

July

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTY-SIXTH SESSION

OF THE

VIRGINIA PORTSMOUTH

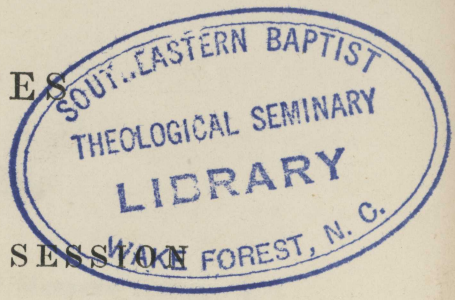
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT THE

TUCKER'S SWAMP MEETING HOUSE,

IN SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY,

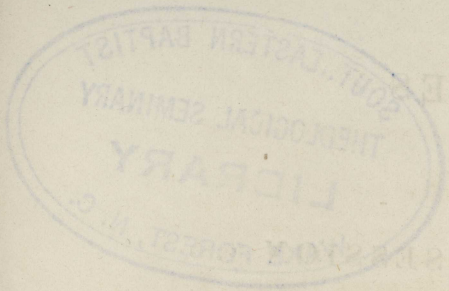
May 22, 23, 24 and 25, 1846.



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RICHMOND:

H. K. ELLYSON, 176, MAIN STREET.  
1846.



MINUTE

SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST  
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SIXTY-SIXTH STREET, NORFOLK, VA.

OF THE

VIRGINIA BAPTIST

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Held at the

TURNERS SWAMP MEETING HOUSE

IN SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY

MAY 22, 23, 24 and 25, 1916

RICHMOND:

H. K. ELLIOTT, 105 MAIN STREET.

1916.

## MINUTES.

TUCKER'S SWAMP MEETING HOUSE, }  
Southampton county, May 22d, 1846. }

"The Virginia Portsmouth Baptist Association" assembled this day, in its fifty-sixth annual session.

The Moderator called the body to order, and announced that the brethren (principal and alternate,) appointed to preach the Introductory Sermon were not present, and that Elder J. W. M. Williams had been requested to perform that service, which would be entered upon after a short season.

The Association then engaged in singing a hymn, after which Elder James L. Gwaltney offered prayer.

The letters from the churches were presented, and were being read, when the hour for worship arrived.

Elder J. W. M. Williams preached from the 4 Acts, 7 verse.

These services being concluded, the reading of the letters from the churches was resumed, and the names of delegates recorded.

A short recess was then taken. Prayer by Elder T. B. Creath.

The Association, when again convened, was opened with prayer by Elder Robert Gordon.

Deacon James C. Jordan, of Smithfield, was then unanimously re-elected Moderator, and Elder T. Hume, of Portsmouth, Clerk.

A letter from a church recently constituted at Jerusalem, Southampton county, petitioning for admission into this Association, was presented and read. After the usual enquiries in reference to the doctrines, &c. of the church, on motion being made, she was received as a member of this body, and the right hand of fellowship was given to her delegates.

The recently constituted church at Olive Branch, in Prince George county, presented, through her delegate, a letter asking admission into this Association. As the committee appointed to visit the church which previously existed there, had not reported, this letter was laid on the table.

Messengers from Corresponding Associations were requested to present themselves, and affectionately invited to participate in our deliberations. The following reported their names:

Elder L. W. Allen, from the Rappahannock Association, and agent of Richmond College.

Elder A. B. Smith, from the Dover Association, and agent of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Elder James Delk, from the Concord Association.

Elder Joseph Barkley, from the Chowan Association.

Visiting Ministering Brethren were also kindly invited to take seats with us.

Brethren Jesse Witt, general agent of the General Association of Virginia, and L. R. L. Jennings, (a licentiate of Newville Church,) were reported as being present.

Brother Joseph Barkley, of North Carolina, was requested to preach at the stand, at 4 o'clock.

On motions successively made, the following committees were appointed:

*Committee of Arrangements*—Brethren J. L. Gwaltney, Jones and Creath.

*Committee on Religious Exercises*—Brethren Owens, John S. Gwaltney, Presson and S. H. Holmes.

*Committee of Finance*—Brethren W. H. Holmes and J. W. Potts.

*Committee on Ordination*—Brethren Jones, Gwaltney, Owens, Murfee and Hume.

*To prepare Corresponding Letter*—Bro. J. W. M. Williams.

On motion, Messengers to Corresponding Associations were called on to report. Some presented written reports, according to a resolution passed at our last session—others made verbal reports.

The following were then appointed Messengers to Corresponding Associations, viz:

*To the Middle District*—W. H. Jordan, J. L. Gwaltney, Robertson and Creath.

*To the Dover*—Hume, Williams, Jones, Hendren and Gordon.

*To the Concord*—Bailey, Gwaltney, Creath and Hume.

*To the Accomac*—Owens, Williams, Hendren and Gordon.

*To the Rappahannock*—W. H. Jordan, Hume and Robertson.

*To the Chowan*—Jones, Owens, Williams, Murfee, Daughtrey and Creath.

The Association then adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Prayer by Elder James Delk.

SATURDAY, May 23d, 1846.

The Association met this morning, at the hour appointed. After singing, prayer was offered by Elder J. Hendren.

The proceedings of the previous day were read, and the roll called.

Brother Moses Robertson, a Messenger from the Middle District Association, was reported as being present, and invited to a seat with us.

The Committee on Religious Exercises made a report for the services of the day, appointing the following brethren to preach, viz: James Delk and J. L. Trueman, in the morning,—J. C. Bailey, in the afternoon.

Elder J. L. Gwaltney presented the following report, from the committee appointed to visit Olive Branch, which was adopted:

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Elder J. L. Gwaltney presented the following report, from the committee appointed to visit Olive Branch, which was adopted:

The committee appointed at the last session of your body, relative to the church at Olive Branch, Prince George county, met at the meeting house of said church, on Thursday, the 19th day of July, 1835.

