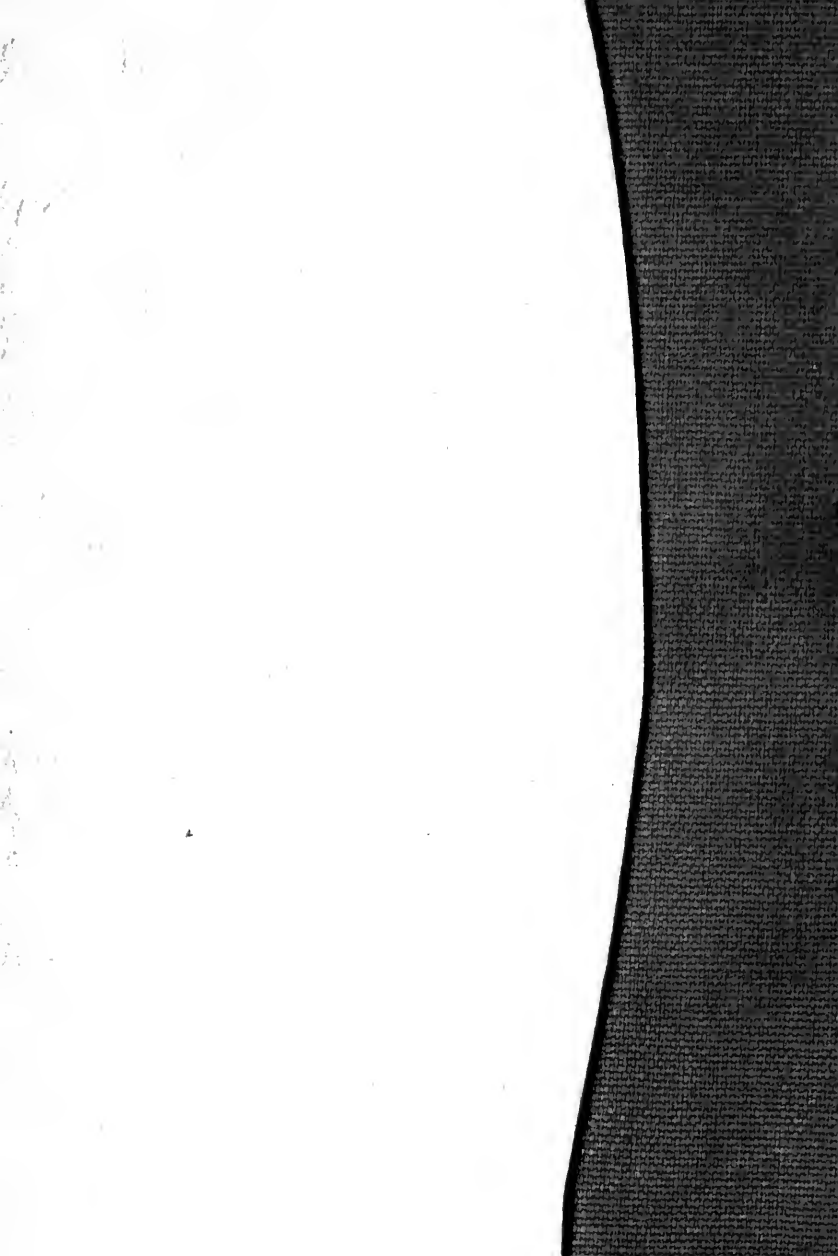


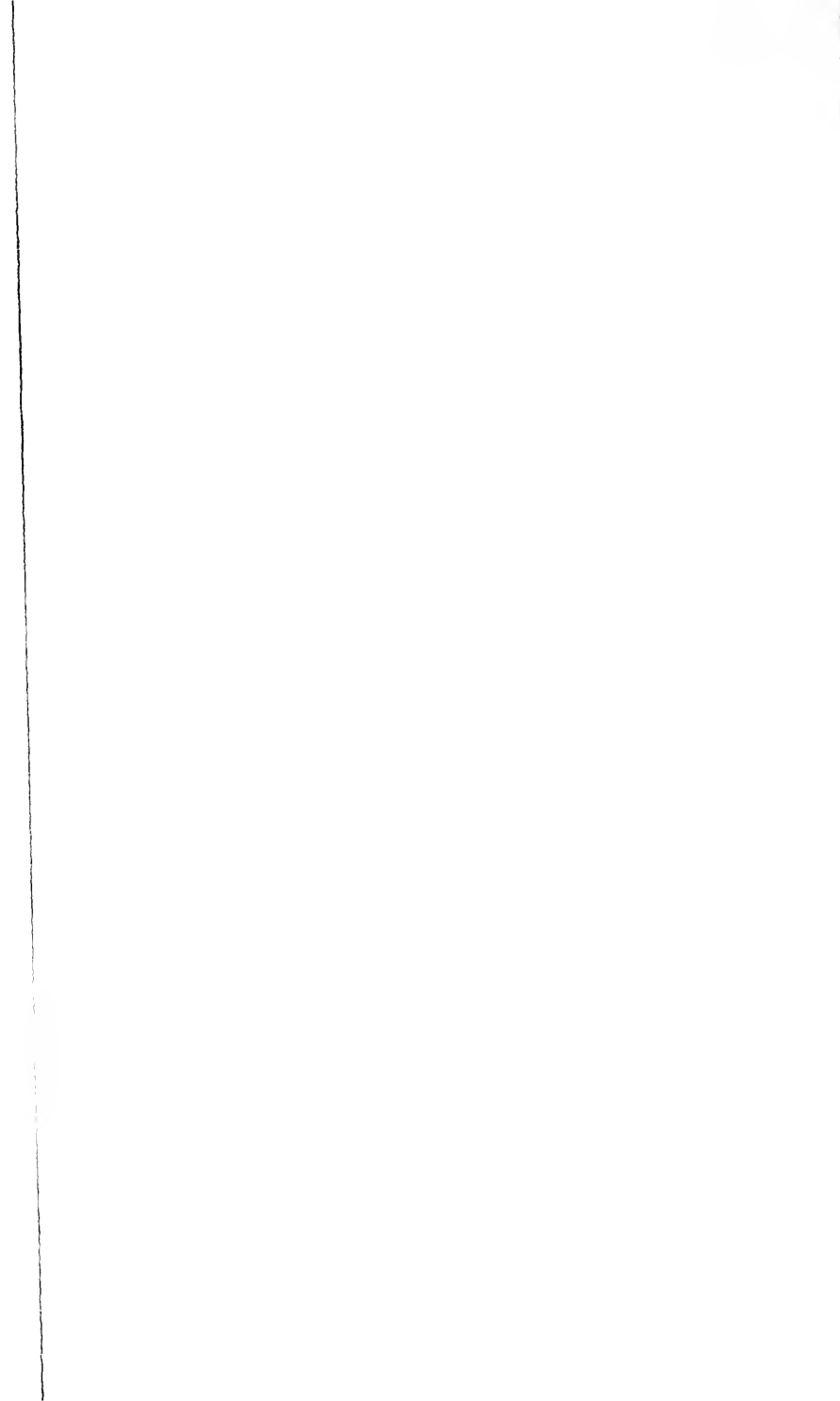
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A
NARRATIVE
OF THE
MISSIONS
TO THE
NEW SETTLEMENTS
ACCORDING TO THE APPOINTMENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSOCIATION
OF THE
STATE OF CONNECTICUT:
TOGETHER WITH
AN ACCOUNT
OF THE
RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES
OF
THE MONEY CONTRIBUTED BY THE
PEOPLE OF CONNECTICUT,

