

Records of the Marlborough Association

The Association

at

Marlborough

The Gift of the Rev. Mr. John Swift

June, 5th

in the Year

1725

These records are presented by Rev. S. F. Bucklin, of the Marlborough association, now Extinct, to the Union Church in Marlboro, to be preserved among their archives forever.

George E. Day

April 27. 1842

[1]

At Marlborough

June 5th 1725

Pursuant to the Votes of the Association at *Framingham*, in April 13th last, We whose names follow, vizt *John Swift, Robert Breck, John Prentice, Isaac Loring, Job Cushing, John Gardner, and Ebenezer Parkman*, being met together for the emodying our Selves into a distinct Society, (with Design and Aim hereinto Advance the Interests of Christ, the Service of our Respective Charges, and our own mutuall Edification in our great Work) Have, for our Regulation, in the

First place agreed That We will elect a *Moderator* and *Clerk* from Time to Time; and for the present have Chosen *John Swift* Moderator; and *Ebenezer Parkman* Clerk. And have *Further* voted in this (Subsequent) wise, Vizt.

I. First, That we will Associate Four Times in a Year: the first meeting to be on the Second Tuesday in April; and the other thre (meetings) to be appointed as the Association shall see meet; And in case any thing Extraordinary obstruct attending at the Time Designed, (as *Fasts* etc.) that we meet the next Tuesday after: That we be present between the Hours of Nine and Ten of the Clock; That *Marlborough*, the Central Town, be the *Place* of our ordinary Meeting; unless upon the Desire [1-2] of any particular member the Asociation Shall see Cause to meet Elsewhere (and it is to be noted that in Such Case; to wit, of Remove to any other Place than Marlborough, the above mentioned Time of Day shall be dispensed with.)

II. Secondly, That we will begin and conclude our Association with Prayer, Each his Turn (according to his Seniority) - That we will consider any Cases that Shall be laid before us by any Member of us, or by other persons, which Shall be thought worthy thereof: And, if there be opportunity therefor, Each Member Shall deliver (in his order also) *Concionem ad Clerum*; (unless it be then judged proper Some *Question* be Spoken to, being proposed the Meeting before, and as many persons to make answer to it as Were appointed thereunto:)

That we Shall be regulated by the Voice of the Association in all the Services and Exercises of the Same.

[Those Who were present and so at first Subscribed the foregoing Articles (according to what is in the Preamble thereof Expressed) were]

_ John Swift

_ Robert Breck

_ John Prentice

- _ Israel Loring
- _ Job Cushing
- _ John Gardner
- _ Eben. Parkman

Those who are thus markd [_] are decaasd -- Those markd _ _ are not now of us. [2-3]

[Those who not being present at first Subscrib'd afterwards, were]

Moses Adams	_ William Cook
Asa Packard	_ Samuel Barrett
Phineas Wright	Thomas Frink
Joseph Willard	Nathan Stone
Samuel Sumner	Solomon Prentice
Jerabram Parker	Jonathan Martyn
	Aaron Smith
	Ebenezer Morse
	Thomas Goss
	Joseph Buckingham
	Joseph Davis
	John Seccomb
	John Mellen
	Thaddeus Mccarty
	Joseph Wheeler
	Timothy Harrington

Jon Bridges

N. B. Rev. Moses Adams was Peter Whitney

admitted a member April 20th Jacob Biglow

1784. Jonathan Newell

David Kellogg

Ezra Ripley [3-4]

Associated at Marlborough Sep: 7. 1725.

Present

Robert Breck

Israel Loring

Mr. John Gardner

Ebenezer Parkman

Absent

John Swift

John Prentice

Mr. Job Cushing

Samuel Barrett [4-5]

Associated at Marlborough Oct: 5 1725

Present

Robert Breck

John Gardner

Mr. John Prentice

Job Cushing

Ebenezer Parkman

Absent

John Swift

Mr. Israel Loring

Samuel Barrett [5-6]

April. 1726 -- Associated [6-7]

[pages 7-10 blank]

At Marlborough June 13. 1727

Present

Robert Breck	Job Cushing
John Prentice	John Gardner
Israel Loring	Ebenezer Parkman

The Association was opened by Mr. John Gardner. After the Address to Heaven, The Rev. *John McKinstry* of *Sutton* requested Advice and Instructions concerning the Regard he should Shew to *another* Council which he apprehends the aggrieved Part of his Church and Congregation are calling; after the Determinations and Advice of the Council of Octob: 12. 1726: the Result of which Council notwithstanding his Church has voted an acquiecence in already. The Advice therefore which we gave him was to this following purpose. Scil:

To pay Such Respect to the Council as to deliver in writing, from his own house, a *fair Representation* of the Proceedings of his Church Since the former Council; and particularly Such an one as Shall include his own transactions relating to Some Articles that appear to be new in the allegations of his Opposers (it being to be observed that the greatest Number, yea almost all, of their alledgement which they have prepar'd and to lay before their Council, are what were before hear'd thorowly and finished). For it is our opinion that Mr. McKinstry lies under no obligation to Submitt his Case to another Council, Seeing it has been already determined by one, and his Church has Voted an acquiescence therein, as appears from their Church Records. [11-12]

Associated at Marlborough, April 9th 1728. The Meeting was opened by Mr. Barrett of Hopkinton. There was a General *Concern* expressed touching our Remissness in time past, and that We have met with So many Obstructions to the prosecuting the great Designs of our Association. To revive and Strengthen us Each one desired the Articles on which we were founded might be both Read over and Sign'd anew. Which accordingly was done. (Having first chosen Mr. Swift Moderator and Ebenezer Parkman Clark, according to those Articles of our Foundation). After which

The *First Case* that came forward was proposed by Mr. *Loring* respecting some inorthodox opinions breached by one *Clap* of his Church of west Sudbury; the said Clap imagining and believing that we are not beholden to our Lord Jesus Christ for any Satisfaction made to God by his Blood except for the Sins against God's first Precepts to *Adam* and the Moral Law; but as for our Sins under the Gospel they are freely forgiven of God without any Satisfaction. The Association were of opinion that Their Church had done wisely in Suspending Brother Clap from the Sacrament such Doctrines Tending immediately to Subvert Christian Religion.

The *Second* Case was proposed by the Moderator concerning Three Members of his [Church] charged by Coll. Buckingham (another of the Same Communion) with taking false oaths.

The Association advis'd that Coll. Buckingham be desired to prosecute them in the Common Law rather than involve the church in debates about Titles to Lands; as that affair unavoidably run them into.

In the *Third* place Mr. *Axtel* of Marlboro came in, with his Complaints of being So long debarred Communion with the Church there.

The Association desir'd he would acknowledge what irregularities or unadvised management he had known himself chargeable with, relating to *Tabitha Oak* (formerly *Rice*), and accordingly the Moderator drew up a Confession and gave him; which, (he being desir'd Well to consider of and Sign) he took with him for those Ends.

The *Fourth* Case was brought in by the Clerk, wherein He desir'd the Advice of the Association -- whether a Child born though but Three Dayes under Seven Solar months after Marriage might [13-14] be baptized; And whether if the Church should by a great majority express their willingness to have it baptized yet we may proceed if Three or Four Members offered Objections, with plausible Reasons to Support the Same. It was advised to Baptize the Child.

The Next Meeting to be at this Same Place on the Second Tuesday in June. [14-15]

Associated June 11, at Marlborough.

Mr. Breck first pray'd.

The Moderator and Clerk as before.

The Rev. John McKinstry of Sutton requested the *Thoughts* of the Association might be given him upon the Question "May Thanks be return'd to, and are we forever to bless God for those whom God makes use of as the instrumental means of our Conversion?"

Affirmatively resolved that we may be for ever thankfull to those who under God are the means of our Conversion?" Then Mr. John Prentice of Lancaster preach'd from 2 Cor: 6,1. We Then as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the Grace of God in Vain: he prayed likewise after Sermon; and we Concluded with singing Ps. 68, latter part.

Voted the next meeting to be (according to the Request of the Moderator) at his house at Framingham, The First Tuesday in September next.

Associated at Framingham. Sept: 10

Mr. Loring prayed.

The Moderator and Clark etc.

Mr. Loring asked Counsel upon a very Troublesome Affair he had before him with one of his Church, Scil: *John Clap* who had entertained very strange and heterodox Opinions touching the Satisfaction of Christ. The Said *Clap* urges Mr. Loring and the Church to call together any Persons, Ministers or others, a Smaller or greater Number, as they pleased, or a Council (in form) if they so liked to Examine and consider their Case etc:

Which Request of Clap Mr. Loring was advis'd to Comply with.

Mr. Loring concluded the Meeting with prayer.

Voted the next meeting to be on the last Tuesday but one of October.

[15-16]

1728. *Associated* at Marlborough Oct.

Present

N.B. No mention has been made here, of who was *Clerk*; and for Some Time because the *Same* person was Settled *for Continuance*, Scil. Eb. Parkman [16-17].

In the Year 1729.

Associated March 25th. at Lancaster

Present

John Prentice

Israel Loring

Mr. Job Cushing

John Gardner

William Cooke

The First of which was elected Moderator, Mr. William Cook having opened the Association with Prayer

A Case of Gardner's was proposed and Considered.

The Moderator Concluded.

A Lecture was next Day preached by Mr. Cook.

Voted That the Next Association be at *Framingham* on May 13th

Associated at Framingham May 13th.

Present John Swift (chosen moderator)

 John Prentice

 Israel Loring (who Lectured privately

 from 2 Cor. 2, 16 and prayed

 both before and after.)

 John Gardner

 Samuel Barrett

 Ebenezer Parkman (the Clerk)

Rev. Mr. Ol. Peabody gave us the Present Circumstances of Mr. Cotton at Providence.

Voted the next Association at Marlborough July 29th 1729. (N.B. A Council Sitting at Framingham on the 15th the Reason for deferring the Association to the 29th.)

Present John Swift Moderator Job Cushing

 Robert Breck John Gardner

 John Prentice William Cook

 Israel Loring Ebenezer Parkman

The Reverend Moderator Read part of Some Sermons of his upon *Contention* when the Rev. Mr. *Baxter* of Medfield (present at the Special Request of the Association) had prayed.

The Rev. *David Parsons* of *Leicester* requested Some Advice of the Association in Some of his Difficulties, as particularly *First* whether he should submit to the *Deposition* of him, which his disaffected Brethren in *Leicester* had formally voted.

To which the Association replied that inasmuch as the regularity and warrantableness of their Proceeding and their Power to depose their Pastor was a matter that they were about to be lay before a Council, it was not the mind of the Association to enter upon it and could not give in that advice which must be gather'd up from the discussion of those Points.

Secondly Whether he Should join in calling the Council which was not by his *Lei'ster* Brethren proposed to be called? To this Association unanimously advis'd.

The Rev. Mr. *Parson's* Affair being finished The Association requested the Rev. Mr. *Baxter* (who had been their Receiver of the Providence Subscriptions) to look into that account and call for what was yet behind. Upon his doing so every one present paid the full of his Subscription.

The Association voted to meet next at Lancaster on the 2d Tuesday in October next [18-19]

October. 21. Associated at Lancaster but the Clerk, by Reason of his great Indispositions of Body, was absent.

1730

Apr. 7. Associated at Marlborough, but the Clerk under Confinement by his bodily Infirmities. [19-20]

June 9. Associated at Marlborough.

The Clerk present and prayd.

N.B. Mr. Parsons of Salisbury with us.

Sept. 1 Associated at Framingham.

Mr. Loring prayed -- [N.B. Very particular Regard in the prayer to the Clerks Illness] -- The Latter layd the Difficulty occurring in *Westborough* about *Singing*, before the Association -

N.B. Rev. Mr. Breck was prevented attending by a grievous sore in his Mouth, which afterwards proved the sorrowful occasion of his Death. [20-21]

Octob. 15th. Associated at Marlborough -- Met at Benjamin *Woods* Esq. by Reason of Mr. Brecks being under Salivation.

This Meeting was turned into a Fast. A.M. Mr. *Swift* prayd and Mr. *Prentice* preached from *Mat.* 4.24. P.M. Mr. *Cushing* prayd, and Mr. *Swift* preached on *Rev.* 2.5 -- Parkman prayd after Sermon. [21-22]

[Page 22: blank]

April 6. 1731

Associated at Lancaster.

Mr. Swift Moderator -- Mr. Moderator prayed. A Qu: Spoke to, Scil: *Whether Ruling Elders are of Div. Authority -- Mr. Moderator largely on the Neg.*

7th. Mr. Stone of Southboro at the Publick Lecture on *Mat.* 22.5. Agreed to turn our Association Meetings into Fasts for the reviving Religion and imploring the Div. Blessing upon the Rising Generation.

That the first Association Fast be kept at Stow and Mr. Prentice and Mr. Barrett the Preachers. The Time on Wednesday May 12.

May 12. Association Fast at Stow.

Mr. Barrett a.m. on *Prov.* 22.6. Mr. Prentice (of Lancas.) p.m. on *Prov.* 15.20. A Thin Meeting of Ministers. Mr. Swift being engaged at a Fast at Sherborn on account of Mr. Bakers sickness -- Mr. Loring as was ill -- and it was a very rainy season also. Place a Next Fast, Sudbury West Precinct -- Time June 23.

June 23. Association Fast at *Sudbury West* precinct.

Ebenezer Parkman a.m. on *Josh:* 24.15. Mr. Swight p.m. on *Ps.* 85.6. Next Association Fast Voted to be at *Framingham* -- the Day Aug. 25.

June 23. At West Sudbury, Mr. Swift Moderator. Mr. Prentice's Case propounded, whether a Child of a Deceased Church Member may be baptized? Resolved Affirmatively. Mr. Stones Case propounded: whether a person uncertain of his being Baptized in Infancy, and under a strong adn well grounded presumption that he was not, may be baptized? Resolved Affirm.

Aug: 25. Association Fast at Framingham.

Mr. Cook preached a.m. on *Eccl.* 11.9. Mr. Loring p.m. on *Lam.* 3.26. The Rev. Mr. Baxter of Medfield was present and prayed before Sermon p.m.

Sept. Association Fast at Hopkinton.

Mr. Gardner a.m. on 1 Sam. 2:17.18 [illeg.] Mr. Cushing p.m. on 2 Tim. 3.15. Mr. Peabody having prayed before the Latter sermon. [23-24]

Oct: 20 (1731) Association Fast at Shrewsbury.

Mr. Stone (of Southb.) a.m. on Joh: 21.15. Mr. Frink p.m. on Prov. 17.6 - Next meeting appointed to be at Westb.

Nov. 17. Association Fast at Westborough.

Mr. Loring a.m. on Hab: 3.2. Mr. Prentice (of Lancaster) p.m. on Prov. 3.17.

The Association Received a Request from the people of God in Marlborough that the Association would please to keep their next Association Fast in that Town -- which was granted and accordingly the Next Meeting was appointed there and to be on Dec: 8.

Dec. 8. Association Fast was kept at Marlborough agreeable to the Special Request of the Town to the Association. Mr. Barrett Preached on 1 Chron: 28.9 a.m. Mr. Parkman on Eccl. 12,1. p.m. who also prayed before the forenoon Sermon, as Frink did before the Afternoon.

April 12. 1732. Association Fast at Southborough.

Mr. Cushing prayed before Serm: a.m. and Mr. Gardner preached on 1 Sam. 2.18 former Part. Mr. Barrett prayed p.m. and Mr. Loring preached on Prov: 23.26.

May 17. Association Fast at Lancaster.

Mr. Frink preached on Ps: 78,6,7. a.m. Mr. Cook on 1 Sam. 3.13 p.m. Mr. Stone of Southborough having prayed before the latter Sermon.

June 13. Association Fast at Rutland.

Mr. Stone preached a.m. on Gen: 17.18. Mr. Cushing p.m. on 1 King. 18.12. Mr. Parsons of Leicester having prayed before the latter Sermon. Thus finished this Course of Fast of the [24-25] Association (which were generally pritty well attended both by Ministers and people) upon the Great Articles of Reviving Religion and Obtaining a Blessing on the Rising Generation. And then the Association fell into their Course and Manner.

Next Association appointed to be at East Sudbury on Sept. 5.

Sept. 5. The Association met at East Sudbury (at Mr. Cooks). Mr. Prentice of Lancaster preached on Hos. 7.2. Next Meeting to be at the West-Part of the Same Town on Oct. 31.

Oct: 31. The Association met at West Sudbury (at Mr. Loring's).

Only Mr. Cook, Mr. N. Stone and Parkman came.

The Last read a Discourse on 1 Sam: 15.22 after Mr. Loring had prayed.

Nov. 1. Mr. Gardner of Stow and Mr. Philemon Robbins (from *Harvard*) came. Lecture by Mr. N. Stone on 2 Cor: 6.1. Next Meeting to be at Shrewsbury (on the Day Stated for the First Meeting of the Year, Scil: 2d Tuesday in April).

April 9, 1733. Associated at Shrewsbury. Mr. Swift concio and Cler: on Act: 16.17. Several persons from Hopkinton brought a Memorial of their Troubles there; but Mr. Barrett being Absent. the Consideration of it was referred to the next Meeting. 10. Mr. Loring Public Lecture on Rev.3.17. Next Meeting to be at Stow.

June 12. Associated at Stow. A very thin Meeting. Mr. Loring Concio on [blank]. 13. Mr. Cushing on Isa. 1.18. So few present they declined doing anything upon the Hopk: Memorial. Next Meeting to be at Sough Southborough -- Aug. 14. [25-26]

Aug. 14. Associated at Southborough.

Mr. Prentice (of Lancaster) Conc: ad Cler. 2 Cor 6.3.

And 15th, Mr. Benj. Kent (Candidate, and preaching at Marlborough) at the public Lecture on Jun: 15.5. No body appeared from Hopkinton to take any Care of their Business. It was therefore still referred to the Next Association, which was appointed to be at Framingham on Oct: 23. N.B. The Association being very generally together afterward at Harvard Ordination agreed for sufficient Reason that Octob. 16, be the Day of the Next Meeting and not the 23.

Oct: 16 [1733]. Associated at Framingham.

The Rev. Mr. Swift had invited the Southern Association (which were to have met this Day at his Son's in Law Mr. *Stone's*. of *Holliston*; by which means we had the Benefit of their Advice and Assistance in the Difficultys before us relating to Mr. Benj. *Kents* Ordination at Marlborough: Great Complaints being made about the World, of his Principles -- Mr. *Kent* was present and very freely Submitted hims. to our Enquirys and Examinations -- Mr. Loring Interrogated upon the Articles drawn up in the N. Engl. Confession of Fatih -- chiefly relating to the Controversie with the Remonstrants etc. And he gave Such a Declaration of his Belief, and with Such professions of Honesty and Sincerity in all, that the Association manifested their Satisfaction therein upon Condition they Should find, that both his Preaching and Conversation had been and Should for the future be agreeable to Such Declaration. In Short, as long as they Should feel that what he had exhibited were his *real* Sentiments. No public Lecture. Next meeting appointed to be a Westborough at the Usual Time. [26-27]

[1734] Apr. 9. Associated at Westborough.

But few present. No Concio.

A Case was proposed to Consideration -- how far a Church is bound to take notice of a Common Report of a Members Scandalousness, and Circumstances such that it is universally believed, yet no direct proof? 10. Mr. *Stone* (of Southborough) preached publickly on Jer: 7.4. The Next meeting appointed to be at Lancaster on June 11.

June 11. Associated at Lancaster

Mr. Cushing delivered a Concio on 2 Corinth. 5.20. 12. Publick Lecture by Ebenezer Parkman on 21 Thess: 2.16.7. After Sermon Some Disputes arose about *Mysteries in Religion*. Next Meeting appointed to be at Sudbury East precinct on Aug. 27.

Aug. 27. Assoc. at Sudbury East precinct. No Concio. 28. Publick Lecture by Ebenezer Parkman again (urged by this Argument of the Association and Obliged by them because That he had never preached in that Parish) on Rom: 12.1. Next meeting to be at Hassenemisco, Oct: 20.

Oct: 29. Assoc. at Hassenemisco.

Concio by Mr. Loring on Rev. 2.5.

A letter from the Presbytery at Londonderry to be Communicated to the Association, touching a brotherly and Christian agreement and Communion between Congregationalists and Presbyterians, read, and referred to Consideration till tomorrow morning. The Rev. Mr. Hall of Sutton and Mr. William Wait, a delinquent Member of that Church, brought their Difference before the Association. 30. Voted that an Answer be prepar'd to be sent to the Presbytery aforesaid, expressing our Readiness to comply with their Request but not without complaining of, and resenting the Disorders of late in Several Scotch assemblys in those parts, and irregular administrations of the holy Communion [27-28] In the Public, Mr. Prentice of Lancaster preached on [blank]. The Next Meeting appointed to be at Hopkinton at the Stated Time.

Apr. 8, 1735. Associated at Hopkinton.

Concio by Mr. Gardner on Isa: 58.1.

The Letter required by the Association last Meeting to be prepared to be sent to the Rev. Presbytery, was laid before the Association and Voted to be sent accordingly. 9. Mr. Loring preached the Public Lecture on Rom: 16.3. The next meeting appointed to be at West-Sudbury the Second Tuesday of June.

June 10. Associated at West-Sudbury.

Mr. Loring Moderator. Mr. Parkman Concioner on Ps.122.6 to the End.

The Moderator proposed to Consider a difficulty, respecting the withdraw of one of their members from Communion, who would give no Reasons for it and Enquired whether the Censures of the Church must be take place? To which he was (doubtless) advisd. The Late *Vote of the Convention touching the Examination of Candidates for the Ministry* previous to their admission into our pulpits, was debated upon and resolved to be Complied with by those who were present; but was not formally voted at this time being that several of the most Elderly members of the Association were absent, but referred to the next meeting; and in the mean time the Members present were desired to prepare their minds respecting so weighty an Affair and concerning particularly the best manner of Examination so as to the [secure?] against Deceit and Evasion. 11. Mr. Cushing at the Public Lecture on 1 Cor: 11.1. The next meeting appointed to be at Shrewsbury, the last Tuesday in August.

Aug. 26. Associated at Shrewsbury.

Mr. Prentice of Lancaster Moderator.

No Concio. it being Superseded by Several Cases - 1. Mr. Gates of Stow came and asked the Associations Advice in the Case of Diverse Members of the Church in that place, Complaining of Mr. Phinehas *Rice* (a member of the Church of Grafton but residing amongst them) But insasmuch as the said *Rice* was not present nor advertised [28-29] of their Complaint, the Association refused to go into the hearing of it, and with giving only our Gen. Advice dismissed that matter. 2. Several members of the Association asked advice respecting the Dismission of Such Members as request it from their own Churches where they dwell, if they have not Ruling Elders, to Such Churches in Other Towns, where they *have*, but yet craving Liberty of occasional Communion. Many Reasons were offerd against this practice, and therefore it could not be advisd to by any means.

Aug: 27. The Association came in\to the following Vote, Conformable to the Vote passed at the last Convention of Ministers at Boston (see Association at West-Sudbury June 10) Scil: That we will not invite any person to preach, nor Countenance any one preaching, till he has passed through an Examination by this or some other Association. into his Qualifications for the Ministerial Work. N.B. The above written vote to be understood concerning Persons who have not begun to preach at the Time of the Said Convention Vote. Mr. Gardner had been appointed to preach the Public Lecture, but by reason of great Bodily Indisposition was So far disenabled that Mr. *Loring* was prevaild with to perform that Service and preached on 1 Joh: 4.7. first Clause. After Lecture another Letter from the Rev. Persbytery at Londonerry was read to the Association being an Answer to our's of Mention'd Apr: 3 and shewed why they referred our Letter to their further Consideration at their next Presbytery. After Singing Ps: 133 (Tate and Bradys Version) and appointing our next meeting to be on the 2d Tuesday of October At Stow, this Association finished.

October 14. Associated at Stow.

Concio by Mr. *Stone* of Southborough on Mat. 10.16. 15. Mr. Solomon *Prentice* had been appointed to preach the Public Lecture, but for some Special Reasons he was excused at this time and Appointed to attend that service at the next Association. Mr. S. Prentice being excused we did accordingly. E. Parkman was desired to preach Viz. on Eph: 3.8.

Next Meeting at Southborough.

April 13, 1736. Associated at Southborough

Mr. Loring Moderator

The Association came into a Debate upon that Enquiry What are the Qualifications of A Candidate for the Ministry?

The Minutes of the Association were in this form, Scil:

-- See Province Law --

He must be 1. Learned

2. Orthodox

3. Of Good Conversation.

1. *Learned* -- under which Consider

1. Knowledge of the Principles of the Christian Religion, and some Considerable Degree of Aptness and Expertness to teach -- in order to the Better Furniture hencefor

2. Acquaintance with the Tongues, Arts and Sciences etc.

2. *Orthodox*.

See our Confession of Faith

3. Of good Conversation

1. Of Sober, honest, pious Behavior

2. Of Prudence in Conduct.

These Heads were voted to be our general Rule in Examination of Candidates. Accordingly thus the Association proceeded in the Examination of Mr. *Josiah Swan*; and he delivered also an Exercise on Mat: 5.14. Our Approbation of him was expressed in a Certificat delivered to him Signed by the Moderator.

