

for the silence which the Lord had now imposed.

Most unfeignedly would I adopt the sentiment of the weeping Prophet, "I will bear the indignation of the Lord, because I have sinned against Him".

But in writing thus, I do not for a moment wish you to understand that I have any doubts of conscience respecting the substance of my ministry or the slightest wish to modify those statements of Gospel truth, to which you have been accustomed to lend a willing ear, for in this respect I can truly affirm that I have not shunned to declare unto you, all the counsel of God; Those great truths so unflinchingly proclaimed & so surely believed amongst us - such as the Electing love of God the Father, the substitutionary obedience of God the Son, and the efficacious grace of God the Spirit, - as ensuring to the weakest believer in Jesus a full free & everlasting salvation, - together with the perfect warrant which the Gospel affords to the very chief of sinners, to lay hold on Christ & all his saving benefits - these Dear brethren are doctrines precious to me as ever, constituting the only foundation of my own hope of eternal life, & the great principles on which I trust my future ministrations will ever be conducted.

Should it be given me again to preach the word of life amongst you, I have no new doctrine to propound nor any old doctrine to modernize, Christ & his Cross must still be all my theme, and to present every one of you perfect in Christ Jesus must still constitute the scope and end of all my labours. Praying exceedingly in it Dear brethren to your absent Pastor, to hear that you continue to strive together in your prayer to God on his behalf. May these earnest pleadings prevail, &

especially so far as they relate to the more entire
 sanctification of his heart, & the joyous consecration
 of all his energies to the service of your common
 Lord! I trust that through your prayers, I shall
 be given to you again. This however is at present
 a matter on which I find it impossible to speak
 with certainty. We are mutually in the Lord's hands
 & may we have grace to be still; then shall we
 assuredly find that He is "God - even our own"
 "God, who doth not afflict willingly," & who amidst
 the darkest dispensations of His providence, will
 "ever be mindful of His Covenant." To the
 loving care of the God & Father of our Lord Jesus,
 I would most affectionately & devoutly commend
 you, & that a sensible portion of the Spirit's saving
 influence may rest upon all who preach the unsearch-
 -able riches of Christ in your assemblies, & upon all
 who listen to the reconciling word! What more
 appropriate petition can your absent Pastor offer
 than this that great grace may rest upon you all?

With my special love to our beloved & faithful
 Deacons, & sympathetic remembrance to the poor
 & afflicted brethren of Jesus, & to the way-worn
 aged Pilgrims yet tarrying with you on this
 side of the river, I remain Dear brethren
 Your loving yet unworthy Pastor
 Dover Sept. 12. 1855. Ans. Brood.

8th An application from the Jews Society, was
 laid before the Meeting after some discussion,
 it was agreed, that their agent should be allowed
 to visit us, and deliver an address, but to make

no Public Collection for the present.

Brother Shadwell was requested to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Broad's Letter, & to convey to him the assurance of the sympathy of the Church.

517 It was Resolved unanimously to make the Annual Collections for the aged Pilgrims Friends Society, on the first Sabbath in October. The Rev. St. Mills to be invited to preach the Sermons.

March 24th 1856.

518 The following friends were proposed for membership
 Eliza Wilcher — Messrs B. Bodark & Shadwell
 Catharine Burr — — — — — J. Foster & H. Lane
 Amos Shepherd — — — — — Wilson & English
 At the request of Lavinia Laws a letter was addressed to the church meet. in Union Chapel Lorton requesting her dismissal from our fellowship.

Minutes of Church meet. April 9th 1856.

519 Catharine Burr & Amos Shepherd furnished a satisfactory statement of their faith & experience & were rec. into our fellowship —

A Letter was read from the Church at Union Chapel, Lorton honorably dismissing Lavinia Laws to our communion.

520 The accounts of the ch^h were presented reporting a bal^e to hand, say as follows:

On the incidental acc^t — against the ch^h — — — — —
 — — — — — Burial acc^t — in favor of ch^h

It was Resolved that the cordial thanks of the

church be presented to W^m Deever Esq. for his kind attention to the financial affairs of the church during the past year.

521 The following were proposed for membership

Susan Andrews - Messrs B. Dodwell & W^m Foster

Eliza Jenkins — — — — — W. Lane & Woodfield

Mary Bennett — — — — — J^r Foster & Shadwell

522 Thos. Butler & Carry Travill were honorably dismissed to the church in East St. London.

Minutes of Church Meet. April 24. 1856

The minutes of the last meet were read & unopposed.

523 Eliza Wilkhu Susan Andrews - Eliza Jenkins &

Mary Bennett appeared before the church & upon a satisfactory statement of their faith &

experience were admitted to membership.

524 Henry martyr King was dismissed to Scarborough.

Minutes of Church Meet. July 17. 1856

525 The minutes of the last meet were read & unopposed.

A letter of dismission to the church met in Howard Chapel Bedford was applied for & granted in favor of our sister Hannah Brown.

526 It was agreed to make our Annual Collections on behalf of the Aged Pilgrims Society.

527 It was also proposed to hold a special prayer meeting on the evening of Tuesday the 28th inst: on behalf of our village labourers & Habourers.

528 The following friends were proposed for membership

Mary Brown — Messrs B. Shadwell & Wilson

Susan Sexton — — — — — English St. Peter.

Aug. 18th

529 Our brethren Wilson & Dodwell were appointed to unross with David Wilkhu of West Hill

repelling certain reports fully circulated in the neighborhood seriously affecting his religious consistency & to report thereon if possible at our next: near 1846.

⁵³⁰ Elizabeth Weedon of Pylea is proposed for membership & the brethren Wilson & English appear messengers.

Minister of Church Meet: August 21st 1856.

The proceedings were read & confirmed.

⁵³¹ Susan Season - Mary Bevon & Elizabeth Weedon severally appeared before the church & after a satisfactory profession of faith were received into our fellowship.

⁵³² Our br: Wilson reported that in company with our br: Dodwell he had seen David Wilshere who at once admitted that he had been addicted to habit of intoxication - pleading a constitutional necessity for stimulating drink - but evincing no indication of sorrow for past excesses - nor any intention of abandoning a course which had brought great reproach, ^{both} on his ^{own} religious profession, & on the church with which he has been so long identified.

After a due consideration of all the circumstances of this unhappy case it was Resolved unan^{ly}.

That David Wilshere having been addicted for some time past to excessive indulgence in intoxicating liquors whereby he has disgraced his own christian profession, & exposed the religious community with which he stands more immediately connected to the charge of abetting his immoral course - & he the said D. W. failing to exhibit any proper sense of the singularity of his conduct, we feel it to be our solemn although painful duty to

separate him from our fellowship, earnestly praying that God may send him unto repentance, & we do thus declare that David Willshire of Niskfield is no longer a member of this church.

Minutes of Church meet^g Nov: 20. 1856

The minutes of the last meet^g were read & approved.

⁵³³ On the application of Mr. H. Halsey a letter was adopted to the Church in Old St. London requesting their dismissal to our fellowship.

⁵³⁴ Proposed for membership -

Mr. Henry Foster of Hymenitey - Mrs. B. Dodwell & Wilson.

⁵³⁵ It was agreed to make public collections on behalf of the Infirmary on ^{every} Sabbath.

Dec: 25th 1856.

⁵³⁶ The following friends were proposed for membership.

Sarah Ann West } Mrs. B. Dodwell & J. Foster
Elizabeth West }

Mr. Field ————— Backer & R. Lane

Julia Edwards ————— Mrs. Foster & Woodfield

Caroline Frost ————— Shadwell & Thorn

It was agreed to hold our Ann^l Tea meet^g on Thursday last. 1st when the experience of the above candidates for fellowship could be ascertained.

Subsequently proposed for mem^{ts}.

Henry Merritt — Mrs. B. W. Foster & Shadwell.

Minutes of Church Meet^g Jan^y 1. 1857.

537 Julia Edwards - Caroline Frost - Field
Mather
Henry Foster - Sarah Ann West - Emma Elizabeth West

J Henry Merritt severally appeared before the church
& after a satisfactory statement of their faith &
experience were admitted to its fellowship.

538 A letter of dismission or letters of Mr. W^m Peatt
was forw^d to the Baptist ch^h at Highgate at their
request.

539 An appeal was read from the Treasurer Serv^t.
of the Baptist Miss^{ns} Socy. requesting that a
portion of the 1st Sacramental Collection in the
new year might be devoted to the fund for the
relief of the Widows & Orphans of Ministers
when it was resolved - That the whole proceeds
of the collection at the Lord's Table next hold^g
day shall be appropriated to the above obj^t.

540 Proposed for membership
Thomas Daggell of Sandon Mem^r. Br. Obediah Shanks

Minutes of Church Meet^g Jan^y 20th 1857.

The minutes of the last meet^g were read & confirmed

541 Thos. W^m Daggell appeared before the ch^h & upon a
satisfactory statement of his faith & experience was
received into fellowship.

542 A letter was rec^d from the ch^h at Aisle St. London
honor^g of dismissing George & Mary Halsey to
our communion.

543 On the application of the ch^h in Cotton St
& Poplar letters of dismission were forwarded
effectually transcribing James Morgan &
Eli^h Morgan his wife, & Rev^d. Pecker to their fellowship.

Feb: 16th 1857.

At a Special Meeting of the Church held this evening - our Pastor having stated that he found himself no longer competent to the adequate discharge of the various duties of the Ministry amongst us, and having informed us of the measures adopted by our brethren the Deacons with a view to ascertain the general feeling of the subscribers respecting the introduction of an Assistant Minister - and also of the cordial approbation with which such project had been received - the following resolutions were adopted -

Resolved 1.st That while the statement of our beloved Pastor has produced in our minds sincere regret that the present state of his health should have rendered him in any degree incompetent for the discharge of his ministerial duties - we feel it to be incumbent on us to bow to the Divine will and our imperative duty to cherish the remembrance of the years during which his ministry has been so eminently acceptable profitable and prosperous. - and moreover to record on this occasion our devout gratitude to the Great Head of the Church for the distinguishing favour vouchsafed to us as a Christian community in connexion with the existing pastorate.

Resolved 2.nd That affectionately sympathizing with our esteemed Pastor under the circumstances in which he is placed, we very cordially concur in the views he has expressed respecting the desirability of seeking a regular Assistant in his ministerial work, and earnestly pray that the Lord may

prosper his endeavours to secure the services of a good minister of Jesus Christ."

April 6th 1857

545 A letter was read from the Ch^{ch} at Lion Chapel Cambridge requesting the dismissal of our brother W^m O'neal. This request was cheerfully acceded to & an honorable testimonial forwarded.

546 A letter was also read from the Church meeting in Beeman Chapel, Pentonville honourably dismissing Ann Young to our own fellowship.

547 The following were proposed for membership
Charlotte Reeves — Mrs. 189 Shadwell H^m Foster
Ann Wiltshire — — — 13th N. Lane & Dodwell
Hannah Sanderson — — — 13th Wilson & English.

April 20th 1857.

548 The Rev^d H. K. Over from the College at Pontypool having supplied our pulpit during the last 2 Sabbaths with a view to a more permanent engagement our pastor took an opportunity this even^g of ascertaining the general feeling of the church respecting a renewal of the invitation. When the opinion of a very large majority was found decidedly adverse to such a measure.

Minutes of Church Meeting April 27. 1857.

The prev^g Minutes were read & confirmed.

549 Charlotte Reeves - Ann Wiltshire & Hannah Sanderson appeared at our meet^g. & after a statement of their faith & experience were welcomed to our fellowship.

550 The Church accounts balanced to Mrs. 81. were presented.

exhibiting the following results

Burial exp - bal: in favor of the ch^h 6 .. 1 - 1 $\frac{1}{2}$

Incident. exp. bal: against the ch^h 20 .. 15 - 6

Of this bal: of Treasurer had rec^d fr. Mess^{rs} Porter & Board
the sum of £ 14 .. 13. by way of loan - & after transferring
the bal: of the burial exp to the incidental fund there
rem^d due to him the sum of $1 .. 4 \frac{1}{2}$. It is to be noted
that the very large expenditure for incidentals, was principally
occasioned by an outlay for additional Geo lists, another
which cost us no less than £ 22.

551 After the passing of the accounts it was
resolved - That the united thanks of the church
be respectfully tendered to Mr Seever Esq^r for his efficient
management of our incidental & burial accounts & that the
continuance of this valuable service,
be earnestly requested.

May 21st 1857.

552 Proposed for membership
Mary Duggell of Newham - Mrs^s B^r Dodwell of Hadwell

Minutes of Church meet^g May 21st 1857.

The preced^g minutes were read & unopposed.

553 Mary Duggell appeared at our meet^g & after a
satisfactory statement of her faith & experience was
admitted into the fellowship of the church.

554 It was agreed to devote the even^g of Monday the
25th inst: to special prayer for divine direction
in the choice of an assistant minister.

555 September 7th 1857.

This even^g the church was detained at the
close of the prayer meet^g in accordance with

notice to that effect given on the previous Lord's day when an expression of opinion was solicited respecting the desirableness of inviting the Rev. H. E. Sturmer of Bristol College to undertake the office of assistant minister amongst us. The brethren present expressed with unmingled satisfaction to the sermons Mr. S had delivered, a feeling which was said to be shared by the congregation at large, & after free conference on the subject the full & unanimous sanction of the church was given to the wish expressed by our pastor to invite Mr. Sturmer to become his associate in the work of the ministry. —

⁵⁵⁶ The following friends were proposed for membership
 Elizabeth Andrews — Mrs. B. Shadwell Wilson
 Jane Russell — — — — — Dodwell + Jackson

Minutes of Church Meet^g. Sept. 24th 1857.

The preceding minutes were read & confirmed.

⁵⁵⁷ Elizabeth Andrews & Jane Russell after a satisfactory statement of their faith & experience were received into our fellowship.

⁵⁵⁸ Our pastor informed the ch. that although no explicit answer to the invit^g found to Mr. Sturmer had yet been received, that the tone of Mr. S's correspondence encouraged the belief that he was favorably disposed towards settlement amongst us.

⁵⁵⁹ Our Bro: Halsey informed the church that at a meet^g of the Sabbath School Teachers held on Thursday last it was resolved that with a view to the efficient instruction of the children it is essential that measures should

be immediately adopted for the erection of school & class rooms detached from the Chapel. It was also stated that provided the ^{sanction of} church should be obtained certain of the Deacons then present promised to give or collect some amount to £50 by Aug. 1857. & that one friend had offered to subscribe £50 if five others could be found willing to give £50 each for the same object. - After some discussion it was resolved 'That the sanction of the church be given to the proposed effort for the erection of separate school rooms, & that an early meeting of the congregation be called for the purpose of ascertaining the feasibility of the project.'

Minutes of Church Meet^g Oct. 7th 1857.

