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## The Baptist Board Minutes.

Continued, with notes on page 118.

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Sept<sup>r</sup> ye 11th 1750 M<sup>r</sup> Brine presented ye Case of people at Leicester for ye building a meeting house Agreed the said case be consider'd Next the above mentioned<sup>63</sup>

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Octo ye 2<sup>d</sup> 1750 Doctr Gill presented ye case of the church at Bromsgrove for ye building of a meeting house Agreed ye said case be considered next the above mentioned

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Nov 26. 1750 M<sup>r</sup> Brine presented the case of the Church at Warwick for the enlarging a Meeting House building a Baptistry, &c Agreed the said case be considered next to the above mention<sup>d</sup>

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[Stennett's hand].

Jan. 1751 M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Lawrence & M<sup>r</sup> Richard Strange presented the case of the church at Stratton, Wilts for building a meeting house. Agreed that the said case be recommended next to the above mention'd.<sup>64</sup>

April 30. 1751

A motion being made and seconded the M<sup>r</sup> Sam<sup>l</sup> Stennet be chosen Secretary to this Board in the room of the late M<sup>r</sup> Wilson deceased the Question was put and it was unanimously agreed he be chosen into the said office and he was chosen accordingly.<sup>65</sup>

April 23. 1751

Mr Lawrence reported that Mr Abraham Blunt was call'd into the ministry by the Church at Limehouse, late under the care of Mr Spurrier and accordingly propos'd him to be a member of this Board, which was unanimously agreed to.

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May 21<sup>st</sup> 1751. Mr Trivett presented the case of the church at Worsted for the enlarging of their meeting house Agreed the said case be recommended next to the above mentioned<sup>66</sup> [*Margin* Withdrawn]

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Feb. 25. 1752. Mr Stennett Sen<sup>r</sup> presented the case of the Church at Guilford for building a meeting house Agreed the said case be recommended next to that of Warwick.

April 14 1752. Agreed that the weekly evening meetings of prayer be drop'd for the Summer season, and be reviv'd again the last Friday in September next

Augt 18. 1752. Dr Gill presented the case of the church at Hill Cliff for the building a meeting house at Warrington. Agreed the said case be recommended next to that of Guilford.<sup>67</sup>

Jan. 2<sup>d</sup>. 1753. Mr Davis acquainted the Board that the Church under the care of Dr Gill having several Times tried the Gifts of Mr James Fall for the Work of the Ministry, and given him a Call to that Work, were desirous that he might be admitted a Member of this Board. This Recommendation not coming immediately thro' the Hands of Dr Gill, he was desir'd to signify whether he had any Objection to it; which he answer'd in the negative: and therefore, tho' such a Recommendation is always desirable,

and our usual Method of Admission, we agreed to receive him, determining at the same Time it shall be no precedent.<sup>68</sup>

Jan. 22. 1754. Mr. Moneypenny and Mr. Edwards reported that Mr. Abraham Clarke had been called into the ministry by the church lately under the care of Mr. Wilson, and accordingly propos'd him to be rec'd a member of this Board, which was unanimously agreed to.

March 12. 1754. Cap<sup>n</sup> Best and two other persons came with a Request, as they said, from a part of the church lately under the care of the Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr Sam<sup>l</sup> Wilson, to this Board, to assist at the ordination of Mr James Fall. It was unanimously agreed that we cou'd by no means comply with their request, or be concern'd at the said ordination.<sup>69</sup>

The following ministers were present

Dr Gill	Mr Thompson	Mr Cartwright
Dr Stennett	Mr Joseph Stennett	Mr Sam: Stennett
Mr Dewe	Mr Clark	
Mr Stevens	Mr Tolley	

Mar. 12. 1754. Mr Cartwright presented the case of the church at Netherton, in the county of Worcester, under his care, for building a meeting house. Agreed that the said case be recommended next to that of Warrington.<sup>70</sup>

March 19. 1754. Mr Jonathan Brown presented the case of the church at Hull, under his care, for building a meeting-house. Agreed that the said case be recommended next to that of Netherton.<sup>71</sup>

May 7. 1754. Mr David Ferney presented the case of the church meeting at Marton in Yorkshire &

at the Juniper Dye House in Northumberland under his care, for building two meeting-houses, one at each of these places. Agreed that the said case be recommended next to that of Hull.<sup>78</sup>

June 25<sup>th</sup> 1754. Present. Dr Gill in the chair Mr Dewe Dr Stennett Mr Townsend Mr Brine Mr Stevens Mr Wallin Mr Thompson Mr Llewelin Mr James Mr Ryland Mr Stennett

Dr Gill having inform'd the Board that Mr James Fall had rent himself from the Church under his care, and that he is discharg'd from their communion; it was agreed that he shou'd no longer be consider'd a member of this Society.

Dr Gill presented the case of the church meeting at White Haven on Cumberland under the care of Mr Christopher Hall for building a meeting house at that place. Agreed that the said case be rec<sup>d</sup>, and recommended next to that of Mr Ferney's.

June 30<sup>th</sup> 1754. Messrs Edwards and Fisher reported that the Church late under the care of the Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr Sam<sup>l</sup> Wilson hath called Mr Moses Davis into the Ministry: and accordingly propos'd him to be a member of this Board, which was unanimously agreed to.

Aug<sup>t</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> 1754. Mr Chesterton presented the case of the church meeting at Colnbrook for building a house for public worship there. Agreed that the said case be receiv'd, and recommended next to that of White-haven in Cumberland.

Oct. 22. 1754. Dr Stennett presented the case of the church meeting at Trowbridge under the care of Mr Wiggindon for building a place for public worship. Agreed that the said case be rec<sup>d</sup>, and recommended next to that of Colnbrook.<sup>78</sup>

Mr Brine propos'd the case of the church meeting at Rye in Sussex under the care of Mr Rodgers for building a house for public worship. Agreed that this case also be rec'd and that it be recommended next to that of Trowbridge

Augt. 22<sup>th</sup>. 1755. Mess<sup>rs</sup> Manypenny, Morse, Lawrence and Fisher deliver'd a Message to the Board from the Church late under the care of Mr Saml Wilson desiring the Ministers to assist at the ordination of Mr Saml Burford at the meeting at Goodman's fields Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>. next.

March 30. 1756. Mr Nottage presented the case of the church now meeting at Harlow Common under his care for building a house for public worship in Potter's Street. Agreed that the said case be receiv'd, and recommended next to that of Rye. Agreed that a weekly meeting of prayer, on occasion of the present situation of public affairs, be observ'd on every Friday evening, beginning at six o'clock & ending at seven

Jan. 18. 1757. Dr Gill presented the case of the church at Yarmouth Norfolk for building a meeting house. Agreed that it be rec'd and recommended next to that of Harlow Common.<sup>74</sup>

Augt. 9<sup>th</sup>. 1757. Present Dr Stennett Mr Brine Mr Dewe Mr Townsend Mr Wallin Mr Anderson Mr Thompson Mr Stennett Mess<sup>rs</sup> Wood, Mann, Lawson, & Gregory Messengers from the church at Limehouse reported that there had been a difference for some time subsisting between them and Mr Blunt their late Pastor occasion'd by sundry reports spread to the prejudice of his moral character, and that it was their unanimous request to

the ministers to advise them what steps they shou'd take in this affair. Mr Blunt also appear'd and declar'd his concurrence with them in this request.

Upon hearing the matters in dispute, it was agreed to give them the following advice viz<sup>t</sup>. That a regular Church-meeting be held, at which Mr Blunt be present; that time shou'd be spent in prayer, and that he, being under censure, shou'd be call'd upon to give satisfaction for his conduct; and that, minutes being taken at the close of that meeting, a report be made of the same to this Board, to enable them to complete their advice

[Interpolated]

Feb. 1758. About this time Mr Jas. Larwill was admitted a member; but his admission was not then enter'd, the Secretary being absent.<sup>75</sup>

May 2. 1758. Mr Fletcher presented the case of the church at Nottingham for purchasing a meeting-house. Agreed to recommend the said case in its course to y<sup>e</sup> charitable regard of friends.

May 23. 1758. Messrs Palmer and Pewtress deliver'd a message to the Board from the church late under the care of Dr Stennett, desiring the ministers to assist at y<sup>e</sup> ordination of Mr Sam<sup>l</sup> Stennett, at Little Wild street June 1<sup>st</sup> next.