Present—Jas. L. Gwaltney, J. W. Potts, F. H. Robertson, Wm. Jones, Sam'l Jones and Zachariah N. Johnson. Elder Wm. H. Jordan, chairman of said committee, being absent, on motion, Elder Gwaltney was called to the chair, and Brother J. W. Potts appointed secretary.

The object of the committee was briefly explained, and after a full discussion, in which the members of the church took part, the following preamble and resolution were unanimously adopted by the committee, and presented for the consideration and action of the church:

Whereas, in the opinion of the committee, this church, under existing circumstances, are incapable of maintaining a wholesome discipline, for want of male members to act as officers, and not being able to procure a minister to break unto them the bread of life: Therefore,

*Resolved*, That the committee advise the church to dissolve, and that each member in good standing be advised to unite with some other church of the same faith and order; and they also advise, that the meeting house remain, and that the brethren endeavor to procure preaching as often as possible.

The church then took up the preamble and resolution, and after a free interchange of sentiment, resolved to agree to the advice of the committee, and the church was declared dissolved.

Elder Gwaltney was requested to give to each member a certificate, for the purpose of joining some other church,—which was done accordingly.

It will not be improper to say, that since the above action of the committee and church, the Lord has seen fit to bless that people by the visitations of his grace. Some time last fall, Brethren Wm. O. Bailey and Eli Ball visited them, and through the instrumentality of preaching and prayer meetings, on the part of private brethren, some fifteen or twenty professed hope in Christ, out of which materials a new church has been organized.

All which is respectfully submitted,

JAS. L. GWALTNEY.

The letter from the church recently constituted at Olive Branch, was then called up. After full enquiry in regard to the circumstances of this organization, the doctrines held, &c., the church was received as a member of this Association, and the right hand of fellowship presented to the delegate.

Brother S. C. Clopton, (who is appointed by the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, a missionary to Canton, China,) was reported to be present, and invited to participate in our deliberations.

Elder J. W. M. Williams, from the Committee on Bible operations, presented a report. The resolution closing the report gave rise to a discussion, which continued to the hour for dinner, when the Association adjourned.

Prayer by Brother H. H. Banks.

After dinner the Association was convened, and prayer was offered by Brother Jesse Witt.

The Report on Bible operations was taken up, and after some amendments were made, was adopted, and is as follows:

Your committee have examined the letters sent up by the churches, and learn, that only six churches have made any effort the past year in Bible

operations. These have collected only \$121. This is a painful statement, that out of 39 churches only six have manifested interest in the circulation of the Bible. There must be a fault somewhere. Either our preachers are not faithful in urging the claims of this society,—or our churches are negligent in the performance of their duty. The Baptists, of all people, should be the most active in the distribution of the Bible.

Your committee are apprehensive that some of our churches do not understand the history of the American and Foreign Bible Society. The agent of the American Bible Society has been in the bounds of our association during the past year, and Baptists have contributed to that organization. We would then suggest to our pastors, the propriety and necessity of enlightening their churches upon this subject.

The question of separation from the North in the Bible Society, has been agitated since our last meeting. Your committee are of the opinion, that we cannot consistently coöperate with them in this society, when they have virtually expelled us from another, with which this stands most intimately connected. In fact, the two are inseparable, and so long as we remain with them in the Bible Society, we virtually contribute to the same Board which has excluded us from its fellowship. In view of these and other considerations, too numerous to mention in a report, your committee propose the following resolution:

*Resolved,* That while we hold ourselves in readiness to pursue whatever course the Southern Baptist Convention, to meet in Richmond, may adopt, we deem it expedient to separate from the North, in the American and Foreign Bible Society.

All of which is respectfully submitted by your committee,  
J. W. M. WILLIAMS, *Chairman.*

Elder P. Owens, from the Committee on Education, presented the following report, which was adopted:

Your Committee on Education are under the necessity of reporting that, so far as they have been informed, little or nothing has been done the past year by most of our churches, for ministerial education. But few of them have either contributed to aid those young men who are already pursuing a course of preparation for the work of the gospel ministry, or sought out others of piety and gifts, and encouraged them to prepare to preach the gospel. We learn from the letters, that \$200 75 have been contributed the past year to the Education Society, and it may be proper to say, that this amount has been given by only four churches,—the others have done nothing for this cause. The number in our bounds preparing for the ministry is not known to your committee.

The great importance of our rising ministry being educated is not, we fear, as fully and generally believed, and as deeply felt by our churches as it should be,—many of them, no doubt, need to be enlightened and waked up on this subject. In the days of the apostles, and ever since, a large majority of those who have been chosen and called by God to preach the gospel, have been from the humble walks of life, who have not been strangers to want, hardships and difficulties, and who needed education to make them efficient. The churches do not yet feel as they should, that it is both their duty and interest to encourage and improve the gifts which Christ bestows on them, to seek to improve and elevate the ministry. They seem not to know that their own improvement and prosperity depend greatly upon the intellectual and moral improvement of their pastors or ministers. We would here repeat, in substance, what has been stated in reports previously made on this subject, that the time has arrived when ministers of the gospel need an education in order to their usefulness. This is an age of improvement—in education as well as in other matters—and from the interest that has been felt and manifested for the last year or two, in this State, we

may expect an increased improvement in the education of the youth in general, and therefore, there should be a corresponding improvement in the ministry,—without it, in this day, their usefulness must be circumscribed.