560 A communication was read by our pastor from Dr. Crisp of Bristol - suggesting that in any application that might be made to the Comm^o of the Bristol College with a view to secure the services of Mr. Stürmer it would be desirable that something more should be proposed than the invitation of Mr. S. as an assistant minister - & intimating that unless such invitation embraced the future pastorate the sanction of the Comm^o was not likely to be secured. A letter from Mr. Stürmer to the same effect was also submitted to the church. After free discussion it was unanimously

'That while cherishing every feeling of respect & esteem for our friend Mr. Stürmer, and cordially uniting in the wish that he should accept the office of Assistant Minister - we do not regard ourselves as being in a position

to offer any opinion on the question mooted in his letter. Our pastor then read the reply which he proposed sending to the letter of Dr. Cress, of which reply the church unan^{ly} approved.

Minutes of Special Church Meeting,

held Nov. 2nd 1857.

The Resignation of our esteemed Pastor having been received by the Deacons, was read ^{to} the meeting, and is here recorded.

To the Church of Christ assembling in Salem Chapel
Dear Brethren in Christ,

The time has come when I feel it to be a clear call of duty to resign my pastoral office amongst you — and acting on this conviction I would affectionately signify my intention of closing my ministry at Hitchin with the present year.

In terminating a connection at once so sacred & so endearing, and which in our own case had witnessed such constant and manifest proofs of God's rich blessing, it is no slight cause for thankfulness to remember that the present necessity has not originated in any alienation of affection between pastor & flock but in causes altogether independent of human control. And if a yet stronger incentive to gratitude were needed, surely it presents itself in the fact that God has already brought amongst you a truly gracious & gifted young man upon whom all eyes & hearts are naturally turned as an eligible successor in the pastorate.

In my impaired state of health I could not have anticipated any very lengthened retention of the pastoral office — it would have been almost a gratification to deny

that recent events have precipitated my retirement. —
 calm and prayerful reflection satisfies me that this is a
 sacrifice which the peace & prosperity of the church
 demand, & after some sharp struggles I can now calmly
 say "The will of the Lord be done"! And now beloved in
 Jesus let me beseech you to accept this resignation in
 the same spirit of self-sacrificing acquiescence in the will
 of the Lord, & influenced by the same earnest desire to
 keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. —

I need not say that wherever God may direct my steps
 you will ever live in my loving & prayerful remembrance
 may I not also cherish the hope that amidst the excitement
 of a new order of ministrations & the more abundant blessing
 which I trust may distinguish it, you will sometimes
 think kindly & graciously of one who was permitted to
 spend his best days in your fellowship, & to consecrate
 his best energies to your spiritual advancement?

That the blessing of our Covenant God The Father
 the Son & the Holy Spirit may rest upon you all —
 and that when Christ who is our life shall appear we
 may all appear with Him in glory — is the sincere
 prayer, Dear Brethren

of yours affec^t in the Truth
 Hitchin Dec. 2nd 1857. W. Broad.

562 After a very lengthened discussion eliciting
 the deepest regret on the part of the church it was
 resolved, That our beloved Pastor be affectionately
 requested to withdraw his Resignation which has
 been read to the Church this evening, — believing
 (while we only appreciate the purity of his motives)
 that such a step at the present time would tend

to anything rather than the peace and prosperity of the Church.

The Deacons were requested to convey the above Resolⁿ with an appropriate Letter expressive of the unfeigned grief and concern manifested at this meeting.

513 A Letter was read from the Church at Lu^{is} London applying for the dismissal of our brother Matthew Oman.

514 Minutes of Church Meeting Nov 10. 1857

The Deacons having informed the Church that they had not succeeded in inducing Mr Wood to recall his Resignation, it was

Resolved unanimously, that the Resignation of our beloved Pastor (after reiterated requests by writing and otherwise), that he would reconsider an act so painful to all our minds, if be accepted; at the same time the Church desired to record its unfeigned gratitude to God for his faithful ministrations during a period of nearly seventeen years, and on which His rich blessing has so manifestly rested; earnestly beseeching Him to overrule an event which we can but deplore, for the purposes of His own glory, and enable us meekly to bow to His sovereign will, and provide us with a Pastor after His own heart, while we affectionately commend ^{to} His special guardianship and favour, our late Minister, trusting he may yet be spared to labour in some other sphere as successfully as amongst us, and that finally he may have awarded to him a crown of life.

116
565 It was agreed at this meeting that notice should be given to Mr. W. Carling Jun. that we discontinue the use of the Organ this day six months, the notice to be dated Nov. 11th 1857.

566 It was agreed likewise that the Deacons should ascertain the practicability or otherwise, of enfranchising the portion of our Burial Ground which is now copyhold.

567 After free discussion our young friend Mr. Sturmer, having been strongly recommended by Mr. Wood, it was Resolved, that since the Ministry of our present esteemed Pastor will terminate with the present year, Mr. E. A. Sturmer be respectfully invited to occupy the Pulpit for six months, commencing with the first Sabbath in January 1858.

Minutes of Church Meeting Nov 24. 1857

568 Resolved, that the words "with a view to a Pastorate" be added to Resⁿ 8^o 567.

569 A Letter from Mr. Sturmer having been read, it was Resolved, that acknowledging the kind hand of God in sending the Rev. Mr. E. A. Sturmer among us for several Sabbaths, and he so highly commending himself as a preacher of the everlasting Gospel to the Church and congregation assembling in Salem Chapel; he be respectfully requested to reconsider his decision of the 17th instant, and now accept the earnest and cordial invitation of the Church to supply the Pulpit for the first six months of the ensuing year with a view to the Pastorate, and that the Deacons be requested to transmit the Resolution.

A suggestion having been offered at a previous Meeting of the Church & Subscribers that a Testimonial be presented to Mr. Broad as a mark of respect & esteem it was Resolved that the Collectors meet on Monday evening next as a Committee with power to add to their number, with a view to carrying out this object.

A Legacy of one Hundred Pounds having been left to the Poor of the Church and Congregation by the Late Mr. Godwin, a Sea Meeting was appointed to be held on Thursday December 10. 1857 to distribute the same, when the following Persons received the aftermentioned sums each, viz.

| £ s d | | £ s d | | £ s d | |
|-------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|
| Co. Foster | 2 0 0 | Mr. Law | 1 0 0 | Ann Sheppard | 1 0 0 |
| J. & H. Reid | 2 | A. Lenton | 1 | Mrs. Andrews | 1 |
| J. Wilton | 1 | G. Spencer | 1 | Mary Bennett | 1 |
| D. Valentine | 1 | M. Hewes | 1 | Mr. Field | 1 |
| J. Thorn | 1 | Mr. Bennett | | Amy Merritt | 1 |
| D. Milsham | 2 | J. Woodfield | 1 | Mr. Morgan | 1 |
| J. Brown | 1 | Mr. Fasham | 1 | Ben. Barker | 2 |
| E. Lewington | 1 | J. Cross | 1 | M. Holloway | 1 |
| W. West | 1 | G. Ance | 1 | Mrs. Mitchell | 1 |
| J. Webb | 1 | J. Boston | 1 | Eliza Gray | 1 |
| Car. Crawley | 1 | Eliza Deane | 1 | G. Carrington | 1 |
| E. Whithead | 2 | A. Rowbottom | 1 | Eliz. D. | 1 |
| J. Sney | 2 | J. Spohn | 1 | Mrs. Laws | 1 |
| J. Woodfield | 1 | J. Exum | 1 | Mrs. Parke | 1 |
| M. Lane | 1 | D. Exum | 1 | J. & G. Godrich | 1 |
| Mary Hill | 1 | M. Springs | 1 | Wid. Woodfield | 1 |
| Wid. Wilson | 1 | C. Braybrook | 2 | J. Sney | 1 |
| J. Sney | 1 | M. Waters | 1 | Sarah Overton | 1 |
| Mr. Davies | 2 | J. Chamberlain | 1 | Ann Arnold | 1 |
| E. Gray | 2 | J. Cross | 2 | Geo. Woodfield | 1 |
| J. Williams | 1 | J. Wheeler | 1 | Mary Chute | 1 |
| Eliza Harvey | 1 | J. Bullard | 2 | Wid. Stanford | 1 |
| J. Wilson | 1 | Ann Dilly | 1 | Mrs. Sharp | 1 |
| Ann Crawley | 1 | J. Reed | 2 | Ann Valentine | 1 |
| M. Sharp | 1 | Char. Boston | 1 | Ann Wigg | 1 |
| J. Lyves | 1 | J. Whitehead | 1 | Mrs. Brown | 1 |
| G. Catlin | 1 | E. Gayler | 1 | M. Sheppard | 1 |
| Wid. Williams | 1 | G. Norris | 2 | R. Stapleton | 1 |
| M. Crawley | 1 | Mrs. Creasey | 1 | Wid. Milsham | 1 |
| Mrs. Hill | 1 | | | W. Thurman | 1 |
| <u>£ 35. 0. 0</u> | | <u>£ 34. 0. 0</u> | | <u>£ 31. 0. 0</u> | |

Church Meeting Dec. 16. 1857

A Letter from Mr. Sturges (concerning the Invitation of Church), was read to the Church.

On the 19th December a Tea and Coffee service was presented to the Rev J Broad and a purse containing 10 £ to Mr. Broad accompanied by the following letters by direction of the committee

To the Rev. J Broad from the Church and Congregation belonging to Salem Chapel Hitchin.

Dear Sir In presenting you with a Silver Tea service, on your retirement from the Pastoral Office among us, we feel that this token of our esteem will very inadequately convey our sense of the privileges enjoyed by us under your ministry, nor can we fully express the deep sense we entertain of our loss in your removal from a sphere of labour where it has pleased God to crown your efforts with such signal success. These slight memorials the tribute of affection though frail & perishable may at times help to remind you of those in whose hearts you will live while memory lasts. With us you leave a more substantial monument to your zealous and valuable labours, in the commodious Chapel in which we are permitted to worship, commenced at your suggestion (and completed under peculiarly favourable circumstances in the early part of your ministry, it will long be hallowed by evocative associations in connection with those who have there been brought to the knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus through your instrumentality. Although the time will come when there shall not be left of it one stone upon another, yet while we assemble there for the worship of our common Lord and Father, we shall

often be reminded of the faithful and affectionate appeals
 and the effectual fervent prayers that there have been offered
 by you for our spiritual welfare. — If things subject to
 decay are invested with a power to fix our thoughts intently on
 the past, the present, the future, with how much greater delight
 may we look forward in the belief that the benefit of your labours
 may be extended to the end of time, and that generations yet un-
 born may be blessed through the instrumentality of those to
 whom your ministry has come with power from on high. —
 We would not forget that 'Paul may plant and Apollus water
 but the increase is of God', yet we rejoice in the thought that
 the heavenly seed which has been sown by you, has under God
 been blessed to many souls, and knowing that it has been planted
 with your fervent prayers, and watered with your tears, we
 may confidently look for the fulfilment of the promise that
 'He that goeth forth and weepeth bearing precious seed shall
 doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves
 with him'. — While a painful feeling of regret per-
 vades our minds at the severance of that bond that has
 united us as pastor and people, it is highly satisfactory to
 know, it is not the consequence of any diminution of interest
 in each other's welfare. While we sympathize with you in
 your affliction, we earnestly hope that some other sphere
 of usefulness may be opened for you, more compatible with
 your impaired health, and its restoration be thus promoted.
 Wherever your lot may be cast, rest assured our prayers and
 best wishes will follow you, that you may lie down in green
 pastures beside the still waters, and that goodness and mercy
 may follow you and your dear partner in life and beloved children
 all your days. — It is reason for grateful praise
 that you have been spared to us so long, we are conscious
 that our profiting has not corresponded to our opportunities

And now you are about to be taken from us, it may be well to ask ourselves if we have not depended too much on your instrumentality and too little on Him who alone could make it efficient. If by such enquiry we are led to seek more earnestly for help from above, even your removal, much as we may deplore it at present, may be for our good. That every blessing may rest on you and yours, is the sincere prayer of the Church & Congregation under your pastoral care at Salem Chapel, Hitchin.

Signed on behalf of the committee
 W. Mainwark,
 December 19th 1857. R. Shawell.

Dear Mr Broad

The Church and Congregation assembling in Salem Chapel entertaining towards Mr Broad their beloved Pastor sentiments of unfeigned and undiminished esteem, having been benefited in the highest sense by his ministry during a period of nearly seventeen years, have solicited his acceptance of a Testimonial, expressive of their high appreciation of his services, and anxious moreover that such Testimonial, in a tangible form, although conveying very inadequately their concern for his future happiness and comfort, should be durable and serviceable, and serve to remind him of the happy intercourse we have enjoyed and be transmitted as a heir loom to his beloved children, when he shall have, — may it be at a distant period, — entered the land of the blessed.

We Dear Madam as a deputation from the Committee, with much satisfaction beg to present you with the accompanying Purse, containing

the surplus of Subscription for your benefit, and permit us while we sincerely regret your removal from us, to congratulate you, possessing as you do, with your beloved pastor, the best wishes and fervent prayers of those over whose interests he has so long and so efficiently presided, and where he has been honoured with no small measure of success, and where there has not been wanting indications of His approbation whose favour is indeed the highest boon, — and which it has been his aim, assisted by your prayers to secure, as the grand ultimatum of his solicitude and ministry.

May the inspired declaration be verified in you both, The path of the just is as the shining light, which shineth more and more, unto the perfect day.

Signed R. Shadwell,
 December 19. 1857. W. Fairwoth.

873 Church Meeting March 8. 1858.

After a lengthened discussion as to the eligibility or otherwise, of the several Probationers who have supplied the pulpit, It was Resolved, that the present meeting be adjourned until the 28th instant.

Mr. Etheridge Mr. Goodman
 Mr. Eason Mr. Latta
 Mr. Evans Mr. Richardson Mr. Davenport

874 Application having been made for the Dismissal of Mr. Tyso late Miss Oldham the members were ^{at the prayer meeting on 15th} retained when it was agreed to comply with the request of the Church at Wallingford, and the Deacons were requested to forward the Dismissal accordingly.

575 Church Meeting March 25th 1868.

It was agreed that the ~~Rev.~~ ⁵⁷⁵ should stand adjourned till the 8th of April, when the Church will have heard Mr. Davis, who is to supply the Pulpit on the two following Sabbaths.

576 Resolved that a Missionary Tract Meeting be held on Friday next, admission by tickets 1/ each, in aid of the Society, the Tables to be supplied gratuitously.

577 Resolved

That the Rev. C. A. Spurgeon be invited to preach on behalf of his own Chapel in London allowing a claim on our part to his services when we may need them.

578 Resolved that ~~Mrs~~ Elizabeth Staves, who stands charged with robbing her employers, be suspended from our communion.

Church Meeting April 8. 1868

The minutes of the last ^{meeting} were read and confirmed.

Resolved,

579 That the Deacons be requested to make further enquiries respecting the character and qualifications of Mr. M. B. Davis, & communicate the results on the 20th instant when the Church will th again assemble.

Proposed for Membership George Throssell of Birton; messengers brethren Horn & Foster.