IN MAY, 1793,

FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE MISSIONARIES,
ACCORDING TO AN ACT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE STATE.

Item
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A Narrative of the Missions to the New Settlements, appointed by the General Association of the State of Connecticut, and an Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Money contributed by the People of Connecticut for the Support of said Missions.

THE General Association, informed that there were many new settlements in the northern and western parts of the United States, which, on account of their infancy and other circumstances, were unable to support the preaching of the gospel among themselves; that many or all those settlements were desirous of the preaching of the gospel, and that some of them had made explicit application for assistance in this matter, either to particular Associations or to individual ministers; took the subject into particular consideration at their session in June, A. D. 1788, and recommended it to the several particular Associations to send missionaries of their own members to the new settlements, according to a rule then drawn up by the General Association. This recommendation was adopted and acted upon by the several Associations for one year. But as it was found to be attended with great inconveniencies, it could not be prosecuted. In A. D. 1791, the general Association again took the subject into consideration, and recommended it to the several particular Associations, "to express their views concerning the most proper and feasible mode of sending missionaries to the new settlements, and to communicate them to the next general Association." This was accordingly done, and the result was, that the general Association at their session in 1792, drew up a petition to the General Assembly of the State, for a general contribution thro'out the State for the purpose of supporting missionaries to the new settlements, to be appointed by the general Association, and of supplying the pulpits of the missionaries during their absence from their respective congregations. This petition was preferred and granted in the October following. To inform or remind the people of the several societies of the State, of the act of the Legislature concerning the contribution, and to favour the charitable design, his Excellency the Governor was pleased to issue his proclamation. The result was, that the following sums were contributed by the several societies mentioned in the following account, viz.

In the County of Hartford.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.	
Hartford, first society,	12	3	-6	Worthington,	1	16	-2	
South society,	3	12	-10	New-Britain,	1	16	-8	
West do.	3	1	-3	Suffield,	4	9	-7	
East-Hartford,	7	10	-0	West-Suffield	1	16	-0	
Glastenbury,	5	19	-8	Wethersfield,	9	7	-6 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Simsbury,	2	17	-0	Newington,	2	11	-4	
West-Simsbury,	1	1	-9	Stepney,	2	18	-2 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Farmington,	3	11	-2	Granby,	1	1	-0 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Northampton,	0	18	-10 $\frac{1}{4}$	Brittol, Cambridge,	1	17	-6	
Windfor, first society,	2	0	-1 $\frac{1}{2}$	West-Britain,	0	15	-10 $\frac{1}{4}$	
North-Windfor,	2	6	-0	East-Windfor,	6	15	-0	
Wintonbury,	1	0	-5 $\frac{1}{2}$	North-Society,	3	0	-4 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Southington,	0	18	-0					
Farmingbury,	0	9	-0					
Berlin, (Kensington)	1	6	-4					
					£.	87	-1	-3 $\frac{1}{2}$

In the County of New-Haven.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.	
New-Haven, 1st society,	2	0	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	Guilford, first society,	4	8	0	
White-Haven society,	3	18	5	North-Guilford,	2	5	10	
The College,	3	10	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	4th soc. in Guilford,	0	7	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	
West-Haven,	1	6	3	East-Guilford,	1	16	0	
Episcopal society,	1	1	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Branford,	1	7	0	
North-Haven,	3	0	0	North-Branford,	1	13	4	
Derby, first society,	3	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	Northford,	1	9	10	
Oxford,	2	10	5	Waterbury,	0	11	2	
Great-Hill, in Derby,	0	17	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	Salem,	1	5	0 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Milford, first society,	4	15	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	Middlebury,	0	15	11 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Second society in do.	2	6	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Durham,	1	7	6	
Cheshire,	3	10	8 $\frac{1}{2}$					
East-Haven,	1	1	5					
Woodbridge, Amity,	2	12	1 $\frac{3}{4}$					
					£.	52	17	8 $\frac{1}{2}$

In the County of New-London.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.	
New-London,	5	5	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	Marlborough,	2	8	0	
Norwich, first society,	3	12	0	West-Chester,	2	12	8	
Chelsea,	6	16	0	Lyme,	1	15	3	
Episcopal Church do.	0	3	0	North society in do.	3	2	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Preston,	0	16	0	Groton,	1	1	11 $\frac{1}{4}$	
North-Preston,	7	7	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	Franklin,	2	14	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Lisbon,	1	18	10	Bozrah,	1	13	0	
Newent,	1	9	0	Stonington-Point,	4	16	0	
Montville,	2	2	10 $\frac{1}{2}$					
Colchester,	4	0	0					
					£.	53	15	0 $\frac{3}{4}$