Moreover, your committee are of opinion, that the time is come, when we, as a denomination, in a Southern State, need an institution of learning of a high character, and not any longer be under the necessity of sending our children and young ministers to Northern institutions. It is known, we suppose, to our churches, that there is a Baptist College, or a College under Baptist control, located near Richmond, called Richmond College, and that efforts are now being made, (with encouraging prospects of success,) to endow it, and thereby to place it on a firm basis. We think these efforts are needful and important, and should meet with the coöperation and support of the Baptists throughout the State. In conclusion, your committee would recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That we deem it the duty of our churches to sustain, at Richmond College, such young brethren within their bounds, as are preparing for the christian ministry.
2. *Resolved*, That the members of our churches, whose pecuniary circumstances will admit, be recommended to send their sons and wards to the Richmond College.
3. *Resolved*, That we cordially approve of the efforts now being made for the liberal and permanent endowment of said College, and hereby suggest to the churches, the importance of their coöperation in this needful work.

The reading of the above report was accompanied with addresses by several Brethren. It was evident that an increased interest was felt on this great subject. The claims of Richmond College were regarded in their commanding character, and some good subscriptions were made towards the fund for its permanent endowment.

Elder R. Jones, from the Committee on Ordination, presented the following report, which was adopted and the committee discharged:

In compliance with the request of the Market Street church, who have sent up Brother J. L. Trueman to this Association, for ordination, your committee have taken the same under consideration; and after due examination of his religious experience; his call to the ministry; his doctrinal views; and qualifications for usefulness in the ministry:

*Resolved*, That the church should be recommended to grant him ordination.

Brethren Fiveash, Clary and Edwards, were granted leave of absence till Monday morning.

Brethren Turner, Wiggington and Davis, were granted leave of absence for the balance of the session.

The Committee on Religious Exercises reported the following appointments for the remainder of the session:

On Sabbath morning, in the house, J. Witt; at the stand, T. Hume.

On the afternoon, in the house, A. B. Smith; at the stand, S. C. Clopton.

On Monday, J. L. Gwaltney and J. Hendren.

It was resolved, that a collection should be taken up on Sabbath,



for Domestic Missions, and several brethren were appointed as collectors.

The Association then adjourned till Monday morning, 9 o'clock. Prayer by T. Hume.

#### MONDAY MORNING, MAY 25TH:

The Association met this morning at the hour appointed. After singing, prayer was offered by Elder S. Murfee.

The minutes were read and the roll called. An excuse was offered for the absence of Brother E. R. Hunter, which was accepted.

Elder S. H. Holmes, from the Committee on Temperance, presented the following report:

Your Committee on Temperance have given the subject some consideration, and beg leave to present the following report: From the best information we have gathered on this subject, we regret to have to say, that we have not been informed of the formation of any new society for the promotion of Temperance, since your last session. But we rejoice to have to say, that there have been large additions to the societies in Petersburg, Norfolk and Portsmouth, and several accessions to the cause in Suffolk, with some eighteen or twenty added to the society at Millfield. With the exception of the above societies, we regret to say, we fear but little effort has been made. Many of the once warm and zealous advocates of Temperance have, by some means, become lukewarm and indifferent. Your committee can see no good cause for any lukewarmness or indifference in regard to the subject. There are yet drunkards to be reformed, moderate drinkers to be induced to adopt the total abstinence principle, and the young to be guarded and fortified against the fearful evils of intemperance. And we are convinced, that no good cause can prosper without zealous and persevering efforts on the part of its friends. The Temperance reformation contemplates and seeks the good of mankind in every relation, and it has, no doubt, received the divine sanction and blessing; if so, we would inquire if it is not the duty of every christian, and every friend of humanity, to cooperate in this laudable and good work. Many hearts have been made to rejoice at the success which has attended the labors and persevering efforts of Mr. Gough. From what we can understand, he is a popular and successful Temperance lecturer, and we would suggest, if it is not desirable to have him visit in our bounds. Believing it is, we would recommend that he be invited to visit the prominent places in this Association, for the purpose of lecturing on Temperance.

Several addresses were made on the important subject thus brought before the Association, after which the report was adopted.

Elder T. Hume presented a report from the Central Committee, which was discussed at considerable length. The chief occasion of the discussion, was the neglect of the churches to contribute to the support of their missionaries. Among other conclusions arrived at, there was this very important one, viz: that pastors of the churches were chiefly to blame, because of this delinquency. It is to be feared that there is much truth in this. Ministers are afraid or unwilling to urge upon the churches their duty. Or they are neglectful of this great work, and suffer it to be omitted.

Pending this discussion, the Association took a recess for dinner.

Met after an hour's recess. Prayer by Elder R. Gordon.

The report of the Central Committee was taken up, and after farther discussion it was adopted, and is as follows:

Immediately after the close of your last session, we proceeded to comply with your instructions to procure a missionary for Smithfield and Jerusalem. The services of brother J. W. M. Williams were secured, and he has continued his labors till the present time. He has divided his efforts between the places, occasionally preaching to other churches, particularly during protracted meetings. His congregations have been increased, and a good degree of interest has been manifested at both places. Under the circumstances, we could not expect immediate good results; yet, we doubt not, that seed have been sown which will yield fruit. He has baptized a few at Smithfield, and has made a good impression upon that community. At Jerusalem, a church has been constituted, and a meeting house is in process of erection. Brother W. has been very acceptable in Jerusalem, and the people are anxious to have him continued among them. If it is possible, we think this should be done. The tender vine planted there, should not be deprived of careful cultivation. Smithfield should also receive attention; but we think that the missionary at Jerusalem should be employed in the region contiguous, which in some directions presents a destitute field. Another missionary might occupy at Smithfield and the contiguous destitute places.

Brother George Bradford has been employed by us for a short season. Circumstances of a domestic character compelled him to leave, and we have not been able to supply his place.

The church at Otter Dam, and the churches in Prince George county, are very feeble. They are making earnest efforts to sustain brother Wm. O. Bailey, while he ministers unto them. They need and deserve assistance, and we have promised them that we would be mindful of their claims, and afford them such help as we may be able.