580 The accounts of the Church were presented when it was found that on the accidental side there was a Balance against the church of £ 6. 0. 6⁴ on the historical D. a Balance in favour of £ 25. 7. 0.

581 Resolved, that the cordial thanks of the Church be presented to Mr. Snow Esq. for his kind & efficient attention to the accounts during the past year.

582 Resolved, that the agreement with Mr. W. Carling for the use of the Organ, be renewed.

583 A Letter was read, and acceded to, from the Church at Halesworth requesting the Dismission of Mr. Daniel Humphries;

Church Meeting April 20th 1858.

584 The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. After a very lengthened discussion on the Testimonials relative to Mr. Davis, it was unanimously Resolved, that as there is not sufficient unanimity in the present meeting to warrant an invitation to Mr. Davis it is expedient ^{therefore} for the Deacons to invite further supplies.

585 George Throssel appeared before the Church and after a satisfactory statement of his faith & experience was admitted to membership.

Church Meeting June 3rd 1858.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

586 Resolved, that the afternoon services on the Lords day shall commence at half past two, instead of three o'clock, and be conducted at the option of the supplies, or by the Deacons, with the assistance of Mr. J. J. Jones, and the Village labourers, who have been accredited by the Church.

587 On the application of Martha Boutelle, a Letter was adopted to the Church at Blankham, requesting her dismission to our fellowship. David Melshere having

588 by a vote requested the erasure of his name from the Churchbook he having had no opportunity of communing at the Lords Table, for three years; our brethren Foster & Horn, were requested to visit him, and acquaint the Church with the results of their interview.

Special Church Meeting, July 20th 1858.

589 A Letter was read from the Church at Blunham
admitting Martha Brutell to our communion.

590 The messengers in David Miskere's case reported
that it was his intention to withdraw from our fellowship.

591 The Rev. S. L. Davis having supplied the Pulpit
for three Sabbaths this meeting was convened for
the purpose of ascertaining whether or not it was
the prevailing wish of the Church that he should be
re-invited with a view to the Pastorate, after a very
lengthened discussion much opposition being
manifested to such a proposition being made to
Mr. D. it was deemed expedient not to divide the
Church on the question.

Special Church Meeting Oct. 5. 1858.

592 Resolved, That the Rev. George Short B.A.
be invited to supply the Pulpit for four successive
Sabbaths, with a view to the Pastorate.

593 Resolved, that a Public Collection be made
to defray arrears of Rent, on our Village
Chapel.

Special Church Meeting Nov. 11. 1858.

594 The Rev. G. Short having complied with the request
of the Church so far as to supply the Pulpit for
two Sabbaths, other engagements preventing his
remaining for a longer period, the present meeting
was convened to elicit the satisfaction of the Church,
or otherwise, as to the eligibility of Mr. S. for the Pastoral
office, when it was moved by Bro. Dodwell,
and seconded by Bro. C. H. Foster, That the

Rev. George Short be invited to accept the Pastorate of this Church.

595 An amendment was ~~proposed~~ ^{proposed} by Bro. W. Foster seconded by Bro. S. Day, as follows

That this meeting taking into consideration the circumstances connected with the choice of all former Ministers, the church books showing in each case, it was the unanimous vote of the members; and whereas there is great want of cordiality and union in respect to the eligibility of Mr. Short to the Pastorate, deem it advisable that he should not be invited.

596 The Deacons were requested to apply for the Dismission of Mr. J. J. Penn, from the Church at Cerne, Dorset.
 on the amendment ^{being put} there appeared to be thirty in favor, for the original motion a large majority.

Special Church Meeting, Dec. 27. 1858.

The preceding minutes were read and confirmed.

Mr. Short having accepted the invitation to the Pastorate, this meeting was convened in order that the following Letter from him might be read to the Church.

To the Church of Christ assembling in Salem Chapel Hitchin

597 Christian Friends

I accept the Pastorate among you to which so kindly & heartily you have invited me, In doing so I have not failed to exercise both prayer & patient thought. It would have given me pleasure had the invitation been perfectly unanimous & the fact that it was not so has been only weighed by me. Still I should not have ^{felt} justified, (notwithstanding all my appreciation of the friends dissenting to have declined on that account. And now with the

conviction that the finger of God points the way
I cheerfully & tremblingly follow where it leads,
May the decisions of the great day satisfy the
rectitude of the step now taken,

In coming among you I entertain the hope
of doing good. By a spirit of Christian charity, by
living the gospel as well as preaching the gospel,
by an earnest, though loving, enforcement of the whole
counsel of God, by constancy of prayer & Diligence
of effort (God helping me) I would fain hope to
commend myself to the consciencess of all, & all
Brethren in the mission that has been assigned to
every Christian & every Christian minister against
the Prince of this world & the power of darkness,
there will be difficulties, difficulties in which I
shall require your sympathy, difficulties in which
I must ask your aid. Let me ask of you and
all to bear me on your heart before God in prayer,
not only in the Sanctuary, but in the closet & at the
family altar, Accustom your children to pray for me
'Brethren pray for me'. Though I trust on further
acquaintance with me, I may prove not without
claims upon your respect as well as love. you
must remember that I am a man of like passions
as yourselves, compassed with infirmity & prone to
sin. And if an Apostle feeling this, was among
those to whom he ministered, in weakness & fear
much trembling, how much more should I?

'Tis not a cause of small import The Pastor's
care demands. His sufficiency must be of God
for it is no where else. But you can aid me in
prayer to acquire that sufficiency. & the

consciousness that my people are urgent with God for a blessing on my labours will cheer me in the belief that that blessing will be given. May I urge upon my friends what at all times is suitable, a greater attention to the study of the Bible? In any difference of judgment that may occur, let us all repair meekly and humbly to the Bible, - The Bible & the Bible only must be the religion of Christians. In assuming the office of Christian Teacher among you I do not for a moment suppose that I am universally acquainted with that Sacred Volume. There are depths in that most precious Book, which have not yet been sounded by mortal line and I am not infallible. Let us all then make that the standard of our authority. And when we come to it, let us come not with preconceived opinions, not to prove ourselves right or to establish a theory, or to prove an argument, but to ascertain the mind of the Spirit; With a childlike disposition, depending upon the Divine Spirit for instruction let us pray "Open Thou mine eyes O Lord that I may understand the wonderful things contained in the law." I am not able positively to state the time when I may commence my Pastorate at Mitchin, my stay at Dymouth is delayed longer than I expected & I may require a week or two at the close of it. You shall hear again on that matter but most likely (I think) I shall come to you at the beginning or in the early part of February.

May God bless you my dear friend with the light of His countenance & give you peace.

11.
31 Dec. 1858.

Yours affly in Jesus
George Thost.

548

A Letter was read to the Church honourably dismissing our Bro. J. J. Penn from Comm. to our fellowship.

At a Meeting of the Church held Thursday the 9th March 59, the Pastor reported having received to the Church Brethren Throssel & Penn & sister Bousch. At this the first Meeting of the newly-elected Pastor & the Church (after a few preliminary remarks from Mr. Short) he requested that friends, for the despatch & orderly conduct of business, would kindly intimate to the Deacons or himself before hand, any business, which at any time, they might wish to bring before the attention of the Brethren.

599

The Pastor was authorized to apply for the transfer, from the Church at Buzzlesnade, of our Bro. Jas. Conder. & from the Church at Petoboro' of our Bro. Norton. The meeting concluded with Prayer.

600

601

At the Meeting of the Church held Thursday the 14th April 59, Brother Bodwell prayed & the minutes of the past Church Meeting were read & confirmed.

602

A Letter was read from the Church assembling at the Old meeting Buzzlesnade honourably dismissing our Bro. Jas. Conder.

603

A Letter was also read from the General Baptist Church in Boston Lincolnshire - accompanied by one from the Baptist Minister Petoboro' commending Bro. Norton to our fellowship.

604

The ^{Account of} incidental Expenses for the year ending April 59 which had been audited by the Deacons were read, & on the motion of Bro. Shadwell seconded by Bro. Bodwell a vote of thanks was unanimously voted to H. Sears Esq. for the kind & very efficient manner

in which these accounts were kept.

605 Harriet Lerman was proposed for membership - visitors Brethren Dodson & Woodfield.

606 Bro. Ross requested that application be made to the Church at Haddenham for the transfer of his membership to our communion.

607 Mr. John Short also requested that the Church would apply to the Churches in Plymouth with which they are respectively connected for their transfer. Bro. Halsey prayed.

At the meeting of the Church held Thursday 19th May - after prayer, the Minutes of the past Church meeting were read & confirmed.

608 Brethren Dodson & Woodfield reported satisfactorily on the case of Harriet Lerman & on the perusal of her experience she was welcomed to our fellowship.

609 A letter was read from the Church at Haddenham courteously transferring our Brother Jas. Ross.

610 Letters were also read from the Churches in Plymouth courteously transferring the Pastor & his wife.

611 The Pastor read a letter from the Church at Markyate Street, Mrs. White, requesting the transfer of our sister Selia Edwards - which request was acceded to by the Church.

The following were proposed for membership

612 Mary Foster (Tiddons St.) - visitors { Brethren Barker & Lane
Sophia Payne { Brethren Shadwell & Mr. Foster (Tiddons St.)
Jas. Simmons { Brethren Penn & Halsey.

Brother English prayed.

At the meeting of the Church held Sunday the 24th June Brother Penn prayed, & the Minutes of the past Church meeting were read & confirmed.

613 The Brethren departed to visit Mr. Foster reported on

622/ The service, was not most conducive to profit & greatly interfered with the business of the school, he wished to ascertain the feeling of the Church on the question - Being put to the Church it was agreed, by a considerable majority, to return to the former custom of the Church & resume the Afternoon Prayer meeting.

623/ Application was made by the Pastor of the Baptist Church at Brentree for the transfer of our sister Frances Holland to their fellowship - Our sister had sometime been removed from this locality, but the usual admission was granted.

At the meeting of the Church held Thursday Evg Sept. 22/59 prayer was offered & the Minutes of the past Church meeting were read & confirmed.

The following sisters were proposed for membership & visitors respectively appointed

| | | | | |
|------|---------------|----------|---|----------------------------|
| 624/ | Eliza Edick | Visitors | { | Brother Wm Foster (Widdow) |
| | Seline Bailey | " | { | & Pina |
| | Mrs Cliby | " | { | Brother Barker |
| | | | { | & Halsey |
| | | | { | Brother Shadwell |
| | | | { | & Godwin |

625/ Application being made by the Pastor of the Baptist Church at Cuddesham for the transfer of our sister Sophia Watcher (late Hamworth) to their fellowship, our Pastor was instructed to give an honourable admission.

At the meeting of the Church held Thursday Evg Oct. 27/59 prayer having been offered the Minutes of the past Church meeting were read & confirmed.

626/ The Brethren respectively appointed to visit our Sisters having reported favourably as to their hopeful conversion & Christian character it was unanimously agreed to receive them to our fellowship.

At the meeting of the Church held Thursday Evg Dec. 5/9 prayer was offered by Bro. Day & the Minutes

of the past Church meeting were read & confirmed.

627/ An application was read from the Pastor of the Baptist Church at Canterbury requesting the dismissal of our sister Frances Blunt. Brethren testified to the character of our sister & the Pastor was requested to give an honorable dismissal.

628/ The Pastor read a letter from Mr. Sucker of this town requesting the transfer of our sister Mrs. Willoway. On it appearing that her membership had lapsed in accordance with Article 332, the Pastor was requested to inform Mr. Sucker of the fact, at the same time to state he knew nothing against her Christⁿ character.

629/ Harriet Thompson was proposed for Church fellowship - visited by Brethren Shadock & Mr. Foster, Wiltshire.

The Annual Meeting of the Church was held Jan. 4/60.

At the meeting of the Church held Thursday Evg. Jan. 25/60 Bro. Wm. Foster prayed & the Minutes of the past Church meeting were read & confirmed.

630/ The Brethren who had been appointed to visit our sister Thompson having given in their report & her written communication having been read, it was unanimously agreed to welcome her to our fellowship.

631/ Brother Wm. Foster (Wiltshire) having appeared before the Church on trial as a village preacher it was moved by Bro. Shadock & seconded by Bro. Bedwell & agreed to by the Church to commend our Brethren to the work in which he was engaged.

632/ The Pastor reported that our Brother & sister Osborne whose membership had lapsed by reason of absence, had expressed their wish to return to our communion, regretting their previous step & convinced that they could now be comfortable with their Brethren.

633/ The Pastor was authorized by the Church to apply for the transfer to our fellowship of our sister Miss Harriet Boyzett

L. Mrs. Harris.

At the meeting of the Church held Thursday Evg
March 27/60 after prayer the minutes of the past Church
meeting were read & confirmed.

634 The Pastor read a letter from the Church at Peter-
borough honorably transferring our sister Mrs. Harris.

635 Miss Boyette's membership having lapsed at the
Church at Baldock, a Deputation from the Church consisting
of Brethren Foster & Medall had been appointed to visit her
on their satisfactory report it was agreed to welcome our sister
to our fellowship.

636 Mary Ann Stedley was proposed for fellowship -
visitors Brethren Lane & Woodfield.

At the meeting of the Church held Thursday Evg
Apr 25/60 after prayer the minutes of the past Church
meeting were read & confirmed.

637 Upon the report of visitors, & our sister's written com-
munications, it was unanimously agreed to welcome Mary
Ann Stedley to the Church.

The following Friends were proposed for fellowship

638 John Moore { visitors, Brethren { Chadwell
Rose

Wm. Ayres { visitors, Brethren { Lane
Barter

Thos. Chamberlain { visitors, Brethren { Woodfield
Halden

George Webb { visitors, Brethren { Ashwell
Pinn

Henry Moore { visitors, Brethren { Wm Foster, Brethren
English

At the meeting of the Church held Monday Evening Aug. the 21st '60, after prayer, the Minutes of the past Church meeting were read & confirmed.

639 The Pastor, having reported that our Friend Bro. Sheldon had expressed a desire for fellowship with the Church & had proposed if required to give his experience orally to the Church, - it was agreed that on account of peculiarities in the case & the long known Christian character of our Brother, it was agreed to hear his testimony.

640 Our Friend Sheldon having been heard by the Church it was agreed to welcome him to our communion.

641 The Friends proposed for fellowship at the last meeting of the Church, having been satisfactorily reported of, & their written communications having been approved, it was agreed to receive them to the Church.

642 The Annual Accts. having been audited were presented to the Church, & a vote of thanks carried to the Sec^y for his services.

643 The Pastor proposed for fellowship our Sisters Nancy M^{rs}. Lou & Mary Jane Key. Sisters to the former, Barbara Madwick & Isadore. to the latter, Brethren Lane & Penn.

At the meeting of the Church held Thursday Evening Aug. 5/60 Brother Rose prayed & the Minutes of the past Church meeting were read & confirmed.

644 Satisfactory accounts being having been given by Brethren appointed to visit the sisters proposed for fellowship, it was agreed unanimously to welcome them.