May 30<sup>th</sup>. 1758. Mr Wallin reported that the church under his care had called Mr James Newton into the ministry, and accordingly propos'd him to be a member of this Board, w<sup>ch</sup> was unanimously agreed to

Jan 30<sup>th</sup>. 1759. Mr Thompson Jun<sup>r</sup> propos'd Mr Caleb Evans to be admitted a member of this board, which was unanimously agreed to.<sup>76</sup>

Mr Anderson likewise propos'd Mr James Larwell to be admitted a member, which was accordingly unanimously agreed to.

At the same time it was unanimously agreed, that Mr Charles Miles, in consideration of his immoral behavior, shou'd no longer be continued a member of this Board, and his name was accordingly struck off.

Feb. 6th. 1760. It was unanimously agreed that no more cases relating to the building or repairing of meeting houses be receiv'd and recommended by this Board.<sup>77</sup>

March 3. 1761. Certain things having been reported by Mr Butler, to the prejudice of Mr Stevens's moral character, it was agreed that Mr Wallin and Mr Anderson be desir'd to converse with the said Mr Butler on those things, and report their conversation at our next meeting.

Present Dr Gill Mr Flowers Mr Edwards Mr Brine Thompson Walker Wallin Larwell Stennett Dewe Rist Anderson

March 10. 1761. Mr Wallin and Mr Anderson reported the conversation they had had with Mr Butler. Upon which it was agreed, that Mr Wallin and Mr Stennett be desir'd to acquaint Mr Stevens, that it is the desire of this Board that he attend here Tuesday next, at four in the afternoon, to answer to the charges laid ag't him

Present Dr Gill Mr Wallin Mr Larwell Mr Brine Thompson Stennett Dewe Burford

March 24. 1761. Present Dr Gill in the chair Mr Wallin Mr Burford Mr Brine Mr Anderson Mr Larwell Mr Dewe Mr Thompson Mr Stennett

Having convers'd with Mr Stevens, and several other Gentlemen, concerning certain criminal charges exhibited ag<sup>t</sup> him; it appear'd on the whole that he was addicted to impure discourse and filthy actions with divers persons. It was therefore unanimously agreed, that he be no longer consider'd a member of this society.<sup>78</sup>

March 31. 1761. Mr Stennett reported that the church under his care had call'd Mr William Clarke into the ministry, and accordingly propos'd him to be admitted a member of this Board, which was unanimously agreed to.

June 23. 1761. A letter was read from a new gather'd people at Woolwich in Kent, giving an acct of their church state, and their having chose Mr Robt McGregory to be their Pastor, with an earnest intreaty to be consider'd with their Pastor in union with the ministers and churches of the particular Baptist persuasion. Agreed that Brother Wallin & Bro<sup>r</sup> Larwill inquire into y<sup>e</sup> character of the said Mr McGregory in order to consider of the matter.<sup>79</sup>

Augt. 25<sup>th</sup>. 1761. Agreed that Mr McGregory be admitted a member of this society.

Mar. 23. 1762. Agreed that Mr Crayner be admitted a member of this society.<sup>80</sup>

Augt. 17. 1762. Agreed that no person shall be introduc'd into the meetings of this society, who is known to be disagreeable to any one member of it.

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Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> 1765. Present Mr Wallin Mr Larwell Mr Macgregory Anderson Burford S. Stennett Thompson Clarke

Agreed that each member of this society, contribute two shillings and sixpence, every quarter, towards the expences of it: and that one guinea be paid the landlord every quarter for the use of the room, commencing from Christmas last.<sup>81</sup>

Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> 1765. Present Mr Wallin Mr Larwell  
S. Stennett Thompson Crayner  
Agreed that M<sup>r</sup> Messer be admitted a member of  
this society,

[March 12, 19, April 16, accounts omitted]

April 16. 1765. S. Stennett reported that the church under his care had called M<sup>r</sup> Josiah Lewis into the ministry, and accordingly mov'd that he might be admitted a member of this board, which was unanimously agreed to.

July 1. 1766. S. Stennett acquainted the Board that the church under his care had called M<sup>r</sup> Joseph Jenkins into the ministry, and propos'd that he might be admitted a member, which was unanimously agreed to.

Oct. 14. 1766. M<sup>r</sup> Larwell reported that M<sup>r</sup> John Reynolds was settled with the church at Cripplegate late under the care of M<sup>r</sup> Brine, & mov'd that he might be admitted a member of this board, which was unanimously agreed to.

Oct. 21. 1766. M<sup>r</sup> Anderson mov'd that he might be heard at some convenient time on a complaint he had to bring ag<sup>t</sup> a member of this society. Agreed that he be at liberty, to make his complaint this day three weeks.

Nov. 25. 1766. Mr Anderson having brought a complaint ag<sup>t</sup> Mr Messer viz. That Mr Messer had at a church meeting at Grafton Street said that he Mr Anderson owed him Mr Messer twenty pounds.—Mr Messer replied, and the Board came to the following resolution.

It unanimously appears to the Gentlemen that the evidence given upon this question does not amount to a proof that there was an actual personal agreement between Mr Anderson & Mr Messer that Mr Anderson wou<sup>d</sup> pay Mr Messer one half of his stipend fm Oct. 1763 to Oct. 1764; but that it was his Mr Anderson's [intention? *or* duty?] to do so provided Mr Messer was appointed his assistant by the church; and that therefore they have neither of them told a wilful untruth in reference to this matter.

Janv. 27<sup>th</sup>. 1767. Messengers having attended this day sev'nnight fm the people at Grafton Street to request the assistance of the Ministers at the ordination of Mr Messer, their message was this day reported, and it was unanimously agreed—That the consideration of the affairs of the people at Grafton Street be defer'd to this day five weeks.

It was likewise unanimously agreed that a committee be appointed to make inquiry into their difference, & that they be desir'd to make their report this day month.

It was likewise agreed that Mr Wallin, Mr Reynolds & Dr Stennett do make this committee.

Febv. 3. 1767. Messengers from the people at Grafton Street attended, and were acquainted that the Board [*replacing* Gentlemen] w<sup>d</sup> be ready to give them an answer March 3<sup>d</sup>. next.

Jamaica Coffee House Mar. 3. 1767. The Brethren having taken into consideration the report of

the committee for enquiring into the affair relating to Mr Anderson and the people at Grafton Street, & the messengers waiting for an answer to their request of assisting them in the ordination of Mr Messer

It was unanimously agreed to give them the following answer, namely,

That the Brethren cannot in their present view of the affair comply with their request, and it was further agreed to advise them to procure a reconciliation at least so far as that both parties reunite or agree to separate.

Resolv'd that the following cases be recommended in their order<sup>83</sup>

Mr Blackshaw's meeting at Bewdley, Worcestershire

Mr Bligh's meeting at Sevenoaks, Kent

Kingstanley, Gloucestershire

Mr Brigg's meeting at Sutton Ashfield Nottingham

Mr Hoppin's meeting at Nottingham

Oakham, Rutlandshire

Mr Sparkhall, Ingham, Norfolk

Mr Lee, Irthingborough, Northamptonshire

[added subsequently]

Mr Hann, Upottery, Devonshire

Mr Clayton Cloughfold Lancashire

Church at Spalding Lincolnshire

Ryland Colledge Lane Northampton [1774]

Jenkins a Wrexham

Francis Horsely

Gillard, Yeoville [transposed from below next]

Gould Harlow [Jan. 1775; the other three later]

March 26. 1771 At the Board Present B. Wallin in the chair J Reynolds J Craner W. Clarke

It was moved and agreed that Mr John MacGowan Mr Abram Booth & Mr Robt Baskerville be received members of this Board and they were admitted accordingly<sup>83</sup>

Jan<sup>y</sup> 5. 1773 Present B. Wallin in the Chair J. Reynolds W. Clarke A. Booth R. Baskerville Dr Stennett It was moved and agreed that Mr Jonathan Chandler be admitted a member of this Board and he was admitted accordingly<sup>84</sup>.

Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> 1774 It was moved and agreed that Mr Sam<sup>l</sup> Gill be admitted a member of this Board, and he was admitted accordingly. Present Mr Wallin in the chair Baskerville Booth Reynolds Clarke Stennett

March 16<sup>th</sup> 1774 It was moved and agreed that Mr John Rippon be admitted a member of this Board, and he was admitted accordingly. Present Mr Wallin in the chair Reynolds Booth Chandler Stennett

At a meeting at the Jamaica Coffee House Sept 20<sup>th</sup> 1774. Present Mr Benj: Wallin in the chair W<sup>m</sup> Clarke Ab<sup>rm</sup> Booth Sam<sup>l</sup> Gill John Reynolds It was moved and agreed that Mr William Button be received a member of this Board, and he was admitted accordingly. It was likewise moved and agreed that Mr John Martin be rec<sup>d</sup> a member of this Board, and he was admitted accordingly.

At a meeting at the Jam. Coffee house Nov. 8. 1774. Present Mr Benj: Wallin Ab<sup>rm</sup> Booth John Reynolds John McGowan Sam<sup>l</sup> Gill Mr Booth presented the case of a meeting house built by some Christian Brethren of the church under the care of Mr Brindley of Chatham. The consideration of it postpon'd till further intelligence is obtained<sup>85</sup>

Agreed that the case of the church in College Lane Northampton under the care of Mr Ryland sen<sup>r</sup> be recommended in course.

Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>. 1774. Agreed, upon the report of Mr Booth, that the case of the people at Sheerness be rejected.

Certain persons who profess themselves Baptists & who have lately detach'd themselves from the congregation in Jewin Street, having applied to the Board for their advice and assistance; their case was taken into consideration, and it was agreed to preach to them for two months at their meeting at Mr Reynolds's on the Sunday evening. Present Mr Wallin in the chair [Mr. Thompson *erased*] Mr Clarke Mr Reynolds Mr MacGowan Mr Martin Mr Booth Stennett.<sup>86</sup>

Jan<sup>y</sup> 31. 1775. Present Mr Wallin in the chair Clarke Booth Reynolds MacGowan Rippon Martin Stennett. Mr Gould's case of Harlow, for the discharging a debt on their meeting was rec<sup>d.</sup>, and agreed to be recommended in its turn.

Agreed that Mr Jenkins's and Mr Francis's cases on account of their meeting houses, take place of Mr Gould's, if they apply in due form.

The case of Yeoville rec<sup>d.</sup>, and to take place of Mr Gould's.

Agreed that no further case be rec<sup>d.</sup> on the list for this year.

Jan<sup>y</sup>. 30<sup>th</sup> 1776 It was agreed to recommend the following cases in their turn. Mr Greenwood's of Rochdale Mr Jas Hartley of Haworth Folkstone Mr Blaine's of Tring [This entry was also made on an earlier page before the minutes of 1771, where it was followed by:—] Resolv'd that if any persons apply for contributions in London out of the order in which their cases have been agreed to be consider'd by this Board, their cases be not recommended by this Board.

Feb<sup>y</sup> 11. 1777. Mr Sam<sup>l</sup> Rowles was admitted a member of this Society.<sup>87</sup> Agreed that Mr Tompson and Mr Rowles be of the committee to the Gen<sup>l</sup> Body

for the year 1777. Agreed to recommend the following cases in their turn. Mr Hague's of Scarborough. Mr Gillard's of Cullumpton.

Augt. 5<sup>th</sup>. 1777. Agreed that Mr Booker's case of Wivelsfield Sussex be recommended in its turn. Agreed that the case of the church at Tenterden be further enquir'd into, and if it be found to be a good one, that it take its turn after that of Mr Booker<sup>88</sup>

Jamaica Coffee House Apr: 2. 1782. Mess<sup>rs</sup> Booth, Rippon and Rowles were chosen to be on the Committee of the General Body.

Mar. 25. 1783. Mess<sup>rs</sup> Reynolds, Martin, and Button, were chosen to be on the Committee of the General Body for the current year.

Apr. 6. 1784. Dr Stennett, Mess<sup>rs</sup> Clarke, and Thomas, were chosen to be on the Committee of the General Body.

May, 11. 1784. Present, Mess<sup>rs</sup> Reynolds, Martin, and Booth. Agreed that Mess<sup>rs</sup> Tho<sup>s</sup> Powel, and Mr James Dore be received into this Society, and that it be reported to the Committee of the General Body.<sup>90</sup>

Feby. 22. 1785. Mr Joseph Stennett was received as a member of this society<sup>91</sup>

Apr. 5. 1785. Mess<sup>rs</sup> Booth, Rippon, and Mabbatt, were chosen to be on the Committee of the General Body.

Mar. 28. 1786. Mess<sup>rs</sup> Reynolds, Button, and Dore, were chosen to be on the Committee of the General Body.

Apr. 4. 1786. Mess<sup>rs</sup> Hopkins, and Arnold were received as Members of this society.<sup>92</sup>

Coles Coffee house. Apr. 11. 1786. Mess Booth, Rippon, and Mabbott, reported to the Committee of the General Body, that M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Clarke, late of Unicorn Yard was removed into the country; Mess<sup>rs</sup> Hopkins, and Arnold were received into our denomination; and that Mess<sup>rs</sup> Reynolds, Button and Dore, were chosen to be on the Committee for the ensuing year.<sup>93</sup>

Jamaica Coffee house. Apr. 1787. Mess<sup>rs</sup> Booth, Martin, and Stennett, were chosen to be on the Committee of the General Body for the present year

July. 3. 1787. M<sup>r</sup> Reynolds reported, that he had received a letter from M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Augustus Clarke, in which he requested to be struck off our denomination as belonging to the General Body. Upon which it was unanimously agreed, that he should be no longer considered as a member of this society, and that M<sup>r</sup> Reynolds be desired to inform him of it.

Mar. 18. 1788. M<sup>r</sup> Daniel Williams was received as a member of this society.<sup>94</sup> Mess<sup>rs</sup> Button, Dore and Arnold were chosen to be on the committee of the General Body for the current year.

Jamaica Coffee house. Apr. 1. 1788. M<sup>r</sup> John Penny, was received as a member of this Society.

Apr. 8. 1788. At a meeting of the Committee of the General Body reported, that M<sup>r</sup> Hopkins is dead—that M<sup>r</sup> W. Augustus Clarke is no longer on our Denomination—that Messrs Daniel Williams and John Penny are received on our Denomination—and that Messrs Button, Dore, and Arnold, Bulkeley and Taylor are chosen to be on the Committee of the General Body for the current year.<sup>95</sup>

Mar. 31. 1789. Mess<sup>rs</sup> Martin, Mabbott, and Powell, were chosen to be on the committee of the General Body for the current year.

Dec. 22 1789. Mr William Smith of Eagle Street was received in our Denomination.<sup>96</sup>

Feb'y 23. 1790. Mr Tho<sup>s</sup> Thomas of Mill Yard, was received on our Denomination<sup>97</sup>

Mar. 29. 1791. Mess<sup>rs</sup> Reynolds, Timothy Thomas, and Smith were chosen to be on the Committee of the General Body for the present year. No alteration to be reported at the next meeting

Jamaica Coffee house Mar. 13. 1792. Mess<sup>rs</sup> Tho<sup>s</sup> Thomas, Button, and Jos. Stennett, were chosen to be on the committee of the General Body for the ensuing year.

Jan'y. 22. 1793. Mr Joseph Swaine, pastor of the newly formed church at Walworth, was received on our denomination.

Mar. 26. 1793. Mess<sup>rs</sup> Booth, Williams, and Penny were chosen to be on the committee of the General Body for the current year.<sup>98</sup>

Apr. 9. 1793. Agreed to receive Mr Thomas Sowerby on our denomination. Present Mess<sup>rs</sup> Booth Martin, Button, Williams, Smith, Timothy Thomas, Tho<sup>s</sup> Thomas, Stennett, Powell & Penny.<sup>99</sup>

Agreed that no minister, resident in London, be permitted to associate with us, for more than three months, if not a member of this society.

May. 14. 1793 Agreed unanimously, that Mr Tho<sup>s</sup> Oliver's company, at the Coffee house is not desirable, & that Mr Booth be requested to inform him of it.

Jamaica Coffee House Dec. 17 1793 Mr Booth read the following letter sent to him by Mr Martin.