In the County of Fairfield.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.	
Fairfield,	1	1	7	Northfield,	2	8	1 ¹ / ₂	
Greenfield,	2	8	0	Greenwich, West soc.	3	6	4 ¹ / ₂	
Green's Farms,	0	19	10 ¹ / ₄	Baptist society in do.	0	3	9	
Norwalk,	3	11	11 ¹ / ₂	Danbury,	1	9	3	
Canaan in do.	4	11	1	Bethel,	0	13	3	
Stratford,	1	17	1	New-Fairfield, N. soc.	0	18	0	
North-Stratford,	1	7	6 ¹ / ₂	South society in do.	1	4	1 ¹ / ₂	
Stratfield,	1	13	1	Reading,	1	16	0	
Stamford & Greenwich	4	10	5 ¹ / ₂	Ridgbury,	2	6	7 ¹ / ₄	
Stanwich,	1	15	1	Huntington, Ripton,	1	13	9	
Middlesex,	1	3	1	New-Stratford,	2	10	0	
Brookfield,	2	10	4 ¹ / ₂					
Weston, Norfield,	0	13	10 ¹ / ₂					
					£.	46	12	3 ³ / ₄

In the County of Windham.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.	
Windham,	1	9	5	North-Woodstock,	3	6	9	
Scotland,	2	5	10 ¹ / ₂	Ashford,	1	7	11	
Hampton,	4	4	2	Westford,	0	13	4	
Brooklyn,	2	2	2 ¹ / ₄	Mansfield,	3	2	10 ³ / ₄	
Lebanon,	5	4	3 ¹ / ₂	North society in do.	1	2	9	
Goshen in do.	4	2	9 ¹ / ₂	Plainfield,	1	19	0	
Canterbury,	0	19	5 ¹ / ₂	Voluntown, first soci.	1	6	8	
Westminster	1	11	4	Abington,	0	14	3	
Woodstock,	1	17	1					
West society in do.	0	10	2 ¹ / ₂					
					£.	38	0	4 ¹ / ₂

In the County of Litchfield.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.	
Litchfield,	2	14	9	Bethlem,	4	13	0	
Southfarms in do.	1	16	2 ¹ / ₂	Winchester,	1	14	7	
Goshen,	4	0	7 ¹ / ₂	Harwinton,	2	1	1 ¹ / ₂	
Watertown, Westbury	1	17	1 ¹ / ₂	Hartland,	3	18	7	
Northbury,	0	17	8	Second society in do.	1	19	0	
Torrington,	2	3	6	Canaan,	1	4	0	
Torrington,	3	14	0	Second society in do.	0	19	2 ¹ / ₂	
New-Hartford,	2	1	10 ¹ / ₄	Warren,	2	2	9	
Woodbury,	2	2	5 ³ / ₄	Norfolk,	3	2	2	
Roxbury,	0	15	3 ¹ / ₂	Southbury,	3	2	1	
Cornwall,	1	10	0	Kent,	2	14	8	
Washington, Judea,	2	8	1					
New-Preston,	1	11	11					
Sharon,	1	3	0					
					£.	56	7	8

In

In the County of Middlesex.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.	
Middletown,	2	7	8½	Killingworth,	1	3	0	
Westfield,	1	1	6	North society,	2	8	8	
Saybrook,	1	5	4	Haddam,	0	19	6	
Chester,	1	4	0	East-Haddam,	2	14	6	
2d society,	0	13	6½	Millington,	3	12	0½	
3d society,	0	16	11½	Hadlyme,	2	2	1	
Chatham,	2	14	1					
2d society,	0	16	2½					
3d society,	0	6	4½					
					£.	24	5	6

In the County of Tolland.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.	
Tolland,	4	17	11					
Somers,	2	5	2					
Do.	0	6	0					
Coventry,	1	5	0½					
North society,	1	9	2					
Andover,	1	12	3	Brought forward,	46	12	3¾	
Ellington,	1	2	10½		53	15	0½	
Stafford, first society,	1	3	0		52	17	8½	
Gilead in Hebron,	1	2	0¼		87	1	3¼	
Bolton,	4	0	0					
North society,	2	9	9½					
					£.	380	13	1¼
	£.	21	13	2¾				

Errors excepted.

A generous contribution having furnished the means, the general Association, at their next session, viz. in June 1793, proceeded to appoint the missionaries. And as they foresaw, that the missionaries, beside preaching the gospel, would have to administer the seals of the covenant, when there should be opportunity and proper subjects, and in some instances to gather and organize churches, and perhaps to ordain ministers; also as it is one principal object of the missions to impress on the inhabitants of the new settlements, a sense of the importance of the stated enjoyment of the preaching of the gospel and other means of grace, and to persuade them to exert themselves to this end; and as candidates and unsettled ministers cannot with so good a grace inculcate this duty; therefore the general Association judged it best, to send, for the most part, ministers settled in our own churches. They accordingly appointed the following eight gentlemen, the Rev'd Messrs David Huntington, Aaron Ruhamah Robbins, Benjamin Trumbull, Samuel John Mills, Cotton Mather Smith, Joseph Vail, Nathan Williams and Samuel Ellis. Of these Messrs Trumbull and Williams immediately declined the mission, and the general Association appointed the Rev'd Messrs Theodore Hinckdale & Moses Cook Welch in their stead; and voted, that "the missionaries shall spend four months in their missions, and that they be allowed

“lowed four dollars and a half per week, over and above four dollars for the supply of their pulpits during their absence.” They also voted, “That President Stiles, Messrs Nathan Williams and Benjamin Trumbull, Doctor Edwards and Thomas Wells Bray, be a Committee to draw up a plan of the missions and an address to the people of the new settlements, to fill up the places of those gentlemen who may fail of fulfilling the missions to which they are appointed; and if they judge it expedient, to publish at some convenient time before the first of May next, an account of the receipts and expenditures of the moneys contributed, and a narrative of the missions: any three or more of them to act.”