14. Mr. *Frinks* proposals for a Consociation in County of Worcester, considered and left to further Consideration Still.

Mr. Sol. Prentice preached the Public Lecture upon Hos. 4.7.

Next Meeting to be at Lancaster 1st Tuesday in June.

June 1, 1736. Associated at Lancaster.

-- a Thin Meeting --

Only Mr. *Loring*

Cushing

Parkman, came (Except incidental Company)

The last of which was Concionator on Act: 2.7.

Mr. Loring Preached the Lecture (June 2) on Act: 15.36.

The Chief Business done, was by an instrument drawn up at the request of Marlborough Committee, testifying what Mr. Benjamin *Kent* (late of Marlborough) appeared to be, as to his Principles, when he was Examined by the Association at Framingham Oct 16, 1733. The Said Instrument was Signed by

John Prentice
Job Cushing
Ebenezer Parkman

The next meeting appointed to be at Grafton.

N.B. The Time of the Meeting at Grafton was So mistaken as caused two Members only to meet there; who appointed the Next to be at West Sudbury -- on October 19. But before that Day came, Mr. *Loring* wrote to have it put by, by Reason of the sickness of one of his sons. Upon this the Association was appointed to be at *Shrewsbury*, the First Tuesday in November.

Nov. 2, 1736. Associated at *Shrewsbury*

Mr. Prentice of Lancaster Moderator.

Mr. Prentice of Grafton was to have been Concionator but came unprepared. The Moderator delivered an Exercise upon Act: 24.25. Mr. Cushing asked the Advice of the Association upon several Affairs of Difficulty among some occasional Communicants in the Church of Shrewsbury; and in the Case of Several others who were Members of this Church but desired Dismission therefrom to the Church of Christ in Hopkinton.

Nov. 3. Mr. Stone preached at the Public Lecture on Ps: 27. ult.

Next meeting appointed to be at West *Sudbury*.

N.B. The meeting at the appointed Time in *April* was prevented by the Great and unusual Scarcity of Hay.

June 14 1737. Associated at *West Sudbury*

Mr. Prentice of Lancaster Moderator

After Prayer and Singing (the Gentleman being absent who was to have delivered the Concio) Mr. Loring proposed a Case of Difficulty occurring amongst them respecting one of the Members of their Church which he requested advice upon. After which and advising upon it, the Conversation turned very much upon the wonderfull Power and Grace of God where He has been pleased to work the Revival of Religion.

15. Mr. Moderator preached publickly on Hos: 14.5.6.

Next Meeting appointed to be at *Grafton* on Aug. 16.

August 16. Associated at Grafton.

Mr. Loring Moderator

Mr. Solomon Prentice Concion. on John 20, 17. Conversation turned upon the Reproachable Dispeculations of Divine Providence in the world within some few last years.

17. Mr. Loring public Lecture on Gen. 8.21. Rev. Mr. Parsons late of Leicester consulted the Association upon what characters he must be thought to bear as a Christian and as a Minister Since the Result of the last Council at Leicester.

Next Meeting appointed to be at Hopkinton October 25.

October 15. Associated at *Hopkinton*.

Mr. Barrett Concionator on 1 Pet. 4.11.

Conversation various

16. Mr. Prentice of Grafton public Lecture on John: 12.35.

Next meeting to be at *Westborough* at the usual Time for the first meeting of the Year.

April 18 1738. Associated at *Westborough*.

Mr. Prentice of Lancaster Moderator.

Concio by E. Parkman on *Eph*: 3.10.

Mr. Prentice of Grafton wanted advice and Direction in some Difficultys which occurred between his [*illegible*] one of the Members of the Church in Grafton, whom he had desired to forbear approaching to the Communion and yet he would both approach and partake.

The Association expected (from various Reports and Informations) that Mr. Daniel Bliss from *Marlborough* would have come up to Day; but he did not.

The 13th was *publick Fast*. See the votes p. 1.

19. Mr. *Bliss* came; but the Association did not proceed to any formal Business upon his Affair. The Moderator gave him to understand the Association did not think them Selves called to intermeddle, nor that it was as yet seasonable either to give advice, or enter upon Examination. Nor could there now be Time for either, it being so immediately before going up to public Worship.

The Moderator preached on Ps: 73.25.

Next Meeting appointed to be at Southborough, the Third Tuesday of *June*.

June 20. Associated at Southborough.

Mr. Prentice of Lancaster Moderator

Mr. *Succomb* (whose admission to the Association was confirmed) delivered a Concio on 1 *Cor*. 14.12.

Mr. *Josiah Brown*, a Candidate for the Ministry Submitted himself to our Examination, Gave a Confession of his Faith, and Delivered a Discourse on 2 Tim. 3.16, which were So much to the Associations Satisfaction that a Certificat of their Abbrotation of his preaching was drawn up and Signed by us.

24. Mr. *Loring* preached the public Lecture on 1 Thess. 5th Ch. and 19th v.

The Next Meeting appointed to be at Lancaster Aug. 22.

Mr. *Loring* to be Concionator and E. Parkman to be Public Lecturer.

Aug. 22. Associated at Lancaster.

Mr. John Prentice Moderator.

Mr. Loring's Concio was on Act. 10.3.8.

And after his Concio he propounded Several Cases of Difficulty occurring amongst them (at *Sudbury*) -- In one he asked what was to be done when a Member of the Church was Charged with a crime which he seriously protests he is innocent of, yet the Charge is Supported by Two Witnesses both of them clear and positive that he is guilty?

Advice was, to examine the Characters on both sides that the Worth and weight of the Evidence may be discovered. And to improve Circumstances (which, as they were, might be very helpfull themselves) in perswading and prevailing with the partys in Contest to agree.

23. Ebenezer Parkman's public Lecture there, was on *Isa.* 53.1. Rev. Mr. Stearns of Lunenburg proposed and requested of the Association Mr. Prentice's being dismissed from our Association in order to joining with a number of Ministers on the North who were endeavouring to form into one: But on Consideration that our Number was not large in the whole, but that the Number who commonly associated were but Six or Seven; while *they* who were ready to join and make up *their* Number, were nigh as many as we: and great likelihood of much enlargement which *we* could not have in *ours* in any proportion to Them; *it was declined.*

The Next Meeting was appointed to be at Shrewsbury on Oct. 17. Mr. Cushing to be Concionator and Mr. Stone Lecturer.

October 17. Associated at Shrewsbury.

Mr. Prentice of Lancaster Moderator

Mr. *Cushing's* Concio was on Mat. 4.19.

Mr. *Aaron Whitney* offered himself to Examination. Gave a Confession of his Faith and Read a Discourse on Luke 2, v. 14.

Several Cases layed before the Association by divers Members were discoursed of, and particularly the Difficultys for some Time Subsisting in the Church of Shrewsbury.

18. Mr. Stone peached publickly on Col: 1 v. 27. A Certificat Signed by the Moderator was delivered to Mr. *Aaron Whitney*. The next meeting was appointed to be at West Sudbury; Ebenezer Parkman to be Concionator and Mr. Solomon Prentice Lecturer.

April 10, 1939. Associated at West Sudbury.

Mr. Loring Moderator.

Ebenezer *Parkman* Concionator on 2 Cor. 2.15.16.

Mr. *Seccomb* of *Harvard* present; and Mr. Moderator made Enquiry in the Name of the Association into the Grounds of it Sorrowful Reports concerning his Conduct, and Received his Answers.

Various Cases at Eve --

11. Mr. Solomon Prentice at the Publick Lecture on *Isa.* 1.16.

N.B. A Proposal to render the Associatings profitable by Each Members bringing *Collections* from Authors etc.

Next Meeting to be at *Grafton* on June 19. Mr. *Stone* to be Concionator and Mr. *Cushing* Lecturer.

June 19. 1739. Associated at Grafton.

Mr. Prentice of Lancaster Moderator.

Mr. Stone absent; therefore no Conio.

According to the Proposal last Meeting to bring *Collections* Mr. *Loring* read his *Collections* from Mr. *Abraham Taylor's* sermons containing an Extract from Mr. Richard Taylor concerning Justification by Faith alone. Mr. *Loring* also layed before the Association Some Difficultys in his Church respecting Old Mr. *Stanhope* who had with drawn himself for some time from their Communion.

At Evening came a Committee from the Church of Christ in *Marlborough* desiring Light and Advice respecting the Affair of their Brother *Axtell* -- Mr. *Axtell* not being come, it was waiv'd till to morrow morning.

20. Deacon *Keys* and Mr. *Daniel Steward*, the Committee aforesaid, attended; they having also notified Mr. *Axtell*; and at Length Mr. *Axtell* himself came. There was much debate; and long and affectionate reasoning and Pleading with Mr. *Axtell*; but to little Purpose. The Affair was adjourned till our Next meeting, that there might be opportunity to search into the Records of the Church of *Marlborough*, or the minutes of them left by the late Rev. Mr. *Breck*, to see what Light or Strength is yielded to this Long and perplexed Case thereby.

Mr. *Cushing* preached the Public Lecture on 2 Pet. 3.11. After Lecture the Proposal of Each Members making and bringing *Collections* etc: mentioned last meeting was more fully

Considered and ripened to some Perfection and the Association came into the following Votes. viz.

1. A Preparatory Vote, in which we *Voted*

That we improve Some farther Methods Still for rendering our Meeting together yet more profitable and Serviceable to us. In pursuance of this,

2. *Voted*, that every Member make and bring written Collections of what, [especially?], remarkable, occurs in his Readings, Storys, Conversation etc. from one Time of Associating to another, and Communicate the Same for our mutual Emolument and Advantage.

Next Meeting to be at Westborough Aug. 28.

Mr. Stone again appointed to be Concionator and Mr. Prentice of Lancaster Lecturer.

Aug. 28. Associated at *Westborough*

Mr. Loring Moderator

Mr. Stone Concionator on 2 *Cor.* 4.5.

Divers Members read their Collections and observations

Scil. Mr. *Loring*, Mr. *Cushing*, Mr. Solomon *Prentice* and *Parkman*. The Affair of Mr. Axtell was taken again into Consideration and Some brief Advice was voted to be drawn up to be sent to the Church of Marlborough touching Mr. Axtells Admission which was Thus. We the Subscribers having been applyed to by each of the partys Concerned, Scil. the Church of Christ in Marlborough by their Committee on the one part, and Mr. Thomas Axtell on the other part and having deliberately weighed this difficult and perplexed Affair So far as we could come to the Knowledge of it we cannot but advise in the following Manner viz. That notwithstanding the Church of *Marlborough*, might at the Time of Mr. *Axtells* Suspension judge him to deserve Ecclesiasticall Censure, yet now there being no Sufficient Records to be obtained whereby the Merits of the Cause might possibly be known and sett in a Clear Light, and there being divers peculiar and Singular Circumstances attending the Matter and rendering it very difficult if not utterly impossible for the Church to proceed any further in the Exercise of Church Discipline with him, it might be best to extend their Compassions towards him, and he having removed his habitation to Grafton, to dismiss him thereto.

Signed Westb. Aug. 29, 1739.

Israel Loring
Job Cushing
Ebenezer Parkman
Thomas Frink
Nathan Stone

29. Several Questions were proposed.

Mr. Loring publick Lecture on Deut. 32.47.

Next Meeting to be at Southborough on Oct. 16.

Mr. Solomon Prentice to be Concionator. and Mr. Prentice of Lancaster Lecture.

Associated at Southborough Oct. 16 1739.

Mr. Cushing Moderator: but Mr. *Fisk* of Killingly prayed.

Mr. Solomon Prentice Concionator on Isa: 58.1.

17. Ebenezer Parkman's publick Lecture on 1 John: 1.7.

Besides Several Cases discoursed of and Some difficult places in Scripture opened in free Conversation, particularly that in 1 *Corinth* 7.12 to which Several Members read and gave in their Collections.

The Next meeting appointed to be at Lancaster and Mr. John Prentice to be Concionator and Mr. Barrett Lecture.

April 8, 1740. Associated at Lancaster.

Mr. *John Prentice* delivered a Concio on *Isa.* 40.1. After which Several Votes of the Church of *Grafton* were read, expressive of their Desire that the Association would advise them touching the Admission of Mr. *Thomas Axtell* to their Communion, upon the Dismission which he had obtained from the Church of Marlborough, it being without any Recommendation, for want of which they thought it lean and imperfect; and they Supposed they could discover by the Form of the Draught of the *Marlborough* vote, a Design to exhibit no other than what was the most *slender* and indifferent.

The Messengers bearing the above votes were Captain *Joseph Willard* and Deacon *Cooper*.

To this Request the Association Replied by writing -- And having found that the Form and Expression of Marlborough Church vote was owing only to the Clerk and not with any particular Design; and Considering likewise the Reasons mentioned before in the Message to Marlborough; it was the Advice of the Association to the Church of *Grafton* that they receive Mr. *Axtell*.

Mr. *Aaron Smith* pastor Elect at *Marlborough*, brought Testimonials and Letters of Recommendation from the Ministers of *Ipswich*, *Gloucester*, and *Beverly*, to the Ministers in the Neighbourhood of *Marlborough* Concerning the Said *Mr. Smith*.

9. Mr. Stone preached the public Lecture on Rom. 8.32.

Next Meeting appointed to be at *West Sudbury* on June 10.

Mr. Loring to be Concionator and Mr. J. Prentice Lecture.

N.B. On June 11 was the Ordination of Mr. *Aaron Smith* at *Marlborough*: for which the Association was put off to July and agreed to be at Shrewsbury.

July 8. Associated at Shrewsbury.

Mr. John *Prentice* Moderator.

Mr. *Lorings* Concio was on *Eph.* 6.18 and part of 19 v.

Mr. *Frink* laid the Difficultys he laboured under at Rutland before the Association and his great Discouragements which were grown So insuperable that he was much determined to leave that Flock.

9. Moderator preached at the public Lecture on *Ezek.* 33.31,32.

Some Collections were read.

Next meeting to be at *Sudbury*, West Side on the first Tuesday of September. Mr. *Cushing* to be Concionator and [blank] Lecturer.

N.B. On the Day appointed for the Next Meeting a Servant of Mr. *Lorings* was Sick of the Throat Distemper. But on

September 20 Associated at West Sudbury

[The Clerk was Absent, by Reason of Sickness in Westborough and Several Domestic Affairs which utterly prohibited him.]

Mr. *Swift* Moderator.

Mr. *Cushing* delivered his Concio from Luk. 16.11.

Oct. 1. Mr. Moderator preached the public Lecture on Ps. 116.1.

The Next meeting appointed to be at *Westborough* on the 28 instant.

Mr. *Parkman* to deliver a Concio, and Mr. [J?] *Prentice* Lecture.

October 28. Associated at Westborough.

Mr. *Loring* Moderator.

Mr. *Parkmans* Concio on 1 *Cor.* 3.9, former part.

Several Cases ere propounded to Consideration.

One by Mr. *Loring* touching the proofs of a persons being Drunk. Another by Mr. *Cushing*, whether it were adviseable to deferr the Administration of the Lords Supper because of the Dissent of Some of the Members of the Church of Shrewsbury to Some of their Late Votes. And Rev. Mr. *Dorr* of Mendon (who was occasionally with us) asked Advice of the Association under his and his Churchs Difficultys.

29. The Moderator Mr. *Loring* prayed in Public, and Mr. *Dorr* preached. His Text was *Prov.* 29.18, former part.

The Next meeting to be at *Grafton*. Mr. *Stone* to be Concionator.

April 14, 1741. Associated at Grafton

Mr. Cushing Moderator.

Mr. Stone's Concio on 2 Sam. 12.7.

Several Collections read.

Rev. Mr. Hall of Sutton present and related Somewhat of the Melancholly State of *Smithfield* in Providence, being much without the Gospel.

Mr. S. Prentice read Several Questions respecting the watch of Churches over their Members.

15. Mr. Smith of Marlborough Lecture on Luk. 10.18.

Proposals. 1. Concerning the watch of the Church over its distant Members -- read -- and Resolved that we the Pastors be excited to a Stricter attendance to their Duty. --

and Concerning

2. The Children of the Covenant and those who have owned the Covenant but that have not joined in full Communion. Resolved that our Respective Churches be excited to a due Discharge of Duty respecting them.

Upon the Case of *Smithfield* -- voted by the Association that Mr. Parkman be desired to go with Mr. Hall and Mr. Webb to *Smithfield* to enquire into the State of Religion there, and whether any Thing can be done to promote the Kingdom of Christ among them.

3. That Mr. Prentice be desired to write to Mr. Webb to inform him hereof.

Next Meeting to be at Southborough June 23. Mr. S. Prentice to be Concionator and Mr. J. Prentice Lecturer.

June 23. Associated at Southborough

Mr. Swift chosen Moderator.

The appointed Concionator absent: In his Stead The Moderator preached from 2 Cor. 4.3.4.

Mr. Cushing (by proxy) requested advice respecting the Baptism of a Child whose parent is Member of the old Church in Boston, but residing at Worcester, and having a Controversie with Reverend *Burr*, and who is reported to be an Arminian, perhaps an Arian. Mr. Cushing is advised not to proceed without making diligent Enquiry into both his Conduct and Tenets; and the already *Common report* is Supposed to be sufficient Ground for such Enquiry.

Mr. Barrett read his Remarks on Mr. Commissary *Price's* Complaint sent over to the society for propagating the Gospel: he read also various Letters which respected that Affair, from Mr. *Newman*, Mr. *Jer. Allen*, the Lord *Bishop of London*, etc.

24. Mr. Loring preached the public Lecture on Joh: 16.8.

Various Cases Considered after Lecture. Some of which led the Association into the proposing of Two Questions for every member to prepare upon and bring in at the next Meeting. Which Questions were

1. Whether it is Lawfull for a Man to Marry his Wife's Sister?

2. Whether it is Lawfull to Baptize Children born or brought into a Believers Family, by Vertue of the Believers Right?

The Next Meeting appointed to be at Mr. Swifts, Aug. 25th.

The Concionator and Lecturer the same that were appointed the last Time.

Aug. 25. Associated at Framingham.

Mr. Swift Moderator.

Concionator absent -- No Concio.

The Questions proposed last time, were Spoken to; The former by Ebenezer *Parkman*, the latter by Mr. *Loring*.

Mr. Loring proposed Several difficult Cases occurring with him.

Mr. *Goss*, a Candidate, and pastor-Elect at *Bolton* offered himself to the Association to be examined and advised touching his Settling in the Ministry -- and he delivered an Exercise on Mat. 3.7.

Rev. Mr. Dorr and Mr. Rawson of South Hadley, present for advice respecting some difficultys arising among them, in each of their Flocks.

26. Mr. *Goss* preached the public Lecture on Heb. 13.14.

Next meeting to be at *Lancaster* on the 3rd Tuesday of October.

Concionator and Lecturer ut Supra.

October 20. Associated at *Lancaster*.

Mr. J. Prentice Moderator.

Mr. S. Prentice, the appointed Concionator excused himself by his present bodily indisposition promising to preach tomorrow if he shall be better able.

Mr. Loring therefore instead of the Concio, read us a Discourse on Act 2.37.

The Collections read were only P_____n's, which were from Dr. *Whitbys* answer to *Crellius, upon the Satisfaction of Christ*.

The Chief of the Conversation was upon the Word of God among us -- the unusual Flood of Water by the late Rains; there having been no such Flood in *Lancaster* for Twenty Years -- the wonderous Influence of the Spirit of God of late in Some parts of the Land -- greater success of the Gospel of late at Sudbury, and more numerous additions to the Church there, etc. etc.

21. Mr. Solomon Prentice's public Lecture on Isa: 55.1.

The next meeting to be at Shrewsbury.

April 13, 1742. at *Shrewsbury*.

Mr. Prentice of Lancaster Moderator.

Mr. Solomon Prentice delivered a Concio on Luke 14.22.

N.B. Conference after turned upon Some passages of the Sermon against Such Ministers as oppose the present work of God.

14. Mr. J. Prentice preached the public Lecture on 2 Cor. 6.1.

N.B. Several Members of the Church in Shrewsbury applyd to the Association for Advice in their Difficultys, arising from the Churchs admission of Several persons to Occasional Communion who had burst their Church Relation and joined to *Hopkinton*.

Next meeting to be at West Sudbury the 2nd Tuesday in June.

N.B. Association put off till the 15th Day of June.

June 15. at West Sudbury.

Mr. J. Prentice Moderator.

No Concio. Mr. Joseph Buckminster a Candidate for the Ministry offered himself to Examination -- who besides his delivering an Exercise on Luk. 10:41.42 was Examined -- on the Heads of his Learning; Opinions in Religion, His Hope, and Grounds of his Hope towards God, and his views and purpose in Undertaking the Great Work of the Ministry.

At Evening *Parkman* asked Counsel and Advice respecting the Doctrine he had lately delivered from Eph: 5.14. Whether that Text, and Prov. 1.22, Isa: 55.7, Mat. [*blank*] might be understood any otherwise than as *promises* (thro the Condescending Grace of God) to humble, fervent Strivers to obtain the Grace of God?

16. *Parkman* read a large Paper of Spiritual Experiences of one of the Church of Westboro.

Mr. *Buckminster* preached the public Lecture on Heb. 11.7. After which a Certificat was Signed and delivered him of our Approbation.

The Next Meeting to be at Westborough Aug. 24. Mr. Prentice of Lancaster to be Concionator. Mr. Cushing to be Lecturer.

The Collections from Authors, etc. not to be omitted.

Aug. 24 at Westborough

Mr. Loring Moderator.

and (Mr. Prentice being absent) he delivered a Sermon on Luke 15.21. -- on *Humiliation*.

Several Collections were read. Rev. Mr. *Smith* admitted.

25. Mr. Cushing at the public Lecture on Romans 3.29.

Next Meeting to be at Marlborough Oct. 26. Mr. Gardner to be Lecturer.

October 26. Associated at Marlborough

Mr. Swift Moderator.

Mr. J. Prentice delivered his Concio on 2 Timothy 4.2.

Parkman read Collections from Mons. *Taurin* on Gods hardening Pharaohs Hearts.

Mr. *Joseph David* (offering himself up to) was examined respecting his Qualifications for the Ministry.

27. Mr. Davis read part of a Discourse on 1 Cor. 2.2 and preached the public Lecture on Eph. 2.4.5.

Rev. Mr. *Elisha Marsh* admitted into the Association. A Certificat was voted, and signed to approbate Mr. Joseph Davis.

Next meeting to be at Stow.

Mr. Loring to be Concionator at the Next Meeting and Parkman Lecturer.

April 13, 1743 Associated at Stow.

Mr. Loring Moderator.

The Moderators Concio on 1 Thess. 4.8. *Given to us His H. Spirit.*

14. Parkman's Lecture on Isa: 28.11.12. *Watchman, What of the Night, etc.*

Various Conversations, Letters, Papers, Pamphlets etc. upon the present Extraordinary Times, read.

Next Meeting to be at Hopkinton May 31. Mr. Cushing to be Concionator and Mr. Seccomb Lecturer.

May 31. Associated at Hopkinton

Mr. Loring Moderator. Concionator absent.

A Debate between Mr. Barrett and Mr. Solomon Prentice on account of the Exceptions Mr. Prentice made against a sermon preached by Mr. Barrett at Westborough Fast Feb. 2 last, on John: 10,27,28. Upon which Since there was no Concio Mr. Barrett was desired to repeat said sermon which he did -- and Mr. Prentice was requested to make his Exceptions anew and distinctly but answered that the sermon did not appear to him as it did at first hearing -- yet a reconciliation between these Gentlemen was not accomplished.

June 1. Mr. Loring preached the public Lecture on Luk. 9.28 to 36th v., Mr. Seccomb being absent who was appointed last meeting therefor.

N.B. Yesterday were admitted into the Association Rev. Mr. *John Swift* of Acton and Rev. Mr. *Davis of Holden*. No Collections. Divers Members gone to Council at *Dudley*. Next Meeting to be at *Acton* on August 23.

Aug. 23. The Association met at *Acton*.

Mr. Loring Moderator. Mr. *Cushings* Concio on 1 *Cor.* 3.8.

Now he that *planteth*, etc.

Collections were by Mr. Loring and Mr. Stone.

Mr. *Davis* put a Case, viz. whether it be advisable to Call Extraordinary Lectures at the motion of a Number of the parish? Voted *Neg.*

24. Mr. Stone preached on 2 *Pet.* 3.14. *Wherefore Beloved* etc.

Next meeting to be at *Southborough* Oct. 18.

Mr. Gardner to be Concionator.

October 18. Associated at Southborough.

Considerable full Association. No Concio, Mr. Gardner being unprepared.

Messrs. Loring and Parkman read Collections.

Mr. *Barrett* desired that Qu: might be considered Scil:

Whether we have now Suffrence in Sacred Scripture of persons crying out in the Time of Divine Service in public Assembly's?

The Case of Peter [*illegible*], etc. talked over. But the point not fully Cleared this meeting.