645 The Pastor read a letter from the Pastor of the Church at Shepherd's Bush requesting the dismission of our beloved sisters, Mrs. Broad, Mrs. Arthur & Miss Clara Broad. A letter also was read from Mrs. Broad expressing her reason for the step at the same time expressing her unabated interest in the Church at Salem. Though with an admission of regrets on acct.

of the surrendering of a Mr. so dear to them, - the Church could but appreciate the motive of our sister, & desire a letter of affectionate & honourable transfer to be given.

646 The Pastor proposed Mary Leonard for membership. (Visitors, Brethren Barker & Woodfield).

At the meeting of the Church held Monday Evening Sept. 17th 1860, Brother Henry Foster prayed & the Minutes of the past Church Meeting were read & confirmed.

647 The Deputate having reported favourably of our young friend Mary Leonard & her written report being accepted it was agreed unanimously to welcome her to our fellowship.

648 The Pastor read a letter from the Rev. Bro. Alexander J. Hornick requesting the transfer of our sister, Mrs. Kent (late Doyell) to the Church of his Charge. it was agreed that a letter of honourable dismissal be given.

The following Brethren & Sisters are proposed for membership.

649

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| James Arnold | Visitors, Brethren, Lane & Barker |
| Sam ^l Brown | " " " " " " " " " " " " |
| Mary Brown | " " " " " " " " " " " " |
| Wm. Burton | " " " " " " " " " " " " |
| Wm. Barker | " " " " " " " " " " " " |
| Martha French | " " " " " " " " " " " " |

650 The Pastor called attention to the following names (found in the list of members) which had lapsed according to Article 332, & the Church considering them derelict, pronounced them no longer members - James Goodchill. Joseph Reed. Wm. Crawley. Martha Crawley. Ann Woolley & George Spracer.

At the meeting of the Church held Thursday Evening -

Oct. 25/60. Brother Tom Foster prayed & the Minutes of the last Church Meeting were read & confirmed.

651/ The Brethren deputed to visit the Candidates proposed at our last Church Meeting - having given satisfactory reports, & their written commendations of the Candidates having been read, it was agreed to receive them to fellowship.

The following Friends were then proposed for membership.

| | | | |
|------|---------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 652/ | Thomas English | } | visitors. Brethren Shadock & Orvick. |
| | Elij ^h English | | |
| | Martina Hunt | " | " Barker & English |
| | Sarah Anderson | " | " Tom Foster & Rose |
| | Elij ^h Throth | " | " Lane & Woodfield. |
| | Step ^h Blake | " | " Penn & Halsey. |

653/ At a Meeting of the Male Members of the Church of which due notice had been given & convened on Wednesday Evg. Nov. 7th the question of School Rooms & the Resolutions of the Trustees concerning them, were submitted to the Friends, when it was resolved that the present School Room at Hoby shd. be enlarged & a Com^{tee} of management was appointed for the purpose.

At the Meeting of the Church held Thursday Evng. Nov. 29th several prayers were offered, & the Minutes of the past Church Meetings were read & confirmed.

654/ The Deputations, appointed to visit our Brethren & Sisters whose names were mentioned at the last Church Meeting having reported satisfactorily, it was unanimously agreed to welcome them to our fellowship.

655/ The Pastor proposed Mr. Bro. Rose as a Candidate for fellowship. Visitors. Brethren Shadock & Orvick.

At the Meeting of the Church Sunday Evng. Dec. 31st

1861.

At the Meeting of the Church held 14th March 1861, prayer was offered by Brother By Foster & Madrell & the Minutes of the past Church Meeting were read & performed.

662/ The Pastor read a letter from the Baptist Church at Rugby honourably dismissing our sister Mildred from her to our Communion.

663/ The Deputations reported satisfactorily concerning the friends respecting, who were proposed at our last Church Meeting; & upon their written communications being read it was agreed unanimously to receive them to the Church.

The Pastor then proposed the following for membership

| | | | |
|------|-----------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| 664/ | Fanny Eggleston | Visitors | Brother Madrell & Madrell |
| | Ellen Wyman | " | " |
| | Mary Ballard | " | Bro. Foster (Mickin) & English |
| | Betsy Beadle | " | Sister Lane & Mrs. Morgan. |

665/ The Pastor announced that Elizabeth Strington had become a Member of another Church in the Town & accordingly ceased to be connected with our communion.

666/ On Sunday Evening the 1st April, the Church were detained according to notice, to hear the report of Messengers to Fanny Eggleston. Brother Madrell & Madrell expressed their satisfaction with the case & it was unanimously agreed to welcome her to our fellowship.

667/ The Pastor reported an application for membership, by Mrs. & Mrs. Lloyd, Mrs. Foster, Mary Foster, Anne Maria Foster, Alice Aldrich, Matthew Goodricham, Mary Wheeler & Rhoda English. These were friends in connection with the Indep.^t Church, Queen St. in our Town. On the motion of Brother Madrell, seconded by Brother Penn it was agreed after a brief discussion that the Pastor should write for their transfer.

At the Meeting of the Church held Thursday Evg April 14th 61

Several Brethren engaged in prayer & the Minutes of the preceding Church Meeting were read & confirmed.

The Deputations, requested to visit our Sisters by men,

668 Ballard & Beadle, having respectively given in their report; & the written communications of our Sisters ^{having} been read, it was unanimously agreed to welcome them to fellowship.

669 A letter was read from the Rev. Wm. Griffith, Independent Minister of this Town, transferring from the Church of which he is Pastor, to our Church, the Friends named in Minak 667: but reflecting on the mode of our application. The transfer was accepted; & the Pastor instructed to reply that the application in this case was in accordance with the habitual practice of our body & is believed for the most part with the Independent No

The usual Monthly Church Meeting was held May 23^d 1861. & after Prayer the Minutes of the past Church Meeting were read & confirmed.

670 The Pastor informed the Church that Miss Searchman of the Indep. Church Southampton wished to become a Member of our congregation & he had requested to make application for her transfer.

The following Candidates were then proposed for fellowship.

- | | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|----------|----------|---|--------------------|
| 671 | Frank Odell | Visitors | Brethren | { | Karker & |
| | | | | | H. G. Foster |
| | Rechel Cole | " | " | { | Shadwell & |
| | | | | | Halley |
| | Sarah Day | " | " | { | Goodwill & |
| | | | | | English |
| | Susannah Barker | " | " | { | Love & |
| | | | | | H. Foster & Hildin |

672 The acc'ts. of the Church were reported to have been duly audited & the thanks of the Church were voted to their Secretary & Treasurer, W. Allen, Esq.

The monthly Meeting of the Church was held Thursday the 20th June '61. when after prayer by Brethren Morgan & Bodwell the Minutes of the

preceding meeting were read & confirmed.

6/3

A letter was read from the Pastor of the Church at Southampton graciously dismissing our friend Miss Marchmont & our fellowship.

6/4

The visitors appointed to consider the cases of Candidates at our last Church Meeting having reported satisfactorily & the written communications of the Candidates being read, it was agreed to welcome them to our fellowship.

6/5

The Pastor proposed Elizth Warren of Hymondley as a Candidate for fellowship. Visitors Brethren W. Foster (Mickin) & Shadwell.

The monthly meeting of the Church was held Thursday the 25th July when after prayer the Minutes of the preceding Church Meeting were read & confirmed.

6/6

The Deputate having reported satisfactorily concerning Elizth Warren & her written communication having been read it was agreed to welcome her to fellowship.

6/7

A letter was read from Mr. Darley of Shillington requesting the transfer of Sam Payne from our communion to that of the Church over which he presides. It was agreed that such transfer be given.

6/8

The Pastor proposed the following Friends for membership
 Rebecca Cook -- Visitors Brethren English & W. Foster (Mickin)
 Eliza Swannell " " Lane & Shadwell
 Esther Osborne " " Bodwell & Rose.

The meeting of the Church was held on Thursday the 3rd of Oct. when prayer having been offered the Minutes of the previous meeting were read & confirmed.

6/9

The friends who were deputed to visit the Candidates of the last Church Meeting reported satisfactorily & it was agreed unanimously to welcome our Young Friends to our fellowship.

680

The Pastor was requested to ask for the transfer from the Church at Biggleswade of our Friends Lucy Lambert & Ann. Gurney also for the transfer from that at Stennel Hempstead of Mr. John Pryor.

681

The Pastor proposed the following Candidates for fellowship
Hannah Hawkins Visitor Brethren Shadwell & Bodon
Eliza Perrin " " Lane & Barker.

The Meeting of the Church was held on Thursday Evening Nov. 7th when prayer was offered by several Brethren & the Minutes of the preceding Church Meeting were read & confirmed.

682

On hearing the Reports of the Candidates named in Minute 681, & the written communications of the Candidates having been read, it was agreed to receive them to our fellowship.

683

The Pastor read a letter from the Church at Biggleswade which honourably transferred our Friends Lucy Lambert & Ann Gurney to our fellowship. The letter from the Church at Stennel Hempstead was not then received.

684

The following Candidates were then proposed for fellowship.
Charles Milton. Visitor Brethren Shadwell & By Foster
Charles Cannon " " Bodon & English
George Day " " Kelly & Mrs. Morgan.

At the Meeting of the Church which was held Thursday Evg Nov. 27th after prayer the Minutes of the preceding Church Meeting were read & confirmed.

685

The Candidates of the previous Church Meeting ^{having} been approved by the Reputation & their written communications having been read it was agreed to welcome them to our fellowship.

686

The Pastor was requested to give the transfer of our Friend Miss Doyce (now, Mrs. Kelly) to the Church at Sande Northamptonshire.

687 The Pastor was requested to apply for the transfer of Mary Ann
Worm of the Wesleyan Church in this Town.

688 Dan. Chambers was proposed for fellowship: Visitors, Burt-
on Lane & Woodfield. The letter from Samuel Kempster was
read honorably dismissing our S^{rs} Mr. & Mrs. Poyer.

The Church Meeting was held Thursday Evening, 26th Dec. 61.
when, after prayer, the minutes of the preceding Meeting were
read & confirmed.

689 After the verbal communications received by the Pastor
from the Wesleyan Minister & one of the Class-Leaders concerning
the young friend who is mentioned in minute 687, it was agreed
unanimously to welcome her to our fellowship.

690 The Deputah having reported satisfactorily concerning
Dan. Chambers & his letter having been read, it was resolved to
accept our Friend as a member.

691 The Pastor proposed Maria Whithead as a Candidate
for membership.

692 The Annual Meeting of the Church was fixed for the
2nd Jan. '62: on which evening we had a goodly assembly - a very
encouraging report was given & it was generally felt to be a time of
refreshing. A series of prayer meetings for special objects was
held during the following week which it is also hoped may be
productive of good results.

The Monthly Meeting of the Church was held Thursday, 23rd Jan
when (prayer having been offered) the minutes of the past Church
Meeting were read & confirmed.

693 The Messengers having reported satisfactorily on the case
of our young friend Maria Whithead & her mother's commu-
nication having been read it was agreed to welcome her to fellowship.

694 The Pastor proposed Charlotte Hale as a Candidate for
fellowship - Visitors Debraha W. Foster & Melden.

The Meeting of the Church was held on Thursday Evg the 27th of Feb^r when Prayer was offered & the Minutes of the preceding Meeting were read & confirmed.

697 The Pastor proposed Mrs. Howard for Membership. visitors Brethren English & others.

698 A letter was read from the Sec^y of the West- & Berk Baptist Association soliciting the Church associating in this place to become connected with it. The subject was referred to the next Church Meeting.

The Meeting of the Church was held, Thursday the 26th March: The Minutes of the previous Meeting were read & confirmed.

699 A satisfactory account having been given of the friend proposed at our last Church Meeting it was agreed to receive her to fellowship.

700 The subject of joining the Association having been resumed, it was resolved that for various reasons affecting the object & conduct of the Association, the invitation of our Brethren should be respectfully declined.

701 Our Friends, Josiah & Mary Pitts, having come to reside again in this neighbourhood & it being considered that distance only had necessitated their previous withdrawal from fellowship, were again welcomed by the Church.

702 The Pastor was requested to apply for the transfer from the Church at Poplar of James & Eliz^h Morgan.

703 Our friends, Eliza Milster & James Corder were dismissed respectfully to the Churches at Kingston, & Regent-Park London.

The Pastor proposed for fellowship.

704 Mrs. Wheeler visitors, Brethren { Madwell & Barker
Charlotte Racker " { Bodwell & Lane

705 a report having obtained currency concerning our Friend Jas.

Roadbottom which is detrimental to his Christian Character, our
Brethren English & W. Foster were deputed to visit him.

The Meeting of the Church was held Thursday Evg, 1st May. The
Minutes of the previous Church Meeting were read & confirmed.

706 The Candidates proposed at the last Church Meeting were ap-
proved & it was agreed to receive them to fellowship.

707 The case of our Brother Roadbottom was adjourned & the Deputation
were requested to urge him to adopt Total Abstinence from In-
tervening Drinks.

708 A letter was read from the Church at Poppleton warmly dismis-
sing our Brother & Sister Morgan

709 Application was made by our Brother & Sister Wymann for their
transfer of membership to the little Church at Lodierte.

710 The Pastors proposed for Membership
Allen Symonds. Visitors Brethren { Shadwell &
Mary Anne & other communica- { Shalden
tions " { My Foster &
Ino. Morgan

711 A vote of thanks was moved & seconded to our Friend Wm. Lewis
Esq. for his services as Readers to the Church.

The Meeting of the Church was held on Thursday Evng the 29th May
when prayer was offered & the Minutes of the past Church Meeting
were read & confirmed.

712 The Deputations having reported favourably of Ellen Symonds &
Mary Anne & other communica- tions having been received it
was agreed to welcome them to fellowship.

713 The Church was requested to apply for the transfer from the Church
at Peterborough of our friend Mr. Nelson Johnson. Also

714 from the Church at Thrapfield of our friend Mary Chapman.

715 Mary Ann Whithead was proposed for fellowship - Visitors
Brethren Lane & W. Foster.

f16 The case of our Brother Rowbottom having again been referred, it was reported that during the month he had again been intoxicated, & that report being substantiated by Brethren present, it was felt necessary to withdraw from him. A communication to that effect was made to him by the Pastor, at the same time expressing the hope that he might be led to guard against his best interest & might soon be restored to us.

f17 The Meeting of the Church was held Monday Evg, June 23^d. The Minutes of the past Church Meeting were read & confirmed. A letter was read from the Church at Petotow, dismissing Rich^d & Annie Johnson to our fellowship. The case of our young Friend Mary Ann Whitehead to stand over.

f18 The Meeting of the Church was held Thursday Evng Aug^t 21st. The Minutes of the preceding Church Meeting were read & confirmed. A letter was read from the Church meeting at Union Chapel Luton, requesting the transfer to their fellowship of Emma Watts (late Lane) It was agreed that an honourable transfer should be given.

f19 Stella Trinder was proposed for fellowship - visitors Butham Shadwell & Bodwell.

f20 The Church Meeting was held Thursday Evng Sept. 25th when the Minutes of the preceding Meeting were read & confirmed. A certificate of membership & honourable transfer were given by the Church at Theyfield to our Friend Mary Chapman - she was accepted.

f21 The Deputate reported favourably on the case of our young F^r. Stella Trinder & it was agreed to receive her to our Fellowship.

f22 Mary Ann Whitehead was again proposed for fellowship - visitors Butham Bodwell & Lane.

