

Minutes of the Quarterly Conferences

of the Leicestershire ministers in the

New Connexion of General Baptists.

(Continued from volume V, page 126).

Conference at Smalley May 26th 1795

... 8th Learning from the minutes of the Lincolnshire Conference that a Plan was forming to establish a kind of Seminary for the Education of Young Men for the Ministry we unanimously agree that this Business be enquired into & Bro^r Smith write to Mr Treacher the Treasurer accordingly.

9th Bro^r R. Smith appointed to write the Minutes of this Conference to the Lincolnshire Conference for next year.

Conference Quorndon July 21st 1795

... 2nd A Letter was read received from Mr Treacher the Treasurer of the Committee for the Education of young men for the ministry amongst the Gen^l Baptists. When the following Questions were proposed upon the subject

1 Does it appear to us that it is right for persons intending to exercise in the ministry to exert y^mselves in obtaining a grammatical knowledge of their mother tongue and an increase in knowledge of the truths of divine revelation; & also by application to any person of superior understanding with whom they may be acquainted. Ans^r Yes Unanimous.

2 Do we think some pecuniary aid necessary in order to carry the above into effect. Ans^r Yes . . .

Conference at Hugglescoat, Sep^r 29. 1795.

... Case 1. Is it right for the representative of any Church to withhold any Case of general concernment to the Churches, when recommended by the Conference to Churches? Unanimously No; except 1 neuter & 1 yes. [Wadsworth sent thanks for subscriptions of £50. 15. 9.]

Conference at Melbourn 24 Nov^r 1795

... The thanks of this Conference was unanimously voted to Bro^r S. Deacon for his Late Pamphlet on the Principles &c of the Gen^l Baptists [issued as by "A Mechanic"].

It is requested by a Majority of this Conf. that the two Bro^r Deacons Publish a History of the Gen^l Baptists. Some materials for which have been for some time Collected. Also to Publish a 6^d Number every 2 Months or oftener if possible. These proposals to be made to the Churches in Lincolnshire & Yorkshire.

The Subject of the Education of Young Ministers being taken into Consideration, and Something drawn up by Brethren Deacon and Pollard by way of Plan being read it was agreed that Brother Deacon print what he thinks proper on the subject & lay it before the Churches . . .

Conference at Notting^m Jan^y 20th 96

... Case 1. Bro^r Cooke of Earl Shilton having rec^d a Letter from an attorney demanding Mortuary on account of the Death of his Mother & threatening him with a prosecution in the Spiritual court in case of refusal. Wishes this Conference to give him some advice in this case?

Ans^r we apprehend no Mortuary can be due only on the Death of the head of a Family, that if it were as he is her son and her Husband still living

he cannot be subject to pay any debts on her Account. . . .

Conference at Leake May 17-1796

. . . Bro^r Whitaker preached from Matt 5: 14 "Ye are the light of the world &c" The prayer and sermon were attended to, & upon the whole, approved. The sermon, however, was thought not to contain much of *ye matter of ye text*, to be delivered in an unpleasant uniformity of voice, the metaphor in *ye text* lost, and several grammatical inaccuracies noticed.

The place of the next conference was discussed Birmingham was first mentioned, but as it is at such an extremity it was thought to have the conf^{ce} there would destroy its utility, inasmuch as very few persons would be likely to attend. [^]Cauldwell was next mentioned, and Conf^{ce} agreed to be there . . .

Conference at Cauldwell July 26: 1796

No minutes sent. Br Pollard in a private letter says "We had no business" . . . [Nor are any entered for September, though two pages are left blank. And the remaining minutes down to Jan. 30. 1798 have nothing of interest. But loose papers are folded in the book, with rough minutes of the committee appointed by the Association at Kegworth, to manage the business of instructing young men in biblical knowledge, in order to fit them for the work of the ministry:—]

The Committee Met at the Marquis of Granby Loughbro Monday Oct^r 23. 1797. Persons present Br S. Deacon [Barton] Chairman, R. Smith [Nottingham] Scribe, J. Deacon [Leicester], B. Pollard [Quorndon and Loughborough], J. Ashwell, J. Johnson [Loughborough], S. Heard [Nottingham, Treasurer].

In conformity to an appointment of the last meeting, the Brethren appointed to draw up an address

for circulation to inform our friends of our design produced their production; which having been read together with the address on the same subject published by the old Baptists we agree to send [the several pieces *erased*] to brother Taylor for his instruction and that he select what he think proper and publish it with any additions [he may think proper to add *erased*] [of his own *erased*] he may think necessary

That Br Taylor be requested to have these pamphlets published in sent into the Country in a fortnight That the size of this pamphlet exceed not one sheet in octavo

That the number be Two [*much altered*] thousand that Bro^r Taylor reserve For London Kent Lincolnshire & Yorkshire 800. These to be distributed at Br Taylors d may think proportional

And that to the pamphlet desinged for the public have subjoined the following notice. That the institution being commenced all persons friends to it are requested to pay their donations as soon as possible [£174. 17s. 6d. had been promised.]

That the £50 designed to be sent on the Magazine account will be sent by the 1st of Dec^r but if Br T want it sooner he may have it [sooner *erased*] by applying to Mr Heard NB This 50£ is money belonging to the fund for the Education [*The whole minute is crossed out and the next much altered.*]

That £10 be sent to Br Taylor for present purposes and he be requested to send us word what money he will [need] and when for the publication of the Magazine.