19. Mr. Gardner preached on Mat. 12.41 at the Public Lecture.

[so Fervent Mr. *Goddard of Leicester* preached yesterday at the Itinerant preachers meeting House in Framingham, both a. and p.m., to our Sorrow!]

Next meeting (viz. on the 2d Tuesday of April next Spring) to be at Lancaster. Mr. John Swift of *Acton* to preach the Lecture.

April 17, 1744. Associated at *Lancaster*.

Mr. John Prentice Moderator.

Mr. Gardner's Concio on Mat. 13.27 and part of 28.

To the Servant of the Householder etc.

18. Mr. Parkmans Lecture on Luk. 16.23. (Mr. *Swift* being absent).

Next Meeting to be the 3d Tuesday in June.

Mr. Barrett to be Concionator and Mr. Swift Lecturer.

N.B. Rev. Mr. Thomas Goss of Bolton was admitted into the Association.

Mr. Cushing Read his Collections from Dr. *Jeremiah Taylor's* Duct. Dubitanlium, Containing Rules etc. of a good Conscience. And *Parkman* his for Mons. *Saurin* -- being Observations on *Nadals and Ahihn*.

June 19. At Shrewsbury.

Mr. John Prentice Moderator.

Mr. Barrett being absent we had no Concio; but the Larger Collections were read. Mr. *Loring* on Rev. 4.4 and latter part of v. 6 from Dr. *Colman*, Mr. Cushing from Dr. *Manton* concerning the Faith of Infants. Mr. *Parkman's* from Sundry authors concerning the Sin irremissable. Mr. *Stone's* from Manuscript of his Fathers Containing Some of his Sentiments of [*blank*].

Conversation turned very much upon *Concord* Circumstances and what may be adviseable for the Neighbouring Ministers and Churches to do if the Members of Concord Shall desire occasional Communion.

20. Mr. Swift not attending, Mr. Loring preached the public Lecture on Heb. 6.11.

The Next Meeting to be at West Sudbury Aug. 14.

The Same persons Still appointed to be Concionator and Lecturer.

August 14. At West Sudbury

Reverend Mr. Loring Moderator.

Mr. Barrett Concio from 2 Cor. 5.20.

Mr. Barrett also requested Advice respecting his Difficultys in [] on Account of Several of the Members but Especially the Elders of their Church Separating from his Ministry -- And advice was given him accordingly which for Substance was, to take steps the most exactly Conformable to the platform and Strict Ruling :Elder Scheme (Since they had put themSelves so formally into it) in their dealing with the Said Separating Elders and Brethren, how much Soever their Eyes might by that Time be opened respecting the Setting up of Such sort of Elders in the Church.

15. A Variety of Collections read: viz

Mr. *Loring* from Mr. *Flevil* on Mathew 24.25 wise and faithful Servant.

Mr. *Gardner* from Judge *Hale* on the Sabbath.

Mr. *Barrett* from Mr. *Benders* Expos. of Rom: 8.29,30.

Parkman; from B. *Bulls* Sermon on Jeremiah 3.8.

Mr. *Stone*, from Dr. *Owen* on the Eph. that part which was of the Irresistableness of Grace.

Mr. *Davis's* from a Book Entitled the Ruin and Recovery of Mankind, that part which respected the future state of Infants dying under the Gospel.

These Collections were mostly So entertaining and profitable that the Association Give meet to pass the following vote -- -- Namely

For the further Strengthening our Usefull Custom of

Further bringing Collections, voted that Every Member bring
 vote
 respecting his Collections fairly write out and that they be lodged
 Collections. with the Clerk unless any member desires to borrow the
 Copy; which if he does he shall take Special Care to
 return and lodge it with the Clerk the Next Meeting.

Mr. Swift preached the public Lecture on Mat. 13.5.6.

Mr. Stone having perceived that Rev. Mr. Prentice of Grafton had been absent for Some Considerable Time from these Meetings, moved the Question,

Whether Mr. Prentice had ever been rejected or excluded from us? And he was answered by all present

That he has been ever looked upon as a member of this Association and has been always treated as Such unto this Day: When he has been absent, was commonly enquired after as usual respecting other members; and when he had absented himself for Some Time, was writ to that he might be informed of the next Meeting, Time and place, and requested to attend as one of us.

N.B. These, voted to be insisted in our Minutes.

The Next Meeting to be at Mr. Cooks at East Sudbury, Oct. 14.

Parkman Concionator and Mr. Smith Lecturer.

October 14. At East Sudbury

Mr. Loring Moderator.

Parkman's Concio on Heb. 13.17 latter part. After delivering and the collections were ? it was obliged to prosecute his Journey to Cambridge.

15. Mr. Barrett preached the Public Lecture or [blank]

Next Meeting to be at Westborough. Mr. [blank] to be Concionator and Mr. [blank] Lecturer.

Marlborough. January 22, 1745.

Associated at the Reverend Mr. Smiths. Mr. Parkman the Clerk not being present Mr. Stone was chose Clerk for this meeting. The Reverend Mr. Prentice [not?] chosen moderator: who prayed: Mr. Morse and Mr. Mellen, upon their Desire were admitted Members of the Association and then the Association drew up and Signed in order to the [*illegible*] of it a Testimony as Mr. White and [*illegible*]. Mr. Prentice of Grafton at the same time desired to be dismissed from the Associations and have his name raised out of the Associations Books which was consented to.

Taken from the Reverend Mr. Stones Minutes and entered by me the Subscriber according to the vote of the Association of June 11, 1745.

per Samuell Barrett.

April 9. [1745] Associated at Westborough.

Mr. Loring was chosen Moderator.

Mr. Stone delivered a Concio on 2 Cor. 12.2.

Several Collections were read viz. by Mr. Moderator, Mr. Cushing, Mr. Stone.

Mr. Barrett read a Large Letter Signed by a Number of Disaffected Brethren in the Church of Hopkinton, to said Church.

At Eve, Mr. *Martyn* of Bolton, a Candidate for the Ministry, was offered to the Association in Order to their approbating him to preach. He was accordingly Examined as far as was found needfull, and he read a Large Confession of his Faith. Mr. Gardner made Some Objections against him and the Affair was defered till tomorrow.

10. The Debate with regard to Mr. *Martyn* was resumed, but after Some Conference between Mr. Gardner and him, by them so they returned to us reconciled, to our great Satisfaction and he was approbated, and a Certificat was delivered him Signed by every Member present.

Mr. Davis preached the Public Lecture on Ps. 51.17.

The Next Meeting to be at Bolton, the 2d Tuesday of June.

Mr. *Swift* of [Acton?] to give the Concio, and Mr. *Smith* the public Lecture.

June 11. Associated at Bolton

Mr. *Prentice* of *Lancaster* Moderator.

Voted that Reverend Mr. *Barrett* insert the Votes of a Meeting at Marlborough January 22, last in the Associations Book, from the Minutes which Reverend *Stone* (Clerk upon that Occasion) took thereof.

Voted that Reverend Mr. *Buckminster* of Rutland be admitted a Member of this Association.

Mr. *Martyn* delivered an Exercise on *Mat. XVI.27.*

Mr. *Buckminster* requested Advice respecting his gratifying a Presbyterian, of the Church of Scotland with administering the Ordinance of Baptism in the form and manner of that Church and the Association replied that tho great Condescensions and Catholic Charity and Unity were much to be recommended and practiced yet upon hearing the Circumstances of this Case they were of Opinion that Mr. *Buckminster* for the present strictly adhere in our own Customs, discharging faithfully Duty, of public preaching on that Sacrament and setting forth the Dutys of Parents in offering their Children etc.; and privately and personally instructing, Exhorting and Charging those parents who do from Time to Time present their Desires, etc.

12. Conference with Mr. *Martyn*, on his Sermon Yesterday, which contained some Expressions, which [?] thought, needed further opening and in said Exercise he advanced Some Notions of the future State and of the Last Day, which were conceived to be Very New and not easily to be come into. After not a little Discourse thereon, he said he would take those Things into further Thought.

Mr. *Cook* preached the Public Lecture on Amos 8.11 on Spiritual Judgments.

Next Meeting to be at Mr. *Seccombs* The Second Tuesday in August. Mr. *Swift* to be Concionator and Mr. *Smith* Lecturer.

N.B. No Collections were offered, or Mentioned.

Harvard. August 13, 1745.

Associated and Mr. *Loring* was chose Moderator.

After Mr. *Seccomb* had prayed, Mr. *Swift*, being again absent, Mr. *Loring* was desired to deliver us Something that might be for our Edification, and he gratified us with reading a Discourse on Eph: 5.25, last Clause, *gave Himself for it.* He prayed after it and we sang Ps: 40.6 to 11 in *Milbourns* version.

Divers Collections were read, viz.

1. Mr. *Davis's* From the Synods propositions touching Infants Baptism on the Parents Right and not the Grand Parents.

2. Mr. *Stows* from Mr. *Flemings* Great Appearances of God for his Church under the New Testament p. 164,5,6.

3. The Clerk from *an Anonymous writer of Some Thoughts of Religion Natural and revealed*, being a Criticism on those Names of God JEHOVAH, Elohim etc.

4. Mr. Moderator from Mr. *Bradburys* Sermon 3 of Christs Sufferings -- p. 82, 3, 4. *Of Justification*, etc.

Mr. *Davis* proposed a Case, relating to a Baseborn Child whose mother was now Dead, without any Confession or sense of her sin, nay without so much as mention of it to him at any Time of her Sickness tho She dyed of a Consumption and lay Some time, and he Sundry times with her: but she gave her Child to a sister (of none of the best behavior) who, that it might be baptized gives it to her mother; and now the Grandmother offers it accordingly. It is Enquired, Has this Child a Right on the account of the Grandmother and may it be Baptized?

It was answered in the Negative -- and that the Child be not baptized unless the Grandmother (as another person will) in special and Solemn Manner declare and promise that She will Engage for its Education (as another Might); and if the Grandmother be trusty and faithfull.

14. Mr. Howe delivered a Sensonable, usefull Sermon at the public Lecture on Tit. 2.14.

Some Conversation upon the *Meeting*, advertised in the late Gazette, proposed to be at Boston, the latter End of September -- but nothing formally done about it.

Mr. *Barrett* offered the Book with the Votes inserted which was Committed to him according to the Vote of June 11.

Next Meeting to be at Mr. Gardners on October 15.

The same Concionator and Lecturer as have been Several Times appointed but have either not come, or not performed if present.

Stow. October 15, 1745

Mr. Prentice was chosen Moderator.

Mr. Swift of Acton delivered a Concio on [blank].

A number of Collections were read -- viz.

Mr. *Seccomb* from Mr. *Willard* on Ps. 32. Shewing that the most experienced Children are the fittest to teach others.

Mr. *Stones* from Mr. *Flemings* Great App. of G. for his Church.

Parkmans from Mr. *Stows* Discourse on Col. 2.2. That their Hearts might be knit together in Love, etc.

Mr. *Barretts* from a pamphlet said to be by Mr. *Dutton* on the Hurt which Sin doth to Believers, with Mr. *Barretts* Remarks.

Mr. *Gardner* read a Letter of Arch Bishop *Usher* on Ordination by Presbyters.

Mr. *Lorings* from Dr. I. Matther on the (*Literal*) millennium.

Mr. *Prentice* read Dr. *Colman* on 1 Pet. 3.15, as it is inserted marginally in Mr. *Gray* (of *Boyston*) at the Ordination of Mr. *Maccarty*.

After the Collections Mr. *Gardner* consulted the Association upon the following Question: Whether it us advisable to bring Civil Cases into the Church? It was Answered that it was neither fit nor safe.

He Enquired also, Where a person, who has removed her habitation to another Town and fallen into offence there, is to make her Confession, whether in the Church unto whom she stands in more special Relation or among the Christian people where she has offended? Answer. *Among* the Latter.

16. Mr. *Prentice* drawing off, Mr. *Loring* was chosen Moderator: And at Mr. *Smiths* request, consented to preach the Public Lecture -- which was on 1 Pet. 1.19. *The precious Blood of Christ*.

N.B. The Committee of the North precinct at Westborough Sent a Letter to be laid before the Association which was read, praying their Advice and Direction in the Steps best to be taken in the present Circumstances; inasmuch as the precinct had proceeded to the Nomination of a Number of Candidates, but the Committee which they had Chosen to go to them refused the service, though said Committee were chiefly the persons that desired a nomination, the precinct being generally for Mr. *Martyn*: and now the Committee of the precinct would entreat the Associated Pastors to advise them whether they had not best proceed to give Mr. *Martyn* a Call, or to advise them to other Candidates, to hear upon Probation. In Reply to this the Association Sent a Letter signed by the Moderator (Mr. *Loring*) Setting forth that if the Committee which the precinct had Chose to wait upon the Gentlemen they had nominated should refuse to serve, they knew not why they might not proceed with reference to Mr. *Martyn*. But it is to be noted that the Association (first of all) received satisfaction from Mr. *Martyn* touching the Sermon which he had delivered at *Bolton*; and this was by a Retracting of the Sentiments contained therein; which was signed by his own Hand. [See among the loose papers.]

The Next Meeting to be at Hopkinton.

Mr. Seccomb Concionator and Mr. Smith Lecturer.

Hopkinton April 8th.

Mr. Loring Moderator

The Concionator Absent, Mr. Barrett repeated part of an Ordination sermon on Act. 15.2.

Several Collections were read -- Scil.

Mr. *Davis's* from Fullers profane State, against the Donatists.

Stones, from the Appendix of Mr. *Emmerson* of Menden's sermon on [blank].

Parkmans, from Various Authors in Defense of Justification by Faith alone.

Barretts, from Mr. Thomas Wilson of Scotland of Hardening Pharaohs Heart.

Lorings, from *Baxters* Saints Rest.

N.B. but Two viz. Mr. *Davis's* and Mr. *Barretts* were delivered to the Clerk.

9. Mr. Smith being again Absent, Mr. *Davis* preached the Public Lecture, on Act. 8.31.

Next meeting to be at *Acton* the Second Tuesday in June.

The Same Concionator and Lecturer as were appointed before.

Associated At *Acton* June 10.

Mr. *Cushing* was chosen Moderator.

Mr. *Parkman* the Clerk not being present Mr. *Stone* was chosen for the present Meeting.

Mr. *Seccomb* Concionator from *Matt.* 15.13, former Clause.

Mr. *Buckminster's* Collection was from Dr. *Watts* Ruin and Recovery, etc.

Mr. *Swift* read something out of *Hildersham* on the 51 Psalm.

Mr. *Stone* Some passages from out of Professor *Frank* of the Fear of Man.

Mr. *Gardners* from Moral Essays and preference of prayer to preaching.

Mr. *Cushings*, Dr. *Mantons* preface to Mr. *Reyners* precepts for Christian Practice.

11. Mr. *Buckminster* Lecture from *Isa:* 1.2, last Clause.

The Next Meeting to be at *Southborough* August 12th.

At Southborough Aug 19. [By reason of the *Thanksgiving* last Week, the meeting was on this Day, agreeable to our original votes.]

Mr. *Cushing* Moderator.

Mr. *Smith* Concionator on John 8.12.

The Collections were only those following -- viz.

Mr. *Stone* read Some Remarkable passages out of Mr. *Perkins* Vol. Folio, his Treatise of the Ordering of a Family: on the wisdom of Parents in observing the Genius of Children in order to an happy Disposing of them in a fit Calling.

Mr. *Parkmans* from a Compendious History of the Reformation the Rise and progress of popery.

Mr. *Barretts* from a Discourse of Rev. Mr. John Frost of St. Olives Heart-Street London, on Acts 18.24. Of the Necessity of a Gospel Ministers understanding of Scriptures.

Mr. *Cushings* was from Mr. Reyners precepts for Christian practice. The Difference between assurance and presumption.

20. Mr. Morse preached the Lecture from Ps. 144.15. Rev. Mr. Loring came and delivered his Collections which were From the Life of the Excellent *Mrs. Bury*. He read also The Last Will and Testament of *Jer. Dummer* Esq.

The Next Meeting to be at Mr. Buckminsters or at Lancaster in Case it should fall out to be inconvenient there: Mr. Buckminster not being here present. Mr. Morse to be Concionator and Mr. Smith Lecturer.

At *Rutland* Oct. 21, 1746.

Mr. Cushing Moderator. Mr. Stone Clerk, Mr. Parkman not being present.

Mr. Morse gave the Conio from 1 *Cor.* 4.2.

Mr. Smith the Lecture from *Mat.* 9.2.

Collections -- Mr. Stone from Mr. Baxters Case of Church Divisions, and Mr. Buckminster from Dr. Tillotsons Paraphrase upon Heb. 6.4.5.6.

Next Meeting to be at Lancaster April 20 Tuesday.

Mr. Goss to give the Concio and Mr. Marsh the Lecture.

N.B. April 1747 Reverend Mr. Prentice of Lancaster was So out of Health that the Meeting there was put by and appointed to be the first Tuesday of May next.

At Shrewsbury first Parish May 5th, 1747.

Mr. Loring Moderator. The concionator being absent Mr. Buckminster delivered a Sermon on *Roman. 1.15,16,17.*

Collections were,

Mr. Davis's, St. Pauls Epistles to the Laodicians.

Mr. *Buckminster*, read from the 2d Volume of the Lime Street Sermons.

Mr. Morse, from Taylor of Original Sin.

Mr. Stone, from Dr. Bates of Resignation.

Mr. Parkman, from Dr. Watts on the Improvement of the Mind.

Mr. Barrett read some passages in *Standfasts* Caveat against Seducers.

Mr. Loring, from Baxters Catholic and Catholic Church defensible.

May 6. *Voted*, that henceforward the *Collections* be destributed, as the Several Members shall desire 'em.

Voted, that there be a *Second* to the Concionator; and that Mr. *Davis* be accordingly Second to Mr. *Goss* (who is the Next).

N.B. *Voted*, that (Besides the Collections) the following Question be answered by the respective members of the Association. Viz.

What Shall best be done in our Several Flocks for the preventing the awful threatening Degeneracy and Backsliding in Religion, in the present Day?

Mr. Barrett preached the public Lecture from Ps. 139.23,24.

Next Meeting to be at West Sudbury the 3d Tuesday of June.

At West Sudbury June 16, 1747

Mr. Loring Moderator and prayed.

Deacon Miller and Mr. William Baldwin of Narraganset No. 2 came into the Association and offered, That they had Matters of Difficulty Subsisting between them, their Rev. Pastor and the Church -- Having delivered this They were desired to withdraw a little whilst the Association might Consider and Conferr upon what they have Said. Which they did. Accordingly the Association came into the following Vote viz.

That a Letter be sent to Mr. Marsh from the Association to acquaint him that the above named Brethren have applyed to us, but that inasmuch as he was not here we refused to hear the Case,

but would defer it till the Next Meeting and pray him to attend, that we may be better able to advise them to Methods of Reconcilement.

Agreeable to this Vote the Rev. Mr. Loring wrote a Letter to Mr. Marsh in the Name of the Association.

Mr. *Davis* delivered a Concio on 2 Cor. 4.5. For we preach not ourselves etc.

Answers were called for to the Question mentioned last time viz. [see o' Top].

Mr. Loring gave his, but there being divers persons who were not prepared, and Several that have not been at all appraized so much as What the Question was about, it was deferred till another meeting, to be further Spoke to then.

The *Collections* were,

By Mr. *Davis* from the Association at Cambridge that published the 32 Cases, on the Article of the Reformation.

Mr. Morse, from Mr. Baxter's Gildal Salesian.

Mr. Goss', from Dr. Watts's humble Attempt, etc. concerning a Ministers own personal Religion or Godliness.

Mr. Smith from Falvels Gospel Pastor.

Mr. Seccomb from Mr. Mathias Maurice on the unpardonable sin.

Mr. Parkmans, from Mr. Baxter of Time Redemption etc.

Mr. Barretts, from Bishop Patricks Parable of the Pilgrims.

17. Mr. Seccomb preached the public Lecture on John 4.41.42.

Next Meeting to be at Mr. Morse's the Second Tuesday of August. Mr. Goss Concionator and Mr. Millen Lecturer who was also appointed the Second concionator.

At North Shrewsbury Aug. 11, 1747.

Mr. Loring Moderator.

Mr. Goss delivered his Concio from Joh: 21.15.

The Affair of Mr. Marsh of Narragansett No. 2, and his Brethren Mr. William Baldwin and Deacon Miller, was brought forward -- and took up the afternoon. At Eve the Partys united in choosing a Council of Churches to lay their Difficultys before. After this was dismissed, Divers Members offered their Answers to the *Question* propounded heretofore, viz. *What might best be done*, etc.: vid. supra. They were Mr. *Buckminster*, Mr. *Stone* and Mr. *Cushing* -- (beginning at the Youngest).

But sundry others read their Collections -- Scil:

Mr. *Seccomb* from Mr. [B?]. Maurice explaining 1 *Joh.* 5.16. There is a sin unto Death.

Mr. *Parkman*, from Samuel Chandlers Vindication of the Christian Religion.

Mr. *Loring*, from Various authors, Spectators, Sir Richard Blackmore, Dr. Watts etc., on *Action* in a public Speaker.

12. The Association answered Two Questions brought from a Brother in the Church at Rutland -- which were,

Question 1. Whether any person in a state of Nature can properly be said to be an humble person? Answer thus,

In a Moral tho not in an Evangelical Sense.

Question 2. Whether any persons may properly in prayer use the Expression "we humbly and earnestly pray," except when under the lively Exercise of Faith, and Some Degree of Assurance?

Answer. No Doubt, there is a Natural humbling and Sincerity.

Ex. gr. [1 16.21.29.?] *Ahab* humbled himself. To *Abimelveh* God said, I know that in the *Integrity* of thine Heart, etc. *Genesis* 20.6. And see the *Ninevites* *Jonah* Ch. 3.

Mr. Smith read his Collection from Dr. Watts's *Ruin and Recovery*.

Mr. John Martyn was admitted into the Association.

Mr. Loring preached the public Lecture (for Mr. Mellen) from Act 3.22. *A Prophet Shall the Lord etc.*

The Next Meeting to be at Westborough first Parish the Second Tuesday of October.

At Westborough First parish Oct. 13, 1747.

Mr. Loring the Moderator.

Mr. *Mellen* not being present, to whom it belonged to give the Concio, the Clerk was Desired to read Something. He accordingly went over part of an Exercise on Mat. 24.25.

Mr. *Lorings* Collection from Rev. Mr. Richard Steels Sermon in the Morning Exercise, *of the Memory*.

Mr. *Barrett* delivered his Answer to the Question, vide *Supra*.

Parkmans Collection from Mrs. Rows Devout Exercises of the Heart viz. *Inactivity lamented*.

Seccombs, was the Yorkshire wonder, or account of Rev. Mr. Fords [Trances] in the year 1746.

Smiths, from Mrs. Row's Devout Exercises God's Mercy and Faithfulness.

Parkman also read his Answers to the aforementioned Question.

A motion was made by the Same that a Committee be appointed to gather out of the Several Answers to the Questions which Every one had delivered in, Such Articles as might be proper for the Association more especially to agree upon to be put into practice unitedly and as soon as may be.

The Motion was accepted, and the following persons were chosen viz. the Rev. Moderator the first, the Clerk the Second, Mr. Cushing the 3d and Mr. Stone the fourth.

For our more clearly understanding from time to time how the Business of Each meeting ought to be carried on, it was proposed that henceforward at Every Meeting, immediately after the Choice of a Moderator, the Minutes of the proceedings of the last Meeting be read over: and this passed into a Vote.

14. Mr. Loring preached the Lecture on *Ezek. 36,26*. The Next meeting to be at *Bolton*; but as Mr. *Goss* was not present, but both himself and Family Sick, if we shall be prevented meeting *there*, then to meet at *Harvard*. Mr. *Mellen* Concionator Mr. Loring is Second: Mr. Cushing to preach the Lecture.

Memorandum. The greatest Part of the Members of the Association being at Lancaster on Jan. 12, 1747/8 upon the sorrowful Occasion of the Funeral of the *Rev. Mr. John Prentice* (which may God be graciously pleased to Sanctify to all of us who survive!). The appointment of the Next meeting as Mentioned on t'other side, was taken into Consideration and was altered: It is now agreed and appointed that the next Meeting be at *Marlborough*.

At Marlboro. April 12. 1748.

Mr. Loring was chosen Moderator.

Our Minutes of Last Meeting were read.

The Moderator delivered a Concio on Prov. 23.23. Buy the Truth and Sell it not.

Mr. Buckminster layed before the Association Some Difficultys which he met with among his people, and desired advice specially with regard to the Manner and Terms on which it would be best to call a Council.

Mr. Morse mentioned *his* Circumstances and manner of living among his people, for now above a Year without a Salary or Assessment made to pay him any thing; and would be glad of advice. They were both of them advised.

N.B. The Collections were wav'd because of these Cases.

At Evening a Letter from Mr. William *Jenison*, School Master at this Time in Marlborough, was about to be Communicated (according to the superscription) and Mr. *Jenison* together with Mr. Jonathan Loring present -- but for Special Reasons then occurring it was *voted* that it Should be read tomorrow Morning.