The Meeting of the Church held Thursday Evening 30th October, when the minutes of the past Church meeting were read & confirmed.

Our Friend Mary Ann Whitehead on the report of Messrs. just her own written statement of experience was welcomed to fellowship.

f24

The following Candidates were then proposed for fellowship
Emily Lloyd - visitors Brethren Chadwell & Bodwell.

f25

Ellen Tisser " " Bodwell & Penn.
San. James " " Rose & Barker.
Mary Ann Smith " " Challin & English, Jun^r.

At the Meeting of the Church held Thursday Evening Dec. 4th prayer was offered & the Minutes of the preceding Meeting read & confirmed.

The Deputations, appointed to visit the Candidates proposed at our last Church Meeting having reported encouragingly, & the written communications of the Candidates having been read, it was unanimously agreed to receive them.

f26

The Pastor proposed George Ballad for fellowship - visitors Brethren Lane & Woodfield.

f27

The Church was requested to stay on Sunday Evening Dec. 29th when prayer was offered & the minutes of the preceding Ch. Meeting were read & confirmed.

The Visitors appointed to see George Ballad having reported satisfactorily & his written communication having been read it was unanimously agreed to welcome him to our fellowship.

f28

The Annual Meeting of the Church was fixed for the 1st. January.

f29

The Church Meeting was held Thursday Evening, Feb. 26/63 & after prayer the minutes of the preceding Church Meeting

were read & confirmed.

f30 The Pastor reported that the Annual Meeting of the Church was held according to appointment on the 1st of January. The attendance was good though not large. The meeting however was highly encouraging & many felt that it was good to be here.

The Pastor proposed the following Candidates for fellowship

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| Mary Kille - | Visitors, | Brethren Woodfield & Srs. Morgan. |
| f31 Alfred Cooper - | " | " Barker & W. Foster (Kitchen). |
| Chas. Potts - | " | " Madwell & Halsey. |
| M. Brown - | " | " Lane & Marden. |

f32 The Pastor reported the withdrawal from our fellowship of our Friends Joseph Osborne & Mary Ann his wife & Esther their daughter, agreed that they be considered no longer members.

f33 The Pastor referred to the case of our Brother Chas. Milton who though admitted to the Church as a Baptist & still confessing himself a Baptist, declined to submit to the rite. Brethren Goddell & Johnson appointed to visit him.

f34 Application was made for the transfer of the membership of our sister Martha French to the Church at Ware. an honorable transfer granted.

The Meeting of the Church was held on Monday the 30th of March. Prayer was offered & the Minutes of the preceding Meeting were read & confirmed.

f35 In hearing the reports of the Deputations, & the written communications of the Candidates themselves, it was agreed to welcome the friends who were proposed for fellowship at our last Church Meeting.

f36 Our brethren Goddell & Johnson reported on the case of our Bro. Chas. Milton: they found him adhering to his resolution not to be baptized & yet professing himself a believer in the rite: his conduct ^{about} which they had remonstrated was deemed unscriptural & accordingly

he was suspended.

The Pastor proposed for fellowship

Mr. Warr. Visitors Brethren.

Susan Peggam "

Madwell & Dodrick
English & Woodfield.

f37

The monthly meeting of the Church was held Thursday
April 23, when prayer was offered & the minutes of the previous
meeting read & confirmed.

The Church having heard the report of Messengers to the
Synode Candidate proposed at the last meeting & her letter having
been approved it was resolved to welcome her to fellowship.

Synode
f38

It was reported that the Annual Acch. had been
sent in & found correct & it was resolved that our thanks be
presented to the Treasurer N. Jones Esq. for his services.

f39

The Church met again Thursday May the 28th
when after several Brethren had engaged in prayer the minutes
of the previous meeting were read & confirmed.

The Pastor was requested to apply to their respective
Pastors for the transfer of Susan Wetherhead, a member of the
Bapt. Church at Almonston & of Sarah Caldwell, a member
of Mr. Beck's Church Bradford.

f40

Mary A. Woodfield was proposed for fellowship.
Visitors Brethren Madwell & Dodrick.

f41

The Church Meeting was held Thursday Ev'g July 2^d
when prayer was offered & the minutes read & confirmed.

The Pastor reported that one of the points named in Min:
743 had since left the neighbourhood & it was thought better not to
receive her transfer: the transfer of Susan Wetherhead not received.

f42

The Synode having reported favorably on Mary A.
Woodfield & her letter having been approved it was resolved to

f43

welcome to fellowship.

744

Application was made & granted for the transfer of our sister Mrs. Parker to the Church assembling at Wellington St. Sutton.

745

The meeting of the Church was on Thursday July 30th when prayer was offered & the minutes read as usual.

A letter was read from the Wesleyan Church at Leavelle which was considered a satisfactory transfer of our friend Eliza Jacobs.

746

The Pastor was requested to apply to the Indep^t Church at Sutton for the transfer of Mr. John Southwell.

747

The Pastor proposed Mr. Foster as a candidate for membership: the deputation, Brethren W. Foster & Lane.

748

A letter was read from the Baptist Ch: Edmonton admitting Susan Wetherhead to our communion.

749

At the meeting of the Church Thursday 3rd Sept. prayer was offered & the minutes of the preceding meeting were read & approved.

A letter was read from the Pastor of the Church at Sutton admitting our friend Mr. John Southwell to our fellowship.

750

The deputation appointed to visit Mrs. Jas. Foster reported satisfactory & her written communication having been approved it was agreed to receive her to our fellowship.

751

On the preceding Sabbath the Pastor felt the necessity of calling together the Church & laying before them unpleasant reports about our Bro. Waters. when a deputation was appointed to inquire into them. That deputation at this meeting reported the result of their inquiries & it was deemed necessary at once to withdraw from the offending Brother. It was also resolved to inquire of our sister Waters about an apparent discrepancy in her statements.

The Church assembled Thursday 23^d Oct. & after prayer
the Minutes of the previous meeting were read & confirmed

752 Brethren appointed to make inquiry of Sister Waters
respecting some discrepancy in her statements & indicated our
desire & expected their satisfaction

753 The Pastor proposed Susan Stockbridge as a Candidate
for fellowship. Visitors - Brethren English & Kalsby.

754 The Pastor was requested to apply for the transfer of our
sister Mary Ann Stapleton from the Sen: Bap: Church
at Boston

755 The Pastor referred to unpleasant reports concerning
our Bro: James Simmons & to his having visited our Brethren
for the purpose of knowing their truth. He found them
partly confirmed & recommended a Deputation of the Church
for further inquiry. Visitors appointed Brethren Goodrich
& Johnson. (to the Church at Royston)

756 Application was made & granted for the transfer of Charlotte Packer,
The Church met again Thursday Dec. 3^d & the business of
the Church was introduced in the usual way.

757 The Deputation having reported satisfactory on the case of Susan
Stockbridge & her written communication having been approved
it was agreed to receive her as a member.

758 The Deputation appointed to visit our Bro: Simmons reported
on the case: it appeared that our Bro: had sinned in partaking
too freely of intoxicating liquors & had given occasion to the world
to blaspheme - but in the opinion of the Brethren he was penitent
& should be treated with consideration by the Church. On a ques-
tion having been raised as to a previous offence, it was agreed
thought better to adjourn the matter.

Ellen Lane was proposed for fellowship - Visitors, Brethren
Madwell & W. Foster. The transfer from Boston not yet rec^d.

The meeting of the Church took place on Monday the 28th Dec. when after prayer the minutes of the previous meeting were read & confirmed.

The Deputation having again visited our Bro: Simmons reported that they were happy to find the rumour of a previous of fine was a mistake & again expressed their conviction of our Brother's suitable frame of mind. It was moved & seconded & unanimously agreed that the Pastor should affectionately admonish our Brother: but that the expressions of his penitence be accepted.

The Pastor referred to the penitential state of our friend Jas Rowbottom & a Deputation of Brethren Malcolm & Barker was requested to visit him.

The letter transferring Mary Ann Stapleton was read & accepted.

The visitors reported satisfactory on our young friend Ellen Lane: her communication was approved & it was agreed to receive her as a Member.

The Pastor proposed for fellowship Mrs. Bowling - visitors Brethren Bodwell & Shadwell.

The Annual Meeting of the Church fixed for the 1st Jan. 64.

The Meeting of the Church was held Thursday Jan. 28/64 when prayer was offered & the Minutes of the preceding Meeting were read & confirmed.

The Deputation appointed to visit our Brother Rowbottom reported encouragingly on our Brother's state of mind: other testimony of a confirmatory nature was elicited & it was agreed unanimously to welcome him back to our fellowship.

The Deputation visiting Mrs Bowling reported also satisfactory: the written communication of our friend was approved & it was resolved to receive her to fellowship.

767 Mrs. Cookson expressed her wish to be united to the Church & it was resolved that application accordingly should be made to the Church at Houghton Regis for the usual transfer.

768 The Pastor proposed Mr. John Street for Membership - visitors brethren Chadwell & Bodwell.

The Church met again on Thursday the 3^d March, prayer was offered & the Minutes of the preceding Meeting confirmed.

769 The Deputation reported satisfactory on the cases of Mr. John Street & it was agreed to welcome them to our fellowship.

770 The Pastor proposed William Pettit as a Candidate for fellowship - visitors Brethren Johnson & English.

The Meeting of the Church was held on Thursday the 31st of March when the business was introduced in the usual manner.

771 The Deputation having reported satisfactory on the case of our friend William Pettit & his written communication having been read it was agreed to receive him to fellowship.

The Meeting of the Church was again convened on Thursday April 28th when after prayer the Minutes of the past Church Meeting were read & confirmed.

772 The following points were proposed by the Pastor for fellowship
 Annie St John visitors Breth^r: Chadwell & Bodwell.
 Edw^d Hanson " Johnson & Baker.
 Mary Hanson " H. Foster & Lane.

The Meeting of the Church took place on Thursday May 20 when prayer was offered & the Minutes of the previous Meeting were read & confirmed.

& earnestly exhortations with her on her sad moral lapse

The Church met again on Thursday 1st Sept. when after prayer the minutes of the preceding Church Meeting were read & confirmed

The Pastor reported that George Newark's transfer had not been rec^d.

The Pastor was then authorized to apply for the admission from their respective Churches Martha Peck from the S. West. Church Biddick - of Carolin Biddick from that at Bowdon - of Martha & Alice Wilmer from the Queen St. Church & William of John Wilmer from the Baptist Church Broad St. London & Martha Holloway from the Church meeting at Lion Chapel, W.

In consequence of the Pastors absence from home no meeting was held previous to the October Communion.

The Church Meeting took place on Thursday November 3rd when prayer was offered & the Minutes of the preceding Meeting were read & confirmed.

George Newark having left the neighbourhood it was judged advisable not to receive the transfer which by this time had been shown

Letters were read transferring our Sisters Peck & Biddick from their respective Churches to our Communion.

The Pastor reported that objection was raised to the transfer of Martha & Alice Wilmer from the Queen St. Church in this town it was therefore resolved to appoint a Deputation to act in such cases. Brethren Madwell & Barker were appointed.

A letter was read from the Church at Broad St. London declining to transfer John Wilmer on the ground of long absence from their communion. The case allowed to stand over.

The letter from the Church meeting at Lion Chapel not being deemed quite satisfactory, Martha Holloway was

welcomed to fellowship on the testimony of Brethren present: moved by Bro: Shadwell seconded by Bro: Dodwell & carried unanimously.

788

Mary Jane Lye was proposed for fellowship - visitors Brethren Dodwell & Johnson.

789

The Pastor then delivered an address calling attention to the spiritual condition of the Church & the wants of the Congregation & proposing a series of resolutions certain practical measures shall be discussed.

790

The Meeting proposed by the Pastor was held on Friday Nov. 11. when addresses were delivered on various subjects & the question of an Evangelist in the neighborhood & sick visitation especially were urged. It is hoped that these matters will not be allowed to drop. The meeting was characterized by much happy feeling & appeared to have taken great pleasure in the love & union & activity of the Church.

The Meeting of the Church was held Thursday 1. December when prayer was offered & the Minutes of the preceding meeting were read & confirmed.

791

Brethren Shadwell & Barker reported satisfactory on the cases of Abigail & Alice Wilmer & it was agreed to welcome them to our fellowship.

792

Brethren Dodwell & Johnson also gave in a satisfactory report of their conversation with Mary Jane Lye & on her written communication being read it was agreed to welcome her to fellowship.

793

A Letter was read from the Union Chapel Sutton requesting the transfer of our friends David & Selina Morgan. an honourable dismissal was given.

794

A Letter also was read from the Pastor of the Baptist Ch: Kingston requesting the transfer of our aged Friend Hannah Sutton. an honourable dismissal given.

The Pastor proposed the following Candidates for fellowship.

(over)

795 John Brown Visitors Brethren Penn & John Morgan
 Emily Gooderham. Visitors " W. Foster & Lane

The Church met again on Thursday Dec. 29th 1864. Prayer was offered & the Minutes of the past Church Meeting were read & confirmed.

796 The Candidates for membership were approved & it was agreed to welcome them to fellowship.

The Pastor proposed the following Candidates

797 Emma Palmer Visitors Brethren W. Foster & Barker.
 Amy West " " Bodwell & Johnson
 Julia West " " Shadwell & Penn

Mr. Johnson having communicated with the Deacons on the subject called the attention of the Church to the inconvenience felt both by the Teacher & the Communicants through the continuance of the School after the Lord's Supper had commenced - resolved on the motion of Brother Penn - seconded by Brother Shadwell

798 That on the first Sunday in the month the children of the Sunday School be dismissed half an hour earlier & the Lord's Supper commence at 3 O'clock instead of half past 2.

The Annual Tea Meeting fixed for Monday Jan: 2^d 1865.

799 This Meeting was held according to appointment & was attended by a larger number of Members than usual. It was reported that during the year 19 Members had been received, 7 Transferred, 1 Excluded & 2 had died - Clear increase 9. Subjects connected with the practical conduct of the Church & Congregation ^{were discussed} & though the matter of an Evangelist was felt for the time to be impracticable, the Meeting we hope was generally stimulating.

800 At Intermediate Church Meetings held 16th January our Young Friend Julia West was received to fellowship on the recommendation of Messengers: & the 23^d of January. The Pastor proposed Carrie Penn & was requested to apply for the Transfer

from the Church assembling at Union Chapel, Sutton of Eliza Law

At the Church Meeting held Thursday 2^d Feb. 1865 business was introduced in the usual way by prayer & reading the minutes of the previous meeting

801
Messengers appointed to visit the Candidates Emma Palmer, Amy West, & Carria Penn reported satisfactorily. On their written communications being read it was agreed to receive them to fellowship.