But in all our plans and efforts, we meet with one great difficulty,—the need of funds. The churches at large do not sympathize with your committee, and help them by their contributions. Very little is given for this enterprise,—consequently, very little can be done. The letters from your churches show a general neglect of this matter. This being the fact, we are completely at a stand, and know not what to do. We leave the matter with the Association, and thus respectfully report.

The following resolution was adopted in connection with the above report:

*Resolved*, That the churches which have not adopted some systematic mode of raising funds, be recommended to take up monthly or quarterly collections for the itinerant operations of this body and transmit the same at convenient periods to the Treasurer of the Central Committee.

In connection with the foregoing report, the following resolution was also passed:

*Resolved*, That the resolution adopted at the last session, in reference to the coöperation of the Central Committee with the General Association, be rescinded, and the committee be instructed to act as originally constituted, in connection with the General Association.

The Treasurer of the Central Committee presented the following report, which was adopted:

JAMES L. GWALTNEY, *Treasurer of the Central Committee,*  
*In account with THE PORTSMOUTH ASSOCIATION.*

|                                                                                                                          |          |          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| To cash on hand, as per last account,                                                                                    |          | \$108 00 |
| Received from the following individuals, as their special contribu-<br>tions to Smithfield and Jerusalem, viz: R. Jones, | 5 20     |          |
| Jordan Edwards 2, Jos. Turner 5, J. W. Potts 3,                                                                          | 10 00    |          |
| J. L. Gwaltney 2, Isaac Cofer 2, Z. Harris 1, P. Owens 5,                                                                | 10 00    |          |
| T. Hume,                                                                                                                 | 5 00     |          |
| Smithfield church paid brother Williams,                                                                                 | 75 00    |          |
| Collected at Jerusalem, by brother Williams,                                                                             | 10 00    |          |
| Simon Murfee,                                                                                                            | 10 00    |          |
| Received during the present session, from J. W. Hunnicutt,                                                               | 5 00     |          |
| Doct. J. M. Baugh 5, Black Creek church 5 90,                                                                            | 10 90    |          |
| Hick's Ford 10, Mill Swamp 8, Moore's Swamp 9 50,                                                                        | 27 50    |          |
| Newville 10, Portsmouth 15,                                                                                              | 25 00    |          |
| Dr. J. Schoolfield, for Smithfield, 10, Raccoon Swamp 8 12,                                                              | 18 12    |          |
| Suffolk 9 25, South Quay 10, Western Branch 13,                                                                          | 32 25    |          |
| Shoulder's Hill 18, public collection on Sabbath 35,                                                                     | 53 00    |          |
|                                                                                                                          |          | \$404 97 |
|                                                                                                                          | Cr.      |          |
| By this amount paid brother Williams, for one year's ser-<br>vices at Jerusalem and Smithfield,                          | \$250 00 |          |
| Paid J. C. Jordan, for charges for brother Williams' lodg-<br>ing, &c., (he having given him his board, &c.,)            | 25 00    |          |
| Paid T. Hume's traveling expenses, in part, to Jerusalem,                                                                | 2 50     |          |
| Paid Wm. O. Bailey, for services in Prince George and<br>Surry,                                                          | 50 00    | 327 50   |
| Balance on hand,                                                                                                         |          | \$77 47  |

Elder J. L. Gwaltney, from the Committee on Sabbath Schools, presented the following report, which was adopted:

Your Committee on Sabbath Schools present the following: Much has been said and written on this important subject, setting forth the claims of Sabbath Schools, and enforcing the obligations of christians to engage in the good work. But few, if any, at this enlightened age, will pretend to deny, but that great and lasting good has been accomplished through this instrumentality. The Sabbath School is said to be the nursery of the church. It is here that mind is trained in its earliest developments, and given a direction which must and will tell upon the interests of generations to come. From those children around us, and in our midst, are to come forth husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, doctors, lawyers, statesmen, ministers and churches. In those children we have all the elements from which are to spring up moral, intellectual and religious worth. Overwhelming interests are suspended upon the training and education of the rising generation. Should the great fundamental principles of the gospel, as taught in the Bible, and set forth in the Sabbath School, be lost sight of, the result will be awful in the extreme. It is here that moral principle is combined with the first rudiments of education, without which education, (in the popular sense,) would be the greatest curse ever entailed on the human family. We have a striking instance of this in the history of the French, when they discarded the Bible and obliterated the Sabbath. They were an educated people. Their minds had been cultivated. They possessed high intellectual attainments. But alas! they were destitute of moral principle, and might be justly termed, a set of learned fools: having know-

ledge without wisdom. If there is an institution of learning on earth, that claims our first attention, and in which we, as parents and philanthropists, ought to feel the deepest interest, it is the well regulated Sabbath School. It is in this school the poor as well as the rich are welcome, and receive the same attention. In this department of education, all may find employment adapted to fit them for higher stations of usefulness. One thing is certain, if we do not attend to the education and training of the rising generation, and thus prepare them for the various and useful occupations of life, they will be trained and educated by the devil, or his assistants, for vice, dissipation, and all other species of immorality, which must drown the soul in perdition. The intellectual improvement of the mind, through the instrumentality of religious education, is a subject too little thought of, and too much neglected, by christians and christian ministers of the present day. There are but few churches who might not sustain Sabbath Schools, if there existed that spirit of self-denial that should characterize those who profess to love Christ and the souls of men.