Dear Sir, I think it right to inform you that I went last week to Hammersmith merely to enquire into the present state of the friends of our denomination in that village. I dined at Mr Munday's, after dinner, he and other friends informed me, that since Mr Oliver had preached at Hammersmith, the hearers had very increased; that Believers had been revived, and others alarmed, and convinced: that some had been baptized, and that thirteen persons of good character, had solemnly given themselves up to the Lord, and to each other, to walk together as a church of Christ. I was further informed, that they wished to have Mr Oliver settled amongst them. But two difficulties must first be surmounted. One in reference to the Meeting-house; of which I can say nothing now, the other relates to the moral character of Mr Oliver. They had heard he was forbid to meet with you at the Coffee house, and wish to know whether it was on such a ground as ought to prevent their being connected with him as their Pastor. I suppose, with your permission, they will endeavour to obtain satisfaction. If you wish to see me before they wait on you, and the Brethren at the Coffee house, I shall think it my duty to give you and them the best information on this subject I am able to impart. I am, &c, John Martin

Dec. 10. 1793

Agreed, that Mr Booth be requested to answer Mr Martin's letter, and to send him a copy of the note sent to Mr Oliver on the resolution of the Brethren on May. 14.

The following answer was accordingly forwarded to Mr Martin.

Dear Sir, On Thursday last Mr Oliver put your letter into my hand. Having perused it, I told him

that I could not return an answer, till after the Brethren at the Jamaica Coffee house had been consulted on the subject. On the evening of yesterday, your letter was laid before them, and after deliberating upon its contents, they agreed in requesting me, to send you a copy of the note which by their direction I wrote to Mr Oliver, relative to his associating with them at the Jamaica Coffee house. That note, they were of opinion, if laid before the Christian friends at Hammersmith, would entirely supersede the necessity of those friends applying to them at the Coffee house, respecting Mr Oliver: because they concluded, *That as a Society they have nothing more to say on that subject.* I remain, &c. A Booth. Dec. 18. 1793

(Copy)

Sir, I here return the Testimonials given you by the Church under the care of Mr Garniss. Am glad to find you acknowledge your disorderly conduct toward that church in leaving it as you did; and that the members of it bear such a testimony in your favour. I laid your papers, on Tuesday last before the Brethren at the Coffee house; and after some conversation respecting those papers, the ministers present unanimously agreed in requesting me to inform you, *That your company at the Coffee house is not desirable to them.* I most sincerely pray for your happiness, & remain, Sir, Your cordial wellwisher

A. Booth

To Mr. Oliver May. 18. 1793

Jamaica Coffee House Jan'y 17. 1794 Present, Messrs Booth, Timothy Thomas, Dore, Thos Thomas, Smith, Joseph Stennett, Powell, Sowerby, Swaine, and Button. Agreed that Mr Button be the Secretary of this Society. The following members of this society paid 5<sup>s</sup> each for the use of the Room for the year 1793

Dr Stennett Mr Timy Thomas Mr Smith Mr Booth  
 Mr Dore Mr Sowerby Mr Martin Mr Tho<sup>s</sup> Thomas  
 Mr Swaine Dr Rippon Mr Burnside Mr Macgregor  
 Mr Button Mr Penny Mr Arnold Mr Stennett Mr  
 Powell

Jamaica Coffee house. Mar. 11. 1794. Dr.  
 Rippon, Mr Dore and Mr Burnside were chosen to  
 be on the committee of the general Body, for the  
 ensuing year, and [sic]

April. 1. The committee of the General Body, was  
 desired to report that Mr Daniel Williams was  
 removed into the country<sup>100</sup>

Aug<sup>t</sup>. 19. 1794. Agreed to receive Mr Ovington  
 on our denomination. Present Mess<sup>rs</sup> Booth, Timy  
 Thomas, Tho<sup>s</sup> Thomas, Dore, and Smith

Jany. 27. 1795. Present Mess<sup>rs</sup> Booth, Tho<sup>s</sup>  
 Thomas, Smith, Sowerby, Penny, and Button. Mr  
 Booth paid the annual Rent for the room which is  
 four guineas.

Mar. 31. 1795 Mess<sup>rs</sup> Timothy, Thomas, Smith  
 & Powell were chosen to be on the committee of the  
 General Body for the ensuing year. The following  
 Brethren paid 5<sup>s</sup> each towards defraying the Rent  
 of the Room which is 4.4.0 Dr Stennett Mr Booth  
 Dr Rippon Mr Thompson Mr Button Mr Macgregor  
 Mr Powell Mr Penny Mr Swaine Mr Timy Thomas  
 Mr Tho<sup>s</sup> Thomas Mr Sowerby, Mr Smith Mr Dore  
 Mr Burnside Mr Stennett Mr Martin.

Sep. 29. 1795 The Death of Dr Stennett was  
 reported to have taken place on the 24<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup>. Mr  
 Tho<sup>s</sup> Hutchings was proposed & unanimously received  
 on our denomination.

Dec. 8. 1795. Present. Mr Booth, Mr Timothy, Thomas, Mr Dore, Mr Tho<sup>s</sup> Thomas, Mr Smith, Mr Stennett, Mr Hutchings, Mr Button. Mr William Newman of Bow was proposed, and unanimously received on our denomination.

Jan. 19. 1796. Present Mr Booth, Mr Timothy Thomas, Mr Tho<sup>s</sup> Thomas, Mr Dore, Mr Smith, Mr Sowerby. This evening four guineas was paid for one years Rent for the Room. Agreed that the sum of 5/3 be paid by the following Brethren to make up the sum paid for the rent. Mr Booth, Mr Martin, Mr MacGregor, Mr Timothy Thomas, Mr Dore, Mr Tho<sup>s</sup> Thomas, Mr Smith, Mr Stennett, Mr Powell, Mr Swaine, Mr Sowerby, Mr Burnside, Mr Penney, Mr Ovington, Dr Rippon, Mr Button.

Tuesday. Apr. 5. 1796 Present Mess<sup>rs</sup> Booth, Timothy, Thomas, Dore, Smith, Stennett, Hutchings, & Button. Agreed that Mess<sup>rs</sup> Tho<sup>s</sup> Thomas, Stennett, & Button were chosen to be on the Committee of the General Body for the ensuing year. Resolved that M<sup>r</sup> Josiah Thompson be considered no longer a member of this Body, on account of his having refused to pay his quota towards the expense of the rent of the room in which we meet. Resolved that it be reported to the General Body, that M<sup>r</sup> Thompson is no longer a member of this Society.

Jan. 17. 1797. The Rent of the Room was apid this afternoon, which is 4 guineas, & the following Brethren it was agreed were to pay 5/3 each. Mess<sup>rs</sup> Booth, Martin, MacGregor, Timy Thomas, Dore, Tho<sup>s</sup> Thomas, Smith, Stennett, Powel, Sowerby, Burnside, Penny, Ovington, Rippon, Hutchings, Button.

Mar. 27. 1797. Present. Mess<sup>rs</sup> Booth, Rippon, Martin, Tho<sup>s</sup> Thomas, Penny, Button. M<sup>r</sup> Josph

Hughes late of Bristol, now of Battersea, was proposed & unanimously received on our denomination. Agreed that the Committee be desired to report that Mr Hughes is received on our denomination, that Mr Swaine is removed by death. Agreed that Mess<sup>rs</sup> Rippon, Penny, and Hutchings be on the Committee of the General Body, for the ensuing year.

Jamaica Coffee house. Jan<sup>y</sup> 16 1798 Present Mess<sup>rs</sup> Booth, Smith, Penny, Sowerby, Button. The rent of the room was paid by Bro<sup>r</sup> Booth. The sum was 4 guineas. Agreed the following persons should should pay 5/3 each to defray it. Mess<sup>rs</sup> Booth, Martin, Tim<sup>y</sup> Thomas, Tho<sup>s</sup> Thomas, Smith, M<sup>c</sup>Gregor, Powell, Sowerby, Burnside, Penny, Rippon, Ovington, Hutchings, Dore, Newman, Button.

Jamaica Coffee house. Jan<sup>y</sup> 31. 1798. Present, Mess<sup>rs</sup> Booth, Dore, Rippon, Tho<sup>s</sup> Thomas, Burnside, Hutchings, M<sup>c</sup>Gregor, Penny, Hutchings, Newman, Button. It having been reported, that M<sup>r</sup> Martin a member of this Society had expressed in a Lecture he preached at Broad Street on the 14<sup>th</sup> Inst. that he believed that if the French were to invade this country, many of the Dissenters, both Baptists & Pædobaptists would join them, it was considered whether such a declaration should not come under our notice. Agreed that as it was understood the Managers of the Lecture had appointed a committee to wait on him upon that business, to defer any further consideration of it till we had heard the result of their visit.<sup>101</sup>

Jamaica Coffee house. Febr<sup>y</sup> 6. Present, Mess<sup>rs</sup> Booth, Rippon, Dore, Smith, M<sup>c</sup>Gregor, Tho<sup>s</sup> Thomas, Newman, Penny, Hutchings, Burnside & Button. Resolved, that Mess<sup>rs</sup> Booth, Burnside & Button be appointed a committee to wait on M<sup>r</sup> Martin to converse with him respecting the unwarrantable expres-

sions he made use of at the Broad Street Lecture relative to the Protestant Dissenters being disposed to join the French on their invading this Country.