802
A letter was read from the Deacon of the Baptist Church, Foston, Gosport requesting the transfer of our Brother James Newbald who after an education received at Regents Park College London had been chosen unanimously of the Pastor of the aforementioned Church. Resolved on a motion by Bro: Goddell & seconded by Bro: Shadwell that the Pastor be requested to write a note transferring our Bro: Newbald expressing our high esteem of our young Friend & our earnest prayer that he might become through a long & useful life as he promised to be a good Minister of G. O. & Secs.

803
The Pastor was requested to apply for the transfer of Janney here from the Bap: Church Dover.

804
The Pastor proposed for fellowship George Newling. Visited his Brethren Woodfield & Chambers.

The letter from Sutton dismissing Eliza Law not yet arrived.

The Church met again on Thursday 2^d March when business was introduced in the usual way.

805
A satisfactory letter was read transferring Eliza Law: also one transferring Janney here

806
The Deputation requested to visit George Newling reported

satisfactory & on his written communication being read it was agreed to receive him to fellowship.

807 The Pastor read a letter from our Brother Johnson calling attention to the need of volunteer assistance in showing strangers to seats in the galleries of greater order & quietness during prayer & increased accommodation for the S. School children in the Gallery & also of some more effectual means of warming the Chapel & School Rooms.

808 It was agreed to accept the help of Brethren Morgan & James on the one side & Chambers & Reeve on the other side of the Galleries. The importance of order in prayer was admitted & to meet the remaining suggestions a Com.^{tee} was appointed consisting of Brethren Johnson, Lloyd, R. Lane, N. Foster & Wm. Foster, the Pastor & Deacons inclusive to consider the advisableness & practicableness of further measures & report accordingly.

Church Meeting, Thursday 30.th March 1865.

The Minutes of the last Ch. Meeting were read & confirmed.

809 The Report of the Com.^{tee} for effecting improvements in the Chapel adjourned; meanwhile advantage to be taken of the Good Friday Tea Meeting to get the feeling of the Congregation on the subject.

810 The Pastor read a letter from Mrs. Frost (late Hannah Anderson) applying for re-admission to fellowship: testimony was given to her repentance & of her present & continued consistency & it was agreed to re-admit her - with the recommendation that she should seek transportation to a Church nearer her present residence.

Church Meeting Thursday 27.th April 1865.

The Minutes of the preceding Church Meeting were read & confirmed.

811 The result of the Meeting at the Good Friday Tea was reported to be notes favourable to the proposed alterations as had been anticipated.

812 It was resolved to adjourn the matter & to call a special meeting on

the return of the Pastor & prior to another monthly Chancel Meeting. In the meantime the feeling of friends still further to be ascertained.

813 The Incidental Accts. now reported as audited & found correct & were then passed.

Church Meeting Thursday 1st June 1865.

The Minutes of the preceding Church Meeting were read & confirmed.

814 The Pastor read a letter from Stella Freuder intimating that she had lately been worshipping with a company of Plymouth Brethren & expressing her wish no longer to be considered a member of our Communion. The Pastor reported his correspondence with her on the subject & it appearing still to be her wish it was complied with.

815 A letter was read from the Baptist Church at Stoke Newington London requesting the transfer of our sister Mary Leonard - an honorable transfer was given.

816 A letter was read from the Stacms of the Church at Mlodbury Devon requesting the transfer of our Brother Amos English (recently the Pastor elect of that Church) & of Sarah his wife. An honorable transfer was given in which the usefulness of our Brother's labours in the Villages surrounding Kitchin was recognized & in which were expressed earnest desires for our Brother's success in his new sphere.

817 The Pastor was requested to apply for the transfer of Jane Searke from the Baptist Church, Buckland, Devon.

818 The Pastor proposed for fellowship the following Candidates
Louisa Parker Visitors Brethton Lane & W. Foster
Emma Gibbs " " Madwell & Madwell.
Henry Kido " " Johnen & Henn.

819 The question of alterations in the Chapel was passed sub silentio, the Brother who was alone able to report on the finances of the matter not being present.

Church Meeting 6th July 1865. After prayer the Minutes of the preceding Meeting were read & confirmed.

820 A letter was read from the Baptist Church at Buck^l. Monachorum dismissing Anne Sawbath & was unanimously received.

821 The Deputies requested to visit Candidates proposed at the last Church Meeting reported satisfactory written communications of great interest were read from two of the three & it was unanimously agreed to welcome them all to fellowship.

822 The subject of proposed alterations having been received it was moved & seconded that the Brethren named as a Com^{tee} in Minute 808 should meet again to consider the subject. Bro Brother Kelsey to be added to the number.

823 An intervening Church Meeting had been held (at which the Pastor was not present through relative bereavement) to consider a proposal from the West Union Com^{tee} to hold a Conference on the Evangelization of the County & to appoint Delegates to that Conference. Bro Brethren Kelsey & Wm Foster attended as Delegates. The result of the Conference to come before us in a Circular which it was agreed to send to the Churches in the County.

824 Rumours having been widely circulated as to the immoral conduct of Mrs. Saunders (late Lavinia Law) & two of the Deacons having agreed to investigate the subject it was reported that such rumours were true & our Brethren recommended that we should withdraw from her fellowship. This was accordingly done & a note to that effect addressed to Mrs. Saunders by the Pastor.

823 A letter was read from the Rev. S. Pugh of Leamington requesting the transfer of our Sister Mrs. Wilson (late Eggleston) to the Church of which he is Pastor. An honourable transfer given.

Church Meeting 27th July 1865. The Minutes of the previous Meeting were read & confirmed.

824 The Pastor submitted to the Church the recommendations of Brethren referred to in Minute 822

1st That the subject of warming the Chapel be for the present referred.

2nd That the Chapel be ventilated by four Ventilators in the ceiling, at the corners & within the porch at the Entrance of the Chapel doors be placed to prevent the draft & mitigate the cold.

3rd That the proposed alterations in the Galleries be dropped. These recommendations were adopted by the Church.

825 The Pastor proposed Mr. Arthur Soggett for fellowship. Reputation, Brethren Madwell & Bodwell.

Church Meeting 31st August '65. The Minutes of the previous Meeting were read & confirmed.

826 It was reported that the alterations of the Chapel, approved by the Church & recorded in Minute 824, were already in the hands of Brethren Foster & Lane

827 The Brethren deputed to visit our Brother Arthur Soggett reported satisfactorily: his written communication was read & it was agreed by the Church unanimously to welcome him to fellowship.

828 The Pastor proposed Mrs. Kitken for fellowship. visitors Brethren Madwell & Bodwell.

Church Meeting 2^d Nov^r 1865. The Minutes of the previous Meeting were read & confirmed.

829 The Brethren deputed to visit Mrs. Kitken reported satisfactorily & her written communication having been read it was agreed to receive her to fellowship.

830 A letter was read from the Rev. C. St.urgeon, requesting the transfer of our Brother Wm Burton: an honourable transfer was given.

831 A letter was read from the Rev. W. Brock requesting the transfer of our sister Mrs. Valentine late Rachel Cole: an

honourable transfer was given.

832 A letter was read from the Rev. J. R. Johnson of Luton requesting the transfer of our Sister Lydia Mead: an honourable transfer was given.

833 The Pastor was requested to write to the Rev. J. Matthews of Boston for the transfer of our Brother & Sister Mrs. Perry.

834 Our Brethren in the Diaconate having long felt the need of increased help in their duties a resolution was proposed to the following effect - "That it is desirable to elect two additional Deacons & for this purpose at our next meeting the Church is recommended to nominate six Brethren from whom at the meeting next ensuing the desired number should be taken." moved by Brother Seward & seconded by Bro. Shadwell carried unanimously.

835 Our Bro. Kalsey moved the following Resolution - "That the Church should take the earliest opportunity of becoming possessed of an Organ & that the following Gentlemen belonging to the Church & Congregation should constitute a Com.^o to confer on the subject & to carry out the general wish." Messrs. Juoss, Lloyd, Johnson, Bailey, W. Foster, Pycot, Cradden, Ware, with the Pastor & Deacons. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lloyd adding Mr. Kalsey's name to the Com.^o Carried unanimously.

Church Meeting 30th November. The Minutes of the last Church Meeting were read & confirmed.

836 A letter was read from the Church at Boston honourably dismissing out Friends Mr. & Mrs. Perry. & they were accordingly received.

837 An application was made for the transfer of our Sister Rezia Aldrich to the Church meeting at Crown Chapel London: an honourable transfer voted.

838 Before proceeding to nomination for Deacons it was agreed that the mode of election should be by papers, on which members present should write two of the names nominated & to which they should attach their own names. No absentees allowed to vote.

839 The following six Brethren were then nominated respectively, (each nomination being seconded & put to the vote) Brethren Henry Foster, Rich^d. Lane, W^m. Foster, George Hawley, Jno. Malden, & Benjamin Barker.

840 The Pastor proposed Mr. Kitken as Candidate for fellowship - Visitors Brethren Shadwell & Dodevell.

Church Meeting December 21st. The Minutes of the past Church Meeting were read & confirmed.

841 The Visitors requested to visit Brother Kitken gave in their report which together with his written communication was deemed satisfactory & accordingly he was welcomed to fellowship.

842 The Pastor was requested to apply for the transfer of fellowship from Brother W^m. Dred from the Ch: at Breechwood Green to our sister Mrs. Arthur Soggett from that at St. Andrew.

843 The Pastor gave a statement expressing his wish of Ellen Paris to become a member of the Church: he read a certificate of Miss Paris's Membership with a Church at Manchester before her residence in Kitchin & stated his acquaintance with her & her character since that time. It was moved & seconded & agreed that she should be welcomed to fellowship.

844 The election of Deacons was then proceeded with in accordance with Minute 838 the Members present had furnished themselves with voting papers, which the Deacons who acted as scrutineers collected. It was found that the two highest on the list were Brethren H^r. Foster & Rich^d. Lane who were regarded as the elect of the Church.

845 The New Year Tea was fixed for the 1st of January when the Deacons elect it was hoped would testify to their acceptance of office & the Church would make a special blessing.

846 Memoranda. The Annual Meeting was held according to appointment & was attended by a larger number than usual of members. After singing of Prayer the Pastor

called upon Brethren Lane & H. Foster to signify their response to the wishes of the Church, when both in very suitable terms expressed their sense of the honour conferred on them by their Brethren in thus being called to the office of Deacon. Their willingness to comply & their earnest desire for the prayers of the Church that they might use the office of Deacon well. Our Brethren were again commended to God in prayer & gratitude generally was expressed that God had so directed the choice of the Church & so influenced the minds of Brethren to accept it. Both Brethren come from an honored ancestry in the service of this Church.

The Pastor then read a tabular statement of the Members of the Church, from which it appeared that there had been 19 additions to the Church, ^{during the year} of whom 6 were by transfer, 11 by profession or by profession & Baptism & 2 by Restoration: on the other hand there had been a loss of 16, of whom the greater part had been by transfer & 4 by death, leaving only an increase of 3, a smaller number than ever before during the present Pastor's settlement. It was also stated that the number of members' names on the Book was 298 of whom 78 were Males & 220 were females. Attention was also directed to the small number of female members at our Prayer Meetings & the very large proportion of members whose names were retained though living at a distance & even in localities not known. The agencies of the Church generally were reviewed: & the addresses of the Brethren were practical, & animated by a devout, earnest spirit. It is hoped that good will come of that Meeting.

Church Meeting Thursday Feb. 1st 1886. The Minutes of the previous Meeting were read & confirmed.

Before proceeding to the current business of the Evening the Pastor made a statement to the following effect: that the infrequent attendance of certain Members of the Church upon the public means of grace & ordinances of God's house as established.

847

848

among us, had long been to him a matter of deep regret. He was encouraged to believe, that in many respects there had been a great improvement in us as a Church & Congregation. ^(since his coming among us) Still there were Members enrolled with us, who did not obey the Scripture command "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together" & who caused divisions. (Circumstances of a painful nature had lately occurred which had obliged him to call attention to our Brother James Thorn as long offending in these particulars. (v. Heb. x. 25; Rom. xvi. 17; 2 Thessalonians III. 6.)

Our Brother Chadwell then stated that "at a Meeting of the Deacons of Salem Chapel held Jan. 11th 1866 it had been unanimously resolved - that taking into consideration the spirit & disposition of Brother James Thorn towards the Church & Pastor, they felt constrained to advise him to resign his Membership with the Church, believing as they did his longer connexion with them would not tend to the peace or prosperity of any party." That Res.ⁿ had been handed to Mr. Thorn by the Deacons who urged upon him compliance therewith, but in vain. It was accordingly his duty, on the recommendation of Brother Officers, though with great reluctance of them to move

"That we withdraw from fellowship with our Brother James Thorn & that he be considered no longer a Member with us." This Res.ⁿ was seconded by our Brother John Foster & supported by our Brother Lane & carried with only one dissentient. It was with great reluctance & after long patience the Church came to this decision respecting an elderly & (they still hope) a Christian man.

849 A letter was read from the Pastor of the Indep.^t Church Weymouth requesting the transfer of our sister & niece Plomer - an honourable transfer voted.

850 A letter was read from the Pastor of the Free Church St. Ives Hunts transferring to our fellowship Susan Drane. resolved unanimously to accept it.

851. A letter was read from the Pastor of the Indep.^t Church, Totness transferring to our fellowship Mrs. Arthur Boffett's resolve unanimously to accept it.

852. A letter was read from William Ayre communicating his intention that of his wife to withdraw from our fellowship. The Pastor related the circumstances under which he had recommended to our Brethren this step. The letter was accepted.

853. The Pastor was requested to make application to the Rev. Edwin Bolton Pastor of the Indep.^t Church at Bromley Kent for the transfer of Sarah Burton

854. Memoranda. Whereas a portion of the Burial Ground attached to our former Meeting House remained Copyhold & subjected as to the expense of release to every forty years - & whereas the no. of Trustees in whose names it was held had been reduced to two both of whom were aged men the Deacons after consulting with Friends & under the instructions of a Legal Friend had enfranchised the same. It was then thought advisable, seeing that the Chapel property was held under different Trusts & those Trusts were not in a satisfactory condition to call together the Trustees & to confer with them on the propriety of incurring one expense & amalgamating the Trusts. Accordingly a Meeting was held - November 21st 1865 - present Messrs. Severs,

Kainworth, Jno. Foster (Wymondley) J. B. Seard & Thos. Sedwell (Gosco) the Pastor in the Chair - when the letters of Messrs. Carson & Woodcock were read, the assent of absent Trustees stated & the following Resolutions passed unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Kainworth & seconded by Mr. Seard "that in the opinion of this Meeting the different Trusts of the Chapel & Burying Ground should be consolidated & new Trustees appointed in accordance with the terms of the Trust Deed."