Of the missionaries appointed by the general Association, the Rev'd Theodore Hindale and Moses Cook Welch failed; and the Committee at different times appointed the Rev'd Benjamin Wildman, Aaron Kinne, David Tullar, William Lyman, Samuel Nott, John Sheperd, Jeremiah Day, Noah Merwin, Peter Starr and Benjamin Woolter. Of these Benjamin Wildman, David Tullar, William Lyman, Samuel Nott, Jeremiah Day & Noah Merwin failed. The missionaries, who have actually gone forth in this service, are David Huntington, Ammi Ruhamah Robbins, Samuel John Mills, Cotton Mather Smith, Samuel Eells, Aaron Kinne, John Sheperd, Peter Starr & Benjamin Woolter.

At the motion of some of the missionaries, it was agreed by the Committee, that the missionaries may, if they choose, divide the tour of four months; but that they be paid once only for the time spent in going to and from the scene of their labours in the new settlements.

Agreeably to the direction of the general Association, the Committee drew up a short address to the inhabitants of the new settlements, exhibiting the occasion and design of our sending missionaries among them, and requesting them to receive them in a proper manner, and in general to coincide with the design. The missionaries were directed to read and disperse the copies of this address in the new settlements.

The expenditure of the moneys contributed, so far as they have been expended, is as follows:

		£.	s.	d.
June 20, 1793.	} Advanced to Rev'd Mr. Robbins previously to his entering on his mission,	6	0	0
July 3.		Do. to Rev'd Mr. Huntington,	3	12
22.	Do. to Rev'd Mr. Eells,	1	10	0
24.	Paid Messrs Greens' for printing 500 copies of an address to the inhabitants of the new settlements,	1	5	0
Aug. 7.	Advanced to Rev'd Mr. Eells,	4	10	0
Sept. 11.	Do. to Rev'd Mr. Mills,	5	9	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Paid Rev'd Mr. Robbins toward his expenses as a missionary,	12	15	0
		<hr/>		
		£. 35	1	8 $\frac{1}{2}$

Brought forward,	-	-	-	-	-	£.	35	1	8½	
Oct. 23.	Paid Rev'd Mr. Eells in full of the balance due to him at 4½ dollars a week for his services hitherto as a missionary, & 4 dollars a week for the supply of his pulpit,	-	-	-	-		13	16	0	
	Paid Rev'd Mr. Smith his due at the same rates,	-	-	-	-		21	15	0	
Nov. 8.	Paid Rev'd Mr. Mills the remainder of his due for services hitherto performed as a missionary, at 4½ dollars a week, and 4 dollars a week for supply of his pulpit,	-	-	-	-		14	18	3½	
	Paid Mr. Robbins toward his services, &c.	-	-	-	-		4	10	0	
	Paid Mr. Sheperd toward his services & the supply of his pulpit,	-	-	-	-		18	0	0	
Nov. 15.	Paid Mr. Huntington the remainder of his due for service and supply of his pulpit,	-	-	-	-		40	11	6	
1794,	} Paid Mr. Kinne in full for his service and the supply of his pulpit,	-	-	-	-		43	7	0	
Jan'ry 23.										
							<hr/>			
							£.	191	19	6

The sums above mentioned, are all which the Committee has as yet disbursed. Several of the missionaries have not as yet returned from the service. If they, according to the vote of the general Association, fulfill the term of four months, their wages and the pay for the supply of their pulpits, will somewhat exceed the amount of the whole contribution, and in this case the deficiency will be paid out of the next contribution. But as some of the missionaries will probably thro' want of health not perform the whole tour of duty appointed by the general Association; it is expected that the contribution already made will afford a sufficiency to fulfill the several contracts made by the Committee.

Immediately after the session of the General Association, their committee met, and desired the Rev'd Mr. Robbins to proceed, as soon as possible, to Whitestown, and visit the vacant settlements in that part of the State of New-York.

He was instructed to ordain ministers, gather churches, catechise children and attend all ministerial labours, as providence should give him opportunity. On the 3d of July he proceeded on his mission, and in three days reached the vacant settlements on Mohawk river. In his tour out and in he visited Bowman's-Creek, Westmoreland, Whiteborough, Clinton, Brothertown, German-Flats, forts Schuyler & Stanwix, and many other places. He not only preached in the settlements on the river, but went north and south and preached in as many others as the time allotted him would permit. He went northward as far as baron Stuben's settlement. He administered the sacrament of the Lord's supper at Clinton, and attended a fast at Westmoreland previous to the ordination of Mr. Joel Bradley. He afterwards attended

tended his ordination, and preached on the occasion. At six different times and places, he catechised and instructed the children; attended a number of religious conferences and preached eighteen or twenty times, in the term of about five weeks. He also baptized a number of children, in several places, and visited many sick and distressed people in the settlements through which he travelled.

Agreeably to the direction of the committee, he made a tour, in October, into the vacant settlements north of Albany. He preached at Lansingburg, Saratoga-Springs, New-Galloway, Palmer and fort Edward. He proceeded up Hudson's river as far as the Bend. Afterwards he went towards fort Ann; preached at Kingsbury, Wood-Creek, Orwell, Sharon, Addison, Fair-Haven, Skeensborough, and various other places. At Paulet he attended an ordination and preached on the occasion. In this as well as in his other tour he visited many sick people. Some were on the borders of eternity, whom he instructed and comforted in their last hours. At this time he was four weeks on his mission, and preached twenty five times, besides catechising children and other ministerial services. Once he preached in the house of a pious woman, under uncommon trials, who had not heard a sermon or prayer in twelve months.

