazier, D. A. Harris, M. Jones, W. H. Lawson, James King, J. Y. Wilkenson, Wm. C. Chandler, J. Stovall, Robert Yancy, J. E. Montague, A. Overbey, W. Daniel, Wm. Owen, Wm. H. Jordan,* J. Davis, N. M. Norwood, No delegate or letter, L. Parham, C. Parham,* G. Higgs, James P. Montague, J. Tippet, H. B. Bridges, R. I. Devin, Wm. Parham, T. T. Grandy,*	7 38 11 4 11 6 3 2 2 1 10 5 1 1 9 3 9 3 9	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	60 50 00 	

A TABLE

SHOWING THE CHURCHES, THEIR PASTORS, CLERKS, POST-OFFICES AND MONTHLY MEETINGS.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	ADDRESS OF PASTORS.	CLERKS.	ADDRESS OF CLERKS.	DAYS OF MEETING.
Mt. Moriah,	Jesse Howell,	Holly Springs, N. C.	Tho. Boroughs,	Chapel Hill,	1st Sund'y & Sat. preceeding.
New Bethel,	J. C. Mareom,	do.	W. S. Thomson,	Rogers' Store,	do. "
New Light,	Wm. Dent,	do.	J. M. Mangum,	New Light,	2d "
Brassfield's,	M. D. Freeman,	Louisburg,	N. E. Cannady,	Tranquility,	3d "
Fellowship,	E. Hester,	Dutchville,	C. J. Rogers,	Fish Dam,	4th "
Concord,	S. Wait,	Forestville,	T. B. Lyon,	Dutchville,	1st "
Mt. Zion,	Jas. King,	Blue Wing,	J. J. Rogers,	Berea,	1st "
Shady Hill,	Wm. E. Oakley,	Knap of Reeds,	G. W. Jones,	Red Mountain,	4th "
F. R. Union,	do.	do.	Lewis Roberts,	Knap of Reeds,	3d "
Hester's,	S. Wait,	Forestville,	J. Howard,	Oxford,	2d "
Bethel,	S. Pleasant,	Roxboro,	W. H. Lawson,	Mill Creek,	2d "
Olive Branch,	Jas. King,	Blue Wing,	Wm. King,	do.	3d "
Grassy Creek,	R. I. Devin,	Oxford,	Thos. Hester,	Youngs & R'ds,	4th "
Buffalo,	R. I. Devin,	Blue Wing,	A. Overbey,	White House,	2d "
Island Creek,	Jas. King,	Oxford,	N. M. Norwood,	Williamsboro,	2d "
Poplar-Creek,	R. I. Devin,	Oxford,	E. L. Parrish,	Henderson,	4th "
Tabb's Creek,	No supply,	Oxford,	Lewis Parham,	Oxford,	3d "
Corinth,	Jas. S. Purify,	Forestville,	H. B. Bridges,	do.	4th "
Oxford,	R. I. Devin,	Oxford,	W. Parham,	do.	1st "

APPENDIX.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The Committee on Foreign Missions would respectfully submit the following report:

That, although the amount contributed by the churches during the past year, may have equalled the contributions of former years, yet it has fallen far below what could and ought to have been done for this sacred cause of christian benevolence.

When we turn our eyes over the earth, and behold upwards of six hundred millions of the human race bound in chains of superstition and idolatry, who are wretched beyond the power of language to describe; and when we remember the relation we sustain to the great work of preaching the gospel to every creature, how sadly have we failed in our duty of freely giving to those who are famishing for the bread of life.

Perhaps, at no period has the foreign field for missionary enterprise been so extensive, and the opportunities for extending christianity so numerous as at the present time. Almost every land and tribe may be visited by the ministers of reconciliation. The openings of Providence clearly indicate our duty, and urge upon us the claims of a world buried in darkness, perishing for lack of vision.

China, with its widely extended territory and teeming millions of inhabitants—now accessible to the message of salvation, presents a people prepared of the Lord for the reception of the gospel. There, we have 20 missionaries and assistants, under the direction and patronage of the Southern Baptist Convention, who are prosecuting the mission work with a good deal of success and encouragement. They are beginning to declare to the people of this vast empire, in their own language, the wonderful works of God.—Large and attentive congregations assemble to hear the words of salvation; and many are enquiring what they must do to be saved.

But what are twenty laborers among so many? Africa, long abused and degraded, is accessible to the heralds of the cross; and may be elevated and saved from the extreme wretchedness in which she is involved. This is as promising and inviting a field, in many respects, as the "Celestial Empire."

The Colonial territory extends some 300 miles along the coasts, and hundreds and thousands of the native Africans can be visited by Christian ministers whom they will gladly hear proclaim the tidings of salvation. We have 13 missionaries and assistants in

this dark corner of the earth; and we trust ere long that Ethiopia will stretch out her hands unto God.