We have no efficient free school system by which the poor can be educated, among whom are found those of the brightest intellects; and even if we had, it would by no means supersede the worth and importance of Sabbath Schools, nor would it release christians from the obligations resting upon them in reference to this subject. How much better it would be for every church member to be actively engaged in this employment, by which their own minds would be improved, as teachers or scholars, than to be visiting or idling away the Sabbath. We might say much more on this subject, but we think enough has been said, if rightly appreciated, to enlist the feelings of every christian who will read, and think, and pray. We present you with the following statistical account, as collected from the letters of the churches composing this body: Only 13 churches have reported,—17 schools, 23 officers, 152 teachers, 949 scholars. About 1600 volumes in libraries, and 25 scholars have professed conversion during the past year, in connection with the Portsmouth church.

Compared with your report of last year, this presents a small increase, but your committee are fully persuaded, that there is not that interest felt in the Sabbath School cause, among our churches generally, which the importance of the subject demands. O! when will christians awake to a sense of their obligations?

Elder T. Hume, from the Committee on the Depository, presented the following report, which was adopted:

Your committee would report, that very little has been done by them during the past year. We have in various ways contributed to the circulation of a great many books, chiefly acting as agents for individuals and churches. Our sales have, however, been very limited, owing probably, to the few S. Schools in operation, and the indifference of the churches to the circulation of books. It is evident that the establishment of this depository furnishes great facilities for the accomplishment of good. If the brethren would avail themselves of this instrumentality, they would certainly find it of great importance. We should endeavor to influence our people to read, and improve their minds,—the spirit of the age demands this, while their own christian characters would be advanced by the reading of judicious books, such as they can obtain from our depository.

We have received no contributions to the depository for the last two or three years. It is to be hoped that the churches will bestow a portion of their benevolence upon this important auxiliary. The probable amount of their stock, sales, &c., may be estimated at something more than \$200. Our amount of stock is small, but when we have not such books on hand as may be desired, we have facilities which will enable us easily to procure them, and in every instance purchases can be made on the lowest terms.

Elder J. C. Bailey, from the Committee on Foreign Missions, presented the following report, which was adopted :

So far as your committee are informed, but a small amount has been contributed for Foreign Missions, during the present year, and this by a few of the churches. We are aware that some of the churches have been repairing, enlarging, &c., their houses of worship, while others have been erecting new houses, which have required considerable expenditure. Since the separation between the North and the South, the chief attention of some of the churches has been directed to Domestic Missions, and thus there has been a deficiency in the contributions to this object. But the great cause of delinquency is to be found in the apathy in spiritual things, and the worldly-mindedness which prevail. We must lift our warning voice long and loud, that these things ought not so to be.

There seems to be a special call upon Virginia Baptists, to lead the way in Foreign Missions. The location of the Board of the Southern Convention at Richmond, brings the cause near to us, and demands that we should specially sustain it. Vast fields are opening to the Baptists of the South, especially China, with her teeming millions. And there is a call upon us in the fact, that we have young men raised up in our midst, who, with burning zeal, are now ready to leave their native land, and preach the gospel to the heathen.

We would recommend, that efforts be made during the present year to get each member of the churches to make a monthly contribution for this object, and the result be reported in the letters to our next session.

We would further recommend, the churches to send up their contributions to be paid through the Association, when they do not raise an amount sufficient to appoint a delegate to the Southern Convention.

After the reading of the above report, Brother S. C. Clopton, who is about to leave as a Missionary to China, made an interesting address, which was followed by interesting addresses from others.

Standing Committees were then appointed as follows :

*On Foreign Missions.*—J. W. M. Williams, Wm. O. Bailey, T. B. Creath.

*On Education.*—Wm. H. Jordan, J. L. Gwaltney, S. H. Holmes.

*On Temperance.*—H. H. Banks, J. C. Bailey, J. R. Chambliss.

*On Sabbath Schools.*—R. Jones, P. Owens, S. Murfee.

*On Bible Operations.*—J. L. Gwaltney, G. G. Exall, R. Gordon.

*On the Depository.*—T. Hume, J. Hendren, J. Salusbury.

*On the Central Committee.*—R. Jones, J. W. Potts, P. Owens, J. R. Chambliss, Jos. G. Turner.

The Corresponding Letter was presented by Elder J. W. M. Williams, and adopted.

The essay of Bro. Gwaltney, on the use of the title "Bishop," was referred to Brethren Jones and Hume, to be published with the minutes, if they think it desirable.

The Association then proceeded to make arrangements for the next annual session, when it was resolved, that it should be held with the church in Portsmouth.

Elder Wm. H. Jordan was appointed to preach the Introductory Sermon, and Elder P. Owens, his alternate.

The "Financial Committee" presented the following report, which was adopted, and the committee discharged :

The Financial Committee beg leave to report, that they have examined the account of Brother Richard B. Wright, Treasurer of the Association, accompanied by proper vouchers, and find in his hands a balance of \$45 59  
Received from churches, the present session, 84 12

|                                                    |                                                 |          |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Amount in the Treasury,<br>Respectfully submitted. | WM. H. HOLMES, }<br>JNO. W. POTTS, } Committee. | \$129 71 |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------|

The Elam Church having requested advice from the Association, Brethren J. C. Bailey, J. W. M. Williams and T. B. Creath, were appointed to visit the church, and give them such advice as upon examination may seem proper, and report to the next Association.

Elder H. H. Banks offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted :

*Resolved*, That in view of the great destitution of the preached word throughout the south and south-west, we commend the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention (whose business it is to supply this destitution) to the sympathies, prayers, and liberal contributions of the churches.

The resolution was followed with remarks from Elder A. B. Smith, the agent of the Board, showing the importance of this object and its claims to our attention and interest.

Brother J. W. Potts presented the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That we regard the "Ministers' Meeting" of this Association, as calculated to do great good to our ministering brethren connected with it, and consequently to our churches, we therefore hope it will be continued, and that all our ministers will unite with it.

Remarks were made by several brethren relative to the great utility of this meeting, when the resolution was adopted. It may be well to state here, that the next ministers' meeting is appointed to be held with the Newville Church, Sussex county, on Thursday before the fifth Lord's day in August.