The matter has been proceeded with & the Pastor is requested to enter in the Minutes of the Church the following record of two Meetings (in succession) held on the same evening.

855

At a special Meeting of the Members of the Congregation belonging to the Baptist Meeting House in Titchhouse Street Hitchin Herts. duly convened for the purpose hereinafter mentioned by public notice in the said Meeting House & held in the Vestry of the same on Monday the eighteenth day of December 1865.

The Rev. George Short (the Minister of the said Congregation) in the Chair.

It was moved by Mr. Samuel Seard seconded by Mr. Reuben Chadwell & unanimously resolved

That the following persons (viz.)

- William Leves of Hitchin Herts, Gentleman.
- William Lake of Appolliths Herts, Farmer.
- John Bradley Seard of Grantham Suff^r. Accountant.
- Samuel Sawyer Seard of Hitchin Herts, Terman.
- John Foster of Little Wymondley Herts, Farmer.
- William Kainworth of Hitchin Herts, Farmer.
- John Nathaniel Foster of Biggleswade Beds Gentleman.
- Reuben Chadwell of Hitchin Herts, Grocer.
- John Madden of Hitchin Herts, Collector.
- Matthew Henry Foster of Little Wymondley Herts, Farmer.
- Charles Beer Foster of Little Wymondley Herts, Farmer.
- William Lake Jun^r of Appolliths Herts, Farmer.
- George Halsey of Hitchin Herts, Grocer.
- William Foster of Hitchin Herts, Builder.
- Richard Lane of Hitchin Herts, Carpenter.
- James Callender of Hitchin Herts, Draper.
- William Tennent of Hitchin Herts, Draper.
- Thomas William Soffet of Sandonbury Herts, Farmer.
- Arthur Soffet of Newnham Herts, Farmer.
- Albert Thomas Buck Smoothy of Wellbury Herts, Farmer.
- William Eve Langford of Hitchin Herts, Upholsterer.
- William Carting Jun^r of Hitchin Herts, Baker, and

Frederic Mead of Hitchin Merts Butcher.

be & they are hereby chosen nominated & appointed in the place
 & stead of certain Trustees deceased to be Trustees (together with
 Blyth Foster of Biffsworth Beds Gentleman & Philip Hewes of
 Great Wymondley Merts Farmer the surviving Trustees) of the
 Burial & other ground adjoining or near to the said Meeting House
 & comprised in & the subject of a Deed Poll dated the 29th day of
 December 1724 under the hands & seals of Edward Hurst the elder
 & nine other persons. Also of another piece of ground adjoining
 or near to the said Meeting House & comprised in & the subject of a
 Deed Poll dated the 2^d day of January 1775 purporting to be
 under the hands & seals of John Foster & twenty one other persons.
 Also of other pieces of ground adjoining or near to the said Meeting
 House & comprised in & the subject of an Indenture of Release &
 Declaration of Trust dated the 2^d day of May 1812 ^{made} & between the
 Reverend John Beard Samuel Bradley Daniel Field & Daniel Lane
 of the one part & the said John Beard, Samuel Bradley Daniel Field & Daniel Lane
 & twenty six other persons of the other part. And of the Tenchold
 Estate & interest of & in so much of the before mentioned premises as
 was heretofore of copyhold Tenure. same having been enfranchised
 by a Deed Poll dated the eighth day of August 1865 under the hand
 & seal of the Honourable Charles Alexander Gore a Commissioner
 of Her Majesty's Woods Fresh & Land Revenues.

And it was moved by Mr. Ans. Foster of Little Wymondley
 seconded by Mr. Sedwell & unanimously resolved

That the said Blyth Foster & Philip Hewes be & they are hereby re-
 quested & authorized forthwith to convey the said premises so that
 the same respectively may become vested in the Trustees now chosen
 jointly with themselves upon the Trust declared thereof respectively
 by the said respective deeds or as near thereto as circumstances
 will permit.

George Short Esq.

Chairman.

856
 At a special Meeting of the Male Members of the Church
 assembling in the Baptist Meeting House in Fishhouse Street
 Kitchin North duly convened for the purpose hereinafter men-
 tioned by public notice in the said Meeting House & held in the
 Vestry of the same on Monday the eighteenth day of December 1865.

The Rev. George Short (the Pastor of the said Church in the
 Chair.

It was moved by Mr. Smith Woodfield seconded by Mr. John
 Foster of Little Wymondley & unanimously resolved.

That the following persons (viz.)

Philip Hens, Farmer Great Wymondley.

Matthew Henry Foster, Farmer Little Wymondley.

Charles Beere Foster, Farmer Little Wymondley.

William Lake Jun^r Farmer Appollotts.

George Halsey Groen Kitchin.

William Foster Builder Kitchin.

Richard Lane Carpenter Kitchin.

James Callender Draper Kitchin.

William Tennent Draper Kitchin.

Thomas William Soggett Farmer Sandonbury.

Arthur Soggett Farmer Sandonbury.

Albert Thomas Buck Smoothy Farmer Wellbury.

William Eve Langford Upholsterer Kitchin.

William Carting Sen^r Baker Kitchin. &

Frederic Mead Butcher Kitchin

but they are hereby chosen nominated & appointed in the place & stead
 of John Foster of Kitchin who has refused to act as a Trustee & of certain
 other Trustees deceased to be Trustees (together with the surviving & con-

tinuing Trustees viz. Philip Foster, William Reeves, William Lake,

John Bradley Seard, Samuel Bowyer Seard

John Foster (of Little Wymondley) William Hamworth, John Nathan

ill Foster, Reuben Madwell & John Madden of the said Meeting

House & other the hereditaments & premises comprised in the subject

of a Deed Poll dated the 3^d day of November 1846 purporting to be under the hands & seals of Deere Foster & twenty four other persons.

And it was moved by Mr. Thomas Goddell seconded by Mr. Reuben Shadwell & unanimously resolved

That the said Blyth Foster William Jones William Lake John Bradley Leard Samuel Bowyer Leard John Foster (of Little Wymondley) John Foster (of Kettlewell) William Hewinworth John Nathaniel Foster, Reuben Shadwell & John Madden be & they are hereby requested & authorized forthwith to convey the said Meeting House & Credits & premises so that the same may become vested in the Trustees now chosen jointly with the said conveying parties (except the said John Foster of Kettlewell) upon the Trusts declared hereof by the said Deed Poll or as near thereto as circumstances will permit.

George Short B. A.
Chairman.

Church Meeting March 1st 1846. The Minutes of the previous Meeting were read & confirmed

A letter was read from the Pastor of the Church at Breckon Green dismissing to our fellowship William Mead & also requesting the transfer of our Brother James Kilbow & Hannah his wife & Elizabeth King their aunt. Brother Mead was accepted & an honourable transfer voted to the other Friends.

A letter was read & accepted from Mr. Bolton dismissing Sarah Burton to our fellowship.

The Pastor reported that during the Month he had paid several visits to Friends who were nominally in Church Membership with us but whose long absence from our worship he had observed & regretted. Some promised to attend: others for one cause & another he & his Brethren recommended should be considered no longer members. These latter were Mary Hill (1839) Frances Goodfellow Mary Maryat & Charlotte Reever. All of these had forfeited

their Membership thro' non attendance - other circumstances were mentioned & the Church voted accordingly.

860
Louisa Mead wife of our Brother Wm. Mead was proposed for fellowship. Visitors Brethren Madwell & Lane.

861
Our Brother Malsey mentioned the subject of a new Hymn Book which after some discussion was adjourned to the next Church meeting.

Church Meeting March 29th 1866. The Minutes of the previous Meeting were read & confirmed.

862
The subject of the Hymn Book having been revived it was resolved after mature consideration to introduce the new Baptist Hymn Book which is now so extensively used.

863
Louisa Mead on the recommendation of visitors & on reading her written communication was in compliance with the vote of the Church to be welcomed to fellowship.

864
The Pastor ^{again} called attention to the cases of different Members in nominal connexion with the Church - but whose attendance at our sanctuary & communion service was most irregular - in some cases had been long suspended. & with the concurrence of his Brethren he proposed to further recommend that Mary Ann Caldwell, Ann Lewis & Wm. Davis be considered no longer Members. The Church adopted the recommendation.

Church Meeting April 30th 1866. The Minutes of the previous Meeting were read & confirmed.

The Pastor proposed the following persons as Candidates for fellowship

865
Emma Common Visitors Brethren Madwell & Bodwell.
Elizth Taylor " " Mrs. Morgan H. Chambers.
Emily Brown " " Lane & Barber.

866
The Pastor was requested to write to the Church at Poplar for the transfer of our Brother Hisker, Bates.

Church Meet? Thursday May 31/66. The Minutes of the previous Meeting were read & confirmed.

867

The visitors appointed to visit Candidates for fellowship reported satisfactorily & on their written communications being read it was agreed respectively to receive them to fellowship.

868

The letter transferring our Bro: Sister Bates not yet rec^d.
The Pastor was authorized to apply to the Church at Woodford for the transfer of Mr. & Mrs. Webber & also to dismiss to the Ch: at Oxford our Sister Main Eye.

869

The Pastor proposed for fellowship:
Sarah Stouren. Visitors Brethren Lane & Shadwell.
Martha Thope. " " Bodwell & Muddon.
Arthur Wright " " Kalsley & Prior.

Church Meeting Monday June 18/66. The Minutes of the previous Meeting were read & confirmed.

The letters of transfer not yet rec^d.

870

The Brethren deputed to visit (Candidates) for fellowship reported satisfactorily & on the written communications being read it was agreed respectively to receive them to fellowship.

871

Notice was given of the new Hymn Book's being introduced the following Lords Day.

872

The Pastor having been from home & there being no other business to attend to, the Church was detained at the close of the service on Lords Day Aug. 2^d & Mr. Mainworth proposed for membership
Visitors Brethren Sedwell & Lane.

873

Also on Thursday Evg Aug. 13th the Church was detained & Miss Catherine West was proposed for Membership - Visitors Brethren Barker & Perry.

874

Church Meeting Monday Aug. 27/66. The Minutes of the previous Meeting were read & confirmed.

The letter dismissing our Brother Sister Bates was read & accepted.

The letter dismissing our Brother Sister Webber, not having

875
 been rec^d & it having been understood that it was not likely that the Church to which they belonged would recognize one of Open Communion in principle, our Friends were received on the testimony of Brethren present.

876
 The deputatⁿ who visited Mr. Mainworth having reported satisfactorily of his written communicatⁿ having been read it was resolved to welcome him to fellowship.

877
 The deputatⁿ who visited Miss K. West having given in their report & the Pastor having referred to her correspondence with himself & wife for several years it was agreed to welcome her to fellowship.

878
 The Pastor reported the decease of our sister Jane Rudd & she withdrawn from Membership of June Throssel.

The follow^g were proposed for Membership

Mary Ann Goldman Visitors Brethren Sedwell & Lane.

879
 Pateman " " Madwell & A. Foster.
 Christopher Shepland " " Norton & J. Morgan.

880
 It was also requested to apply for the transfer of Mrs Pateman from the Church at Fenny Stratford & of Mr. L. Day from the Church at the Gravel Pits, London.

881
Memoranda. The following names of persons who had long time ceased to attend with us & with whom there had been frequent communicatⁿ through Pastor or Deacons on the subject; or persons who had left the neighborhood & of whom now nothing was known, were adjudged self excluded & their names removed from the Register - viz.
 Jane Ayres his wife
 George Ayres, Jan Thorn, Eliz^a Ellis, Emma Hawkins, Rachel Top,
 C. Bacon, S. Stockbridge, Eliz^a Weedon, Kephiah Blake, Mithrae
 Goodham, M. A. Green, Jas. Parkins, Geo. Webb, Jan Sawker.

882
 Our sister Ann Clayton fell asleep in Jesus, Sept^r 15th 1866.
 Church Meeting Thursday October 4th 1866. The Minutes of the previous Meet^g were read & confirmed.

The visitors deputatⁿ visited Mary Ann Goldman & Christopher Shepland having reported satisfactorily of their written commun-

her? has read it was agreed to welcome them to fellowship.
The visitor rather? saw Mr. Pateman it was agreed that his
case stand over.

883

An honourable transfer has? been received of our friend Mr. Pat-
man it was agreed to welcome her to fellowship.

884

The letter transfer? Mr. Wills Day not yet received.

885

The Pastor proposed Louisa Webb. visitor Brethren Lane & Charles

886

The Pastor having alluded to the timidity often experienced by
female candidates in seeing the Brethren appointed by the Church
it was moved by Brother Bodwell seconded by Brother A. Foster
that the Church should at the Pastors recommendation appoint
Female Visitors in these cases.

887

The Church Meet? was held Friday November 2/66.

The Minutes of the previous Meet? were read & confirmed.
The visitor has? reported satisfactory on the case of our S^r.
Pateman this communicatⁿ has? been read it was agreed to
welcome him to fellowship.

888

The visitor has? reported satisfactory on the case of Louisa Webb
her letter has? been read it was agreed also to welcome her.

889

The letter of transfer for Mr. & Mrs. Day still not rec.
Application was made for the transfer to the Church at
Kingston of our sister M^r. W. Lane Jun^r: an honourable
transfer voted.

890

The Pastor proposed for fellowship
Miss Ekins - visitor Brethren Chadwell & Barber
Mrs. A. Foster. " " Bodwell & Lane

891

892

Memorandum. During the month an excellent Organ
costing over £200 was placed in our Chapel. The expense of which
was nearly if not completely defrayed on the Evn^g. of opening - nearly
a £100 being given or promised on that occasion. This has consid-
ered a noble instance of generosity. May the Lord ~~consecrate~~ bless
& accept our efforts to promote His worship.

893

Church Meeting November 26th '66. The minutes of
the previous Meeting were read & confirmed.

Applicatⁿ a second time for the transfer of M^r. & Mrs. Day for

a time adjourned.

894

The deputations appointed to visit Candidates reporting satisfactorily & their written communications had^{ly} been read, it was unanimously agreed to receive them.

The Annual Meet^g of the Church was held on the 1st Jan^y 1867. & being convenient so to do the current monthly business was also attended to at that Meet^g.

895

After the read^g & pass^g of the preceding Minutes the Pastor proposed Dan^l Wishart & W^m Hare for Membership. Visitors Brethren Lane & Hadden; Perry & Prior. At a Meet^g during the month Carry Smith was also proposed. Visitors Brethren Chadwell & Hadden. ^{Tryphena West was also received to membership on sufficient testimony in the opinion of J. H. as to her sta. character.}

At the Annual Meet^g the follow^g Remoranda were reported
No. of Members added during the year 24: of whom 7 were by Trans-
fer, 16 by Baptism, & 1 by Profession.