Jamaica Coffee house, Feby 13. Present, Messrs Booth, Rippon, Dore, Smith, McGregor, Tho<sup>s</sup> Thomas, Newman, Penny, Hutchings, Sowerby & Button. Messrs Booth & Button reported that they had waited on Mr Martin agreeably to the appointment of the Brethren (Mr Burnside did not attend) but had obtained no satisfaction, as Mr Martin could not be prevailed on to make any concession nor was in the least disposed to acknowledge he had done wrong. Agreed, that as Mr M. had intimated that the Sermon would be printed in a short time, that it would be best to postpone any further discussion of the business till we had seen it.

Jamaica Coffee house. Mar. 13. 1798. Present, Messrs Booth, Rippon, Dore, Smith, Tho<sup>s</sup> Thomas, Timy Thomas, Newman, Penny, Hutchings, Sowerby & Button. A printed copy of a sermon preached by Mr Martin at the Lord's day evening Lecture in New Broad Street, Jan<sup>y</sup> 14. 1798. being laid before us, and the contents of the Advertisement prefixed being taken into consideration; it appeared that a Committee appointed by the Managers of that Lecture to wait on Mr Martin, relative to certain expressions in his Sermon, reported, that he used the following :

“ Perhaps some of you may say, I fear the French will come. Well, what if they do? What then? If Christ is your life, what have you to fear? You will say, Some of your Denomination will join them. I believe they will. *Baptized infidels, worse for mending, &c.* Perhaps you will say, Some of the Pædobaptists will join them. I believe they will.”

And it appearing from Mr Martin's own Declara-

tion in the printed address to the managers, that they had not *overcharged* his meaning; the following Resolutions were moved and seconded:

That, to the best of our knowledge & belief, the Representation Mr Martin has given of the Dissenters, does not apply to any Individual in any of our Protestant Dissenting Churches. Resolved unanimously.

That, Mr Martin's Representation, not appearing to be founded in fact, is considered by us as highly calumnious. Resolved nem.con. One only of the Brethren being neuter.

That, Mr Martin be therefore no longer a member of this Society. Resolved Nem.con. One only of the Brethren being neuter.

Jamaica Coffee house. Mar. 20. 1798. Present, Messrs Booth, Rippon, Dore, Smith, Thos Thomas, Timy Thomas, Newman Penny, Hutchings, Sowerby, Ovington, and Button. The Minutes of the last Meeting were confirmed, nem. con. One only of the Brethren being neuter.

Jamaica Coffee house. April. 3. 1798. Present Messrs Booth, Smith, Rippon, Newman, Penny, Thos Thomas & Button. Agreed, that the Committee appointed report to the General Boday, That, Messrs Arnold & Stennett are removed into the Country. That Mr Martin is no longer a Member of this Society.

Jamaica Coffee house Janv 15. 1799. The Rent of the Room was paid by Mr Booth which is 4.4.0—agreed to pay 16/ more in consideration of the rise of Tobacco. The following Brethren composing this Society were therefore appointed to pay 6/6 each. Mr Booth, Dr Rippon, Mr Dore, Mr Tim Thomas, Mr Thos Thomas, Mr Hutchings, Mr Sowerby, Mr Hughs, Mr Powell, Mr Burnside, Mr Newman, Mr

Macgregor, Mr Ovington, Mr Penny, Mr Smith, Mr Button.

Jamaica Coffee house. Mar. 26: 1799 Present Mess<sup>rs</sup> Tim. Thomas, Dore, Sowerby, Hutchings, Newman & Button. The Brethren from their great respect to their worthy President Mr Booth and sympathizing with him under his present indisposition, Resolved unanimously, to afford him, in rotation, any Assistance in their power, which he may find convenient. Resolved, that our Secretary transmits a copy of this resolution to Mr Taylor one of the Deacons of Mr Booth's church.<sup>102</sup>

[The next two minutes were entered on later pages, with the apology, "This & the minute of Apr. 8. 1799 should have been inserted pa 153" instead of pages 154, 155, which are in disorder. Erasures and blots abound at this period.]

Jamaica Coffee house Apr. 6. 1799 Mr Jos. Gutteridge reported that Mr Josiah Thompson is concerned that his conduct should have given offence to his Brethren in the ministry; it was unintentional on his part, and he assures them that it would afford him pleasure & satisfaction to [feel that the] harmony that subsisted between them [were] restored and perpetuated.

Jamaica Coffee house. Apr. 8. 1799

1. It was agreed that the report communicated by Mr Gutteridge be received as Mr Thompsons acknowledgment
2. That all circumstances considered this acknowledgment be deemed satisfactory, & that he be restored as an approved minister of this denomination, & be reported as such to the General Body
3. That the thanks of this society be given to Mr

James Smith & Mr Jos. Gutteridge for the active part they have taken in this affair.

Febv. 11. 1800 Paid 5 pounds for the rent of the Room—the follow<sup>g</sup> Brethren were appointed to pay 6/3 each Mr Booth, Dr Rippon, Mr Ovington, Mr Newman, Mr Sowerby, Mr Hutchings, Mr Timy Thomas, Mr Tho<sup>s</sup> Thomas, Mr Thompson, Mr Smith, Mr Macgregor, Mr Powell, Mr Burnside, Mr Penny, Mr Dore. ["Mr Hughes" added later.]

Jamaica Coffee house. Mar. 18. 1800 It was agreed that the following Brethren be on the committee of the General Body for the year ensuing. [Nothing more.]

Jamaica Coffee house Apr. 1. 1800 Present, Mess<sup>rs</sup> Booth, Dore, Tho<sup>s</sup> Thomas, Hutchings, & Button. Agreed that Mess<sup>rs</sup> Dore, Tho<sup>s</sup> Thomas, & Button be on the Committe[e] of the general body for the year ensuing.

Jamaica Coffee house Mar. 1. 1801. Agreed to report to the general body, that Mr John Rance of Hackney and Mr W. Coxhead were considered by us as approved ministers. Also that Dr Rippon, Mr Dore & Mr Button were chosen on the committee of the General Body.<sup>103</sup>

Febv 26. 1802. Paid the Rent of the Room 5£ Agreed to collect of the Brethren for the above purpose 5/11 each. Mr Booth Newman Powell Rippon Hutchings Burnside Dore Ovington Penny Ty Thomas Thompson Rance Hughes Smith Coxhead Sowerby McGregor Button

Jamaica Coffee house. 23 Mar. 1802. Agreed that Mess<sup>rs</sup> Booth, Tho<sup>s</sup> Thomas, & Coxhead be on the Committee of the General Body for the Year ensuing

Jamaica Coffee house. Feby 8. 1803 Mess<sup>rs</sup> James Smith, M<sup>m</sup> Lepard, Gutteridge, Ashlin, Pritt, & Norton attended & signified that they had a wish that a reconciliation might take place between M<sup>r</sup> Martin & the Society of Ministers who meet here, & that they had waited on M<sup>r</sup> Martin & conversed with him on the subject, who indicated, he had no desire to unite in our monthly meetings, in assisting the particular baptist fund or with this Society, but should have no objection to a friendly intercourse with us as Individuals.<sup>104</sup>

Agreed as M<sup>r</sup> Booth is not present with us, If it appear M<sup>r</sup> Martin is willing to make such concession as we think should be satisfactory, to M<sup>r</sup> Booth, whom we consider he has grossly insulted both in conversation & in print, we as Individuals have no objection to a friendly christian Intercourse with M<sup>r</sup> Martin.

Present Mess<sup>rs</sup> Rippon, Ty Thomas, Dore, Hutchings, Tho<sup>s</sup> Thomas, Powell, Sowerby, Penny, Button

Mar. 8. 1803. Jamaica Coffee house Present Brethren, Ty Thomas, Tho<sup>s</sup> Thomas, Newman, Sowerby, Coxhead, Button. Agreed to report to the General Body that M<sup>r</sup> Gray was considered by us as an approved minister, & had been received on our denomination. Agreed to appoint Messrs [Booth, Tho<sup>s</sup> Thomas & Coxhead *erased*] W. Penny [minute unfinished. A date completely erased, a blot, and a space left.]