Your Committee would earnestly urge upon us, to more vigorous efforts in behalf of Africa's benighted population, whose sad history is replete with ignorance and crime. Mexico and South America, with their 28 or 30 millions of immortal beings, have claims on American Baptists.

In view of the great work of converting the world unto Christ, and making universal his kingdom, and the prominent part Christians are to accomplish in it, as the honored instruments in bearing and proclaiming the gospel to every tongue and people, your Committee would therefore urge upon this Association, to more efficient efforts for spreading the light of Christianity among earth's benighted race. The facilities which God has afforded in the glorious work of sending the word of life to the perishing heathen, speak to us in loud and distinct tones, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature,"—to every nation however remote and however barbarous.

Let us awake to every good enterprise, till the clamor of war shall be heard no more or garments rolled in blood, till holiness to the Lord shall shine forth as the morning and the beauties of primeval creation again bloom in the world, and the sweet songs of Paradise shall resound from hill to valley.

Christians are solemnly bound to lend their aid to every institution, that has a tendency to bring about that thrice happy day, when the world shall be encircled in millennial glory. We should send up our prayers, and pour down our treasures, according to our ability, for the success of so sacred a cause.

R. I. DEVIN, *Chm'n.*

REPORT ON CHANGES.

Your Committee to whom was referred the subject of Changes, beg leave to offer the following report:

Dear Brethren, when we take a view of the number of our fellow mortals, who have fallen victims to the multitude of diseases now sweeping over the earth, and particularly the cholera, that scourge of God, that has cut down thousands and tens of thousands of human beings since our last Association, who have gone to try the realities of another world; how grateful should we be to the Lord, in mercifully preserving our lives, from the withering grasp of the pestilence, that walketh in darkness, and the destruction that wasteth at noonday. Death has been no respecter of persons, the old and the young, the noble and the ignoble, from the President down to the meanest fugitive, have fallen before the stern monarch of the grave.

We would call your attention to our lamented brother, the Rev. Thomas Crocker, who has often participated in the deliberations of this body; he is gone to reap the reward of the just. Brethren George Boswell and Larkin Currin, together with our sister Howard, have fallen into one common grave. And many others with whom your Committee was not acquainted, might be mentioned, if time would permit, who have gone to their long home. Oh how uncertain is life! But we should sorrow not for them as those who have hope.

Brethren, in view of the many changes which are taking place around us, and day after day beholding our brethren and acquaintances dropping into the tomb, we have great reason to humble ourselves before God for his goodness, in sparing our almost unprofitable and sinful lives through another year.

Your Committee would respectfully submit the following resolution:

Resolved, That we entertain a lively hope of the acceptance of our departed friends before the throne of God, and that we all double our diligence to make our calling and election sure.

H. HESTER, *Chm'n.*

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

The Committee on Temperance respectfully report:

That intemperance in the use of spirituous liquors, we believe to be the polluted source of most of the vices that degrade our country. Most of the crimes made punishable by our Statutes, are committed either mediately or immediately by its influence. Who will have the boldness to deny that our criminal dockets would not almost be a blank book, if its use was discarded from our land?—The evil passions naturally strong, enkindled by ardent spirits become much more intense and urge men to the commission of crimes of the deepest and darkest die—such as appeal and sicken the heart of the christian and the moralist. It is said that the Americans use more of the stronger drinks, than any other nation. France and Italy drink their wines—England her ale,—but the United States her double-distilled, double-rectified brandies. It is useless to depict the drunkard's career and the drunkard's fate, which has been so often and so graphically told. It behooves every one who has the interest of his country, or that of humanity at heart, to make a common cause in arresting this evil. Many different plans have been devised with more or less success to do this. Some have formed temperance societies; and in some of the States the law-making power has taken hold of the subject, and have passed highly penal Statutes, to prevent its excessive use. Though great

good has been thus affected, yet, "the snake is scotched but not killed": and if we were to venture an opinion, this hydra of Intemperance will never be crushed, until it is done by the uniform action on the subject, by our Statesmen and Law-makers.

G. W. JONES, *Chm'n.*

LIST OF ORDAINED AND LICENTIATE MINISTERS.

Samuel Duty, Oxford,
R. I. Devin, do.
J. P. Montague, do.
W. H. Jordan, Warrenton,
Jas. King, Blue Wing,
E. Hester, Dutchville,
W. E. Oakley, Knap of Reeds,
J. E. Montague, Youngs & Roads,

Jas. Jackson, Forestville,
W. S. Hobgood, do.
E. Winston, Tranquility.

LICENTIATES.

D. A. Harris, Mill Creek,
D. Umstead, Knap of Reeds.