There is this day in the hands of Mr Heard the Treasurer £70. 15s. od.

That we have the pamphlet by the time above

named in order that we may have public collections by nex martinmass

That we like the Gen^l Baptist Magazine [as well *erased*] better than any other

The discessionary power proposed by Br Deacon we unitedly approve think the editor should have

If your portrait come not in the first number we have thought Mr Brittain's might

1797 Dec^r 11th At a Meeting of the Committee to [manage *replaced by*] conduct the business of the Gen^l Baptist Academy. Persons present R. Smith Chairman John Deacon Tho^s Pickering John Bakewell Sam^l Heard John Ashwell W^m Parkinson Jo^s Johnson

1 Agreed to let the subscriptions of 20£ each of Mr John Deacon Leicester John Ashwell Nott^m & S. Heard Nott^m NB Interest upon their several Notes on demand

2 Agreed that R. Smith write to the persons who have not paid their subscriptions to remit them immediately

3 It appears Mr Heard the treasurer has at this Meeting in hand cash to the amount £158: 11s: 2d.

4 A number of Rules were read and approved

5 Mr James Taylor of Queenshead is this Meeting unanimously approved of as a proper person to enjoy the benefit of this institution

6 Mr Goadby of Market Bosworth's case being not properly stated a letter was written and sent to Br Deacon in order to inform him of it.

7 The next meeting of the Committee to be held at Melbourne the 30 of Jan^y 1798

8 Agreed that all the expences attending the Committee meeting on this business shall be defrayed by the treasurers.

9 That Mr Heard give note from this day for one

Hundred pounds now in his possession the note to be deposited in Mr Bakewells hands

10 That it be recommended to Mr Taylor to forward his subscriptions, and to Yorkshire friends also

11 A motion was made whether Robinsons reserches might not be inserted a chapter in each number of the magazine to advantage. Ansr Yes if the editor approve it and it will not infringe on the right of the copy holder.

12 Agreed that the first number have a representation of the Baptism of Jesus X by John in Jordon. and that the attitude be the subject just rising out of the water. And that if Br Burgess be well qualified to execute this plate that he be employd. Br Bakewell Donington Br Twells Ilkiston Br Harrison Smalley will unite in supporting the Magazine.

The Committee met at 6 oclock and proceeded to Business Jany 30 1798. Bro^r Sam Deacon Prayed. Rob^t Smith Chairman J. Ashwell Scribe S. Deacon J. Bakewell W. Parkinson T. Pickering J. Bennett J. Deacon B. Pollard

Sent By Bro^r Thos Rogers To Mr Dan Taylor £15. 5s. od making with former cash 50£ including the London Collections

Gave into Mr Treasurer Bakewell [*replacing* Parkinson] hands the Joint Note being the security for the 100£ let to Mr Heard

Agreed to let Mr Bakewell the 20£ now in Hand on Interest at 5 p^r Ct on his own Note

Agreed to be a positive Rule or Law That no Moneys in futur that is larger sums than Twenty Pounds be let out without Double [*Interest replaced by*] Security

Rec^d and Read Bro^r W^m Felkins Petition for the Benf of The Fund. Which was agreed too unansy for 6 months

Rec^d and Read also a Nother Petition for the same Benf from A Bro^r Sam Driver of Leicester Church.

Agreed there be Three—Young men if proper persons offer

Agreed to give M^r Felkin 5 Guineas towards bearing his Expenses in Washing and Traveling

A Call to the Pastorate, Abingdon.

At a meeting in November 1721, it was agreed to come to a decision on the case of Brother Benjamin Tomkins, Senr. who was called to be a ruling Elder on May 14 last . . . who from that time had been on his tryall; and after Brother Tomkins was by consent of the church withdrawn, and Brother Fuller had reminded them of the work and duty of such an office, the duty of the members of the church to be ruled, the question was put, whether they did persist in their call of Brother Tomkins to the said office which was answered in the affirmative by holding up their hands, but by Brother W. Buttler it was opposed, alleging that the said Brother Tomkins, being inclined to sleep at the meeting was not fit for the office, for he that could not govern himself was not fit to be concerned in governing the Church. But Brother Buttler, not having dealt with Brother Tomkins for the same, as the Scripture directs, the church was offended that he should so abruptly accuse Brother Tomkins before the church, upon which Brother Tomkins was called in and acquainted with the said proceedings, who owned it was his infirmity and affirmed that he was inclined to sometimes nod in the meeting for which he was sorry, but being in part from a distemper in his head that he had been for some years past troubled with, he hoped it would be looked upon as such, and that it would also be esteemed a just cause of exception, together with his natural incapacity for the work of such an office, that therefore he might be excused from taking upon him the same, but being told the church being so unanimous in their call and choice and persisting in it, the said Brother Tomkins should not be discouraged by this opposition of an irregular brother: whereupon Brother Tomkins told the Church that since it was their pleasure to insist on their choice and call, he hoped it was from God, and he would no longer withstand it, hoping that the church would excuse his weakness and insufficiency for the work and take what he should say or do in the execution of his office in good part, as it would be performed by him in faithfulness.