Mr. Huntington left home in prosecution of his mission on the 17th of July, and according to the appointment of the committee, made his tour from Catskill westward to New-Durham, Harpersfield, the settlements on Susquehannah, and as far westward as Tioga-point, about two hundred miles from the Catskill. On Saturday the 20th he reached Catskill, and on the Sabbath preached to a very attentive assembly. The next day he visited their schools and catechized their children; *took great pains* to impress their minds with a sense of the importance of early piety. In his journey through this extensive country he visited the settlements already mentioned, Hampden on the Ouleout, Walton, Ogden, the settlements on Unadilla and the upper Chenango, preached, held conferences, and catechised the children as opportunities presented. He visited and preached at Onohoquagee, at Union and Choconut on and in the vicinity of Susquehannah. On the 12th of September he arrived at a settlement on the Chemung, preached, and in the evening rode down the river seven miles to Tioga point.

This is formed by the confluence of the rivers Chemung and Susquehannah, and is a fine pleasant settlement, in the county of Luzern, in the state of Pennsylvania. He had now reached the extremity of his journey, and was about three hundred miles from his family and flock.

After preaching at the point and visiting the pious people, on his return he visited and preached at Ransom's Inn on Susquehannah, at Owego and the settlements on the upper and lower forks of Chenango. He rode through an almost impervious wilderness, to general Patterson's settlement. This was of about two years standing, and there had never been a sermon preached in it before. The general highly applauded the design

design of sending missionaries and the charity of the good people of Connecticut. He proceeded down as far south as the Great Bend, in Pennsylvania, in the county of Luzern. He rode through the wilderness and preached at Randolph. Besides, he revisited and preached at most of the places on his return, at which he had before preached. He gathered a church at Hampden, on the Oulcut, consisting of twenty-eight members, and administered the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's supper.

He gathered another church, consisting of forty two members, at Walton, and administered the sacraments. He preached at New-Stamford and another settlement on the Delaware, at Woodstock and several other places. In this tour of four months he preached about sixty times, gathered, or admitted into church communion seventy-seven persons. Seven were admitted to full communion at Harpersfield. The greatest part of these had never been in communion before. He baptized one adult person and fifty-nine children. He attended a considerable number of religious conferences, visited many sick and some dying people, attended funerals and preached on those mournful occasions. He probably rode between seven and eight hundred miles.

Mr. Smith was directed to make a tour through the Western part of the state of Vermont. He left Sharon the 6th of August and arrived at West-Haven the next Saturday. On the Lord's day he preached in that town, to a numerous assembly. The week was spent in visiting the neighbouring towns, and in preaching at Hampton in the state of New-York, then at Castleton, twice at Hubberton, then at Benson. Returned to West-Haven, preached on the Lord's day and administered the sacrament of the Lord's supper. He then proceeded northward, preached at Shoram, *Brid-port*, Addison, Panton, gathered a church and preached five times at Vergennes. He preached at Charlotte, Shelburn, Burlington Bay, Milton, Georgia, Fairfax, Essex, Williston, East-Williston, New-Haven and New-Haven gore. On his return he preached at Sunderland. He catechised the children and administered baptism as opportunity presented. He was two months on his mission and preached forty-four times.

Mr. Eells began his journey, in prosecution of his mission, on the 17th of August, and agreeably to the directions of the committee, proceeded by the way of Albany and visited the new towns and settlements north-westward towards lake Ontario as far as there were any, and the various settlements north and south of the Mohawk river. In this tract there are between twenty and thirty towns and settlements. Most of these he visited, preached to them, catechising children and giving christian advice, as occasion and opportunity presented. There are six settlements north and northeast of fort Stanwix, and others forming nearly as far up as the lake. He then returned to fort Stanwix and visited the settlements on Oriskany creek and as far as Oneida lake, and the Mohawk tribe southwest of the

the lake. Thence he returned and visited the settlements south of New-Hartford and Clinton, fort Schuyler and the settlements between the fort and German Flats, on the south side of Mohawk river. He crossed the river to fort Dayton, and visited the settlements in that vicinity. Either as he went out or returned, he visited Freehold, Johnstown, Conajoharry, Fort Plain, Bowman's Creek, Cherry-valley, Mohawk church, Little falls and Royal Grant.

On the whole, he visited between twenty and thirty settlements, attended an ordination at Clinton, preached and gave the charge;—formed a church at Whitestown, laid the foundation for a church at Wright's settlement, north of fort Stanwix, examined and admitted eleven persons to covenant with GOD, baptized one adult and twenty children. He was absent from his people fifty-four days and preached about thirty times.

At the earnest request of Mr. Sergeant, missionary to the Indians of New-Stockbridge, and of the Indians themselves, he attended an important service in compromising difficulties, which had for a considerable time, subsisted in that place. The Indians had been exceedingly divided among themselves, and their affections had been so alienated from each other, that part of Mr. Sergeant's church had separated and formed a distinct church under the late Mr. Occum. But hearing that Mr. Eells was missionary from the General Association of Connecticut, they at once conceived a high esteem and veneration of him, and submitted all their difficulties to him. He conducted their matters with such wisdom as to reunite the two churches under the Reverend Mr. Sergeant, and brought several delinquents to a sense of their duty, and to make their peace with the church. He was also a means of settling animosities subsisting in the town, and of harmonizing the affections of the inhabitants as well as of the members of the church. While he was on this service, he delivered two public exhortations daily, to the general approbation of the christian Indians, as manifested by their public thanks.