Mar. 15. 1803. The following letter from M<sup>r</sup> Booth to the Secretary was laid before the Brethren.

Dear Sir, I ought, ere now, to have informed you, as being our Secretary at the Jamaica Coffee house, that Messrs James Smith & Pritt waited on me with

Mr Martin's conclusion, relative to further steps toward a reconciliation; which, with regard to myself, *as an individual*, was far from being agreeable; of which I expressly informed them.

I said, as *an individual*: for though, as such, my own mind is made up on the disagreeable subject, yet, each of my ministering Brethren belonging to the Society, which meet at the Jamaica Coffee house, having an equal right to judge for himself, I must entreat them to exercise that right, independently of my opinion on the case. If they therefore, or a majority of them, obtain satisfaction from Mr Martin so as to think it right that he should be restored to membership in the Society at the Coffee house, and in the General Body of protestant Dissenting ministers, let him by all means be restored: for I am *utterly averse* from the thought of his being kept out of that connection, merely, because I think he is undeserving of being restored. My reason is, it cannot be more clear to me that Mr Martin has forfeited all claim to Membership in the General Body; than it is that my ministering Brithren have a right to judge for themselves, & to act accordingly. Nay, so far as I can conceive, the consideration of his exclusion from that Body being continued, merely, or principally, because I disapproved of his restoration, would be more painful to me than his reinstatement in it. If not under a great mistake, I receive the rights of society, & detest a spirit of domination in any of its members. I therefore deprecate its being hereafter said, *Mr Martin would have been long ago restored to his connection with the General Body had it not been for the prejudice, the pride, and the obstinacy of A. Booth.*

You, my worthy Friend, will be so kind as to lay this before my Brethren at the Coffee house the first opportunity, & in so doing you will much oblige, Dear Sir, Your Friend & Brother A. Booth.

9 Mar. 1803

Jamaica Coffee house April. 26. 1803. A deputation from the Board of Directors and Medical Council of the Royal Jennerian Society, having waited upon us to give information respecting the success of vaccine Inoculation & to solicit our recommendation of the object of the Society, in their respective congregations

It was resolved unanimously that in our opinion the vaccine inoculation may be of great public utility; and that in our individual capacity, as opportunities may occur, we will endeavour to communicate the important information which has been so clearly, so fully, and so candidly imparted to us by the committee

Jamaica Coffeehouse. Mar. 27. 1804. Agreed to appoint Brethren Rippon, Gray, and Dore to be on the Committee of the General Body for the year ensuing.

Feb. 26. 1805. Dr Jenkins and Mr Arnold were proposed to be received into our Society, which was unanimously agreed to. It was moved, seconded & agreed to, that our brethren Timy Thomas, Rance and Button, be on the Committee of the General Body for the ensuing year. Agreed that Mr Jonathan Cihandler having resigned the ministry, for several years, cannot with propriety be considered any longer a member of this association.

Apr. 3. 1805. Agreed to receive Mr Joseph Ivimey as a member of this Society.<sup>105</sup>

May 5. 1805. Agreed to receive Mr James Upton and Mr [William] Shenstone as members of this Society and to report the same to the General Body.<sup>106</sup>

Jamaica Coffee house Apr. 8. 1807. Agreed that Messrs Dore, Newman, and Upton, be appointed on

the Committee of the General Body, for the ensuing year.

Jamaica Coffee house. Apr. 7. 1807. Agreed to receive M<sup>r</sup> Stevens of Prescot Street as a member of this Society, and to report the same to the General Body. Agreed to appoint Brethren Rippon, Newman, and Hutchings to be on the Committee of the General body for the year ensuing. And that they report the death of our Bro<sup>r</sup> Rance of Hackney.

Jamaica Coffee house Mar. 29. 1808. Agreed that Mess<sup>rs</sup> Stevens Waters and [William] Shenstone be on the Committee of the General Body for the ensuing year.<sup>107</sup>

April. 4. 1809 Agreed that Mess<sup>rs</sup> Dore, Upton, and Hutchings be on the committee of the general for the year ensu

Oct. 10 1809 Agreed to receive M<sup>r</sup> Thos Waters as a member of our Society, and to report the same to the General Body.<sup>108</sup>

Jamaica Coffee house Jan. 2. 1810. Agreed to receive M<sup>r</sup> [John] Shenstone as a member of this Society, and to report the same to the General body.<sup>109</sup>

Jan'y 16. 1810 Agreed to receive M<sup>r</sup> Abraham Austin as a member of this Society, and to report him to the general body as an approved minister of our denomination. Agreed also to receive M<sup>r</sup> John Douglas and M<sup>r</sup> Bradley into our Society, and to report the same to the general body.<sup>110</sup>

Mar. 27. 1810 Agreed that Mess<sup>rs</sup> Stevens, Waters, and John Shenstone to be on the Committee of the general body, for the year ensuing.

Jamaica Coffee house Mar 26. 1811. Agreed to appoint Mess<sup>rs</sup> Austin, Waters, and Newman to be on the Committee of the General Body for the year ensuing.<sup>111</sup>

Oct. 16. 1811. Agreed to receive M<sup>r</sup> F. A. Cox as a member of this Society, and to report the same to the General Body.

Jamaica Coffee house Oct 16. 1811. The following letter directed to the associated Baptist ministers at the Jamaica Coffee house was read.

The Church of Christ meeting in Artillery Street, to the associated Baptist Ministers at the Jamaica Coffee house Cornhill.<sup>112</sup>

Dear Brethren, Having been constrained from conscientious motives to separate from a Church in your connexion we are still desirous that friendship, and cordiality, should exist between us, and all the churches, with the hope, that the glory of God may be promoted. We are at present destitute of a pastor, but trust the great head of the church will in his own time direct one to us whom he has qualified for the office, and who shall prove a blessing to us. As we believe our views of divine truth, and the object we have in pursuit, are similar to yours, we hope you will be disposed to give us that countenance and support which with the blessing of God may prove a mutual comfort. Praying for the continuance and increase of your usefulness, with the peace and prosperity of the churches under your care and desiring an interest in your prayers we remain, Dear Brethren, Yours in the bonds of the gospel

Signed by desire and  
in behalf of the church  
Oct. 16. 1811.

Thos Renshaw  
Sam<sup>l</sup> Sanigear  
Deacons

Jamaica Coffee house Nov<sup>r</sup> 5. 1811. The letter from the separatists from prescot Street, Goodman's fields (late Mr Booth's) which was sent us Oct 16. was taken under consideration. and it was agreed to send a letter, to the church in Prescot street, of which the following is a copy.

Dear Brethren, We have received a letter from the people who meet for divine worship in Artillery street, stating that though separated from you, and formed into a distinct church yet they are desirous of maintaining a friendly intercourse with all the churches of the same faith and order in London, and they wish for our countenance, and support. Before we return any answer to their request we wish to know, if you, from whom they are separated, are disposed to recognize them as a church of Christ, as from our connexion with you, and our cordial friendship for you, we should be very sorry to take any steps whereby you should have any good cause of offence. We at the same time avail ourselves of this occasion to assure you, that we deeply regret the late circumstances which have arisen, to interrupt that harmony by which as a church you have been so long distinguished, and we most sincerely pray, that the great head of the church may soon favour you with another pastor, who shall be instrumental to promote your spiritual edification, peace & welfare. We remain Your affect<sup>te</sup> Brethren. Signed on behalf of the associated ministers meeting at the Jamaica Coffee house, by the Secretary.

N.B. There were present at this meeting the following Brethren. Dr Rippon, Timy Thomas, Jos. Ivimey, W. Newman, James Upton, John Shenstone, Thos<sup>s</sup> Powell, Thos<sup>s</sup> Sowerby, Abraham Austin. W. Button

Jamaica Coffee house. Nov<sup>r</sup> 12. 1811. Agreed to send a letter to the Separatists from the Church in

Prescot Street, now meeting in Artillery Street, of which the following is a copy.