N.B. Concerning the Extracts to be made by a Committee from the Answer to the Question about the threatening Degeneracy: the unusual Difficulty in Travelling, in the Winter past, by reason of the Deep Snows, was the occasion of preventing their meeting on the Day of their Adjournment to compleat it.

13. A second Letter from Mr. *Jenison*. Both this and the other read. And an answer was prepared to be sent to him.

Mr. Cushing preached the public Lecture on 2 Pet. 1.10.

P.M. The Moderator being necessitated to withdraw upon Special Occasion (It was to preach a Lecture at Grafton), it was proposed that Rev. Mr. Cushing be chosen Moderator for the remaining Business of the Association in his Room. Voted in Affirmative. Consented to by Israel Loring.

Mr. Loring then withdrew. Then proceeded to the completing The Letter proposed to be sent to Mr. *Jenison* -- and it being read and voted. It was Voted also that the Reverend Moderator *Cushing* Sign Said Letter as the Moderator of this Association -- which he did -- and it was Sealed and delivered to be Sent to Said Mr. *Jenison* accordingly.

Next Meeting to be at Hopkinton June 14.

Mr. Mellen Concionator. Mr. Cushing his Second. Mr. Marsh Lecturer.

At Hopkinton June 14, 1748.

Mr. Loring was chosen Moderator. Mr. Barrett prayed.

Mr. Mellen was present, but was not prepared to give a Concio. Collections were offered. Mr. Davis from the Life of renowned Mr. Eliot.

Mr. Smith from Dr. Edwards's Theological Reformation of Little and Indifferent Things.

Mr. Seccomb from Mr. Henry Whartons Sermons.

Mr. Stones from Colmans Parable, p. 176.

The Clerks from Bishop Hales Meditations and Vows, of Sermons on preaching Cent. 3, Act. 33.

Mr. Barretts on Eph. 4.4,5,6.

Mr. Lorings from Howells familiar Letters Vol. 4, p. 491, 492 concerning the Sibyls.

Mr. Bridge of Framingham proposed a Case, Whether a man might marry his Wives sisters Daughter. The answer was, "we know of no special Law of God, but yet it was So near, as that the Man Should Exercise his best Wisdom and Prudence.

The Report of the Committee who had gathered up the Sum and Substance of the Answers to the Question which had been so long depending, was brought in and read to the Association. Afterwards it was read over Article by Article. Agreed to Suspend the voting the several articles till next Time; but manifested Consent to the most of them.

15. Mr. Loring a Case, respecting the Dismission of Members from their Church to Mr. Reeds at Framingham.

Ebenezer Parkman preached the public Lecture on 2 Cor. 3.18.

N.B. A Contemptuous Letter of Mr. William Jenison was treated with the Neglect it deserved.

When we returned to consider the articles of the *Report* before Mentioned of what we Should now reduce to practice for preventing further Degeneracy, The particular which relates to guarding our Pulpitts was in a Special Manner Debated: Every one consenting to it, but consulting the *Method* [we?] had best prosecute seeing we had heretofore been unsuccessfull.

The following Things were proposed and voted.

Proposed that we revive our Care to guard our Pulpitts -- namely by Examining Candidates for the Ministry and inasmuch as our former Care was at length too ineffectual for want of the Concurrence of other Associations, therefore

Proposed that Some of the Members of this Association be desired to wait upon the Association at Cambridge, and the Association upon our South East, to consult with them upon [this?] Affair, viz. to acquaint them with the Difficulty we have laboured under, and to desire to know what they think most expedient to be done with relation to their Concurrence with us in the mentioned Duty. *Voted in the Affirmative.*

Proposed that Messrs. Loring and Barrett wait upon the Association on our South East. Voted Affirm.

Proposed that Messrs. Loring and Stone wait upon the Cambridge Association -- and voted Affirm.

The Next meeting appointed to be at *Holden* the 3d Tuesday of August. Mr. Mellen Concionator and if he fails, Mr. Cushing. Mr. Marsh Lecturer -- and if he fails, Mr. Gardner.

At Holden August 16, 1748.

Mr. Loring was chosen Moderator.

Read the Minutes of the last meeting.

Mr. Mellen delivered a Concio on Rom. Ch. 9, v. 15.

Collections were read.

Mr. Davis's from Mr. Flavell's Sermon to Ministers.

- Buckminster's from Bishop Hopkins.
- Stone's from DeFoe's Satyr on Reformation of Mankind.
- Parkman's from Dr. Gauden Hieraspistos.

Mr. Cushing from Dr. Taylors Ductor Dubitantium.

Mr. Loring from [*blank*].

Then the Report to the Question respecting Degeneracy etc. read.

Read the First part of it again -- debated, and voted it.

Read the Second part -- debated, and voted it after some Alterations. N.B. The Association agreed that pursuant to the Article in the Second part of the above Report, we would turn the

meetings from the next spring and forward, into Fasting for prevention of further Degeneracy, the reviving Religion, and the Advancement of the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Read the Third part, [Considered?] it and voted it. [See Next Leaf.]

16. Rev. Mr. Frink's (late of Plymouth) Paper relating to his Dismission from his Flock, read.

Reverend Mr. Timothy Harrington (at Mr. Gardners Request) preached the public Lecture. His Text *Mat.* 12.36.

After Meeting, Mr. *Mellen's* Concio yesterday, was remarked on. Mr. Harrington layed his Case with respect to his Relation to his late Church at *Ashuelot*, now Scattered into al parts of the Country by reason of the war, before the Association. He having received a Call from Lancaster first parish to resettle in the Gospel Ministry.

Next Meeting to be at Mr. Mellens Lodgings.

The Time, October 3d Tuesday.

Mr. Marsh Concionator Mr. Cushing his Second.

Mr. Barrett Lecturer. Mr. Martyn if he fails.

N.B. Another contemptuous Letter, signed *William Jenison*, treated with deserved Neglect.

Oct. 18th At Lancaster Second Parish.

Mr. Loring was chosen Moderator and Mr. Stone Clerk for the present Meeting. Parkman being absent. The Concionator also not Being present there was no Concio.

Collections -- Mr. Millen a Dialogue between Orthodoxus and Alathenus from Medographeus.

Mr. Davis from Dr. Watts Questions for Students in Divinity, the 3d Class.

Mr. Morse, an answer to that Question What the Thorn in the Flesh was in Paul -- from Mr. Baxter.

Mr. Stone, Some Thoughts of his Fathers relating to the Encouragement Sinners have under the Gospel.

Mr. Loring from Mr. Abraham Taylor; An Account of the State of Religion among English protestant Dissenters.

Mr. Stone preached the Lecture from Isa: 63.17, former part of the v. Agreed that the Next Meeting be at Mr. Loring's on the 2d Wednesday of April, and be a Day of Fasting and prayer. Mr. Cushing and Mr. Millen to preach and if they should fail, Mr. Gardner and Mr. Davis.

April 12, 1749. No Meeting by Reason of the Sickness of Mr. Loring's Consort.

May 17. Met at Shrewsbury.

A Day of Fasting and Prayer.

The First of the Association Fasts, on Occasion of Degeneracy.

Mr. Loring Moderator. Mr. Cushing prayed. Mr. Millen preached on John 13.17. *If ye know these Things*, etc. P.M. Mr. Davis prayed and Mr. Loring preached on *Hab.3.2*.

The Votes passed were these following,

That the *Report* (or Collection from the Answers to the Questions) which was voted at Holden (Aug 16, 1748) to be accepted, by the Association be inserted in this Book of the Minutes of the Association.

Voted that Rev. Mr. Maccarty, of Worcester, be admitted into the Association.

That the Next Meeting be at West Sudbury June 14 Next. Mr. Davis to preach a.m. and Mr. Cushing p.m. Mr. Buckminster and Mr. Gardner to be Seconds.

The above mentioned Report next follows.

The Sum and Substance of the answers given by the Association at Several Meetings in the Year 1747 to the Question "What shall best be done in our several Flocks, for the preventing the awfull, threatening Degeneracy and Backsliding in Religion in the present Day?" We apprehend may be reduced to the following Heads, viz.

Those which respect our selves *personally*:

Those which more [immediately] concern the Association as Such: And

Those which relate to our people in our respective Churches and Congregations.

As to what *respect our Selves personally*,

First, We ought Surely to get a deep and affecting sense of This being the Case, whether in our Selves or others, That there is *Defection*, and great *Danger of further Degeneracy*, for otherwise we shall with little Heartiness undertake, or Earnestness Endeavour Reformation.

Secondly, we are not to think it amiss that *We our selves* be excited to look with a proper attention and Concern to our own Experiences in the Divine Life, and into what either *proficiency* we make, or *Declines* we fall into *our selves*.

Thirdly, We must by all means See to it that we be *sound* and that we be *Clear* in the Great Doctrines of the Gospel, which are the Life of our holy Religion. We hereby intend those Doctrines which are exhibited in our excellent Westminster Catechisms and Confession of Faith: And then that We also boldly and impartially appear in the Defence thereof. At the same Time we must likewise take heed and beware of the dangerous Errors which many have run into; particularly the *Arminian* and *Neonomian* on the one Hand, and the *Antinomian* and the *Enthusiastical* on the other.

Fourthly, We must be very faithfull in Every part of our Ministerial works, and make Conscience of it to Magnifie our Office. In a particular Manner We must take good Heed to *Our Preaching*; that it be not only *Sound*, but *instructive*, Savoury, Spiritual, very awakening and searching; well adapted to the Times and seasons that pass over us; labouring earnestly herein for the Conversion and Salvation of the souls of Men. We must therefore dwell much upon the Doctrine of Regeneration and Conversion; the Nature, Necessity, and the Evidences, etc. thereof. And we must urge the Duty of self-Examination, opening the D[*illegible*] of the Heart etc., bringing the Unconverted under the Work of the Law, that they may be prepared to embrace the offers of the Gospel: Moral Dutys must be treated of in an Evangelical Strain -- And we must give to Every one his portion, and not shrink from it under the Notion of Prudence; in Special in the important Duty of reprovng sinners of all Sorts, be they who they will.

Again, we must not be lighty in our *private conferences* with Souls, and *Examining Candidates for the Commission*, or other Special Privileges. And we must the more carefully and wisely Suit our Endeavours to the Several Ages and Conditions of persons; the old, the young etc. And in a very peculiar Manner we must set our selves to promote true Religion among our Young people. In a word, We must see whether we are Animated to All these Things by the Grace of God that is in us.

Fifthly, We are impartially to See What Evils are to be found among our Selves, and remove them. Let us be Seriously thoughtfull whether (among other Defects) we have not been in some Respects or other, the blameable Means of Discouragement to those who have been under *Religious Concern* -- or whether we have not given Strength and Boldness to the Ungodly when we have been testifying against the Extravagences and Excesses of the late Times.

Sixthly, We must be consciously *Exemplary* in our whole *Behavior* and *Conversation*. It is Necessary We Should be *serious* and *Grave* -- as it highly becomes Gospell-Bishops: and especially we must be very watchfull over our Frame and Conduct on the Lords Days. We must therefore look to our Sabbatizing both at home and abroad, before both our own and other people. Our Example is of vast Consequence in Magnifying our Office as before was recommended.

Seventhly, We ought to Stir up the Gifts that are in us, and to *grow* more and more. See the sacred Injunction 2 Tim. 1.6.

Eighthly, We Should follow all our Endeavours with fervent Prayer to God; in Special our Labours in preaching and Teaching. *The Seed of the Word is to be Steeped in Tears.*

As to what *concerns the Association as Such.*

In the *First* place, we must lay aside our disgusts one with another and study Brotherly Love, that it may revive and Continue. We must endeavour to be as near as we can of one Mind, and to go on unitedly, harmoniously; and then we shall the more [strongly?], in all, but especially our present Proceedings. There must be a respectfull Treatment of one another, the persons and Churches of one another. This is more needed (to be Carefull of, ministerial Character), and of greater Consequence than at first sight may Seem. And when we have Occasion to dispute, let it be under a very Strict Guard; avoiding all Confusing, Reflecting etc.

Secondly, that we manifest our Approbation of the Westminster Assembly's Catechisms as containing an Excellent System of Christian Divinity; and we do propose to preach and teach agreeable to the Doctrines of the Bible as exhibited in them.

Thirdly, As we must be very carefull of our Conversation in General as before said, So in Special must we respecting our Conduct while together in Association.

Fourthly, It is proposed that a Course of our Associations be turned into Fasts on this great Account. And

Fifthly, We agree to be more especially fervent in Continual prayer for the Advancement of the Kingdom of God.

Sixthly, Some New, and Special, prudent Care must be taken to guard our Pulpits.

Seventhly, It is proposed that we agree to endeavour the Introducing the Public Reading of the holy Scriptures. The Manner and Time to be left to Discretion.

In the *Last place*,

With Regard to, and what is to be done *among the People*,

First, We Conceive that Whatever public Exercises are by us agreed upon, or whatever respects the public, the People are to be informed of, and to be made acquainted with our Design.

Secondly, That it be earnestly recommended to the People to consider the worth of their Privileges, and the Danger of being deprived of them as they are [passively?] by *partly* the Spreading of Evil Doctrines among them, and *partly*, by the Conduct of too many People towards their Ministers.

Thirdly, Let pragmatistical and fractious Spirits fomenting Divisions, be duely frowned upon.

Fourthly, we must guard them against the Temptations of their Several Employments, and the Several *Seasons* in which they are most exposed.

Fifthly, We must consider what *Evils* there are to be found among our People which do especially need reforming.

As, The *Profanation of the holy Sabbath*, (which is enough to destroy all Religion).

Tavern-haunting, Company-keeping, Chambering, Uncleaness, Profaneness, etc: and we ought loudly to testify against them. And that what We do may be effectual, Let us Endeavour to convince their Consciences, of the Evil of sin it self; and of these Sins -- etc. -- We are not to fail to warn the People Solemnly against the dreadfull Guilt of Unthankfulness under Gods signal Mercys; and Incurribleness under heavy and sore Judgments.

Could We in Wisdom do it, we *Should* also against Oppressing the Lords Ministers in their Maintenance.

On the other Hand, *Sixthly*, Let us Endeavour to *revive good Customs and Practices* among them, particularly

The antient good practice of *Catechizing, Family Order, Worship and Government, Religious Societies* under good Regulations; *Godly Conference and Conversation* among Christians: and in brief, Whatever else is laudable and of a good Tendency.

Seventhly, Church-Discipline Should be reviv'd; *Brotherly Watch and Admonition* -- Nor are we to forget to take Special Care of the *Children and Youth* of the Flock.

Eighthly, We might do well to *engage*, as far as we may be able, *all Persons of Distinction and Influence* to unite with us in this Work of Reformation. Ex. Gr. Justices, School-Masters, Candidates for the Ministry -- And especially to assist us by their *Example*.

It might be added,

Ninethly, Solemn Renewal of Covenant has been advised to, as very usefull upon this Occasion.

Vide Synod An. 1679 pro Reform.

But we leave this Discretionary

Finally, In these Things we Should Think our Selves bound to *Exert* our Selves, and use uncommon Fervency to preserve what remains in Religion and prevent further Decay.

Israel Loring }

Job Cushing	}	
Ebenezer Parkman	}	Committee
Nathan Stone	}	

Holden Aug. 15, 1748

The Above Report of the Committee was voted by the Association.

Ebenezer Parkman Scribe

At West-Sudbury June 21. A Day of Fasting and Prayer.

Mr. Loring began with prayer. Mr. Davis preached A.M. on Rom. 2.25. P.M. Mr. Smith prayed and Mr. Gardner preached on Heb. 3.2.

N.B. It was a time of most Sore and Distressing Drought.

Next Meeting to be at Stow July 19.

Mr. *Macarty* to preach a.m. Mr. Buckminster his Second. Mr. Cushing p.m. Mr. [Cook?] his Second. And Mr. Mellen to pray p.m.

At Stow, July 19.

The Day was observed as the Last, for Fasting and Prayer. Mr. Gardner prayed and Mr. Stone preached on *Mat.* 3.16. P.M. Mr. Goss prayed; and Mr. Cushing preached on *Mat.* 6.10. Thy Kingdom come. Next Meeting to be at Hopkinton August 16. Mr. Maccarty to preach a.m. etc. ut supra. Parkman p.m. Mr. *Martyn* if he fails.

N.B. Mr. Loring presented the Association with Two Copys of his Discourse on Justification not by works, but by Faith in Jesus Christ.

N.B. If the association be prevented meeting at Hopkinton, then to meet at *Westborough* -- and Mr. Barrett to preach p.m.

At Westborough South Parish August 16.

Mr. Loring Moderator. The Day was observed religiously ut supra. The Pastor of the Flock began as usual in publick: Mr. Maccarty preached on *Ps.* 119.126. P.M. Mr. Buckminster prayed and Mr. Barrett preached on *Mat:* 4.2. Voted next meeting to be Sept 5. Mr. Goss to preach a.m. Mr. Morse if he fails. Mr. Buckminster to pray p.m. Parkman to preach ut Supr.

At Southborough Sept. 5.

Mr. Loring Moderator. A Day of Fasting and Prayer. Mr. Stone prayed. Parkman preached a.m. on Jer. 8.4,5, especially the former part of v. 5. P.M. Mr. Loring prayed and Mr. *Millen* preached (those appointed being absent) on *Rom.* 2.28,29.

Mr. Stow, Mr. Cushing and Mr. Loring requested Advice in various Cases and Difficultys subsisting among their People.

Next Meeting to be at Holden Oct. 3. Mr. Martyn to preach, Mr. Seccomb if he fails -- the others as before.

At Holden October 3d. A Day of Fasting and Prayer

Mr. Davis prayed, Mr. Smith preached on Gal. 5.7. P.M. Mr. Maccarty prayed, and Mr. Seccomb preached on Act. 9.3,4,5. Next Meeting to be at *Harvard* on the 24th of the Same Month.

At Harvard, October 24.

Very rainy. Few persons met -- but the Exercises of a Fast were carryed on by Mr. Seccomb, Mr. Goss; and Somebody else [who was occasionally there.]

At Westborough 2d precinct, June 12th 1750.

Mr. Martyn began this Fast with prayer; Mr. Buckminster preached on Rev. 2.3.4.

P.M. Mr. Goss prayed and Mr. Maccarty preached on Mark 9.1.

When we entered upon Association Business Mr. Barret was chosen Moderator.

A Letter from the Association of which the Rev. Mr. Townsend of Needham was Moderator on the Subject of Guarding our Pulpits, was read and Considered. Voted that a Reply thereto be drawn up.

Mr. Cushing laid some Difficultys occurring in the first Church of Shrewsbury, before the Association.

13. A Letter in reply etc. (as abovesaid) being drawn up was read and Voted to be Signed by the Moderator and Sent to Rev. Mr. Townsend to be Communicated.

The Collections were only these; Scil:

Mr. Buckminsters from Dr. *Ridgley* of Christs priesthood and [Canons?]

Parkmans, from Mr. Flavel, the Frame which a Soul is in when it receives the Lord Jesus Christ etc.

Next Meeting to be at Worcester July 17th. Mr. *Morse* and Mr. *Martyn* to preach.

At Worcester July 17th

Mr. Loring was chosen Moderator.

The Fast was kept by the Ministers of the Associations themselves. A.M. The Exercise was at Mr. Maccartys House. Mr. Maccarty prayed: Mr. Morse preached on Ezek. 3.1 to 5th. P.M. The Exercise was at the Meeting House. Mr. Morse prayed and Mr. Martyn preached on Luk. 19.44th.

Some proposals were made to divide the Association but were not ripened further than that the Association Fasts Should be attended henceforward in Two Several parts of the Association but in both on the Same Day. The *next*, agreed to be on this Day Month, at Mr. *Smiths* and at Mr. *Buckminsters*. And for the more Convienant carrying on Association Business, we find it most expedient that the Association do meet at Some other Time than the Fasts -- agreed, that the whole Association Meet at Mr. *Morse's* on Tuesday September 11th at which Time there may be further Opportunity to Consider the Affair of Dividing the Association.

Those members who are (God willing) to carry on the Exercises at the above said Meetings, were appointed to be Mr. Goss to preach a.m. and Mr. Loring p.m. at Marlborough: Mr. Morse and Mr. Cushing at Rutland, and Mr. Martyn to be concionator at Mr. Morse's.

18. Mr. *Samuel Naven* a Candidate for the Ministry, offered himself to be Examined in order to his preaching: who was accordingly examined, and having given good Satisfaction to the Association, was approbated and recommended to the work of the Ministry, by all present, as appears by the Certificate delivered to him, Dated this Day, Signed by Israel Loring, Job Cushing, John Gardner, Ebenezer Parkman, John Martyn, Nathan Stone, Aaron Smith, Ebenezer Morse, Joseph Buckminster, Thaddeus Maccarty, Joseph Davis.

Parkman read a Collection, being the Character of *Ouranius*, in *Laws* Serious Call.

Mr. *Buckminster* asked advice upon the Sad and greivous Difficultys among them in Rutland by reason of the Continuance of the Differences andContentions between Captain Rice and Deacon Ball. Upon which it was offered by the Association to Rev. Buckminster's Consideration whether it would not be best for the Church to proceed Steadfastly in a Constant Attendance upon all divine Ordinances notwithstanding the withdraw of some person therefrom, even tho there *Should* objections arise that there were the foresaid Divisions: and let 'em be Answered that the Church has done their duty, having done their Utmost both privately among themselves and by Ecclesiastical Council; and having endeavoured so *long* and so many ways to heal this Breach, without any prospect of success, they must thereforee'en give it up, (tho the parties withdraw, yet exhorted its reconcilment and Communion) as an incurable Case.

Mr. Cushing also asked Advice upon the warm Contests and Dissentions in his Church in Shrewsbury, with Regard to Dr. Joshua Smith.

At Marlborough August 14.

A Fast was Solemnized. Mr. Smith having prayed at the opening of the firstExercise, Mr. Goss preached from Mat. 11.23. P.M. Mr. Gardner prayed, and Mr. Loring preached on *Hosea* 9.19.

The Next Fast of this part of the Association to be at Hopkinton, the last Tuesday of September. Mr. Smith to preach a.m., Mr. Gardner p.m.

And at Rutland the Same Day was Solemnized in like manner by the other part of the Association and the Exercises were carryed on as follows [*illegible*], Scil: [*blank*]

At North Shrewsbury, Sept. 11.

The Association (that is, Members of both the upper and lower parts) Met, and the Clerk Absent the Clerk chosen for this Time, was Mr. *Smith*.

Rev. Mr. Loring Moderator.

Sept. 12. Mr. Stone preached from Eph. 2.9.

Voted that the Next Fast and Ministers Meeting be at Mr. *Barrets* on Sept. 25.

At Hopkinton Sept. 25.

A Day of Solemn Fasting and Prayer. Mr. Barrett began with prayer a.m. and Mr. Davis preached on Habac. 3.[12?]. Mr. Loring prayed p.m. and Parkman preached on Ps. 110.3, former part.

Next Meeting appointed to be at Mr. *Goss's* this Day Month and (Since he is absent) if anything prevents meeting there, at Mr. *Davis's*.

Oct. 23. Fast and Ministers Meeting at Bolton

Mr. Goss prayed and Mr. Loring preached from Joh. 12.35 a.m. P.M. Mr. Cushing prayed, and Mr. Smith (the Clerk absent) Clerk per Temp.

Voted that the Next Meeting of the Association be at Sudbury West on the *Third* Tuesday in April next.

Mr. Loring to be Concionator. Mr. Cushing Lecturer.

++Rev. Mr. *Campbel* and others had agreed to meet at his House on the *Second Tuesday*; and our Association were desirous that Such members of [*illegible*] as were situated conveniently to meet with them, would improve that opportunity to confer with them on the Affair of our Dividing.

April 16 1751

The Association met at Sudbury-West

Mr. Loring Moderator and prayed -- he also delivered for his Concio, a Discourse on Ps. 90.12. Rev. Messrs. *Campbell* and *Wellman* with us at this Meeting. They acquaint us, that through a Misunderstanding as to the place of their meeting, a proposed Conference with relation to our Dividing, fell through.

17. Divers Collections --

Mr. *Davis's* from Gerhard Brandts History of the Reformation in the Low Countrys.

Mr. Maccartys from Dr. Watts's Orthodoxy and Charity.

Mr. Martyns from Bishop Hopkins on Heb. 10.31.

Parkman's, from Mr. John Clark's Essay on Study.

Mr. Lorings, from Prideaux Connection.

Mr. Cushing preached the public Lecture on John 13.34. Next meeting to be at Shrewsbury 2d Tuesday in June. Mr. Cushing Concionator. Mr. Loring Lecturer.

June 11, 1751. The Association Met at Shrewsbury first Parish.

Mr. Loring Moderator.

Mr. Cushing Concionator -- his Exercise on 1 *Tim.* 15.2.3.

Some Number of Cases -- and Several Collections.

Mr. Lorings from the Honorable George Littletons Letter to Esq. *West* -- respecting the Conversion of St. *Paul*.