Mr. Mills set out on the business of his mission, on the 18th of September, and visited the northern settlements in the state of Vermont, above Newbury and east of the mountain, together with the settlements in New-Hampshire contiguous to Connecticut river. From Newbury to Canada line is eighty miles, in which tract there is not one settled minister. Mr. Mills found such an opening for ministerial labours, when he came upon the ground, that he engaged Mr. Benjamin Wooster, a candidate, who had been regularly examined and approbated by the association of the Western district of the county of New-Haven, to assist him. They travelled up to the line, preached at Ryegate, Littleton, Lunenburg, Guildhall, & Lemington, on the Vermont side of the river; and at Bath, Lyman, Littleton, Lancaster, Northumberland, Stratford, Colebrook and other places on the east side, in New-Hampshire. They then rode back, down the river, about fifty miles upon the same road by which they went up, as there was no road higher up the river by which they could pass into the vacant settlements in Vermont. They then

passed through St. Johnsbury, into Danvil, Peacham, Cabott, Hardwick, Wheelock, Greenborough, Minden, Wolcott, Hydespark, Johnston, Cambridge, Fairfax, Westford, Essex, Underhill, Jericho, Bolton, Waterbury, Middlesex, Montpelier, Wilder-borough, Washington, Corinth and Bradford. They travelled about eight hundred miles in two months and passed over nearly three hundred miles of vacant ground, in which they found no ministers. Says Mr. Mills, "I preached between forty and fifty times, and Mr. Wooster between thirty and forty; and generally to very attentive congregations. "There were hopeful appearances in one place and another, "and we had great opportunity for doing good." From the time they left Torrington till they returned, they were on their horses every day, the LORD'S DAY excepted.

On the account of an unusual concern for the salvation of the soul, at Cambridge and Fairfax, and because sectaries were zealously exerting themselves, the *missionaries* went farther to the westward than was expected. In consequence of this they fell in with one settled minister, Mr. Kingbury of Jericho, who was the only one in the whole tract over which they passed above Newbury.

Sometimes Mr. Mills and Mr. Wooster were together, at other times they took different routs, visited different towns, and warned lectures for each other: So that in this way some places were favored with two, some with three, and others with four sermons. Notwithstanding all their exertions and diligence they were obliged to pass some settlements both on the right hand and left without visiting them.

Mr. Kinne, whose tour was from Whitestown through all the Genesee country, and as far south as Tioga point, set out on his mission September 25th, and on Saturday evening arrived at Nobletown. Lord's day, 29th, preached twice in the meeting house, and an evening lecture in another part of the town. By reason of the thirst of the people, and their importunity to hear the word, in the new settlements, he preached 10 or 12 times before he reached the country of his destination. He then proceeded to visit all the towns, *on the Genesee road* from Deanville to Genesee river, with such north and south of the road as were a proper object of his mission.

He visited Brothertown, Oneida, Canaseraga, Manlius, Pompey, Buck's Hovel, Camillus, and other settlements in their vicinity. He proceeded to Scipio, and preached at this and other towns on the Cayuga lake. He then prosecuted his journey to Ulysses, and Salmon Creek. Thence returning to Milton and Scipio, and as far as Cuyuga ferry, he crossed and proceeded to Romulus, and preached at Appletown and Peach Orchard about the middle of the east bank of the Canasadago or Seneca lake. He visited Geneva, Old-Castle, Canandarqua, Swift's-town, *Whitef-town* on Muddy Creek, Boughtontown, Ballstown, Curtistown, Miles's Gore, Canawagas, Norton's and other settlements on, & about the Canandarqua lake. He then proceeded southward to Watkinstown and Bath, preached at both places. On the whole he visited about fifty towns and settlements in this tract of

of country. He then proceeded southward to the Painted Post. This is eighteen miles from Bath, and about the same distance from Tioga point.

From this famous Indian monument, Mr. Kinne proceeded to Tioga Point. In his Tour from Whiteflown to this place, he spent eighty-eight days and preached eighty times, besides conversing with the people, and advising and assisting them in respect to the formation of churches, and in writing confessions of faith and covenants for that purpose. In some places in which he preached, there had never before been an instance of public worship. He preached at the point, at Horsehead, Fryburg, Sheshequin and Chemung Flats in its vicinity. At some of these he preached two and three times.

On his return, he preached at Owego, Choconut, Chenango, Onohoquage, Unadilla, Ouleout, Franklin, Schoharry kill, at a settlement north of New-Durham and at the Catskill. In the whole, besides other services, he preached more than a hundred times. He says, "I found it indeed a laborious service, making a journey of more than thirteen hundred miles, a greater part of which was not performed without great fatigue, sometimes exposing the solitary traveller to immediate danger, refusing seasonable refreshments, and denying necessary repose to his weary limbs: yet it gave me opportunity to preach the unsearchable riches of CHRIST to thousands of souls, which it is not probable I shall see again until I meet them in eternity. I was universally received with kindness and treated with respect, and at the time that their minds were exhilarated with the manner and design of my coming among them, and apparently filled with admiration and gratitude for the Christian attention and liberality of the people of Connecticut, they joyfully embraced the opportunity of attending religious worship, and exerted themselves to give notice of the time and place; and for their embarrassed and difficult situation generally attended." He represents that the assemblies and individuals whom he addressed might be divided into three general classes. "First, those who behaved with attention and decency; the next, those whose minds appeared to be filled with serious meditations on divine subjects; and then those who were sensibly affected with the exhibition and application of evangelical truth. Poor souls! O the flowing tears! Nor did I take my leave of them without being intreated, and that with undeniable importunity, that they might in future, possess an interest in the attention and charitable assistance of their christian brethren."

In all the assemblies to which he preached, he saw but a single instance of indecency. In one instance only did the people neglect to give notice of his mission and to assemble at his desire for public worship. This was at the Painted Post.