To the Brethren and Sisters meeting in Artillery Street. Dear Friends We received your letter, dated Oct. 16. and having duly and affectionately considered its contents, we are unanimously of opinion that before we can give you our final answer, it will be proper for you to apply to the Church in prescot Street requesting them to recognize you as a sister Church of Jesus Christ. Wishing you every suitable benediction, we are your affect<sup>e</sup> Brethren & Servants Signed on our behalf by our Secretary. W. Button.

Present at this meeting Dr Rippon, Tho<sup>s</sup> Thomas, W. Newman, Jos. Ivimey, John Shenstone, W. Shenstone, T. Waters, W. Button

Jamaica Coffeehouse Nov. 25. 1811 A letter was read from the Church at Prescot Street, of which the following is a copy.

To the Associated ministers of the Baptist denomination, meeting at the Jamaica Coffee house. Christian Brethren and Friends. Having taken into consideration your Secretary's letter addressed to us as a Church; requesting to know, if we are disposed to recognize our separated Friends as a Church of Christ? We think it our duty, under present circumstances to pause on this matter, Because we think it admits of considerable doubt, whether persons withdrawing themselves from a regular Church, and saying, they have formed themselves into a distinct church, is sufficient to constitute them such, in conformity with the prevailing and approved practice of Christian Society. A church having been regularly organized, and settled under the care of a pastor, may still be considered as a church, if it be deprived of its pastor, but whether that distinction is justly applicable

to a body of persons, where the organization has never been complete, we are not fully satisfied of. But more especially we pause, because our late brethren and sisters have *rent* themselves from us, disregarding that *order* of our churches which we have ever been led to consider of much importance in reference to Christian fellowship. If a body of members are justified upon the principles of propriety and decorum, to withdraw themselves from a church with which they stand connected without any other communication then sending them word *they have withdrawn*. Can any individual be censured for pursuing the same line of conduct? The regard therefore which we bear to the credit as well as to the harmony of our churches, requires us to be cautious how we sanction a principle that must tend to great irregularity and disorder amongst them. We deny not the right of persons to act for themselves, but we maintain that the New Testament recommends to Christians, the exercise of courtesy towards one another 1 Pet. 3. 8.

We deeply lament with you, that the harmony of our church has been interrupted, & although we wish not to recur to the occasions of it; yet justice to ourselves requires us to say that we think the grounds on which our late Brethren and Sisters have separated, are neither consistent, nor justifiable on New Testament principles. Nevertheless we wish to act under the influence of that christian doctrine which requires the forgiveness of injury, and we hope that whatever may be their conduct towards us we shall bear no resentment towards them, nor be found in the exercise of any unfriendly temper, or dispositions.

We return you our thanks, for your expressions of regard towards us as a church, which we confess are the more satisfactory, as we had reason to fear, from late occurrences, that that regard was on the decline. However this may be, we can assure you,

that in every part of our conduct throughout the perilous situation in which we have been placed? we have aimed to promote the peace and welfare of Zion, and the honour of the Redeemer's cause, and we hope that we shall never be left to act in a way undeserving of the esteem of those ministers, to whom we are no less attached by affection, than by uniformity of sentiment. With cordial regards, we remain sincerely yours in the bonds of the gospel

Signed on	Jos Gutteridge	} Deacons
behalf of	Tho <sup>s</sup> Key,	
the church	Jn <sup>o</sup> Willis	
Nov. 3. 1811	Wm Freme	
	Jn <sup>o</sup> Hepburn	

Jamaica Coffee house Jan<sup>y</sup> 23. 1812 A letter was read from the Separatists from Prescott street Church, of which the following is a copy.

The Baptist Church of Christ meeting in Artillery Street, Bishopsgate Street, to the Associated Baptist ministers meeting at the Jamaica Coffee house, Cornhill.

Dear Brethren, We lately made application to you for assistance in preaching, and administering the ordinance among us and your cordially complying would be pleasing but lest a further consideration of our case should in the smallest degree interrupt that peace and harmony, so desirable should continue amongst you, we wish to withdraw our request, trusting that He who is the Head over all things for his body's sake the church will supply our need, believing we have taken the path of duty. We remain, dear Brethren, Yours respectf<sup>y</sup>

Signed on behalf	Tho <sup>s</sup> Renshaw
of the Church	Sam <sup>l</sup> Sanegear
Jan <sup>y</sup> 27. 1812	(Deacons)

Jamaica Coffee house Mar 26. 1812 Agreed to appoint Mess<sup>rs</sup> Austin, Waters and Newman to be on the committee of the General Body.

Mar. 1813. Agreed that Dr Rippon, Mr Tho<sup>s</sup> Thomas, and Mr Austin be appointed on the committee of the General Body for the year ensuing. Agreed that the Committee appointed last year report to the General Body that Mr T. Griffin of Prescott Street, and Mr T. Smith, No 29 Winchester Row, Edgeware Road are received as members of this Society, being considered as approved ministers of our denomination.<sup>113</sup>

April. 1814. Agreed that Mess<sup>rs</sup> Newman, Griffin and Button be on the committee of the General Body for the year ensuing. Agreed to receive Mr Cole of Poplar a member of this Society. Also Mr Kingsford, Battersea fields.<sup>114</sup>

Jamaica Coffee house Aug<sup>t</sup> 1815 Agreed to receive Mr Ja<sup>s</sup> Hoby, and Mr Young as members of this Society, and that Mr Ivimey be appointed joint Secretary with Mr Button on acc<sup>t</sup> of Mr B.<sup>s</sup> eyesight failing.<sup>115</sup>

At Jamaca Coffee house Apr. 3. 1816 Agreed to receive Mr Bligh No 75 White Chaple, and Mr John Chin of Walworth as members of this Society. Agree that Dr Rippon, Mr Tho<sup>s</sup> Thomas and Mr W. Shensstone be on the Committee of the General Body for the year ensuing.<sup>116</sup>

Apr. 1. 1817 Agreed to report to the General Body Mr John Edward, lower Thornaugh St Tottenham Court road is received as an approved minister. Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr Austin of Fetter lane, removed by death. Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr Waters removed into the country. Mess<sup>rs</sup> Ivimey, Hoby, and Cole be on the Committee of the General body for the ensuing year.<sup>117</sup>

Sep. 16. 1817 Agreed to receive Mr Prichard as a member of this Society.<sup>118</sup>

[At this point the book was disused, though only half full. The next three pages were used in 1835 by J. B. Shenstone to record lists of 1727 taken from the minutes of the General Body. Several pages at the end have been used as an index, both to this and to the next volume. Notes are added there freely in various hands, some being very inaccurate. A second book was opened with a nine-page summary of the previous minutes, containing mistakes, and a defective alphabetical list of the members 1723-1817. This was followed by a roll of the Secretaries, which was kept up until 1882. On page 13 the minutes are resumed, without any explanation why the old book was discarded. The reason may possibly be that Joseph Ivimey was chosen joint-secretary with Button, and preferred after a short experience to make a new beginning for current minutes, using the older book as a source of history. But it will soon appear that W. Shenston succeeded him speedily for four years, and undertook another revision; then in 1829 J. B. Shenston succeeded, & proceeded to annotate with disastrous results to accuracy.]

Jamaica Coffee house Tuesday Feby 17. 1818  
Present. Tho<sup>s</sup> Thomas, Dr Newman, W. Shenstone,  
Griffin, J. Shenstone, Elven, Cole, Bligh, Penny, Hoby,  
F. A. Cox, Hutchings, Ivimey, and Button.

Resolved that it appears desirable that a union of the three denominations for the purport of raising a fund for the relief of aged and infirm ministers. That we are of opinion that a requisition should be sent to the Secretary at the Library to bring this subject forward at the Annual Meeting.<sup>119</sup>

Jamaica Coffee house Tuesday 24 Mar. 1818  
 Agreed to receive Mr Owen Clark as a Member of this Society.

April 7. 1818

Report made to the General Body of Protestant Dissenting Ministers. Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr Mileham, Jane Street, Commercial Road; Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr Pritchard of Keppel Street; Rev<sup>d</sup> Owen Clark of Chelsea are received as approved ministers. Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr Penney is removed by Death. Rev<sup>d</sup> Dr Newman, rev<sup>d</sup> J. Hutchings, and rev<sup>d</sup> J. Upton are the appointed committee for the year ensuing.

Oct. 6

Agreed to receive Mr Buck, who is settled in Titchfield Street as a member of this Society.

Dec. 1.