Parkmans, Judge *Dudleys* translation of Dr. Thomas *Burnetts* Dedication of his *Archaeologia* to K. Wm.

Mr. Martyns from Mr. Baxters Gildas Salvianus.

Mr. Seccombs from Dr. *Synge's* Gentlemans Religion.

Mr. Buckminsters from [*blank*].

12. Mr. Loring preached the Lecture from Tit. 3.5.6.

The Next Meeting to be at Mr. Gardners 2d Tuesday of August. Mr. Gardner Concionator and Mr. Barrett Lecturer.

Aug. 13th Met at Stow.

Mr. Gardner prayed: Several Collections were exhibited and Several Cases Considered.

Mr. Martyn preached from 63d Psalm and 3 v.

Next Meeting to be at Mr. Martyns on the 2d Tuesday in October. Mr. Gardner Concionator and Parkman his Second. Mr. Barrett Lecturer. Mr. Stone his Second.

October 8, 1751. Met at Westborough Second Parish

Mr. Gardner Moderator.

No Concio, nor Time for many Collections.

Mr. Lorings, from Mr. Firmin's real Christian on *Chearfullness in true Christians*.

Parkmans, from Deism revealed vol. 1 *the Deistical Creed*.

A number of the Brethren of the West Church in Sudbury came for advice under their Difficultys -- viz. Deacon Josiah Haynes, Capt. Josiah Richardson and Lieut. Samuel Dakin. There was with them also Mr. Jonathan Puffer.

Advice was accordingly given them, [*illegible*] and a Copy of it, Signed by the Moderator, was delivered to them [Next Day?]

Two Candidates for the Ministry, viz. Jacob Cushing A.M. and Eli Forbush A.B. were examined; each of them delivered an Exercise: the former on [*blank*] the other on [*blank*]. And both of them approbated, and received [certificats?] Signed by the Members of the Association present (except Rev. Mr. Cushing, the Father of the first of them -- who did not Sign his Son's).

Several Cases were Considered. One proposed by Mr. Cushing respecting a Young woman who was a Member of the Church, but had Committed Fornication; had offered public Confession and been by Vote of the Church restored; yet her Conduct appeared on her Trial at County Court to have been Such as much offended many. Mr. Swift also proposed a Difficulty occurring in the Church of Acton, touching the Members of the *first* or *Second*+ Church in Concord communicating Occasionally with them. +There Seems to be a Controversie whether they are the first or second Church in that Town.

Oct. 9. Mr. Stone preached the public Lecture on Eph. 2.11. The Next Meeting appointed to be at Southborough, Mr. Barrett was not present at whose House it would otherwise be, on the 2d Tuesday of April next.

Mr. Gardner to be Concionator and Mr. Seccomb Lecturer or if he fails,

Mr. Swift.

April 14, 1752 at Hopkinton ++

++Mr. Barrett having desired it, and given Seasonable Notice to the Members.

Mr. Barrett prayed. Mr. Cushing Moderator.

No Concio, nor Collections except one, viz. Mr. Maccartys from *Law's* Exhortation to an holy Life, our Time was very much taken up with Cases of Difficulty that occurred. Mr. Lorings absenting was much lamented.

15. Mr. Maccarty preached the Public Lecture from Josh. 24.24. A Number of persons from Acton came after Lecture to the Association but Mr. Swift not being here, their affair could not be Considered but was dismissed at least for the present. The Clerk was appointed and requested to write a Line to *Mr. Swift* of his Brethrens Coming; and of the Next Meeting.

The Next Meeting to be 2d Tuesday in June at Mr. Maccartys. Mr. Gardner Concionator, Mr. Barrett his Second. Mr. Parkman Lecturer. Mr. Seccomb his Second.

June 9 at Worcester

Mr. Cushing Moderator. The Clerk absent, Mr. Martyn chose for this Meeting. Mr. Maccarty prayed. No Concio: nor Collections. 3 Acton Brethren for advice. The same advice was given them that was formerly given to *Mr. Swift*.

10. Mr. Buckminster preached from [*blank*].

Next Meeting at Mr. Parkman's 2d Tuesday in August. Mr. Barrett and Parkman Concionators. Mr. Seccomb [or] Mr. Smith Lecturers.

Minister Meeting at Mr. *Stones* August 11th, 1752

[N.B. *Parkman* Sick and Confined.]

Rev. Mr. Cushing Moderator.

Mr. Swifts Letter to the Association (dated Aug. 10, 1752), Considered and Answered.

Mr. Barret Concionator -- on Acts 17.3.

Mr. Seccomb Lecture -- on Gen. 3.9.

Next Meeting at Mr. Buckminsters on the 2d Tuesday in October Next. Concionators Messrs. Gardner and Parkman. Lecturers Messrs. Barrett and Smith.

[These Minutes taken from Rev. Mr. Smith Clerk pro Temp.]

Meeting at Rutland Oct. 10, 1752

Rev. Mr. Cushing Moderator.

Mr. Buckminster began with Prayer.

Mr. Morse delivered a Concio from 1 Joh. 3.10.

Mr. Morse preached the public Lecture on Ps. 32.1,2.

Messrs. Martyn and Buckminster offered Collections.

Next meeting to be at Marlborough 3d Tuesday in April, provided Mr. Smith Consent. If not at Mr. Morse's. Concionator Mr. Martyn or Mr. Stone. Lecturer Mr. Barrett or Parkman.

[Transcribed from Minutes taken by Mr. Martyn.]

At Marlborough April 24, 1753.

Mr. *Cushing* Moderator. *Parkman* instead of Mr. Martyn delivered Something for the Concio, from Rom. 14.8. Collections were,

By Mr. *Buckminster* from Dr. *John Gale* on *Mat.* 18.3. Except ye be converted etc.

Parkman's from Mr. *John Clark's* Essay on Study, respecting Charity towards Dissenters.

Mr. Stone's, a Copy of Lord General Cromwells Letter to old Mr. Cotton of Boston.

15. Mr. *Cushing* preached the public Lecture on *Rev.* 22.14.

Agreed and resolv'd unitedly, that the Catechizing of Youth of both Sexes, of all under Age, be endeavor'd in each of our Parishes: and that rather at (according to the Common Custom) that Age which most needs, most eludes the Pastoral Care.

Next Meeting to be at the South Parish in Westborough, on the Third Tuesday in June.

Messrs. Martyn and Stone Concionators. Messrs. Barrett and Smith Lecturers.

At Westborough South Parish June 19, 1753.

Mr. Cushing Moderator.

Mr. Stone gave the Concio on *Mat.* 9.37,38.

Collections, only *Parkmans* from the female Spectator Book II concerning Some remarkable Starts of (human) *Prescience*. [N.B. 'tis hard to find any other besides that Author and Correspondents who have experienced those Things there [related?].

20. Mr. *Maccarty* at the public Lecture on 2 Tim. 4.7.8.

Next meeting to be at Mr. *Morse's* -- or if that fails (Mr. *Morse* not being present) at Mr. Davis's, the last Tuesday in August. Concionator and Lecturer as above.

At Shrewsbury Second Parish

August 28, 1753. Mr. Cushing Moderator. Mr. Smith Concionator his Text Luke 16

Collections. Mr. Davis from a Magazine concerning Sir Isaac Newton.

Mr. Buckminsters from Bishop Hopkins on submission to higher Powers.

Parkmans from the History of Man Vol. 1.

29. Mr. Smith preached the Lecture from Luk. 10 ult.

Next Meeting to be at Holden Oct. 23d.

Mr. Martyn to be Concionator. Parkman Lecturer.

At Holden Oct. 23, 1753

Mr. Cushing was chosen Moderator.

Parkman absent, Mr. Martyn Clerk pro Tempore.

Mr. Davis began with Prayer (and this, whether noted in the Minutes or not, is our prevailing Custom that he at whose House we meet begins with Prayer).

Mr. Martyn delivered a Concio from Mat. 7.15,16. Mr. Stone preached the Lecture from 1 Tim. 4.8. A Letter from Sudbury agrieved Brethren, considered and Answered.

Next meeting appointed to be at Mr. Cushings the Third Tuesday in April.

Mr. Buckminster [to be next] Concionator or Mr. Maccarty if he fails.

Parkman or Mr. Davis Lecturer.

N.B. This from Mr. Martyns Minutes.

Shrewsbury First Parish Apr. 16, 1754

Mr. Cushing Moderator

Mr. Buckminster gave us a Concio on 2 Cor. 2.15,16.

Collections -- Mr. Davis's From Universal Magazine -- a Letter from a Nobleman respecting his mis-Spending Time.

Mr. *Buckminster*, Querys on 3d of Galatians Signed Neo-phutos.

Mr. *Morse* from Mr. Baxter's Directory page 817, touching Games, Sports, Shews, Activitys etc. whether we may Spend our Time and Money in attending upon them?

17. Mr. Davis preached the Lecture on 1 Cor. 16.13.

Next Meeting to be at Mr. Barretts on the 3d Tuesday of June. Mr. Maccarty Concionator. Mr. Cushing Lecturer.

Westborough First Parish

June 18, 1754. Mr. Barretts Family being ill, the Meeting was here. Mr. Cushing Moderator. Mr. Maccartys Concio on *Zech.* 1.5, latter part.

Collection -- Parkman's, The Law made formerly in this *Province* whereby Quakers were banished on pain of *Death*. See *Chandlers* History of Persecution, pag. 339, 340.

The Conversation, How Christian Parents may best Instruct their Children, So as to be properly guarded against prejudice, whilst they learn the Principles of Religion.

19. At the Public Lecture Mr. Maccarty prayed before sermon. Mr. Cushing preached on 3 Joh. 4.

Several votes passed with reference to some of the former part of these Minutes of the Association which, Time and Circumstances being altered, it was not thought Expedient to preserve.

The Next Meeting to be 3d Tuesday in August at Mr. Martyns. Mr. Davis to be Concionator and if he fails, Mr. Cushing. Mr. Barrett Lecturer.

Westborough Second Parish

Aug. 20, 1754

Mr. Cushing was chosen Moderator.

Mr. Davis delivered a Concio from 1 Tim. 4.16.

Mr. Stone's Collection was from old Mr. Thomas Thatcher's M.S. and was concerning Consociation of Churches.

Parkman's was from the New universal Magazine, an Estimate of Human Life.

Mr. Cushing ask'd Advice respecting the Conduct of their Church towards a Number of their Members who have for Some time absented them Selves from the Communion.

21. Parkman preached the public Lecture (Mr. Barrett being absent) on Heb. 11.16, former part.

The next meeting is appointed to be at Mr. Stones on the Third Tuesday of October. Mr. Cushing to be Concionator and Mr. Martyn Lecturer if Mr. Barrett Should again fail.

Southborough October 15th.

Mr. Barret was chosen Moderator and (Mr. Cushing being absent) he delivered a Concio, his Text *Ezek. 36,26*.

Collections -- Mr. Davis's from Dr. Increase Mathers Order of the Churches in N.E. Vindicated.

Mr. Seccomb from the Separatists *Frothinghams* Faith and Practice of the Separatists; on which he made Remarks.

Mr. *Stone* the *Saybrook* Platform.

Parkman's Dr. C. Mathers Brief Memorial for Pastoral Visits.

16. Mr. Martyn's Lecture was on Luk. 9, ult.

Next Meeting to be at Mr. Barretts the 3d Tuesday of April next, and

Voted, that henceforward, the Third Tuesday of April (According to New Stile) be the Time of the first Meeting of the Year -- as the Second according to old Stile was heretofore.

Mr. Cushing to be the Next Concionator, and

Mr. Stone the next Lecturer.

Hopkinton Apr. 15, 1755.

Mr. Cushing was chosen Moderator.

He also delivered a Concio -- on Tit. 2.7.

Mr. Stones Collection was an Answer to Neophutos. See April 16, 1754.

Parkmans was an Extract from Bishop Hopkin's concerning our Sins and Offences against the Law of God.

16. Mr. Stone preached the Lecture on Rom. 6.17.

The next meeting to be at Marlborough, the 3d Tuesday in June. Parkman to be Concionator and Mr. Barrett Lecturer.

June 17. Mr. Smith having Since last Meeting buryed his Wife; and himself much out of Health, the Association Met (by Desire)

At Bolton. Mr. Cushing Moderator. Mr. Morse gave a Concio on Jer. 50.9.

Collections were, Mr. *Seccombs* from *Hudsons* unity and Essence of the Church Catholic Visible.

Parkman's from the 30 [illegible] Cases Signed by a Number of Ministers May 1697.

18. Parkman preached the Lecture (Mr. Barret being absent) the Text Josh. 7.13, latter part.

Next Meeting to be at Lancaster Second Parish on the 4th Tuesday in August.

Parkman to be Concionator. Mr. Barrett Lecturer. Mr. Seccomb if he fails.

Lancaster 2d Parish Sept. 2d. (there having intervened a public Fast, which prevented Meeting in August)

Mr. Cushing was chosen Moderator.

Parkman delivered a Concio from Gal. 1.15.16.

Collections were offered by

Mr. Davis, from several learned Divines concerning

Separating from the Communion of the Churches.

Mr. Buckminsters, on methods to render Associations of

Ministers more usefull and profitable. From a M.S.

signed T.B.

Mr. Stone [blank].

N.B. There was no publick Lecture appointed.

The Next Meeting to be at Rutland the 3d Tuesday in October. Mr. *Martyn* to be Concionator and Mr. Seccomb Lecturer.

By Reason of Mr. Buckminster's Indispositions there was no Meeting at His House, as was appointed.

Marlborough Apr. 20, 1756.

The Association Met (by Desire) and chose Mr. Cushing Moderator. Mr. Martyn delivered a Concio on Isa. 2.1 to 5th v.

Collections -- Mr. *Davis*, of the remarkable Effects of the Earthquake last November in Holden.

Mr. *Seccomb*, of the different Covenants commonly used previous to Baptism, and Admission to full Communion exhibiting Draughts as specimens of what might be judged proper on those Occasions.

Mr. *Stone*, A Letter from old Judge Sewall to Venerable *Stone* of *Harwich* in answer to five Enquirys.

After the Collections divers Cases were proposed and considered.

21. Mr. Barret preached the Lecture on Ps. 139.23,24.

Next Meeting to be the 3d Tuesday in June at Mr. *Morse's*. Mr. Stone to be concionator and Mr. *Seccomb* Lecturer.

Shrewsbury North Parish

June 15. The Association Met. Mr. Cushing Moderator.

There was no Concio, nor Collections. What took up the Time chiefly was the Affair of Mr. William *Crawford* who presented himself to the Association to be examined in Order to his Preaching. As to his *Learning*, he exhibited a Diploma signed by the President and Trustees of the College in the *Jersies*. And for our own satisfaction besides answering sundry Questions put to him, respecting his Studys, and the Authors he had read, he Construed in the Greek Testament in Several parts of it: He also delivered a Discourse on *Eccl.* 9, v. 9,10,11. Respecting his *Orthodoxy*, he was interrogated concerning his Belief of the great and important Doctrines of the Christian Religion, and in particular of the Trinity; the Fall and Recovery of Man; the satisfaction of Christ more particularly and how a sinner is justified before God; the perseverance of the Saints; etc. etc. And with regard to his *Conduct* and *Conversation*, he brought Testimonials from Mr. *Maccarty* his Pastor contained in Several Letters, one of which was directed to the Association on the Occasion: And to the Other there was annexed a recommendation of him from Coll. *Chandler*.

So that it was Voted that he Should be approbated, and that the Certificat Should be signed by the Moderator in the Name of the Association.

This was done, and the writing bears date the 16th On which Day also Mr. *Seccomb* preached the publick Lecture on Act. 2,39. "For the Promise is to you and to your Children."

Voted that the Next Meeting be at Mr. Cushings, the fourth Tuesday in August. Mr. Stone to be Concionator and Mr. Smith Lecturer.

Shrewsbury First Parish Aug. 24th.

The Association being met chose Mr. Cushing Moderator. Mr. Stone delivered his Concio; which was from Eph. 4.4. The Collections which were read were,

Mr. *Seccombs* from John Barlow's sermon on Ps. 97.11. Righteousness personal and by Imputation etc.

Parkmans -- Dr. Sibbs's Prayer before his Sermon.

25. Mr. Smith preached the publick Lecture from Acts 2.42. Mr. Davis (necessarily detained) Sent his Desire that the next meeting might be at his House. He was gratified and the next Meeting was accordingly appointed to be there on the Third Tuesday of October.

Mr. Seccomb to be Concionator and Mr. Morse Lecturer.

Holden Oct. 19. Association met.

Mr. Cushing was chosen Moderator.

The Clerk absent, Mr. Martyn was chosen for this Time and he prayed.

Mr. Millen delivered a Concio from Act. 4.14-17. Mr. Davis brought again on the Carpet Lovells Case: upon which Advice was given.

Mr. Martyn preached the Lecture from Ps. 79.8.9.

The Next Meeting to be at Mr. Barretts, 3d Tuesday of April. Mr. Seccomb to be Concionator. Mr. Morse Lecturer.

[The above was taken from Mr. Martyn's Minutes.]

Southborough Apr. 12, 1757.

Mr. Barrett's Circumstances at this Time forbad Meeting at his House, and Mr. Stone desiring it at his, we met there. Mr. Cushing Moderator. Neither the Concinator nor Lecturer came. Mr. *Stone* (by Desire) entertained us with a Discourse on *Rom.* 13.14 -- but put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ.

There were no Collections except one viz. from Venerable *Lorings* Convention sermon. Application that Ministers Should *meet together* and not grow Strange and alienated one from another. A motion was made that this Should be transcribed, and sent to him -- which was approved of -- but no formal vote passed about it.

13. Parkman preached the public Lecture on 1 Joh. 2.18 -- "*even Now are there many Antichrists.*"

Next Meeting -- Concinator, Lecturer as before, third Tuesday of June, and at Mr. Barretts Desire, to be at his House.

Hopkinton June 21. Association Met.

Mr. Cushing Moderator

Mr. Barrett delivered an Exercise instead of the Concio, on 2 Tim. 4.8.

The Association took into Consideration the Vote of the late Venerable Convention at Boston recommending to Ministers and people throughout this province, more solemn and devout prayer and Reformation of Manners, at this very important Crisis of our publick Affairs. And

22. Voted Conformity thereto. In pursuance of it, the Members present agreed to Set up a Course of Lectures -- To begin at Shrewsbury the Wednesday after Commencement and Mr. Barrett to preach.+

+The Course to be thus, July 20 at Shrewsbury, Mr. Barrett to preach. 27. at Hopkinton Mr. Cushing to preach. Aug. 3 at Westborough 2d parish, Parkman to preach. 10. at Marlboro, Mr. Martyn to preach. 17. at Westborough 1st Parish where the preacher is already appointed and the rest of the Course to besettled then.

Mr. Smith preached the publick Lecture on Ezra 9, part of 13 and 14 v.

The Next Meeting to be at Westborough first parish on the third Tuesday of August. Concinator and Lecturer ut Supr.

Westborough first parish Aug. 16.

Being Met Mr. Cushing was chosen Moderator.

Mr. Morse entertained us with an Exercise on Rev. 3, v.1.2.

N.B. There have been four of those Lectures which were agreed upon last Meeting -- viz. at Shrewsbury, Hopkinton, in Mr. Martyns Parish in Westborough; and at Marlborough. And now here.

17. Venerable Mr. Loring preached the Lecture on Ps. 2.6 adapted to the present very distressing Times.

The Association agreed that the Next of the Lectures above mentioned which would be by leave of Providence at Southborough, be turned into a Fast there on Consideration of the great increase of the public Troubles and Distresses.

Next Meeting of the Association to be the 2d Tuesday of October, at Mr. Martyn's.

According to the forementioned Agreement the Lecture at Southborough Aug. 24 was observed as a Day of Humiliation and Prayer. Mr. Smith preached a.m. on 1 King 8, part of verses 44.45 and 49. P.M. Parkman on Ps. 119.126.

Agreed that the Next Lecture be at North Shrewsbury. Mr. Martyn to preach. And then proposed a second Course At Mr. Cushings. Parkman to preach.

Westborough Second Parish Oct. 11.

Associated. Mr. Cushing Moderator.

Mr. *Martyn* delivered an Exercise on 1 *Sam* 4.22.

Parkmans Collection was from Mons. *Ostervald* on the Causes of the Present Corruption among Christians, particularly that part which respects the Clergy.

Mr. *Stone*, a Manuscript of his late venerable Fathers concerning the Consociation of Churches.

In Conversation we endeavoured to have some Suitable Reflections on what has lately occurred at *Harvard*.

12. Mr. *Davis* preached the public Lecture on 1 Cor. 15.58.

Mr. Morse asked Advice concerning some special Difficultys arising in his Parish with Relation to his Maintenance among them.

The Next Meeting to be at Marlborough the 3d Tuesday of April Next; and Mr. *Davis* to be Concionator.

Marlborough Apr. 18, 1758.

Met and chose Mr. Cushing Moderator.

Mr. Davis delivered a Concio on 2 Cor. 6.3.4.

Collections -- by Mr. Smith, from Bishop Burnett on the 39 Articles, concerning the Salvation of Heathen.

By Mr. Stone, an Extract of his Fathers, from a Publick Print of May 25, 1715, containing what the London Representatives for the Parliament in March 1714-15, were directed to Enquire.

19. N.B. The public Lecture was appointed not only as in Custom, but with a View likewise to the Special State of our Publick Affairs. Mr. Davis prayed before Sermon; Mr. Buckminster preached on Isa. 40, two last v.

Voted that instead of the Special Lectures there be Fasts, considering the great Increase of the publick Troubles and Dangers. The first to be at Shrewsbury the 3d Wednesday in May next - - and then Messrs. Martyn and Smith to preach. The Next Fast to be at Rutland the 3d Wednesday in June; and there also the Next Association is to Meet (by divine Leave) the Day preceding, according to Custom -- at which Mr. Buckminster to be Concionator.

Shrewsbury May 17, 1758, was observed as a Day of Prayer and Humiliation.

Mr. Martyn preached a.m.

Mr. Buckminster p.m. 2 Chron. 20.12.

Rutland June 20, 1758. Association Met.

Mr. Cushing was chose Moderator.

Mr. Buckminster gave a Concio on John 21.15,16,17.

21. Was observed in Some religious Manner by assembling publickly both parts of the Day; for Seeking the Lord and learning His Mind and will. Mr. Morse prayed a.m. when Mr. Smith preached Deut. 4.30,31. Parkman prayed p.m. and Mr. Stone preached Deut. 7.10.

Agreed that there be another Fast this Day fortnight; at the first Parish in Westborough.

Next Ministers Meeting to be at Mr. Morse's the 4th Tuesday in August.

Westborough July 5, 1758, was observed as a fast in the First Parish. Mr. Martyn prayed a.m. Mr. Swift preached on 2 Cor. 5.11. P.M. Mr. Goss prayed and Mr. Cushing preached on Ezek. 13.5.

Another Fast; to be at Hopkinton -- when Mr. Barrett shall See best. We choose to have it the next Wednesday after Commencement. N.B. This fell through, and there was instead of it, a Fast a *Southboro* July 26, where Mr. Smith prayed, Parkman preached on Jer. 80.7, latter part. P.M. Mr. Stone prayed and Mr. Cushing preached on 1 Chron. 21.13.

Aug. 2, 1758, was observed as a Fast, at Hopkinton.

At Shrewsbury North Parish

Aug. 22, 1758, the Association Met.

Mr. *Cushing* was chosen Moderator.

Mr. *Morse* entertained the Association with a Discourse on [*blank*].

There was no Collections -- except that Letters from Rev. E.F. of the Chaplains in the A were read, which exhibited an Account of the late Sorrowfull Retreat from *Ticonderoga*, or *Corolong*.

In the Eve were furious Debates upon the present State of the Association and fresh Resolutions formed and expressed of more constant Attendance; and Endeavoured to render our Meeting more usefull.

23. At the public Lecture Mr. *Buckminster* prayed. Parkman preached on Ps. 4.7.

The Next Meeting to be at Bolton, the 3d Tuesday of October. Mr. Goss to be Concionator and Mr. Cushing Lecturer.

At Bolton. October 17, 1758. Ministers Meeting.

Mr. Martyn was chosen Moderator and Mr. Smith Scribe pro tempore (and from his minutes, this is a Transcript.) Mr. Goss Concioner 2 Phil. 25.

Mr. Buckminster offered a Collection from the Remarks on President Claps New Scheme of of Councils and Confessions.

15. In pursuance of a proposal last Meeting, of going into Some Method to render our Associating more beneficial and instructive, Voted, to drop the Collections -- and instead of them that Two or Three of the Members, as Shall be judged best, in the Interims of our Meetings, write upon some Questions, mostly in Divinity the Delivery of which not exceed 10 or 12 Minutes -- the Questions to be left at the Discretion of the Writers -- The Eldest of the Association to begin -- and no use Shall be made of Such Exercitations to the Disadvantage of any One. Unanimously also that Messrs. Cushing, Barrett and Parkman begin.

Mr. Davis Preached 32 Ps. 10.