The following resolution, presented by Elder R. Jones, was adopted.

*Resolved*, That the churches be requested to designate, in their annual letters, the number of colored persons in their fellowship.

The Association having resolved to resume its connection with the General Association, the following brethren were appointed delegates to the next session of that body, viz: J. Edwards, J. H. Hendren, Joseph G. Turner, J. W. M. Williams, Wm. O. Bailey, and J. L. Trueman.

The Constitution and Rules of Order, were directed to be published with the next minutes.

Elder R. Jones presented the following resolution, which was adopted:

*Resolved*, That we deem it expedient, that the Southern Baptist Convention should create a Board of Publication.

On motion, the thanks of this body were returned to the brethren and friends of this neighborhood, for their kindness and hospitality.

On motion, it was

*Resolved*, That Elder T. Hume be appointed to edit the minutes, secure the printing of two thousand copies, and distribute them.

The business being concluded, a motion for adjournment was made and carried.

The minutes were then read and corrected. After the usual devotional exercises, the Association was declared adjourned, to meet with the church in the town of Portsmouth, on Friday before the fourth Sabbath in May next.

Signed by order of the Association.

JAMES C. JORDAN, *Moderator*.

Teste,—T. HUME, *Clerk*.

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## Corresponding Letter.

DEAR BRETHREN:—

Through the merciful protection of God, we have been permitted to assemble together in our annual association. Our session has been pleasant, profitable and harmonious. Though some of our churches mourn over the desolation of Zion, yet you will see, from our statistical table, that some of them have been blessed with a refreshing from the presence of the Lord, and that 503 have been added to us by baptism. It affords us pleasure to communicate to you, that all the benevolent operations of the day lie near our hearts, and that a greater interest than usual has been manifested in them at the present session.

We were much gratified and encouraged by the presence of your messengers. We shall ever welcome them at our meetings and promise to do our part in cultivating this interchange of brotherly love. We have appointed brethren to reciprocate your kindness, and to represent us at your respective meetings.

Our next Association will be held with the Portsmouth church. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

JAMES C. JORDAN, *Moderator*.

Teste,—T. HUME, *Clerk*.

CONSTITUTION  
OF THE  
Virginia Portsmouth Baptist Association.

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PREAMBLE.

From a long series of experience, we, the churches of Jesus Christ, being regularly baptized upon the profession of our faith in Christ, are convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches, in order to perpetuate a union and communion amongst us, and preserve and maintain a correspondence with each other in our union: We therefore propose to maintain and keep the orders and rules of an association, according to the following plan or form of government:

ARTICLE I. The Association shall be composed of "*white male members*," chosen by the different churches in our union, and duly sent to represent them in the Association, who shall be members whom they judge best qualified for that purpose, and producing letters from their respective churches, certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to a seat.

II. In the letters from the different churches, shall be expressed their number in full fellowship, those baptized, received by letter, dismissed, excommunicated and dead, since the last Association.

III. The members thus chosen and convened, shall be denominated "THE VIRGINIA PORTSMOUTH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION," being composed of sundry churches lying and being in the lower parts of Virginia, who shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage; nor shall they infringe any of the internal rights of any church in the union.

IV. The Association, when convened, shall be governed and ruled by a regular and proper decorum.

V. The Association shall have a Moderator and Clerk, who shall be chosen by the suffrages of the members present.

VI. New churches may be admitted into this union, who shall petition by letter and delegates, and upon examination (if found orthodox and orderly) shall be received by the Association, and manifested by the Moderator giving the delegates the right hand of fellowship.

VII. Every church in the union shall be entitled to representation in the Association; but only two members shall be admitted from each church.



VIII. Every query presented by any member in the Association shall be once read : and before it be debated, the Moderator shall put it to vote, and if there be a majority for its being debated, it shall be taken into consideration and be deliberated ; but if there be a majority against it, it shall be withdrawn.

IX. Every motion made and seconded, shall come under the consideration of the Association, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

X. The Association shall endeavor to furnish the churches with the minutes of the Associations. The best method of effecting this purpose shall be at the discretion of the future Association.

XI. It is necessary that we should have an Association Fund, for defraying the expenses of the body ; for the raising and supporting of which it shall be the duty of each church in the union to contribute and send by the hands of their delegates to the Association ; and these monies, thus contributed by the churches, and received by the Association, shall be deposited in the hands of a Treasurer, by the Association appointed, who shall be accountable to the Association for all monies by him received and paid out, according to the direction of the Association.

XII. There shall be an Association book kept, wherein the proceedings of every Association shall be regularly recorded, by a Secretary appointed by the Association, who shall receive a compensation, yearly, for his trouble.

XIII. The minutes of the Association shall be read (and corrected if need be,) and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association rises.

XIV. Amendments to this plan or form of government may be made at any time, by a majority of the union, when they shall deem it necessary.

XV. The Association shall have power—

1st. To provide for the general union of the churches.

2d. To preserve inviolably, a chain of communion among the churches.

3d. To give the churches all necessary advice in matters of difficulty.

4th. To inquire into the cause why the churches fail to represent themselves at any time in the Association.

5th. To appropriate those monies by the churches contributed for an Association fund, to any purpose they may think proper.

6th. To appoint any member or members, by and with his or their consent, to transact any business which they may think proper.

7th. The Association shall have power to withdraw from any church in this Union which shall violate the rules of this Association, or deviate from the orthodox principles of religion.

8th. To admit any of the distant Brethren in the Ministry, as assistants, who may be present at the time of their sitting, whom they shall judge necessary.

9th. The Association shall have power to adjourn themselves to any future time or place they may think most convenient to the Churches in the Union.

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#### RULES OF DECORUM.

1st. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

2d. A Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by the suffrages of the members present.