In all places which the missionaries have visited they have introduced themselves by reading the Address of the committee of the general association, exhibiting the charitable designs of the legislature, of the general association and good people of Connecticut, and the duties to which they wished them to attend.

attend. This was generally received with joy and approbation, many on the reading of it were melted into tears. The missionaries report in their journals, extracts from which they have laid before us, That the people to whom they have preached have given remarkable attention, have hung upon their lips, been *swallowed up with the word*. Says one, "I preached to a numerous audience, who gave remarkable attention, and appeared well pleased with what the General Association had done, in sending missionaries into the new settlements. And indeed this was the case wherever I preached: the people universally expressed, not only, their approbation of what had been done for them, by their brethren of Connecticut, but also requested that their thanks be returned to the General Association and their Committee, for their benevolent exertions in their behalf. In many instances the people manifested their approbation and gratitude in writing; and those who did not write, requested me to return their thanks verbally." Another has this minute, They seemed to hear with avidity. Read the circular letter again. "It has been my practice to read this letter every sabbath day where it had not been communicated before, and frequently on lecture days. This has been acceptable, and, I doubt not, beneficial, in various respects, to the inhabitants of this country. Some have been so gratified with the serious counsels and affectionate exhortations which it contains that they have desired me to read it twice in one day and to the same assembly." In the journals of others are these testimonies, "We were kindly received. We came upon the people, rather on surprise, as they had generally heard nothing, and they knew not what to say. To be called upon by your address, and by us as we were able; to be informed what had been done by the State of Connecticut, and that the pious people were daily offering fervent cries to heaven for them, made deep impressions on the serious people, and brought tears into the eyes of many others. The people universally, so far as I could see and hear, accept our exertions with great thankfulness, and appear to rejoice that they may have opportunities for religious instruction."

By the charitable contributions made the last year, and the measures adopted by the general association, the gospel has been preached through that vast tract of country from the northwestern parts of New-Hampshire as far west as Genesee river, and down as far southwesterly as the Great Bend in the state of Pennsylvania. The missionaries have been as far north in the States of New Hampshire and Vermont as the Canada line. In the State of New York they have been north as far as Crown Point, and northwesterly as far as fort Stanwix and Baron Stuben's settlement. Most of the new settlements, westward of the Hudson as far as Genesee river and south of the Mohawk river as far as the state of Pennsylvania, have repeatedly heard the word preached, and abundant thanksgivings have been given to the name of the LORD, through those extensive regions, in consequence of the measures which have been taken.

taken. The wilderness has indeed been made to rejoice and the solitary place to be glad.

Besides, we expect further good to be done in consequence of the contribution. Mr. Shephard is now out on his Mission of four months, he was directed to go over the same extensive country, over which Mr. Kinne passed. Also Mr. Robbins is now gone on his third tour in company with Mr. Starr.

It is expected that they will visit the northwestern part of Vermont, and the northeastern part of the State of New York, as far up as the northern boundary of the United States. As these gentlemen have not returned from their respective tours, we are not able to give any particular account of them.

The committee have received numerous letters of thanks from various parts of the new countries expressing the most lively sentiments of gratitude to the Legislature, the General Association & the people of Connecticut, for the charitable measures adopted in behalf of them and their children. A large proportion of these are from the State of Vermont. One in particular is from the Association of ministers in the south western part of that State, addressed to the General Association and their Committee. In this they say, "Impressed with the most lively sentiments of gratitude, we feel ourselves bound to express our feelings, in a letter of thanks addressed to your Reverend body, for the benevolent and timely attention which you have shewn to the religious interests of the people in this infant part of our country.—For your interesting and feeling address to the inhabitants of the new settlements in the northern and western parts of the United States; and your sending missionaries from your body to itinerate and preach the gospel among them, to gather and organize churches and assist them in their spiritual concerns." They represent that vacant congregations are many and the labourers few; and "pray the LORD of the harvest to send forth labourers, and crown our liberality and disinterested services with the sublimest reward."

We find by the journals of the missionaries, that great numbers of the new settlements, who have not sent letters of thanks, have, by their principal men returned abundant thanks to the missionaries, and desired that they would, in their names, present them to the Legislature, the General Association and the people of Connecticut, for their benevolent attention to their spiritual interests. They have also with great importunity requested the continuance of our charitable exertions for their instruction and consolation. The joy of some of the good people, especially where churches were gathered and the sacraments administered, can hardly be described. Their hearts appeared replete with the joys of their REDEEMER, and their lips were filled with his praise. It is related by one of the missionaries, That to them "the word of the Lord was precious, and the feet of those who published good tidings of good were beautiful; and were it possible, they would pluck out their eyes and give them to regular, godly ministers."

Numbers of such precious characters are to be found even in the loosest settlements, in which there is in general the least attention to the concerns of religion. Some of their principal characters have subscribed twenty, and twenty five pounds annually, for the purpose of procuring and supporting a regular ministry, and yet have not been able to obtain this desirable blessing.

Such has been the engagedness of the people to hear the word that they have travelled seven, eight and ten miles, and in some instances more, only to hear a sermon. Even the feeble sex have been seen travelling barefoot, through rough roads, a considerable distance, to attend divine worship.

The missionaries were directed to obtain as accurate a state of the countries through which they passed, as might be, and to note all the settlements worthy of notice, their distances from each other and number of inhabitants, that the General Association and their committee might have the most particular and accurate accounts of the new settlements, for their future direction and assistance. In consequence of this, the committee are able to lay before the public more particular information of their state, than they ever were before. The missionaries from what they have seen, are more and more convinced, and from the information they have given us, we ourselves are more deeply impressed with a sense of the importance, excellency and utility of sending missionaries into the new settlements.

The destitute state of that extensive territory north of Newbury, on both sides of the river, in the States of New-Hampshire and Vermont has been represented. In other parts of the State of Vermont the people are miserably destitute of the means of instruction. Mr. Smith was informed by some of the principal men in the State, That in the county of Chittenden there are twenty eight settled towns, and only three regular ministers. in the county of Addison there are twelve settled towns and but one settled minister : in the county of Rutland there are twenty and but a few ministers. In most places the settlements are so new, and the inhabitants so divided in sentiment, that they are not able, at present, to support a settled ministry. In some few towns the people are both able and willing to support a regular ministry, but are not able to find suitable persons.

The settlements on Hudson's river, above Sarratoga, and as far as South bay ; north and south of lake George, at Crown Point and other places west of Lake Champlain ; are as destitute of instruction, as those mentioned in the state of Vermont.