Next Meeting at Mr. Mellens 3d Tuesday of April. Mr. Mellen Concionator,
Mr. Cushing Lecturer.

Association Meeting at Mr. *Mellens*
April 17, 1759.

Rev. Mr. Cushing chosen Moderator. Rev. Mr. Martyn (from whose Minutes this transcript was made) was chosen Scribe pro Tempore. Rev. Mr. Mellen performed all the private Exercises. Delivered a Concio from Gal. 2.19.

After the Religious Dutys were over we proceeded to other Affairs. And the following Votes were passed.

Whether considering the present Aspects of Providence with respect not only to great Britain and its Allies, but to these American Governments we judge it suitable to recommend to our Several Congregations to join with us in keeping Days for Prayer and Fasting? Voted Unanimously.

Whether the Next Association Lecture be turned into a Fast? Voted Unanimously.

Whether the Next Meeting be at Holden the 3d Tuesday of June? Mr. Davis Concionator. And that it be an established Rule that the Minister at whose House the

Association meets, for the future, be Concionator, and that the senior Minister present at the next Meeting make the first Prayer and thence forward at the next Meeting each one according to seniority performing that Duty? Voted Unanimously.

Agreed that a Prior Fast be kept at Mr. Cushings the 3d Wednesday in May.

Rev. Messrs. Parkman and Davis Preachers there. And That Rev. Messrs. Cushing and Mellen preach at Holden.

It was voted unanimously --

That inasmuch as the Method proposed at the last Meeting relating to the 3 eldest ministers reading an Answer to Some Question of their own Choosing, was not now complied with that therefore the Same Gentlemen be desired to comply with said vote at the next Meeting.

18. Mr. Cushing preached the public Lecture from Rom. 9.16.

Sir Wheeler, of Concord, offered himself to Examination. He delivered a Discourse from John 3.3. And gave Consent on Account of his Principles and Qualifications for the Ministry, and was recommended thereto as follows.

Lancaster 2d Parish Apr. 18, 1759

This May certifie that Joseph Wheeler of Concord, Bachellor of Arts, the Day

abovesaid Submitted himself to be examined by us the subscribers, the Associated Pastors in this Neighbourhood, in order to his being recommended to preach the Gospel. Upon Examination we judge him to be well qualified therefor: and do hereby heartly recommend him to any people or place where in the Providence of God he may be called to that Service.

Job Cushing

J. Martyn

N. Stone

Eb. Morse

T. Goss

Jos. Buckminster

Jos. Davis

J. Mellen

At Holden June 19, 1759.

Mr. Cushing Moderator.

Mr. Davis under bodily Indispositions, Mr. *Stone* upon Desire (other Reasons concurring) delivered an Exercise on Ps. 39.91. I was dumb etc.

Parkman offered some Answers to that Question "Who is he that is Wife to Win Souls? And how is the Wise that doth so?"

The Conversation for a Considerable While turned upon the Vote of the Association, heretofore passed, respecting the Examination of Candidates for the Gospel Ministry. And upon the Conduct of Mr. *Josiah Brown of Char* [*illegible*] whom the Association some Years ago approbated. It was judged best to send him a Letter. One was prepared and voted to be sent by this Association to him. It was signed by the Moderator and committed to Mr. *Mellen* to be delivered to him.

20. On Consideration of the Appointment of a general Fast through the Province to be next Week, this Day. Was not observed as was Voted in April -- This being the Condition upon which the Vote was made, Scil: if there Should be no public Fast. At the Lecture Mr. *Mellen* prayed, Mr. Cushing preached on Hab. 3.2.

The Next Meeting to be at Mr. *Maccarty's* the Fourth Tuesday of August. He therefore is to be Concionator and *Parkman* Lecturer. But if there be a Fast, then Mr. Martyn and Mr. Mellen are to preach.

Aug. 28, 1759. There was no Meeting at Mr. Maccartys by Reason of So great a Meeting there the week before, at the Time of the Court, when Mr. Rogers and the Town of Leominster

had their Case tryed. And altho There was some Agreement that the Association Should meet there at the Time of the Sitting of the Superior Court, Yet it so happened that there was a Disappointment and Those who came appointed a Meeting at Mr. Martyns -- 2d Tuesday in October. Mr. Mellen to preach the Lecture at Said Meeting.

Westborough 2d Parish Sept. 9, 1759

Mr. Cushing was chose Moderator.

Mr. Barrett Clerk pro Temp.

Mr. Stone began with prayer. Mr. Martyn gave the Concio on Jer. 7.12,13,14.
Mr. Cushing answered a Question.

10. Mr. Mellen preached the public Lecture on Gal. 3.10-13 before which
Mr. Maccarty prayed.

The Next Meeting to be at Mr. Stones the 3d Tuesday of November next. Mr. Maccarty to preach the Public Lecture and Mr. Goss his Second. Messrs. Barrett, Martyn and Smith to prepare and answer the Questions.

Transcribed from Mr. Barrett.

Southborough Nov. 20, 1759.

The Association Met, and chose Mr. Barrett Moderator who also prayed. Mr. Stone gave a Concio on Numb. 27.16,17. "Let the Lord, the God of the Spirits of all Flesh" etc. The Conversation was mainly upon Several Difficultys which were proposed by one and another to consideration.

21. Mr. Davis prayed before Sermon. Mr. Maccarty preached on Isaiah 57.1,2.

The Next Meeting to be at Mr. Maccartys the Third Tuesday in April. The Same Gentlemen above said to bring the Questions and Answers thereto. Mr. *Stone* to preach the Lecture.

Worcester April 16, 1760.

So few being present Yesterday by reason of the Rain, no Concio. Mr. Maccarty Moderator.
J. Davis Scribe pro Tempore.

Mr. Buckminster preached the Public Lecture from Eccl. 9.5. The Gentlemen appointed to answer Questions being absent, Mr. Buckminster offered one in Answer to That,
"What is to be done in Order to correct the Disorders attending our Ordinations."

Next Meeting at Mr. *Cushings*, the 3d Tuesday in June next, if agreeable to him; Otherwise at Mr. *Parkman's* if he pleases. Transcribed from Mr. Davis's Minutes.

Shrewsbury first Parish June 17th.

Associated -- and chose the Rev. Mr. Loring Moderator. Mr. Maccarty delivered a Concio on Jam. 5.19,20.

N.B. Those Gentlemen who remain under Appointment for the Questions, viz. Messrs. Barret, Martyn and Smith being absent, Mr. Buckminster read some Thoughts on Phil. 3.16. Then we further Voted that the Rev. Moderator be one to bring a Question, with his Answer to it, the Next Meeting: And that Messrs. Maccarty and Davis prepare Questions and their Answers to them -- against Next Meeting; to deliver them if the above appointed Gentlemen do not come prepared. The Moderator asked advice concerning a Young Gentlemen, now preaching in Sudbury, who has not been examined previous to his beginning to preach. And upon another Case relating to Persons who have Children not Seven months after Marriage.

Parkman asked advice concerning Foster Parents, and a Case or two wherein Such Parents desire Baptism for the Children committed to them.

18. Mr. Loring preached the Lecture on 2 Pet. 3.18. "But grow in Grace"

The Next Meeting to be at Mr. Barretts (if he approves of it) and *Parkman* to preach the Lecture. If he doth (Mr. *Barrett*) not accept of the Meeting [*illegible*] there it is to be at *Parkman's* on the third Tuesday in August.

Hopkinton Aug. 19th

Associated and Chose Rev. Mr. Loring Moderator. Mr. Gardner prayed. [N.B. Our dear Brother *Cushing* being removed by Death Most of the religious Exercises bewailed it, or pointed to it! He dyed Suddenly, on the 6th Instant.] Mr. Barretts Concio was upon 1 Cor. 15.56,57

Three Questions were brought and Answered viz.

Mr. *Lorings*, what is the Meaning of Heb. 6.4,5,6?

Mr. *Smiths*, How are we to understand Phil. 2.12,13.

Mr. *Davis'*, How Luk. 12.35,36.

20. Parkman preached the Public Lecture on *2 Cor.* 4.16. On Occasion of th Mournfull Providence above Mention'd, Mr. Goss prayed before Sermon.

Next Meeting to be at Mr. Gardners, on the 3d Tuesday of October. Messrs. Barrett, Martyn and Stone to bring Questions. Mr. Barret or Mr. Davis to preach the publick Lecture.

Stow October 21.

Associated and Chose the Rev. Mr. Loring Moderator.

Mr. Gardner delivered his Concio from *2 King* 13.2.

N.B. He observed that of late, Six Ministers, within his Knowledge, had dyed -- Venerable Mr. Stoddard of Woodbury, Venerable Allen of Greenland, Rev. Messrs. Trowbridge of Groton, Hemingway of Townshend, Cushing of Shrewsbury, and Joseph Seccomb of Kingstown.

The Gentlemen for the Questions were all Absent.

22. Mr. *Thomas Fessender*, a Candidate for the Ministry; was examin'd, and Approbated. A Certificat of which Signed by the Moderator was delivered to him.

N.B. Mr. *Fessenden*, besides answering the Questions put to him and Re[*illegible*] a large Confession of Faith and delivered part of a Discourse he had prepared on [*blank*].

Mr. Davis preached in Publick on *Prov.* 4.23. Appointed the Next Meeting to be at Marlborough, the 3d Tuesday of April. Mr. Goss to preach the Lecture.

Marlborough April 28 (the public Fast intervening). 1761.

Associated and chose the Rev. Mr. Loring Moderator.

Mr. Martyn prayed before the Concio.

The Concio by Mr. Smith on 2 Cor. 4.7. We have this Treasure, etc.

The Questions brought and answered, were by Mr. Stone; Who is meant by Melchizedack in Hebrew VII? Mr. Martyn; What is the meaning of the word *Moral*? What is intended by the Expression *Moral Virtue*?

29. Mr. Mellen prayed at the publick Lecture: which was preached by Mr. Maccarty on 1 Cor. 5.7,8. It being previous to the Communion.

Next Meeting is appointed to be at Westborough South Parish on the Third Tuesday in June. Messrs. [*illegible*] Gardner, Barrett and Morse appointed to bring their Questions.

Westborough South parish June 16.

Associated and Chose Parkman Moderator and delivered Concio on Jer. 3.15.

Voted that Rev. Mr. Joseph Wheeler of Harvard be admitted into this Association. Voted that Messrs. Thomas Frink, John Seccomb, and Elisha Marsh are not now of us.

Voted in Addition to what was agreed upon at Mr. Mellens April 17, 1759, That if the person whose Turn it is to pray previous to the Concio be absent, then the Moderator perform that Service.

Voted that Mr. Wheeler pray before the Lecture tomorrow.

Next Meeting to be at Mr. Morse's the 3d Tuesday in August.

That Mr. Stone pray before the Next Concio.

That Mr. Goss preach the Public Lecture.

That those who were appointed to bring Question to this Meeting, failing, Messrs. Maccarthy and Mellen prepare Questions and Answers to them, the Next.

17. Mr. Wheeler prayed before Sermon in public which Mr. Morse preached from Ps. 26.9,10.

Shrewsbury North Parish Aug. 18.

Chose Parkman Moderator. Mr. Stone prayed before the Concio. Mr. Morse delivered the Concio from 2 Tim. 2.2. He also propounded and answered the Question What is a *New-Light*?

N.B. Mr. *Isaac Foster of Harvard* requested the Associations Advice with regard to his Settling in the Ministry, and particularly at *Norwich*. The Sum of which Advice was, "That he

Should be humble, and make Satisfaction to the Church of *Harvard* for his mis-Conduct, resolve that he will not offend any more in this way -- and either desist altogether from preaching or Submitt himself to Tryal before some fit number of Ministers." Here Upon Mr. *Foster* being Convinced of his Mistakes of MisBehavior, in taking up preaching in the way he had done, Signed a Confession, which is left in our Hands, Dated Aug. 19, 1761. And Mr. *Wheeler* Pastor of the church in *Harvard*, received our Advice to them to restore him upon this Acknowledgment and conforming to the Counsel we have given him (and which he promises now before us) and then that the Church dismiss and recommend him as a Brother, to the [2nd?] Society in Norwich, to which he is about to remove his Family.

19. The Public Lecture was preached by Mr. Stone from Zech. 10.1 before which Parkman prayed.

Mr. *John Monro* was examined and approbated of which a Certificat was given him.

Next Meeting to be at Rutland the 3d Tuesday of October. Mr. Smith to pray before the Next Concio at Mr. Buckminsters. Mr. Goss to preach the Lecture.

At Rutland October 20, 1761

The Rev. John Gardner Moderator and prayed before the Conio, the person appointed being absent. [Rev. Mr. Morse Scribe pro Tempore.]

Rev. Mr. Buckminster delivered a Concio from 2 Corinthians 6.3 "Giving no Offences" etc.

21. Lecture preached by Rev. Mr. Goss -- from Mat. 25.5 before which the Moderator prayed. [No Questions.]

The next meeting to be at Mr. Goss's the Third Tuesday in April next. The Rev. Mr. Buckminster to be Lecturer.

N.B. These were taken from Mr. Morse's Minutes, except what are within Bracketts.

At a Meeting of the Association at Bolton May 18, 1762.

Rev. Mr. Gardner *Moderator* and began with Prayer. Mr. Goss delivered a Concio from Mat. 5.15. "Ye are the Salt of the Earth," and concluded with Prayer. Mr. Martyn Scribe pro Tempore.

Sir *Livermore* offered himself to Examination as a Candidate for the Ministry: and delivered the Substance of a Discourse from Tit. 3.5, gave satisfaction, and was recommended.

19. At the public Lecture Mr. Martyn prayed; Mr. Wheeler (Mr. Buckminster being absent) preached from Rom. 3.24,25. Rev. Mr. Harrington was admitted a Member of our Association. No Questions brought. Mr. Harrington and Goss appointed Questionists for the Next Meeting; which is to be at Mr. *Mellens*, 3d Tuesday in June. Preachers to be 1st Mr. Buckminster. 2d Mr. Smith.

N.B. The above was taken from Mr. Martyns Minutes of the Meeting at Bolton.

Lancaster 2d Parish, June 15.

Parkman Moderator. Mr. Smith prayed before the Concio. Which was by Mr. Mellen on Romans 3.31 compared with Gal. 2.21.

Mr. Harrington's Question was, "When may those Periods of *Time, Times* and *half a Time*; and of 1290 Days; and of 1335 Spoken of by the prophet *Daniel*, be Supposed to begin and end?"

16. The scribe having received from Mr. Marsh, one of the Tutors of Harvard College, Dr. *Lelands* "View of the Deistical Writers," in 3 Vols. Octavo, a Present from Rev. Dr. *Hales* Clerk of the Closet to his royal Highness the princess Dowager of Wales; and the Rev. Dr. *Thomas Wilson*, Prebendary of *Westminster*, and Rector of *Walbrook, London*: which Benefaction was put into the Hands of the Corporation of the above mentioned College for Distribution, and accordingly sent to us this sett, the Association was informed of it and One of the Volumes offered. Upon which Thanks Voted to be returned, in a Line to Mr. *Marsh*, etc.

Also Voted that Each Member have them in his Order, for the Space of two Months, to read them and is obliged then to Send the Volumes carefully to his next Junior.

Mr. Stone prayed before sermon in public. Mr. Buckminster preached on Ps. 94.16.

Next Meeting to be at Mr. Harringtons, the Second Tuesday of August. Mr. Morse to pray before the next Concio. Mr. Smith to be Lecturer and Mr. Martyn his second. Messrs. Goss, Mellen, and Wheeler to be Questionists.

Lancaster first Parish Aug. 10.

Venerable Loring Moderator

Mr. Morse prayed before the Concio, which was delivered by Mr. Harrington from 1 Cor. 2.2.

Mr. Goss's Question was, Whether it would not be a likely mean to promote the best Interest of our People if we more frequently changed Desks?

Mr. Mellen Question 1. Whether the Original Covenant of Words or Law of Nature remains in full Force and Vertue. Question 2. What is the main leading Principle of the Neonomian Scheme. Question 3. Whether the very Notion of our Lords being the Testator of the Covenant is not inconsistant (Strictly Speaking) with the being the Mediator of the Covenant of Grace?

Mr. Wheelers Question was, What are we to understand by the sin against the Holy Ghost, Spoken of Mat. 12.31.

11. Mr. Smith preached the public Lecture on Luke 11.13.

Mr. Morse appearing before the Association represents himself as greatly Offended with the first Church of Shrewsbury, thinking that they had greatly injured him, So that in Conscience he cannot hold Communion with them -- and asks,

1. Is it Duty to let them know his Matter of Offence? Voted Affirmatively on supposition that upon further Reflection, he remains in the Same Sentiments. He asks again,

2. Whether he Shall do it immediately; particularly before the approaching Communion, or Delay it, until after it?

Voted that it be deferred to after it.

The Next meeting appointed to be at Mr. Wheelers the 3d Tuesday of October.

Mr. Harrington to pray before the Concio.

Mr. Martyn to preach the Lecture.

Questions to be brought by Mr. Maccarty, Mr. Loring and Mr. Gardner.

After these Things, An important Affair was proposed with regard *to dividing the Association*, we being So numerous, and at too great a Distance one from another. It was at first conceived to be best to have it under Consideration till next Meeting -- but it was observed, that

now the Association was so generally together that it was much best to go through with it now, and it is very unlikely that we should be so happy as to meet so fully again, to do this. It was therefore proceeded upon -- and Voted. Again, the Line of Division was proposed to be, For the *East part*, Mr. Loring and Mr. Gardner, Mr. Smith and Mr. Stone, Mr. Martyn and Parkman, Mr. Goss and Mr. Wheeler. Mr. Barrett (who is absent, and the only member that is absent) if he pleases. For the *West*, The Ministers of Two Shrewsburys, Two Lancasters, Worcester, Holden, Rutland -- and there may be likelihood of Several others to join thereto.

This Line of Division was also voted.

N.B. The West Division to retain their Right in Dr. *Lelands* View of the Deistical Writers -- and tis desired that as many of the whole, as can, would meet at the next meeting at Harvard, notwithstanding.

At Harvard Oct. 19.

Associated, according to the late Vote, made at Lancaster, viz. the Eastern Division, with a Number of our Brethren that by the Said vote are to Separate from us.

Venerable Mr. Loring was chosen Moderator.

A Letter from the Rev. Mr. *Maccarty* -- read. Voted, that for want of proper Light in the Case, it be dismissed -- and that Mr. Maccarty be desired to proceed with great Caution in So unusual, difficult and perplexed Affair.

Mr. Harrington prayed before the Concio.

Mr. Wheelers Concio was on Mat. 13.52.

Mr. Loring only, brought a Question which was, How a good Man may know he has Grace?

20. Voted that the Form of the Associating be altered; and that we have but One Day for our Association Exercises: that the Place of our Meetings be Marlborough -- unless any Gentleman Shall be, in Special manner, desirous to have it at his House. That we meet precisely at 10 a.m. That Mr. Loring give the Concio. Messrs. Gardner, Barrett and Parkman, bring Questions; and the Lecture on Wednesday be dropped, it being but too little regarded by the people.

Mr. Smith prayed at the publick Lecture which Mr. Martyn preached on *Joh. 12.35th* latter part, "For he that walketh in Darkness knoweth not whither he goeth."

At Marlborough April 19, 1763.

Associated and chose *Parkman* Moderator: who prayed before the Concio -- which Mr. Loring delivered from *Col. 4.17.* "Say to *Archippus*, etc. Mr. Gardner brought his Question. Mr. Barrett was absent. *Parkman's* Question was whether to worship God with Reverence in the Duty of singing, we ought not rather to rise up, than Sit down?

Next Meeting to be at the Same place, on third Tuesday of June. Mr. *Gardner* to deliver the Concio. Mr. *Martyn* and Mr. *Stone* are added to them that were to bring Questions.

At Marlborough June 21.

There Associated and chose Venerable Loring Moderator.

Mr. Stone prayed before the Exercise which Mr. Martyn gave instead of the Concio (Mr. Gardner being absent) and which was on *Col. 3.16* and on *Luke 16, v. 13.*

The Questions --

Mr. *Antipas Steward* a Candidate for the Ministry was examined and approbated.

The next meeting to be at the Same place, on the Third Tuesday in August. The Same Concionator as was appointed last Time. Mr. *Martyn* desires the Question may be, (for the Next Meeting) this following -- Viz. Whether any literal Translation of Davids Psalm is proper to be sung in Christian Churches under the Gospel Dispensation? N.B. It is Supposed we have one or more Versions of Psalms or Hymns, fitted to the Christian state and Worship.

At Marlborough Aug. 16, 1763.

Venerable Loring Moderator -- and prayed.

Mr. Gardners Concio was on *Mat. 9.36.* Mr. Stone and Parkman gave answers to Mr. Martyns Question -- See on June 21.

There ensued divers Debates concerning the Centurion *Cornelius* in Acts X, especially the Question was, Whether he was a gracious man, before he was instructed by the Apostle Peter?

Rev. Mr. Gardner offers his Special Desire that the Next Meeting may be at his House. This was complied with and it was appointed to be there, on the 3d Tuesday of October. Parkman to be Concionator. Rev. Loring Lecturer and Mr. Stone his Second.

Questions are to be brought by Messrs. Gardner, Smith and Goss.

At Stow, October 18, 1763.

Venerable Loring was chosen Moderator.

Rev. Mr. Gardner prayed before the Concio, which Parkman delivered, from *Coloss.* 1.1.

Mr. Gardner gave Answer to the following Question [*blank*].

Messrs. Smith and Goss were unprepared and therefore were appointed again and Mr. *Stone* was added, for Questions for the Next Meeting.

19. Mr. Loring preached on Gal. 4.21.

Next Meeting to be at Marlborough, according to the late Agreement and Mr. Martyn to be Concionator.

At Marlborough April 17, 1764.

Venerable Loring Moderator.

Parkman prayed.

Mr. Martyn absent, Mr. Smith delivered an Exercise on Acts 16.14.

Mr. Stones Question was, How doth it appear that immediately after the Death of the Body, the particular Judgment Shall pass upon the Soul? And whether the Sanctified Soul doth immediately pass into Heaven? And what are the religious Inferences to be made from the Same?

Mr. Smith's Question was, Whether Christ be God, or a Creature only? This was raised from those words in John 10.33, latter part.

Next meeting to be Third Tuesday in June at Marlboro. Mr. Martyn Concionator -- Mr. Goss to bring Question, also Mr. Wheeler, and Mr. Loring to begin again with the Questions.

At Marlborough June 19.

Venerable Loring Moderator and prayed. Mr. Martyn delivered a Concio from 2 Timothy 4.2. "Preach the Word." Mr. Goss was absent -- but Mr. Loring's Question was, What are the Signs of Growth in Grace?

Mr. Wheeler's was, Whether we have gained more by Christ, than we lost in Adam?

Next meeting to be the 3d Tuesday in August, at the Same place. Mr. Stone to be Concionator -- Mr. Goss to bring his Question. Mr. Gardner and Parkman to bring also.

At Marlborough. August 21.

Venerable Loring Moderator and prayed.

A Variety of Cases proposed and debated. The Considering and answering them

Superseded the Concio and Questions. Therefore the Same persons remain appointed for those Exercises, at another Meeting. N.B. Mr. Smith was also obliged to attend a Funeral, at a remote part of the Town.

The next Meeting, by the Desire of Mr. Martyn, is to be at his House on the 3d Tuesday of October, and the Exercises to be according to the Old Custom, of Two Days -- to be a Lecture on the Wednesday -- Mr. Gardner to preach -- Mr. Wheeler if he shall fail.

At Westborough North Parish October 30.

N.B. By reason of the Ordination of Young Mr. Stone at East Yarmouth, a Number of the Association would be absent if the meeting Should be on the Day appointed; and therefore it was put off to this Day above written.

Venerable Loring Moderator.

31. Mr. Gardner preached the public Lecture. His Text was Gen. 11.32, those Words, "and Sarah dyed in *Haran*".

The Next Meeting to be at Marlborough, the third Tuesday in April.

At Marlborough April 23, 1765.

Associated, and chose Rev. Mr. Gardner Moderator -- who prayed.
Mr. Stone delivered his Concio on Song 1 and part of the 6. "They made me the Keeper of the Vineyards, but mine own Vineyard have I not kept."
Mr. Wheeler desired a Case which he offered to the Association might be considered. The Questions were omitted.

The Next Meeting to be at Marlborough the 3d Tuesday in June. Mr. Goss to be Concionator.

At Marlborough June 18, 1765.

Associated and chose Venerable Loring Moderator -- who prayed.
Mr. Goss was absent. No Concio therefore. Mr. Gardner's Question was What is the meaning of our Lords Words in Mark 13.39?
Parkman's Question was, What Considerations may be especially usefull respecting divine Worship? and how Shall we know whether it be God Himself that I am Seeking, and that I perform His worship to the appropriate Ends? from Mr. Baxter.

Next meeting to be at Southborough the 3d Tuesday in August. Mr. Goss Still appointed Concionator and to bring his Question. Messrs. Martyn and Stone to bring theirs also. Mr. Wheeler to be Lecturer.