Agreed to receive Mr Uppadine of Hammersmith and Mr Belsher, now preaching at Burton Street as members of this Society.<sup>120</sup>

April. 6. 1819

The following Report made to the General Body of Dissenting Ministers. Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr Buck, Uppadine Hammersmith, Belsher Burton Street received as approved ministers of the particular Baptist denomination. Rev<sup>d</sup> Dr Joseph Jenkins of Walworth, deceased. Rev<sup>d</sup> [Thomas] Sowerby, deceased. Rev<sup>d</sup> Dr Rippon, Joseph Ivimey, and F. A. Cox are appointed as our Committee for the year ensuing.

Jan'y 1820 [another scribe]

That the Laws and regulations of the Board be revised and reconsidered and presented at the Annual Meeting in March for the approval of the Board and that a Committee be now appointed for that purpose consist-

ing of the following Brethren Dr Rippon Jos Ivimey Pritchard Clark W. Shenston J. Shenston Newman & Griffin<sup>121</sup>

Jamaica Coffee House. March 14 1820  
Present Dr Rippon, Dr Newman, Mr Upton, Shenston, Button, Cox, Hutchings, Hoby, Young, J. Shenston, Griffin, Edwards, Pritchard, Ivimey, Cramp, Douglas, Elvey, Clarke, Kingsford, Williams, Belsher, Bligh, Davis, Denham.

It having been thought necessary to revise and enlarge the regulations of this Society a special meeting for this purpose was convened at the usual place March the 14. 1820. when the following resolutions were adopted.

1. That the object proposed by this Society is to afford an opportunity for mutual consultation and advice on subjects of a religious nature particularly as connected with the interests of our own denomination, and that the Society do meet every Tuesday afternoon at 4 o'clock

2. That this Society do consist of approved Ministers of the particular baptist denomination residing in and about the Cities of London and Westminster, that no minister resident in London be permitted to attend the meetings of this Society more than three months [*altered in 1824 to six*] without becoming a member, and that each member contribute his proportion towards the general expenses of the Society.

3. That any Minister desiring admission into this Society state his request in a letter addressed to one of the Secretaries [*relaxed in 1824 to orally*] which shall be presented at the next weekly meeting and the proposal taken into consideration that day fortnight at a meeting specially convened for the purpose the

Secretary stating in the summons the name and residence of the person or persons who may have been proposed, and that no member be excluded but by a majority of the members present at a meeting specially convened.

4 That a subject be discussed the Tuesday after the first Lord's day in every month [*altered to second Tuesday, then in 1831 to first Tuesday*] unless urgent business require its postponement, the subjects to be selected and circulated among the members at the commencement of the year.

5 That at the weekly meetings of this Society a Chairman be chosen as soon as five members are assembled which number shall be competent to transact its ordinary business. [*In 1828 the member of longest standing was to be chairman.*]

6. That this Society shall have two Secretaries [*altered, and after perhaps a second erasure reading thus, again?*] who shall enter such minutes of proceedings as may be deemed necessary.

7. That an annual meeting of this Society be held on the Tuesday after the second Lord's-day in the month of March, when the rules of the Society shall be read, the proceedings of the year reported, the annual expenses defrayed, Secretaries chosen [*expunged in 1831*], the report to the general body meeting at Red Cross Street prepared, and any other business transacted that may arise for consideration.

Brethren Button and Ivimey having resigned their office as the Secretaries of this Society a vote of thanks to them for their past services was carried unanimously.

Brethren Shenston and Pritchard were requested to undertake the office of Secretaries for the present year.

Mr Dyer was admitted a member of this Society having been proposed at a former meeting.

Brother Edwards proposed Mr Lewis of Highgate for admission into this Society.

Agreed that brethren Dr Newman Griffin and Hoby be requested to attend the general committee meeting at the Library, Red Cross Street the ensuing year.

Jamaica Coffee House March 21 1820 Present Dr Newman, Dr Rippon, Mr Shenston, J. Shenston, Bligh, Kingsford, Williams, Pritchard, Griffin, Dyer. Mr Lewis of Highgate was admitted a member of this Society

Report of this Society for the year 1819 to the general body meeting at the Library Red Cross Street. Mr Thomas Thomas removed by death, Mr Mileham removed into this country, Mr Buck no longer a promise of marriage. Mr Davis, Elvey, Cramp, member of this Society, [*note* excluded for breach of Williams, Denham, Dyer, and Lewis admitted members of this Society. Dr Newman Mr Griffin Mr Hoby to be on the general committee for the following year.

Jamaica Coffee House April 18 1820.

Present Dr Rippon, Dr Newman, Mr Griffin, Mr Bligh, Mr Clarke, Mr Douglas, Mr Shenston, Mr Denham.

Resolved that on Tuesday next it be considered whether country cases recommended by the Committee for examining cases shall be brought to this room for signatures.

Jamaica Coffee House April 25 1820.

Present Dr Rippon, Dr Newman, Mr Griffin, Mr Davis, Mr Bligh, Mr Edwards, Mr Pritchard, Mr Thomas, Mr Dyer, Mr Shenston, Mr Cramp, Mr Williams, Mr Clarke, Mr Denham. Resolved that our Secretary be requested to inform the Secretary of the committee

for examining country cases that it is not considered any part of the business of this body to sign Country cases but that Ministers will always be at perfect liberty to sign such cases in this room on their individual account. [Here A ceases and B begins.]

At this Meeting the following subjects were propose for discussion during the present year. Mr Dyer May 9<sup>th</sup> What steps can be taken to promote the interests of religion in our denomination at large? Mr Clarke June 6 How far is it practicable to form an Association of the baptist Ministers & Churches in London and its environs. Mr Davis July 4 Is the practice of fasting of perpetual obligation. Mr Griffin Augt 8 How can we account for the differences in the theological opinions of wise and virtuous men? Mr Denham Sep<sup>r</sup> 5 Was Sampson's death an act of suicide? Mr Douglas Oct<sup>r</sup> 3 Is there reason to apprehend the preaching [?] of Popery in this country? Mr Bligh Nov<sup>r</sup> 7 What is hyper Calvinism? Mr Edwards Dec 5 What is the province of reason in matters of religion?

June 6, 1820

At a numerous meeting of this Body it was resolved to hold a monthly prayer meeting, hoping thereby to promote affection and union among ourselves and to implore the divine Blessing on all our individual and united efforts for the extention of the Redeemers kingdom. It was also agreed that these Meetings should for one year be held at the following places Viz Devonshire Sq<sup>re</sup>, Prescot St, Carter Lane, Church St, Eagle St, & Fetter Lane. A short address to be delivered by the Ministers in rotation, the time of meeting to be the Tuesday after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lords day at half past six. The Ques<sup>n</sup> for discussion this after<sup>n</sup> was adjourn<sup>d</sup> till next week.

13th [June, 1820]

At this meeting it was determined that the formation of an Association of the baptist Ministers & Churches in London & its environs is not only practicable but also desirable. It was then Resolved that on this day forthnight steps be taken to carry the foregoing determination into effect

A List of the present Members of this Body, June 27<sup>th</sup> 1820. [The list is in five columns; Date, Name, Station, Residence, From Whence. Semicolons are used here to show these columns. Two columns were also ruled to show subscriptions, but only casual pencil entries are in them, or the word "Dead" without a date. For eight or ten years corrections were made, and fresh entries added, which are indicated here when they can be read. In 1830 a new list was drawn up at the end of the book, and corrected in like fashion for six years.]

63. Leicester had had a G.B. church from 1656; its Elder, Thomas Davye, a scrivener, was just ending his pastorate of 31 years, and the cause was in very low water. But the P.B. people did not organize even yet for ten years.

64. Samuel Wilson died on 6 October 1750, Stennett spoke at the interment in Bunhill Fields on the 12th, Gill preached a memorial sermon at Prescott Street. Ivimey extracts that he had been to school with Dr. Hay, a London clergyman, and with John Ward, later the professor at Gresham; then had gone to the Academy of Ridgley and Eames. The preceding pages are evidence that he could neither spell nor compose in good English nor keep regular minutes. As a pastor he was successful, and he was often called upon for inter-denominational work; while his Scripture Manual is even yet reprinted. From his own church he prepared nine men for the ministry; and the cessation of his labours compelled Londoners at last to face the problem of united effort in this direction.

65. This minute is in a hand which had appeared intermittently. Samuel Stennett was at this time 24 years old; he had been trained at the Mile End Pedobaptist academy of the King's Head Society, and