In all that tract of country west of Schenectada, on Mohawk river, and so on as far westward as lake Ontario there are few ministers of any denomination.

In the tract west of the Hudson, and south of the Mohawk river as far as Tioga, there are next to none. The new settlements in this extensive tract contain from 3, to 80 families. In fifty towns or settlements there are not more than a thousand families, five or six thousand souls. The whole were they all collected together would not exceed ten or twelve middling parishes

parishes in Connecticut. On an average they do not exceed about twenty families in a settlement.

It is easily discernible, that it is not in the power of such settlements to build houses for public worship and support a regular ministry. The most which they can do, at present, is for a number of settlements to form a combination for the support of a candidate to preach circuitously among them, for part of the year. In some of the settlements either such combinations are formed or laudable exertions are making for them. In five or six of the largest settlements churches have been formed, either by Mr. Huntington, or by Mr. Judd a missionary from the General Assembly of the presbyterian church.

The inhabitants of the new settlements in the Genesee country are principally, either directly or indirectly from New-England, and retain the spirit and manners of their native states, their reverence for the sabbath, their zeal for religious worship, and their decency of attendance, their attention to literature and civilization, and their attachment to the privileges of society. At the same time they are industrious and economical. How important is it to keep alive and invigorate this taste and these habits ! To fix and transmit them to posterity ! As nothing can have a more direct tendency to this, than sending missionaries among them, to instruct them in the things of the kingdom of CHRIST, to press them to family religion, domestic and all social duties, and, by the divine smiles, to make them truly and eternally good and happy ; nothing can be more important and interesting, either in a civil or religious view. Sober, industrious, frugal citizens are the strength and glory of *States*. They have the happiest influence on the wealth, population, literature, peace, health and vigor of a people ; on civil and religious liberty and whatever can make a nation honorable, formidable or happy.

What has been observed with respect to these settlements is, in some measure applicable to all the new settlements, both in the northern and western parts of the United States. A large proportion of the new settlers were from New-England, and many were from this state, our neighbours and fellow christians ; nay, our sons and daughters. To prevent their falling into error, a state of dissipation and forgetfulness of GOD, to cherish their good feelings & habits, to beget new ones, to instruct & animate them, till they shall be able to settle churches and a regular ministry among them, would be doing them and their posterity the most essential and lasting services. It would lay a foundation for immense happiness both natural and moral. It would be performing a most important service for the States, and what is still infinitely more, may be the means of the salvation of many souls, more valuable than a world, not only in the present age, but in the ages to come, and of endless revenues of praise to our COMMON FATHER and REDEEMER.

We present these facts to the public eye, persuading ourselves, that nothing more than this plain statement of matters, will be necessary to afford abundant conviction of the importance and utility of continuing to send forth our missionaries,
and

and to excite the charity of our good people, for that benevolent purpose. This is the only way in which the new settlements can be, in any tolerable measure, supplied with a preached gospel and the administration of its precious ordinances, and the important designs above suggested carried into execution.

The tract of country through which the new and vacant settlements are forming, in the northern and western parts of the United States, is very extensive. Never was there a happier opening for Zion, "To enlarge the place of her tent, to stretch forth the curtains of her habitations, to lengthen her cords and strengthen her stakes." What a glorious service must it be, to plant regular churches and ministers, to promote christian morals and diffuse the blessings of literature, civilization, regular society and undefiled religion, in the initial settlements through such extensive countries. We persuade ourselves that the prospect before us will excite and animate our christian brethren, and that they will count themselves happy liberally to contribute to so pious and benevolent a design. It will not escape their reflection what refreshment and joy it will give to thousands of their fellow Christians in the wilderness. They will reflect on the numerous thanksgivings which will be offered to their common Father, on that account, and how many prayers may be addressed to HIM by their fellow disciples, for blessings on them and their children. They will place themselves in the circumstances of their brethren, in a wilderness, without public instruction, in a great measure without good books, and consider how welcome sermons, and sacraments, ministerial visitations, instructions, and consolations in affliction, would be to them; and surely they will rejoice at an opportunity, to contribute to these happy purposes. We are taught to pray without ceasing, "Thy kingdom come," but who, with any sincerity or consistency, can make this prayer, while he neglects the means and opportunities of advancing this kingdom?

We are persuaded that in these views even the societies, who did not contribute the last year, will regret their neglect, and labour not to come behind their brethren, by their more abundant charity in future.

All our good people will recollect, That "the liberal deviseth liberal things, and that by liberal things shall he stand: That the liberal soul shall be made fat; and he that watereth shall be watered also himself. He which soweth sparingly, shall also reap sparingly: and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." It is the character of the man whom the LORD blesseth, "He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth forever."

EZRA STILES,
 BENJAMIN TRUMBULL, } Committee of the
 THOMAS WELLS BRAY, } General Association.
 JONATHAN EDWARDS, }

The Committee, as has been observed, have received from the new settlements, many letters expressive of their gratitude to the people of Connecticut, to the General Assembly and to the General Association. As a specimen we publish the one sent by Baron Steuben and the settlers on his patent, which is as follows :

*To the Honorable the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut,
And the Reverend General Association in Connecticut,*

WE the inhabitants of the patent of Steuben, would return you our most sincere and hearty thanks, for the kind care you have taken of us, in sending us a Missionary to preach the gospel to us, in this our infant settlement in the wilderness ; whereby we have been favour'd with an excellent sermon this day, by the Rev'd Mr. Eells ; and as we are now the inhabitants of another state, (tho' some of us were from New-England) we hope we shall not forget nor desert the religion, the manners or cause of the New-England states.

Steuben, September 3d, 1793.

Steuben,
David Starr,
Samuel Sizer,
Abraham Brooks,
John Platt,
Simeon Woodruff,
Gaim Morgan,
William Case,
Stephen Cornish,
Aaron Francis,
Eli Sizer,
Ebenezer Weeks.

Steuben, Sept. 4, 1793.