At Southborough Aug. 20, 1765.

Associated. Venerable Loring Moderator. Mr. Barrett prayed. Mr. Goss delivered a Concio on John 4.20, "Our Fathers worshipped in this Mountain" etc.
Mr. Goss's Question was Superseded by, and was Swallowed up in, his Concio. No other was brought by any One else.
A Case of Mr. Loring's was exhibited, relative to one *Stanhope* in Sudbury.

Conversation turned very much upon the Extraordinary Occurrence last Wednesday in *Boston*, relative to the *Stamp Officer*; and the great Mischief done in a tumultuous manner.

21. At the Public Lecture Mr. Gardner prayed. Mr. Wheeler preached, his Text *Rom. vi*, ult "but the Gift of God is eternal Life" etc.

It was proposed that at the next Meeting the following Question Should be Spoke to, and that every one come prepared to make answer to it: viz.

"What Shall best be done against the So Prevailing Sin of Fornication"?

The Next Meeting to be at Mr. Barretts on the third Tuesday of October next. Mr. Barrett himself to be Concinator: and Mr. Martyn Lecturer.

At Hopkinton Oct. 22.

The Meeting being deferred to this Day, by Reason that the Ordination of Rev. Mr. Asaph Rice of Westminster was on the 16th and divers Brethren were obliged to be there.

Rev. Mr. Barrett was chose Moderator. N.B. Rev. Mr. *Fish* of Upton was with us, especially on the following account.

James Parker B.A. was present, and offered himself to Examination as a Candidate for the Ministry. He delivered a Discourse on Ps. 97.2 (which Superseded Mr. Barretts Concio.). He was interrogated properly -- approbated and recommended. The Certificat was Signed by the Moderator. Mr. Fish aforesaid added also his Name. N.B. Mr. Loring, Mr. Gardner, and Several others being absent, the Question proposed last meeting was not answered at this Time.

23. Mr. Martyn being absent, the Publick Lecture was preached by Parkman on 1 Pet. 2.13 to 16 on Consideration of the present Times, and *the 1st of Nov.* that dreadful Day! hastening upon us.

N.B. Mr. Stone prayed before the Sermon.

The Next Meeting to be at Marlborough on the third Tuesday of April. The Exercises to be performed according to the former Appointments.

At Marlborough April 16, 1766.

Met. Parkman moderator and prayed. He also read Some Answers to the above mention'd *Question*, Scil. What shall best be done against the so prevailing Sin of Fornication?

Mr. Barrett absent, and no Concio.

Mr. Goss desires advice upon a difficult Case on one *John Houghton* in Bolton, whose wife is gone from him.

Next Meeting is to be at Westborough the 3d Tuesday in June. Concionator [blank] Lecturer Mr. Goss.

At Westborough June 17, 1766.

Met. Parkman chose Moderator who also prayed. Mr. Barrett was absent again -- and therefore no Concio. But Mr. Wheeler gratified us with reading the Copy of a large Confession of Faith delivered by Mr. [blank] *Follet* in Old England.

18. Isaac Barnard Esq. and Messrs. John Holland, and Daniel Marsh, of Sutton, waited upon the Association with their Request, that we would give them some proper Advice and Direction under their Difficultys, arising from the settlement of Mr. *Chaplin*, upon a Covenant which they Could not consent to. They brought also a Letter from the Association yesterday at Shrewsbury North End, upon the Case. We considered their Request, and they having returned home, a Letter was drawn and Signed, and agreed to be Sent to them.

Mr. Wheeler preached the Public Lecture on Act. 20.21. "Testifying both to the Jews and also to the Greeks Repentance" etc.

The next meeting is appointed to be at Mr. Martyns the third Tuesday in August. Mr. Goss Lecturer.

At Northboro, Aug. 19, 1766.

Venerable Loring Moderator. Mr. Stone prayed. Parkman delivered, instead of the Concio, a Discourse on *Tit* 3.4,8 especially this last verse?

Mr. Loring communicated something from the late venerable Mr. Hancock of Lexington on this Question.

"Whether persons may lie together without Marriage, that have promised to have each other"? Answer: No: for the Ensuing Reasons etc., etc. See the paper.

To which was added the late Mr. Williams's answer also. Vid. *ibid*.

20. Publick Lecture by Mr. Goss on Luke 14.24.

N.B. Mrs. Houghton, Wife of Mr. John Houghton of Bolton, (See Association last April) wants some Advice upon her Difficult Case. Something was drawn up, according to our general View of it. Voted and Signed by the Moderator and delivered to Mr. Goss to be communicated.

Next Meeting is to be (God willing) at Southborough the 3d Tuesday of October next. Mr. Barrett to be Concionator -- and Mr. Martyn Lecturer.

At Southborough Oct. 21, 1766.

Venerable *Loring* Moderator.

Mr. Barrett prayed and delivered a Concio on Act. 17.23 -- "to the unknown God."

Parkman put the following Question to the Association, viz.

Whether it be fit and right to hold Communion with the Separated people of *Chebacco*, to which Mr. John *Cleaveland* Ministers? The Answer was *in the Negative*.

And the following instrument was Signed by all at this meeting.

"We the Subscribers being associated at Southborough Oct. 21, 1766, and being asked the Question by the Rev. Mr. *Parkman*, viz.

Whether it be fit and right to hold Communion etc. ut *supr*.

We Answer, that upon viewing the several Printed Pamphlets relative to the Separation at *Chebacco*, as also several Letters from Pastors of Churches in that Vicinity, and divers written Testimonys, We cannot think it adviseable for any of our Churches to admitt Members of that Separate society to Communion in special Ordinances. Nor can we admitt Mr. *Cleaveland* into our Pulpits -- especially as we have reason to think it would be very grievous to the worthy Ministers in that neighbourhood.

Israel Loring

Copied from the original. John Gardner

Examined and compared by Samuel Barrett

E. Parkman, Scribe. John Martyn

Nathan Stone

Aaron Smith."

Oct. 22. Mr. Martyn preached the Lecture from Luke 10.42.

The next Meeting to be (God willing) at Mr. Goss's, the 3d Tuesday of
April next.

Mr. Martyn to be Concionator and Parkman Lecturer.

At Bolton April 21, 1767.

Venerable *Loring* Moderator.

Mr. *Martyn* delivered his Concio on *Gal.* 1.10. "For Do I now perswade men, or God? or do I Seek to please men? For if I yet pleased men, I Should not be a servant of Christ."

The Conversation various. No Questions brought.

22. *Parkman* preached the publick Lecture from Heb. 12.25. The next meeting to be at *Harvard*, 3d Tuesday in June. If this appointment fails -- then at Mr. Smiths. Mr. *Stone* Concionator and If at *Harvard* Mr. *Smith* Lecturer. Messrs. *Martyn*, *Stone* and *Smith* to bring Questions.

At Harvard June 16, 1767.

Parkman Moderator and prayed.

Mr. *Stone* delivered his Concio on Zech. 1.5. "Your Fathers where are they? and the prophets do they live forever?" (This being the next meeting of the Association after the Death of our Brother *Martyn*) No Questions were brought.

17. Mr. *Smith's* publick lecture on John 3.16. "That whosoever believeth on Him might not perish, but might have everlasting Life."

Next Meeting to be at *Marlborough*. If any Thing Shall occur to prevent meeting there, then to meet at *Hopkinton*. Mr. *Smith* to be Concionator -- If at *Hopkinton* then, Mr. *Goss* to be Lecturer. Questions to be brought by Messrs. *Stone* and *Smith*.

At Marlborough Aug. 1, 1767.

Venerable *Loring* Moderator and prayed.

The Rev. Mr. *Josiah Bridge* of Sudbury was admitted a Member of this Association.

The Concio was prevented by the Affair of *Northborough*. Their Committee had desired advice of the Ministers who had assisted at their late Fast; but it was referred to the Association. Mr. *Peter Whitney*, who has for some Time been preaching to them, was with us, and we examined into his principles etc. previous to our drawing up Advice. It being drawn up and voted, it was signed by the Moderator and delivered to Mr. *Whitney*, to be conveyed to the said Committee.

Mr. *John Cushing* a Candidate, was examined and approbated. The Certificat was Signed by Four, the 3 others resigning it; and desiring they might have leave to go home by reason of their Indispositions.

Next Meeting to be at Hopkinton on the third Tuesday in October. The Exercises there to be as above specified.

At Hopkinton October 20, 1767.

Rev. Mr. Barrett Moderator and prayed. Mr. *Loring* was with us, but was taken ill, and was incapable of conducting the Exercises and affairs of the Meeting. N.B. He was 85 last April; the 6th Day O.S. He grew somewhat better before we broke up. May God restore, Strengthen, and continue him still for a great Blessing to us!

The Concio was Superseded by an Exercise of Mr. *Jacob Rice*, who was at this Meeting examined and approbated. A Certificat was also signed by Six Members (who were all that were present) and delivered him. The above mentioned Exercise was on Rom. 6.14.

Questions. Mr. *Stone's* was, Whether the Heathen or Some of them may obtain Salvation in the Condition where in they are, without the Knowledge of Jesus Christ? The Answer was from Dr. *Owen* on Evangelical Love, unity etc.

Mr. *Smiths* was, Whether the human Mind is vested with Capacity in present Circumstances To do what is Necessary to Salvation?
The Answer was from the *Visitor*.

21. Mr. *Goss* being absent, Mr. *Bridge* preached the publick Lecture -- on Mat. 13.39 those words, "the Harvest is the End of the World."

The next Meeting to be at *Stow* -- or if (Mr. *Gardner* not being with us) that Should be inconvenient, then at *Southborough*. Mr. *Smith* (prevented as abovesaid) Concionator and Mr. *Goss* Lecturer and Mr. *Barrett* and Mr. *Goss* to bring Questions.

At Stow April 19. 1768.

Venerable Loring was chosen Moderator and prayed. Mr. Smith was absent, by reason of illness: There was therefore no Concio at this Meeting. However, it might have been Superseded by the Case which Mr. Wheeler had to lay before us, and took up the Chief of the Time.

20. Mr. *Goss* had preached so often here that Mr. Gardner desired Some other Minister might at Such a Day as this. In compliance with this, Mr. *Stone* took his turn to preach the Publick Lecture which was on *Isaiah* 46.8, first Clause, "Remember this, and show your selves Men."

The next meeting is appointed to be at Southborough, on the 3d Tuesday in June. But upon a Serious Review of Things, the Association came into the following Agreement and *Vote*,

That on consideration of the low State of Religion and Growth of Impiety and Error, and in a peculiar Manner the political State of the Land under great Difficultys with regard to our privileges both religious and civil, our next Meetings be therefore turned into Fasts -- to be on Wednesday -- to have two Exercises -- the Pastor of the Parish to begin with Prayer -- the two eldest ministers, viz. Mr. *Loring* and Mr. *Gardner*, to preach at first. If either of the ministers appointed Should fail, then the next in Seniority to perform that Service. And may the Lord be with us in them that they may be such as He has chosen!

+Tis understood the third Wednesday.

At Southborough June 15, 1768.

Being Wednesday. It Was observed as a Day of Fasting and prayer: and the Exercises were performed agreeable to the appointment last Meeting. Mr. *Stone* began with Solemn Prayer. Mr. *Loring* preached on *Cant.* 4.16. "Awake O North Wind" etc. The Scope was, the Duty of Gods People to pray for the Spirit of God to be given etc.

P.m. *Parkman* prayed. Mr. *Gardner* preached, on Jer. 7.3. "Thus Saith the Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel, Amend your Ways," etc. -- urging Reformation by the Strongest Arguments.

The next Meeting is appointed to be at Mr. *Lorings* the third Wednesday in *August*, and to be observed by a Fast. Mr. *Stone* and *Parkman* to preach.

At West Sudbury Aug. 17, 1768

The Day was observed as a Solemn Fast. Venerable *Loring* opened the Solemnity with Prayer. Mr. *Stone* preach'd a.m. on *Heb.* 5.12, "For when for the Time ye ought to be Teachers" etc.

P.M. Mr. *Smith* pray'd; and *Parkman* preached on *Isaiah* 1.18. "Come now and let us reason together saith the Lord," etc. May God graciously Accept us!

Mr. *Gardner* desires the next of these solemnitys may be at *Stow*, (notwithstanding we so lately met there) and it was agreed to. Mr. *Goss*, and Mr. *Bridge* to be the Preachers. The Time, the third Wednesday in October.

Association Fast at Stow Oct. 19, 1768.

A.M. Mr. Gardner prayed. Mr. Bridge preached on Ps. 106,43,44,45. "Many Times did He deliver them" etc. P.m. Mr. Stone prayed. Mr. Goss preached on Prov. 3.5. "Trust in the Lord" etc.

The next meeting to be at Bolton on [*illegible*].

Association Fast at Bolton Nov. 9, 1768.

Mr. Goss opened the meeting a.m. with prayer.

Mr. Smith preached on Jer. 6.8. "Be thou instructed, O Jerusalem" etc.

P.M. Mr. Gardner prayed. Mr. Loring preached on 2 Chron. 15.2, "the Lord is with you, while ye be with him."

Next meeting to be at Marlborough at the usual Time in the Spring.

Association Fast at Marlboro. April 19, 1769.

Mr. Smith prayed a.m. -- Parkman preached from Judg. x,6,7,9,10.16. (Selected Sentences there from). "And the Children of Israel did Evil again" etc. P.M. Mr. Goss prayed. Mr. Stone preached on Jer. 8.6, former part, "I hearkened and heard" etc.

The next meeting is to be at Westborough on the third Wednesday in the next Month.

Venerable Loring and Gardner to preach.

Association Fast at *Westboro* May 17, 1769.

Parkman began with prayer. Mr. *Smith* preached on *Jer. 7.1*, to 7th. "The word that came to Jeremiah etc., Hand in the Gate etc. and proclaim" etc. P.M. Mr. *Bridge* prayed. Mr. *Stone* preached on Genesis 18.19. "For I know him that he will command his Children," etc.

The next Meeting to be at East Sudbury the third Wednesday in the Next Month, Mr. [*blank*] and Mr. Goss to preach.

Association Fast at *East-Sudbury* June 21.

Mr. *Bridge* prayed. Mr. *Stone* preached on *Ezra 9.13.14*. "And after all that is come upon us for our Evil Deeds" etc. P.M. Parkman prayed. Mr. Goss preached on *Mat. 6.33*. "But seek ye first the Kingdom" etc.

This finishes our Course of Fasts. May the Lord forgive and accept His Servants!

The Next Meeting of the Association to be according to our Common Custom on the third Tuesday in August, at Mr. *Stones* -- and he to deliver the Concio.

At Southborough Aug. 15, 1769.

Mr. *Stone* was chose Moderator who prayed -- and delivered his Concio on *Act. 26.17,18*. "To whom now I send thee, to Open their Eyes" etc.

16. Mr. *Loring* prayed at the public Lecture. Parkman preached on *Prov. 4.18*. "But the Path of the just is as the Shining Light" etc.

Mr. *Benjamin Brigham*, a Candidate for the Ministry, offered himself to Examination. He was accordingly examined and approbated. The Certificat was Signed by *Israel Loring*, *Eb. Parkman*, *Nathan Stone*, *A. Smith*, *Jos. Bridge*. The Next Meeting to be at *Hopkinton* or (Mr. *Barrett* being absent) if there be any inconvenience, in it being there, then to be at *Bolton*. Mr. *Barrett* Concionator, Mr. *Loring* Lecturer.

October 17, 1769.

No one went to Mr. *Barretts*, but *Parkman*. The Weather was Cold, the Wind ver Searching; and this may probably be the Reason why a Number of the

Members, who are aged and infirm, could not venture to go So far.
Mr. *Barrett* himself not well.

18. *Parkman* preached the Lecture on *Hebrew* 12.25. We agreed that,
Mr. *Goss* having desired the Meeting might be at his House, if it was not
at Hopkinton, the next Should be *there*. Otherwise, at Westborough.

April 17, 1770. Met at *Bolton*.

Mr. Loring Moderator and prayed. Mr. Barret being absent there was no Concio.

Mr. *Abraham Wood* of *Sudbury*, and a Candidate for the Ministry, offered himself to Examination and he was accordingly Examined. He delivered likewise a Discourse on [*blank*].

Voted Approbated. And that Mr. *Loring* as Moderator sign it in our Name, when it Shall be a fit Time to do it.

Rev. *Mr. Goss* laid before the Association Somewhat of the Troubles he meets with from a Number of disaffected persons in his Church Congregation. Yet there has been, not a great while since, a Council to settle their Difficultys, and which it might be supposed that they had been easy with but it proves difficult.

18. Mr. *Loring* was to have preached the Public Lecture but it suited [*illegible*] to change with *Parkman*, that so Mr. L_____ may preach for him at *Westboro*. It was therefore agreed to.

Parkman therefore preached the Lecture on Ps. 139.23, and 24. Voted that the Next Meeting be the 3d Tuesday in June: At *Westboro*. Voted to try whether our meeting one Day only will not suffice for the Bus'ness commonly proposed -- for then to Meet as early as 9 a.m. and not have Association Lecture.

June 19, 1770. At *Westborough*

Mr. *Loring* prayed.

Parkman read a Discourse on Cant. 5.10.16. [There was no body besides to do it.]

20. Mr. *Loring* preached the public Lecture. His Text was Gen. 8.21, "for the Imagination of Man's Heart is Evil from his Youth". N.B. This Lecture was agreed upon before the Custom was Voted to be altered, and was not Subverted by it.

The Next Meeting is to be, God willing, the third Tuesday in August, at Mr. *Loring's*.

August 21, (70) At *West-Sudbury*.

Mr. *Loring* Moderator and gave a Concio on *James* 2.8, those words "If ye fulfill the royal Law - ye shall do well." Before this Exercise *Parkman* prayed. After it, had some further Conference upon that Question "How, especially considering the most of us are grown old Men, and our Stay almost Spent, Shall we improve our Time when we are together to the best advantage, to answer the End and Design of our Meeting?" -- It was agreed to bring Collections or Questions, as heretofore. [N.B. They had been neglected Some time] -- to be precisely at the Time appointed, 9 o'Clock a.m. Next Meeting to be at *Marlborough* 3d Tuesday (God willing) of Next October. Mr. *Smith* to be Concionator.

October 16. (70) at Marlborough.

Mr. *Loring* was chosen Moderator.

Mr. *Stone* prayed before the Concio -- which Mr. Smith delivered from 1 Cor. 2.2, "For I determined not to know any Thing" etc.

Mr. *Loring* read a Collection on *Revelations*.

Parkman had a Case relative to Fornicators, their offering *Notes* in which they desire *Thanks* may be given in the Congregation and *Prayer* etc. He gave an instance of one who had not been married so much as one Month; and *Reasons* why their note might not be read, the Partys remaining bold and impenitent; unless they be prayed for under that Character of Guilty etc.

The next Meeting to be at *Stow* (if Mr. Gardner, who is absent Shall consent to it) or at East *Sudbury*, if he should not. The Concio by the Person at whose House we meet. The Time, 3d Tuesday in April, at 9 a.m.

April 23, 1771. At East Sudbury.

Venerable Mr. Loring (now in his 90th year) was chose Moderator and prayed. Mr. Bridge delivered a Concio on John 16, 27, those words "For the Father himself loveth you." Mr. Stone delivered Collections on the Doctrine of the Trinity, with various observations thereon. Mr. *Smith* from the famous Mr. Baxter concerning the power which man can exert in Conversion, and how far acceptable to God.

Next Meeting to be (God willing) at Mr. Gardners, or, if again prevented to be there, then at *Mr. Stones*, on the Third Tuesday in June.

June 18. At Southborough.

Mr. Loring Moderator and Prayed.

N.B. Mr. *Stones* Troubles great. He is called to Hardwick -- he goes while we are gathering to his House So that we have neither his Concio, nor Company.

P _____ asked Advice in a Case of an adulterous Woman who offers a Confession but it is conceived to be defective in not expressing what command she had broke in mentioning no sorrow or sense of Offence against her Husband. Next Meeting to be at Westborough Third Tuesday in August. Concio utSupra. Every Member to bring Such Questions or Collections as may be most for our Profit. Our whole Number is very much reduc'd.

Aug. 20. at Westborough

Mr. Loring Moderator. Parkman prayed.

No Concio by Reason of other and very important Business. Mr. Goss layed before us the Result of the late large, mutual Council at Bolton, and the Votes of the Brethren of the Church and Votes of the Congregation there; by which they have determined Mr. Goss is dismissed -- and have accordingly prevented his entering the Pulpit, the last Lords Day.

This Conduct we considered -- and as neighbouring pastors, drew up and Signed our Disatisfaction with their precipitant proceedings and Mr. Whitney of Northborough joined us in it.

Mr. *Thomas More* of Bolton, a Candidate, was examin'd and approbated.

Next Meeting to be by leave of Providence at *Bolton* on the 3d Tuesday of October. Venerable Loring to be Concionator.

Oct. 15. at Bolton

Mr. Loring Moderator.

Mr. Goss prayed.

Mr. Loring delivered a Concio on Gen. 47.9 -- "few and evil have the Days" etc.

An Addition was made to the forementioned Draught respecting Mr. *Goss's* Case -- both rectifying the Expulsion of a *Major* Part of the Brethren voting Mr. Goss's *Discharge* from his Office, there being (according to Mr. *Goss's* account) but 25 out of 54 Members -- and manifesting our discountenancing any Preachers or Ministers administering to that Party in their present State. Signed by Israel Loring, Ebenezer Parkman, *Timothy Harrington*, *Aaron Smith*, Josiah Bridge, and Peter Whitney.

The next Meeting to be at Mr. *Lorings* on the third Tuesday of April next.

March 9. Venerable Mr. Loring expir'd. Aetatis 90. And on the 13th was interred: at which time it was agreed that the next meeting Should (God willing) be at *Marlborough*.

At Marlborough April 21, 1772.

Parkman was chosen Moderator and prayed. No Concio by reason of the important Case of Mr. *Goss*, his Difficultys being peculiarly great. Parkman read a Collection.

Next Meeting to be at Mr. *Stone's*, on the 3d Tuesday in June: and also to deliver a Concio.

At Southborough June 16.

Parkman Moderator.

Mr. *Stone* prayed, and gave his Concio, which was on *Col. 2.6*, "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him."

Our next meeting to be at Mr. *Bridge's* on the 3d Tuesday in August; and he is appointed to give us a Concio.

At East Sudbury Aug. 20.

[N.B. For Special reason the Meeting was put off to this Day]

Parkman Moderator and prayed.

It appeared necessary to omitt the Concio by Reason of a Variety of important and unavoidable Business. The Association gave Mr. *Abraham Wood* (Candidate) a more full Approbation. Mr. *Goss's* Difficultys increasing more and more, he Seeks Advice -- and it being appointed to be Lecture at *his House* tomorrow, he requests some of us would go up there, the rather as he intended to consult his Brethren that adhere to him, upon some proposals he had to make relative to a Dismission.

It was agreed that *Parkman* and Mr. *Stone* should go.

Mr. *Smith* had also a very weighty Affair to advise upon. His Infirmitys pressing him more and more, and being not able to speak in public, to be heard; and having waited and hoped from year to year, but not growing better, would propose to his People to have a *Colleague*.

Next meeting to be at Mr. *Barretts*, (by his Desire and his Children with him) 3d Tuesday in October. Mr. *Bridge* to be then Concionator.

Oct. 20. At Westborough

(Mr. *Barrett* being too weak and low, to admitt of our Meeting there) -- few came. *Parkman* Moderator.

Mr. *Goss* prayed. There was no Concio, Mr. *Bridge* being absent.

Mr. *Goss's* Difficultys, Still continuing, our Conversation much taken up there with.

Next Meeting to be (God willing) at *Southborough*.

The Rev. Mr. *Samuel Barrett* deceased Dec. 11, 1772, and was buryed on the 15th.

April 20 at Southborough

Very few present. *Parkman* Moderator. Mr. *Stone* prayed and delivered a Concio on a John 3.5, "And ye know that he was manifested to take away our Sins; and in Him is no Sin."

Mr. *Goss*' unhappy Difficultys very much the Subject of our Conversation.

We appoint the next meeting to be at venerable Mr. *Gardners*, if he Shall be able to admitt of it, on The third Tuesday in June, God willing.

June 15. At Bolton.

Venerable Mr. *Gardner* being too feeble and weak, we met at Mr. *Goss*'s. And a Number of those our Brethren who used to associate with us, but became, with some others, an Association by them Selves met with us to day, viz. Rev. Messrs. *Harrington, Morse, Maccarty, Millen, and Whitney* in the whole *Nine*, besides Mr. *Goss*.

Parkman was chose Moderator and prayed. Mr. *Goss* requesting Advice under his pressing Difficultys, we unanimously recommend to him and his Brethren adhering to him, to call a Council to meet the same Day that the late adjourned Council (which met to ordain Mr. *Walley*) are to meet in *Bolton*; to be of equal Number to them.

There was no Concio.

The next meeting to be (God willing) at *Marlborough* the third Tuesday in August.