3d. Only one person shall speak at a time, who shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator. The person thus speaking shall not be interrupted by any except the Moderator. He shall strictly adhere to the subject, and in no wise reflect on the person who spoke before, but shall fairly state the case and matter as nearly as he can, so as to convey his ideas.

4th. No person shall abruptly break off or absent himself from the Association, without liberty obtained from it.

5th. No person shall rise to speak more than three times on one subject, without liberty from the Association.

6th. No member of the Association shall have the liberty of laughing during the session of the same, nor of whispering in time of public speaking.

7th. No member of this Association shall address another by any other term or appellation than that of Brother.

The foregoing Constitution and Rules of Decorum was ratified and adopted at the first sitting of the Association in May, 1791.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

| CHURCHES.        | COUNTIES.       | DELEGATES.                       | Baptized. | Recd by letter. | Restored. | Dismissed. | Expelled. | Deceased. | Net gain. | Net loss. | Aggregate. | Assoc'n fund. | Itinerant fund and Gen'l Assoc'n | For. Missions. | Home Missions. | Educn Society and Rich'd College. | Bible Society. |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|---------------|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Beaver Dam,      | Isle of Wight,  | J. K. Daughtrey, J. R. Watkins,  | 23        |                 |           | 1          | 1         | 5         | 16        | 3         | 212        | 3 00          | 5 00                             | 5 00           | 80 00          | 25 00                             |                |
| Bethesda,        | Isle of Wight,  | A. N. Turner, Joel Brock,*       |           |                 |           | 1          | 2         | 4         |           | 7         | 19 1 00    | 1 00          |                                  |                |                | 175 00                            |                |
| Black Creek,     | Southampton,    | P. Owens, J. Edwards,            | 13        | 1               |           | 1          | 2         | 4         | 4         |           | 126 2 00   | 2 00          | 5 90                             |                |                |                                   |                |
| Black Water,     | Princess Anne,  | S. B. Rogers,* T. Waller,*       | 4         |                 |           | 4          | 3         | 3         | 4         |           | 109 1 50   | 1 50          |                                  |                |                |                                   |                |
| Brandon,         | Prince George,  | M. P. Sledge, Wm. Atkinson,*     |           |                 |           | 8          | 7         | 4         | 1         | 7         | 408 5 00   | 5 00          | 30 00                            | 250 00         | 80 00          | 25 00                             |                |
| Cumberland St.,  | Norfolk city,   | J. Salusbury, R. B. Wright,*     | 10        | 2               |           | 2          | 1         | 5         |           | 3         | 51 1 13    | 1 13          | 10 00                            |                |                | 155 00                            | 60 00          |
| Elam,            | Sussex,         | A. T. Clary, R. W. Faison,*      | 3         | 1               |           | 2          | 1         | 5         |           | 4         | 65 2 00    | 2 00          | 7 97                             | 5 50           | 7 89           | 57 00                             |                |
| Hick's Ford,     | Greensville,    | J. R. Chambliss,* W. C. Davis,   | 1         | 3               |           | 2          | 4         |           |           | 3         | 181 3 00   | 3 00          |                                  |                |                |                                   |                |
| High Hills,      | Sussex,         | J. C. Bailey, J. B. Mays,        |           |                 |           |            |           |           |           |           | 9 1 00     | 1 00          |                                  |                |                |                                   |                |
| Hunting Quarter, | Sussex,         | No delegate.                     |           |                 |           |            |           |           |           |           |            |               |                                  |                |                |                                   |                |
| Jerusalem,       | Southampton,    | J. W. M. Williams, E. Nelms,     | 5         | 2               |           | 2          | 1         | 4         | 2         |           | 13 1 50    | 1 50          | 10 00                            |                |                |                                   |                |
| Kempsville,      | Princess Anne,  | J. Williamson,* W. H. C. Lovett, | 4         | 3               |           | 2          | 1         | 1         | 4         |           | 100 2 00   | 2 00          |                                  |                |                |                                   |                |
| London Bridge,   | Princess Anne,  | H. H. Banks, W. S. Cox,          | 4         | 1               |           | 3          | 3         |           |           | 9         | 108 3 00   | 3 00          |                                  |                |                |                                   |                |
| Market Street,   | Petersb'g city, | W. H. Jordan,* J. L. Trueman,    | 2         | 10              |           | 11         | 2         | 2         |           | 3         | 202 3 00   | 3 00          | 70 00                            | 390 00         |                | 675 00                            | 2 00           |
| Meherrin,        | Southampton,    | J. Sykes, J. T. Powell,*         |           |                 |           | 2          | 1         | 1         |           | 2         | 82 2 00    | 2 00          |                                  |                |                |                                   |                |
| Millfield,       | Southampton,    | S. H. Holmes, J. Fivensh,        | 10        | 1               |           | 8          | 2         | 1         | 1         |           | 74 1 50    | 1 50          |                                  |                |                |                                   |                |
| Mill Swamp,      | Isle of Wight,  | J. Cofer, J. H. L. Cofer,        | 3         | 2               |           | 2          | 1         | 28        |           | 31        | 230 2 50   | 2 50          | 8 00                             |                |                | 25 00                             |                |
| Moore's Swamp,   | Surry,          | Zach. Harris, A. Holleman,       |           |                 |           | 1          | 4         | 4         |           | 9         | 131 2 00   | 2 00          | 9 25                             |                |                | 7 47                              |                |
| Newville,        | Sussex,         | J. L. Gwaltney, J. W. Potts,     | 6         | 3               |           | 2          | 1         | 4         | 1         |           | 135 2 00   | 2 00          | 15 00                            | 15 00          | 13 25          | 50 00                             | 30 00          |
| North West,      | Norfolk,        | J. Lynch,* R. Wiggington,        | 9         | 1               |           | 5          | 2         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 121 1 50   | 1 50          |                                  |                |                |                                   |                |
| Old Shop,        | Prince George   | S. H. Jones, Wm. Jones,          | 5         | 4               |           | 4          | 3         | 1         | 11        |           | 59 1 00    | 1 00          |                                  |                |                |                                   |                |
| Olive Branch,    | Prince George   | J. L. Walker, W. Wiseman,*       | 9         |                 |           |            |           |           |           |           | 11 1 50    | 1 50          |                                  |                |                |                                   |                |
| Otter Dam,       | Surry,          | P. Sheffield, H. Bryant,         | 26        | 1               |           | 9          | 1         | 2         | 16        |           | 62 1 00    | 1 00          |                                  |                |                |                                   |                |