Marlborough August 16.

Parkman Moderator.

Mr. *Goss* read the copy of the Result of the late Council called by him and his Adherents.

Voted that a Letter be writ, and Signed by the Moderator in the Name of the Association and that it be Sent to the Rev. Mr. *Amos Adams* of *Roxbury*, Scribe of that Council desiring that the said Result may be printed, if he would take Care of and forward it forthwith.

Bolton Affair engrossed the Conversation.

Next Meeting to be at East Sudbury 3d Tuesday in October.

East Sudbury Oct.

The Next Meeting to be at Westborough: 3d Tuesday of April next.

Westborough April 19, 1774.

Parkman Moderator.

He prayed and delivered a Discourse on Luke 12.36,37. Occasioned by the sudden deaths of several Ministers, Rev. Messrs. Edward Barnard of Haverhil; and Thomas Jones of Woburn, of late. Conversation on the unhappy State of Several Churches. Next meeting to be at Southborough on the 3d Tuesday in June.

Southborough June 21.

The Association met and Chose Parkman Moderator. It being a Time of great and uncommon Distress in the province, it was thought convenient and needfull to be the more enlarged in prayer.

The Moderator prayed. Afterwards Mr. *Stone* prayed and delivered a Discourse on *Prov.* 16.7. After which Mr. *Goss* prayed. May the lord bless

His word and hear and answer our fervent Supplications!

The next Meeting to be at *Marlborough* on the third Tuesday in August.

Bolton August 15, 1754. (1774?)

We were providentially prevented meeting at Marlborough And therefore Met at Mr. Goss's. Eight Ministers present.

Parkman Moderator.

Previous to the Concio Mr. Harrington prayed.

Mr. Goss delivered his Concio from 1 Cor. 11.2.

After which Mr. Morse prayed -- and we sang Ps. 122.

The next Meeting to be (by divine leave) at Marlborough on the 3d Tuesday in October.

Marlborough, October 18th

Parkman Moderator.

Mr. Smith prayed. The Conversation was unavoidably on the public, increasing Distresses, prevented the Concio.

Not only the provincial Troubles affect us; the Divisions in the Churches, in many Instances, fill us with sorrow. Surely the Lord is Angry, and it becomes us to be deeply humbled!

The Next meeting to be at East Sudbury, at the usual time, if God permits.

January 10, 1775, the venerable Mr. *John Gardner* departed! and on the 13th was interred: in the 80th year of his Age, and in the 56th of his Pastoral Office.

April 18, 1775. At East Sudbury.
No Meeting -- A Storm of Rain.

Westborough June 20, 1775.

It is now fifty Years Since this Association began. Thanks be to God for His Long suffering and Goodness to us! May our many Deficiencies and Miscarriages be forgiven, through the Blood of Jesus Christ! Every one surviving, Associated, and -- Parkman was chose Moderator.

Mr. Stone prayed first.

The Moderator read over the Articles on which this Association was founded. He read also the Report of the Committee inserted page [blank] May 17, 1749.

Rev. Messrs. Peter Whitney of Northborough, Jacob Biglow of West-Sudbury, and Jonathan Newell, of Stow, were admitted into the Association and Signed the Articles.

Mr Smith prayed at the Conclusion. The Next Meeting was appointed to be (God willing) at Mr. Stones at Southborough, on the third Tuesday of August next.

Southborough August 15, 1775

Parkman Moderator.

Mr. Goss prayed. Mr. Stone delivered a discourse on Josh. 22.22.

Next meeting to be at Marlborough on the third Tuesday of September next.

Marlborough September 19, 1775.

Parkman Moderator and prayed.

Conversation was upon the General Distresses -- viz. by the War -- and by the terrible *Sickness* (the Dysentery). N.B. In Marlborough four have been buried in a Day, three times this has occurred, and nineteen have been buried in a Week. The Ministers were agreed to Recommend the keeping Fasts in our respective Parishes.

The next Meeting to this Body to be at Bolton on the 3d Tuesday of October next.

Bolton Oct. 17, 1775.

Mr. Stone Moderator and prayed.

Minutes were taken by Mr. Goss -- Parkman being absent.

The Meeting was further improved as a season of Humility and Supplication.

In the public Assembly Mr. Biglow prayed, Mr. Edward Sprague preached on

[*blank*].

Mr. Newell concluded with prayer. May God graciously accept!

The next Meeting to be at *East Sudbury*, the last Tuesday in November.

East Sudbury Nov. 28, 1775.

Mr. Smith was Moderator.

At Northborough April 16, 1776.

Parkman Moderator and prayed.

Mr. Goss relates the present State of Things at Bolton. They chiefly took up our Time So that there was no Concio.

The next meeting to be at West-Sudbury, Mr. Biglows, at the usual Time.

At West Sudbury June 18, 1776.

Mr. Smith was chose Moderator.

Mr. Biglow prayed.

No Concio.

Voted the next Meeting to be at Mr. *Newells* and on Consideration of the publick Calamities and Distresses, to be sooner than usual -- that is, on the third Tuesday of the *next Month*.

At *Stow* July 16, 1776.

Mr. *Smith* Moderator.

Mr. *Newel* prayed.

No Concio. Nothing Special transacted, but the appointment of another Meeting: which is to be (God willing) at *Westborough* at the usual time, the third Tuesday of August.

At Westborough August 20, 1776.

Parkman Moderator and Prayed.

After which Dr. *Fuller's faithful Minister* (See the *Holy State*) was read. It was Endeavored to revive our former Exercises, by recommending to each to prepare and deliver a *Concio ad Clerum* -- and to bring Such *Collections* as we can make, from our Several Readings.

The next meeting to be at Southborough, the third Tuesday in next Month; and that Mr. *Stone* deliver a Concio: and that if there Occurr anything remarkable in our respective [Dutys?]: etc. [that we?] entertain the Association with it.

At Southborough Sept. 17, 1776.

Parkman Moderator. Mr. *Stone* prayed and delivered a Concio from *Matthew* 5.15, former part, "Thy Kingdom come."

Parkman read a Collection from that Serious and great Divine, Mr. *Baxter* on *Time-Redemption*.

The next Meeting to be at *Marlborough* the 3d Tuesday in October.
Mr. *Smith* to be Concionator.

At Marlborough Oct. 15, 1776.

By Request of the Deacons and Select Men, the Opportunity of the Ministers associating was improved as a Day of *Fasting and Prayer* on Consideration of the publick Troubles. Accordingly The public Exercises were conducted in the following manner. Mr. *Biglow* began with prayer: Mr. *Bridge* preached on *Zech.* 14.6.7.

P.M. Mr. *Whitney* prayed. *Parkman* preached on Isaiah 64.1-7, and Mr. *Newell* offered the concluding prayer.

N.B. *Parkman* was chose Moderator and another meeting was appointed to be a Month hence at Mr. *Goss's*.

At Bolton. Nov. [*blank*] 1776.

[*Blank*]

The next Meeting to be at Mr. *Bridge's*, on the third Tuesday of April next.

At East Sudbury 1777. April 15.

Parkman Moderator.

Mr. *Bridge* obtained of Mr. *Mellen* of *Lancaster* to pray. No Concio.

Conversation on the Difficultys of the Times, the Troubles in *Bolton*, *Lancaster*, etc.

The next Meeting to be at Mr. *Whitneys* the third Tuesday of May.

At Northborough May 20th.

[*Blank*] Moderator

[*Blank*] prayed -- No Concio.

The next Meeting to be at West-Sudbury in June, 3d Tuesday.

West-Sudbury June 17.

Parkman Moderator.

Mr. *Biglow* prayed -- No Concio.

The Conversation chiefly on the Times.

Next Meeting to be at *Westborough* on the third Tuesday of August, by the will of God.

Associated at Westborough Aug. 19, 1777.

Parkman Moderator and Prayed.

There was no Concio.

The Publick Calamities are so increased, and the Occurrences have been of late so very Observable, various, and distressing, that our whole time was engrossed and filled up with Conversations thereon -- together with what Mr. *Smith* has lately met with at *Marlborough*. Several Guns having been Shot into his study at Midnight, as if [aimed?] to take away his Life -- but he survives unhurt.

The Next Meeting to be (God willing) at *Southborough* the third Tuesday of September.

Associated at Southborough September 16.

Parkman Moderator.

Mr. *Stone* prayed and delivered a Concio. The Text was *Isaiah* 58,6 which may God graciously Succeed! Our Conversation is unavoidably very much on the public State. No Cases.

The Next meeting to be (if God shall please) at *Marlborough* on the 3d

Tuesday of October.

Associated at Marlborough Oct. 21.

Parkman Moderator.

Mr. *Smith* prayed -- and delivered a Concio on *Phil.* 1.21, "For, to me to live" etc.

The remarkable Appearance of God for His People lately in the success of the *Northern* Army engaged our Minds and enlivened our Converation. To God most high be all the Glory!

Next Meeting to be at Mr. Newels the third Tuesday of November.

[N.B. This Meeting through difficulty of weather was not attended.]

Associated at *Bolton* April 28, 1778.

Parkman was chose Moderator.

Mr. *Smith* prayed.

Rev. Messrs. *Moss*, *Harrington* and *Mellen* were present. The last of which related the present State of their Ecclesiastical Affairs -- especially what was lately transacted by a Council of four Churches, which met at their Parish, called by the Opposing Brethren. Upon which he asked the Advice of the Association. But he not having a Result of the Said Council, the Association could not be able to do any Thing upon it.

Various Conversations on different Subjects.

The next Meeting was appointed to be (God willing) at Mr. *Whitney's*, the 3d Tuesday of the Next Month.

At Northborough May 19th.

Parkman Moderator.

Mr. *Whitney* prayed.

Mr. *Stone*, after long and grievous Sickness, was, through the great Goodness of God, So much better as to get up hither to Meeting among us; and Mr. *Smith*, notwithstanding his late Dismiss[al] from the Pastoral Relation at Marlborough was among us. Mr. *Goss* asks Advice respecting Some of the peculiar Circumstances which *Bolton* are brought into, by reason of a New Act of the General Assembly, whereby they are made in civil Regards two Parishes, but in Ecclesiastical they have liberty to go to, and pay at, which Meeting House, or Assembly, they shall please.

Mr. *Whitney* had also a Case of a Couple of Persons who were married under Tokens which bespoke necessity of being legally joined together and had even confessed Guilt previously; but the woman holding up longer than Seven Months, they might not be willing to make an Open Confession. The Matter was left to his Discretion, according as he Should find the Dispositions and Circumstances to bespeak.

The next meeting to be the third Tuesday in June, at Mr. *Josiah Bridge's*, at East-Sudbury.

At East Sudbury, June 16th.

Parkman Moderator.

Mr. *Bridge* prayed and delivered a Concio from 2 *Cor.* 12.15.

P.M. Several proposed Cases, occurring in their Parishes, and requested the Advice of the Association -- which was accordingly given.

The next meeting was appointed to be at *Sudbury-West*, Mr. *Biglow's*, on the third Tuesday of July.

July 21. Although the Meeting was appointed to be at *West-Sudbury* on this Day, yet it so fell out that not enough came to form a Meeting. However, Mr. Biglow prayed with those who were present; and on Consideration that the proposed meeting of last November, to be at Mr. *Newells*, fell through, it was agreed that our next should be (by divine Leave) there, but not till that third Tuesday in September.

At Stow Sept. 15.

Parkman Moderator.

Mr. Newell prayed -- but he not being well, and being at this time, unprepared to deliver a Concio, Mr. *Stone* read the Conclusion of a late sermon on *Murder* -- but in special on a *peculiar kind of Murder*, viz. the murdering *Ministers* -- by withholding Support, and destroying their Characters etc.

There were Several Cases of Difficultys subsisting in diverse Parishes. Scil: in the Church of *Stow*; also in *Northborough*, proposed and considered. The Next Meeting to be at *Westborough*.

At Westborough Oct. 20.

Parkman Moderator and prayed and on Consideration of Some late pleadings at Superior Court he (by Desire) read Sundry Collections from the Venerable Cotton of the Keys, etc. He read also Some Sketches of a Sermon on Heb. 13.17, those words, "for they watch for your Souls as those that must give an Account."

Mr. *Whitney* enquired what the Mind of the Association was concerning the New Parish in *Bolton's* having Preaching among them, under proper Qualifications, as their Circumstances have been.

The Next meeting to be at Southborough on the third Tuesday in November.

Southborough, Nov. 17.

The Association met according to appointment and P_____ was chosen Moderator. Mr. *Stone* prayed. Mr. *Whitney* communicated a paper of a somewhat peculiar nature, from a female Parishoner, containing an Address to their Church -- which he is Somewhat in doubt About communicating to them. But it was too apparent it did not deserve it.

A Committee from the Church of Bolton, of which Mr. *Goss* is Pastor, namely,

Mr. *Joshua Johnson*, Captain *Jonas Houghton* and Mr. *Alijah Pratt*, waited on the Association for our Advice respecting the Uniting of a Number of Members of Several Churches Inhabiting that part of the Town, which have been of late set off by the general Court to be a Parish by themselves; in order to Seek mutual Coalescence and Accommodation in Christian Charity as to ripen them for their Forming into a Church State according to the Gospel. The Association accordingly gave them their Sentiments and Advice, that

"Considering the peculiar Circumstances of the New society in the south Part of Bolton, Messrs. Johnson and Pratt aforesaid, Inhabitants in the said New Parish, give proper previous Notice to all Such Church-Members as live within the Limits of that parish, who would be Candidates for Admission, that they Meet at some suitable Place and Time, (a fortnight from the Notification) to confer together upon so weighty an Affair, to promote mutual satisfaction and Harmony together, and to agree upon and Choose an Ecclesiastical Council to direct and assist them in gathering them into a Church State and Relation, agreeable to the Order, Customs and Usages of the Congregational Churches of New-England."

This was voted, and the Moderator was desired by each member, to Sign a fair Draught of it and [*illegible*] it ready for Mr. *Johnson* to receive it.

The Next Meeting to be (by divine Leave) at Mr. *Smith's* in *Sudbury* on the third Tuesday of next April.

April 20, 1779. The Association met at Mr. *Smith's* at East Sudbury.

The next meeting to be at Mr. *Goss's* the 3d Tuesday of May.

May 18. At Bolton Association met.

Chose Parkman Moderator.

Mr. *Goss* prayed -- and gave a Concio on *John* 4.36, latter part.

Parkman read a Collection from *Cicero* of *Old Age*, translated and embellished with Notes by honorable Logan Esq.

The next Meeting to be at Mr. *Whitneys* on the third Tuesday in June.

June 15. At Northborough.

Parkman was chose Moderator. Mr. Whitney prayed. A variety of Affairs, but especially Mr. *Goss's* -- Superseded the Concio.

The Next association was agreed to be at Mr. *Bridge's* on the third Tuesday of August next, God willing.

August 17, 1779 at East Sudbury.

The Association chose Parkman Moderator. Mr. *Bridge* prayed.

Mr. *Whitney* proposed to us the Consideration of Some Difficulties among Sundry Members of the Church of Marlborough which having heard we [*illegible*] Mr. Whitney to make to them the Return which we communicated to him.

Mr. *Goss* had also a Request concerning the Difficulties of the Wives of those who constitute the new Church in Bolton. And concerning their Voting that they were in Charity with Mr. *Goss's* Church -- and in particular that they were with him.

Next Meeting is appointed to be on the third Tuesday in October (D. Vol.) at the House of Mr. *Biglow*, West Side.

Oct. 19, 1779 at West-Sudbury

Parkman Moderator.

Mr. *Biglow* prayed -- there was no Concio. For Messrs. *Bridge* and *Biglow* conceived it Necessary that the Association Should enter into Some Serious Consideration of Burden and wrong the Ministers and they them Selves in particular labour under on Account of the

Depreciation of the Medium, and no proportionable provision made for their support. The Conversation accordingly was very much taken up with that Subject.

The Moderator prayed at the Close of the Meeting. The Next to be, God willing, at Mr. Newells on the 3d Tuesday of next April.

April 1, 1780. at Stow.

Parkman Moderator.

Mr. Newell prayed. No Concio.

Parkman asked advice concerning Calling a Church Meeting to hear a Cause, (if it Shall be urged for) between two Members of the Church in *Westborough* -- A man and his Wife (who at present cannot live together) The Answer was, that if the woman who complains, must be Sworn, it be kept out of the Church (if possible) until it has been heard in the Civil Court. -- Mr. *Jonathon Allen* made the concluding Prayer. -- Next Meeting to be at *Westborough* (Deo vol.) on the third Tuesday of June.

June 20. At Westborough.

The Same Moderator as last who prayed; and delivered an Abstract of a Discourse on Ps. 133. But few present.

The Next Meeting to be at Southborough on the third Tuesday in August, Deo Volente.

Aug. 15. At Southborough.

Mr. *Stone* read Discourse on *Gal.* Parkman read a Translation into English of *Cicero's* XIX Ch. of *Old Age*.

Next Meeting to be at *East Sudbury*, at Mr. *Smith's* (if he be well ind.), Oct. 17th.

Oct. 17. At East Sudbury

At Mr. *Smith's*, who was in great Affliction and not able to pray with us, according to Custom.

The Moderator (*Parkman*) prayed. Other Exercises were precluded by attending to the Requests of Several *Committees* Sent hither to take the Advice of the Association Under various Difficulties that had arisen in several Neighbouring Churches. From *Marlborough* two Deacons, [blank] *Hows*, and Mr. *Joseph How*, relative to a *Fast* which the Church had appointed previous to choosing a Pastor; but the Town, when asked to concurr with them in observing it, refused, because the Town was not joined with the Church in the appointing it.

The Association conceived that it is the Church's Privilege to *lead* in Religious affairs, yet they were advised to condescend so far as to desire the Town may be called together for this Purpose and endeavoured in Love and Peace to unite in so needfull and becoming a Duty in their present Sorrowfull Circumstances, in Order to their Resettlement.

The Other Committee were from *Bolton*, viz. Captain Houghton [*blank*]. They and another more, who were adherents to the late Rev. Mr. *Goss*, are at a Loss what Course to take, being too few and unable to continue a distinct Church by themselves, and the New Church in *Bolton* to whom they would make Application to join with them, do not appear willing to accept of them but upon such Terms and Conditions as they cannot comply with.

But the Association perceiving that the South Church in *Bolton* is about to call a Council there, requested that this Difficulty might be laid before them when they shall meet.

In the Conclusion Mr. *Newell* prayed.

The next of our Meetings to be (God willing) at Mr. *Bridge's*, (the same Place) on the third Tuesday of April 1781.

March 25, 1781, Rev. Mr. Smith of Marlborough expired in 67th year of his Age.

April 17, 1781 East Sudbury.

Mr. *Bridge's*.

Parkman Moderator. Mr. Stone prayed.

Mr. *Newell* had a Matter of Weight to lay before us relative to some Church Member in *Stow*, viz. *Charles Whitney* etc. etc. This Case engrossed our time and superseded other Exercises. Mr. *Newell* was advised what Methods to take, which if they Should not succeed, then to give way to calling a mutual Council.

Mr. *Peter Whitney* prayed at the Conclusion, and the next Meeting was appointed to be at his House on the 3d Tuesday of June next; if God shall please.

[*Marginal notation: March 25, 1781. Reverend Mr. Smith of Marlborough expired, in 67th Year of his Age.*]

May 31, 1781. Rev. Mr. Stone of Southborough expired; in the [*blank*] Year of his Age, and the 54th of his Ministry.

At Northborough June 19.

Parkman was chosen Moderator. Mr. *Whitney* prayed -- but did not deliver the *Concio* -- in new Circumstances in his New House etc., etc. The Conversation could not but turn upon the Paucity to which we are reduced -- but Five only! The whole Number present.

May the Lord Himself be the Repairer of our Breaches! This last, by the Death of our late Brother *Stone*, is awfully Wide!

The next Meeting to be at Mr. *Biglow's*, on the third Tuesday of August next, God permitting.

West-Sudbury August 21.

The same Moderator.

Mr. *Biglow* obtained of Mr. *Brown* of Sherbourn to pray.

The Moderator by desire, read an instructing and quickening Discourse of Minister *Ostervald* SS.Th.Prof. and Pastor of the Church of *Neufchatel* -- in his Treatise concerning the Causes of the present Corruption of Christians. Part II. Ch. 3. The Defects of the Clergy, to page 315.

Mr. *Adams* of *Acton* gave the Association an Account of the Strange Conduct and Temper of a Number of People who were come to *Harvard*, who are called *Shakers*, and under the Guidance of an *Elect Lady*.

The Next Meeting of this Association to be (God willing) on the third Tuesday of October at the House of Mr. *Newell*.

At Stow Oct. 23, 1781.

The Association met, and chose Mr. Parkman Moderator -- who also prayed.

There was no Concio: Mr. *Newell* had lately married; and but last week brought his Lady home, to an House quite New. The Conversation various; and inquisitive into the state of the Several Churches. But though we hear a great deal concerning the Enthusiasts at *Harvard*, We have no Such distinct Accounts as to enable us to take any Notice of them.

The Next meeting is to be at Westborough on (God willing) the third Tuesday of April 1782.

At Westborough April 16, 1782.

Associated -- and chose *Parkman* Moderator who prayed and delivered a Discourse on *Heb. 6.12*. Mr. *Whitney* prayed after the Sermon.

The next meeting to be (by divine leave) at Mr. *Bridge's* on the third Tuesday of June next.

At East Sudbury June 18.

The Moderator was the Same as last time. Mr. *Bridge* prayed at Opening the Meeting. There was no Concio. The Conversation various. The Moderator made the concluding Prayer.

The Next Meeting to be at Northborough on the 3d Tuesday of August next.

Northborough Aug. 20.

Associated at Mr. *Whitney's* and chose the Moderator who was the Same as heretofore.

Mr. *Whitney* prayed. But there was some Number of Cases proposed, which prevented our having a Concio at this Meeting.

It was proposed and agreed to, that there should be Two more Meetings (God willing) before Winter and that therefore our next be on the 3d Tuesday of Sept. next, at West Sudbury.

At Sudbury Sept. 17th, 1782

Mr. *Bridge* Moderator. At the Desire of Mr. *Newell* the next Meeting appointed at his House, on the fourth Tuesday of October instead of 3d.

Associated at Mr. *Newels* in Stow 22d of October, 1782

Reverend Mr. *Whitney* Moderator. A Paper respecting Some Matters in Bolton was laid before the Association, by Revevend Mr. *Grosvenor* of Harvard, and Reverend Mr. *Newel* of Stow, who had been desired by the two Parties in Bolton to make Some Draught, which might tend to an Agreement and Such Advice was given as was judged best in the Case.

December 9th 1782 Venerable Mr. *Ebenezer Parkman* of Westborough expired in the 80th Year of his Age, and 59th of his Ministry.

April 15th 1783

Associated at Reverend Mr. Bridges, who was chosen Moderator and began with Prayer; The late Scribe, Reverend Mr. Parkman dead, Mr. Whitney was chosen by the Association for their Scribe, but excusing himself; they then chose Biglow. After which Some Matters were proceeded to the Association, by Reverend Mr. Newel, and Reverend Mr. Kellogg, Advice asked, and such given as was judged best; Reverend Mr. Kellogg admitted into the Association and Signed the Articles; Mr. Whitney prayed at the Conclusion; the next Meeting, was appointed to be at Biglows Sudbury; And determined at that Meeting, that if any Gentleman in Future Shall desire to join this Association, his Request Shall be left till the next Meeting, that every Member may be acquainted with it.

June 17th 1783

Met at Subury. Mr. Bridge chosen Moderator. Biglow began with Prayer, after which Mr. Moses Adams of Acton, and Mr. Ezra Ripley of Concord, proposed their Desire of joining this Association; Mr. Newel made the concluding Prayer; the next Meeting to be at Mr. Whitneys Northborough on the third Tuesday of August next.

October 21.

Met at East Sudbury. Reverend Mr. Bridge Moderator. At the Request of the Reverend Mr. Ripley of Concord to join as one of this Association voted that his request be granted; Prayer by Rev. Messrs. Bridge and Kellog.

April 20, 1784.

Met at Framington; Reverend Mr. Bridge Moderator voted, that Reverend Mr. Adams of Acton, be admitted into the Association agreeable to his Request; Prayers by Reverend Messrs. Kellog and Ripley. The next meeting voted to be at Reverend Mr. Ripleys, 3d Tuesday in May.

May 18, 1784.

At Concord. Reverend Mr. Bridge Moderator. Prayers by Reverend Messrs. Ripley and Adams; voted that the next Meeting be at Reverend Mr. Adams Acton, 3d Tuesday in June next.

June 15, 1784 at Acton

Rev. Mr. Bridge Moderator. Prayers by Reverend Mr. Adams, and Reverend Mr. Whitney; The next Meeting appointed to be at Reverend Mr. Whitneys, 3d Tuesday in August next.

August 17, 1784 at Northborough

Reverend Mr. Bridge Moderator; Prayers by Reverend Messrs. Whitney and Biglow; The next Meeting appointed to be at Sudbury, third Tuesday in September next.