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|---------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|
| Pleasant Grove, Norfolk,                                | 116 | 9  | 2  | 5   | 12  | 3   | 107 | 19  | 617 | 3    | 00 | 30  | 00 | 100 | 00 | 40  | 00 | 100 | 00  | 25  | 00 |    |
| Portsmouth, Norfolk,                                    | 15  | 3  | 1  | 6   | 10  | 3   |     |     | 123 | 2    | 00 | 8   | 13 |     |    |     |    |     |     | 25  | 00 |    |
| Pungo, Princess Anne,                                   | 2   | 1  | 1  | 13  | 4   | 2   |     |     | 15  | 193  | 2  | 00  |    |     |    |     |    |     |     |     | 50 | 00 |
| Raccoon Swamp, Sussex,                                  |     |    |    |     | 2   | 1   |     |     | 3   | 72   | 2  | 00  |    |     |    |     |    |     |     |     |    |    |
| Salem, Norfolk,                                         | 9   | 2  |    |     | 3   | 2   |     |     | 11  | 74   | 2  | 50  | 10 | 00  |    |     |    |     |     |     |    |    |
| Sappony, Sussex,                                        |     |    |    |     | 2   | 7   |     |     |     |      |    |     |    |     |    |     |    |     |     |     |    |    |
| Shiloh, Prince George,                                  | 15  | 1  |    |     | 4   | 6   |     |     |     | 265  | 4  | 00  | 18 | 00  | 60 | 00  | 15 | 00  | 150 | 00  | 5  | 00 |
| Shoulder's Hill, Nansmond,                              | 19  | 1  | 1  | 7   | 1   | 3   |     |     | 10  | 189  | 1  | 50  | 20 | 00  | 18 | 12  |    |     |     | 155 | 00 |    |
| Suffolk, R. H. Carney, J. S. Wright,                    |     |    |    |     | 1   | 3   |     |     |     | 52   | 2  | 00  | 75 | 00  |    |     |    |     |     | 87  | 50 |    |
| Smithfield, R. Jones, Wm. H. Holmes,                    | 13  | 2  |    |     | 1   | 2   |     |     |     | 166  | 3  | 00  | 10 | 00  |    |     |    |     |     |     | 25 | 00 |
| South Quay, Isle of Wight, J. C. Jordan, S. G. Boykin,* |     |    |    |     | 3   | 2   |     |     | 4   | 223  | 3  | 00  | 13 | 00  |    |     |    |     |     |     | 45 | 00 |
| Tucker's Swamp, Nansmond,                               | 24  | 1  |    |     | 1   | 3   |     |     |     | 182  | 3  | 00  |    |     |    |     |    |     |     |     |    |    |
| Western Branch, Nansmond,                               | 104 | 6  | 22 | 8   | 23  | 10  | 91  |     |     | 1393 | 2  | 50  |    |     |    |     |    |     |     |     |    |    |
| African, J. S. Gwaltney, B. Crumpler,                   |     |    |    |     | 15  | 15  | 29  | 16  |     | 1119 | 3  | 00  |    |     |    |     |    |     |     |     |    |    |
| Gillfield, Petersb'g city, J. L. Trueman,               | 36  | 1  |    |     | 1   | 1   |     |     |     | 56   | 2  | 00  |    |     |    |     |    |     |     |     |    |    |
| Third, (colored,) Petersburg, F. H. Robertson,          | 15  | 1  |    |     | 1   | 1   |     |     |     | 590  | 1  | 50  |    |     |    |     |    |     |     |     |    |    |
| First, (colored,) Norfolk city, Robert Gordon,          | 16  | 3  | 14 | 3   | 18  | 4   | 8   |     |     |      |    |     |    |     |    |     |    |     |     |     |    |    |
| 40 churches.                                            | 503 | 71 | 65 | 133 | 166 | 127 | 333 | 115 | 808 | 84   | 63 | 342 | 25 | 845 | 62 | 156 | 14 | 188 | 597 | 114 | 24 |    |

56 delegates present—the absent marked thus \*

The following is a list of the Ministers of this Association, and the names of their Post Offices. Those in *small capitals* are ordained, those in *italics* licensed.

- Wm. H. Jordan, *J. L. Trueman, Robert Burton, Petersburg.*  
 Jas. L. Gwaltney, *L. R. L. Jennings, Newville.*  
 Josiah C. Bailey, Hicks' Ford.  
 Wm. O. Bailey, Prince George Court House.  
 Thos. B. Creath, Parham's Store.  
 T. N. Johnson, Prince George Court House.  
 J. W. M. Williams, Jerusalem. P. Owens, Bowers'.
- S. H. Holmes, Berlin. S. Murfee, *J. Martin, Franklin.*  
 R. Jones, I. V. Luke, Suffolk.  
 T. Hume, *Richard Deans, Portsmouth.*  
 G. W. Latham, (Chaplain U. S. N.,) J. Hendren, R. Gordon, Norfolk. *H. H. Banks, London Bridge.*  
 David Riggs, J. A. Bonny, Princess Anne Court House.  
 G. G. Exall, Hickory Ground.