896

No. of Members deceased 3, dismissed 6, withdrawn & excluded (chiefly for irregular attendance or long absence) 28; making a diminut^{ion} of names on the Church Register of 13 & leaving the no. of Members 278. It was felt though a decrease had been apparently sustained, it was only apparent. For many years the list had not been so clear of merely nominal members & an approach had now been made to appropriate Christ^{ian} discipline. The no. of Members now resident with us was still comparatively large, but with them-
selves by correspondence with the Pastor or ^{by means of} Friends, communications were kept up so as to be informed of their Christ^{ian} walk & progress. The no. of attendants at the Communion were reported & attention was directed to the subject so also to the attendance of Brethren at the Weekly Meet^g for Prayer. at the former the attendance (Male & Female) was on an average 140: at the latter of Brethren only 15. The Congrega-
tions were reported to be large & it was hoped that the moral & spiritual condition of the Church had been improved. May God grant that we may still bear the things which are behind & press forward!

At this Meet^g the Pastor again pressed upon the Church the need of an Evangelist to assist in the Villages & in visiting among the poor of the Ch. Housheer^g. He also mentioned that he was requested in the name of the North Union to offer them £30 annually toward the support of such an Agent provided an equal or a larger sum were raised by the Ch. at Titchona St. without at present accept^g the offer of the Union. Mr. Housheer's Report^g was proposed by W. N. Foster & seconded by Dr. Bodwell & carried unanimously.

897 That in the opinion of this Meet^g the services of an Evangelist are urgently required & this Meeting as a Church pledges itself to devise means at once for carrying out this end.

898 Grateful reference was made to items of our lay & improvement. Our year's Star Book Martha Peet was reported to have deceased.

899 The Pastor asked for permission to apply for the transfer of Mr. Mrs. Mayball.

The Meet^g of the Church took place on Monday Ev^g 28th Jan: when the minutes of the previous Meet^g were read & confirmed. The Candidates proposed at last Ch. Meet^g were respectively reported on & their written communications having been read it was agreed to welcome them to fellowship.

900 A testimony was received from the Pastor of the Church at Greenwich concerning our Brother Mayball & it was agreed to receive him to fellowship. Mrs. Mayball's transfer not yet received.

901 The Pastor proposed for fellowship Lucy Matson & Sarah Jackson - visitors respectively Brethren Woodfield & Chambers; Lane & Halsey: it was also agreed to apply for the transfer of Eliza Wilshire.

902 The Pastor then said he had to refer to a personal matter which he would introduce ~~before~~ before vacating the Chair. He held in his hand a letter in which he had stated to the Deacons his difficulty in getting a house for residence: he had not to quit his present one: & such were the difficulties in getting

another so frequent had been his changes some residing in the Town he feared he should be obliged ultimately to resign the Church in consequence. Some of the parents had kindly urged the subject of building: but having mentioned the matter he must leave it to their consideration. He then left the Meet^g.

904

Mr. Bodwell was appointed to the Chair: it was agreed that it was desirable to build a house for the Ministers & a Meet^g was fixed for the follow^g Monday Ev^g of Church Congregatⁿ. at that Meet^g Resolut^{ns} were passed confirmatory of that of the Church also appoint^g a Com^{tee} to confer on the subject, to procure a site, or to obtain such a house without build^g.

Church Meeting Feb^y 28/67. The Minutes of the previous Meet^g were read & confirmed.

905

The visitors deputed by the Church reported satisfactorily on the cases of Lucy Hudson & Sarah Jackson & on their letters having been read it was agreed to welcome them to fellowship.

906

A letter was read from Mr. Law pastor of the Church at Ware honourably dismissing Eliza Wilshire. Accepted unanimously.

907

The Pastor was requested to apply for the transfer from the Church at Brickhamstead of Fanny Johnson.

908

The Com^{tee} referred to in Minute 904 handed in the following Report

Dear Friends

We beg to report to you that we have been unable to find a house for our Minister & after having fully considered the question of providing a site upon which to build we are unanimously of opinion that the triangular piece of land offered by Mr. Lucas is the most eligible of the sites which have been seen by your Com^{tee} and we beg to suggest that the Trustees of the Stended property form the nucleus of a Com^{tee} to carry out the build^g operations.

We are dear Sirs Faithfully yours

signed by — The Committee: 28/2/67.

That Report was adopted. The following Gentlemen were nominated by Mr. Foster conditional upon the acquiescence of Mr. Secor, the other surviving Trustee of the Funded property: Messrs. Mr. H. Foster, Johnson & Stacey - to be added to the list of Trustees & to constitute the nucleus of the building Com^{tee}. And a Resolution was carried that the Com^{tee} for carrying out the Building operations should consist of the follow^g names - Messrs. Foster, Jones, Mr. H. Foster, Johnson, Stacey, Bodwell, Shadwell, Lane, Kainworth, Priest, Norton, Perry & Mr. Foster.

It was also resolved that a Sea Meet^g of Church Congregat^{ns} be first subject to Mr. Jones's acquiescence in the appointment of Trustees for Thursday next for the purpose of reporting progress & carrying out the necessary measures for Build^g.

Church Meeting April 4th 1867. Minutes of the previous Meet^g read & confirmed.

Letter yet received from the Church at Beckhampstead.

A letter was received from the Church at Tordingley honorably dismissing Mr. Mayball. Accepted.

A letter was received from the Church at Devonport asking for the transfer of Mr. Simpson. It was agreed that an honorable transfer should be given.

The Pastor proposed for fellowship Charlotte Woodfield - sisters Brethren Bodwell & Mr. H. Foster.

A reference having been made by Mr. Perry to the Envelopes issued during the week in connection with the weekly offering the Pastor expressed the hope that the Church would aid the Deacons in securing a more free & Christ^{ian} & liberal support for Incidentals as well as would generously aid in the part-pay-ment of an Evangelist. A question was asked concerning the amount of the Incidentals annually & though no proposition was made to the effect it seemed to be desired that these Finances should more minutely & regularly be submitted to the Church.

916

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Jones as Treasurer.

917

During the month our Brother John Williams had fallen asleep in Jesus having been nearly 50 years a member of the Church.

Church Meeting May 2/67. Minutes of the previous Meet^g

were read & confirmed.

918

No letter rec^d from the Ch: at Berkhamstead. The Pastor to write again.

919

The visitors having reported favourably on the case of Charlotte Woodfield & her letter to the Ch: having been approved it was agreed to welcome her to fellowship.

920

The Pastor proposed Sarah Bennett as a Candidate for membership. Visitors Brethren Woodfield & Chambers.

921

The subject of an Evangelist having been re-introduced it was moved by Mr. N. Foster & seconded by Mr. Mainworte that as the progress of the work off^r seemed encouraging steps be taken at once to secure a suitable agent & that the following Brethren constitute a Committee of management - Lloyd, Johnson, Kelsey, Perry, Barker & Rorton together with the Minister & Deacons. Carried.

922

Mr. Mainworte having again referred to the subject of Finances it was agreed that tho' the time of annual audit had some time passed they should be submitted to the rec^d Ch: Direct^g & henceforth annually an account of them should be given.

923

The Pastor reported that as Mr. Ebenezer Foster (the 3^d son of one of our respected senior Deacons) was about to visit America he desired that his membership might be transferred from the Ch: at Uxbridge to this Ch: of his fathers before going. As the business required he to Mr. Short had written already - which course was approved by the Church.

924

Reference was made to Mr. Spurgeons anticipated visit May 15th & a Com^{tee} of management was appointed.

Church Meeting June 17/67. The Minutes of the previous Meeting were read & confirmed.

925 A letter at length received from the Ch: at St. Berkhampstead trans-
ferring Sarah Johnson. The transfer accepted.

926 The visitors appointed were Sarah Bennett having reported
favourably & her written communication having been approved, it
was agreed to welcome her to fellowship.

927 The Minutes relating to the Evangelist had not been attended to in
consequence of the Pastor's absence from home & other circumstances:
The Com: to meet in a few days.

928 The Finances of the Incidental acct. of the Ch: were submitted to the
Meeting & approved.

929 A letter was received from the Ch: at Uxbridge transferring Ebenezer
Foster. The transfer accepted.

930 It was reported that Mr. Spurgeon visited Kitchin on the day agreed
upon: the arrangements of Communion were satisfactory carried out:
& the services productive of great pleasure & (it is hoped) profit.

931 The Pastor proposed Mrs. Buckingham as a Candidate for fellowship
visitors Brethren Lane & Bro. Morgan.

932 There was a speciality about this Meeting, it being called out of due
course to sanction the nomination of other Brethren as Trustees for the
Funded property: Brethren Johnson & Stacey declined serving: &
at a Meeting of Ch: & Congregatⁿ held on the 10th inst. other names
had been submitted subject to the approval of the Ch: The names
now proposed were Mr. Perry & Mr. Arthur Soggett in addition
to the other three Trustees of the Funded property. Carried. It
was thought advisable to have ten Trustees for the projected Min-
ister's House, including among them a majority of the Trustees of
the Funded property: Mr. Jew's one of their number declined
serving as a Trustee of the House: it was necessary therefore to ap-
point six more. It was proposed accordingly that the following
six Gentlemen of Ch. & Congregation should be added to the

together with the
Four Trustees of the Funded property for & together with them be the
Trustees of the House. Messrs. Bodwell, Mainworth, Pryor, Cal-
lender, Norton & Tennant. Carried.

934. Our sister Mrs. Bowling fell asleep in Jesus, June 17/67.
Church Meeting August 1/67. The Minutes of the previous Meeting
were read & confirmed.

935. A conversation arising on the subject of the Evangelist & the
Secretary who had been appointed by the Com. & not being present
it was moved by Mr. Perry & seconded by Mr. Woodfield that the
subject be adjourned to the next Church Meeting.

936. The visitors having reported favourably concerning Mr. & Mrs. Breding
their written communication having been approved it was
agreed to welcome her to fellowship.

937. In relation to Minutes 932 & 3 I was reported that Mr. Perry
& Mr. Arthur Doyce were willing to become Trustees of the Funded Property
but that Mr. Callender & Mr. Tennant declined becoming Trustees for
the house. In their stead Messrs. Shadwell & Lane had consented to
become Trustees subject to the approval of the Church - which was given.

938. The Pastor read a letter from the Church at Malden Essex re-
questing the transfer of Mr. Bates (late Town Missionary at N^o.)
& his wife. An honourable transfer to both Friends, was voted.

939. The Pastor also reported that Mrs. Williamson (late Miss
Chester who had gone out on Mission work to India & had married
in that country) in a letter to himself had expressed a wish to be
transferred to the Church meeting at the Circular R^d Chapel Cal-
cutta. An honourable transfer also voted.

940. The following Candidates were proposed for fellowship. Mrs
Simmons. visitors Messrs. Shadwell & Barker. Arthur Throssel.
visitors Messrs. Henry Foster & Pryor.

941. Transfers were directed to be applied for from the Church at
Chester on of Mr. & Mrs. Comfort: from the Church at Calcutta of
Sarah Emmons.

Church Meet. Aug. 29. 1867. The Minutes of the previous Ch: Meeting were read & confirmed.

942 Mr. Johnson having referred to a case of suspended Membership the Pastor stated that nothing could be more desirable than that such cases should be steadily looked after - but the usual course was to bring them under the notice of the Pastor & by him the communication should be made to the Church.

943 It was agreed on the motion of Mr. H. Foster seconded by Mr. Dorell that the matter of the Evangelist should stand over till after the next meeting of the Union.

944 The Candidates for Church fellowship having been visited respectively by the Brethren appointed by the Church & the reports concerning them being approved - were welcomed to fellowship.

945 The Pastor proposed for fellowship Sarah Dill & Jesse Payne. Visitors respecting Brethren Lane & Madden: Tho. Morgan & Chambers.

Church Meeting Sept. 26. 67. The Minutes of the previous Ch: Meeting were read & confirmed.

946 Transfers of membership from the Ch: at Chesterton & Wood Mrs. Comfort were read & unanimously accepted.

947 The Candidates for fellowship were also reported on - on them being approved it was agreed to welcome them to fellowship.

948 The Pastor proposed for fellowship Jacob Russell & Ellen With the visitors respectively Brethren Shadwell & Halsey - Woodfill & Pease.

949 In reference to the matter of an Evangelist it was moved by Mr. Lane & seconded by Mr. Shadwell that seeing the Weekly Offering would not yield for the purpose a sum exceeding £50 & the offer of £30 annually by the Mech Union could be accepted only in the employment of an Evangelist not a Missionary, an Evangelist be employed. to which an Amendment was proposed

by Mr. Stacey & seconded by Mr. Johnson that seeing already there was a sum in hand from the surplus of the Weekly Offering & in case of employing an Evangelist accord^g to the terms of the Acts Union the Town must be refunded the offer of the Acts U. should be declined & a Missionary should be employed instead of the Evangelist. The Amendment carried.

The Com^{rs} of management previously appointed to carry out the requisite measures for an Evangelist were requested to act for the Church Missionary.

Church Meeting Thursday Nov. 7th The Minutes of the previous meet^g were read & confirmed.

A Letter was read from the Church at Caling transferring Sarah Ann Emms to our fellowship: Accepted.

The Deputations appointed to visit Candidates, having given their reports to the Candidates, written communications having been read it was agreed to welcome them to fellowship.

Letters were read asking for the dismissions of the following Brethren & Sisters - William & Ann King to the Church at Hylbridge - Mrs. Mary Ann Pells to the Church at Brompton & Arthur Wright to that at Bess, Norfolk. In each case commendation papers were given.

The Pastor reported the deaths during the month of the follow^g Friends who were fellow members, one on each row in heaven - Ann Young, Thos. Williams, Fanny Hare, Elizth Baron. In each case cheering evidence^s were supplied that they are present with the Lord.

The Pastor requested permission to apply for the transfer of Ellen Cook from the Church at Liverpool (which was granted) & also proposed for fellowship Will^m Dawson. Visitors Brethren Shadwell & Lane.

It was then stated that the Com^{rs} appointed by the Church

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for the Missionary referred the matter back to the Church on account of the Financial difficulty of the question: And it was subsequently resolved that the need & desirableness of the object should again be presented to the Congregation by the Pastor & another month be allowed to see whether increased Funds were supplied by the Weekly Offering.

957

At a special Church meeting duly called by the Pastor for the following Thursday it was stated that a request had been made by Mr. Johnson & duly acknowledged to the Chairman for the production before the Church of a correspondence between himself & Pastor & beams relative to "Mission Hall, Wash. Wash D.C." for a vote of the Church upon the subject. It was moved, seconded, & carried not to entertain it.

Church Meeting Dec: 5th 1867. The Minutes of the previous Meet^g were read & Minutes 957 having been amended set forth, but from they were confirmed.

958

A letter was received & accepted from the Church at Pem. broke St. Liverpool dismissing our fellowship Elyja Cooke.

959

The Deputat^y appointed by the Church having reported on the case of W^m Dawson & his written communication having been read it was agreed to receive him to fellowship.

960

The Pastor having referred to the business of our late Meet^g ^{having} fallen into disorder. requested that the Friends should observe the recognized rules of all public Meet^gs. 1st. that the Meet^g should be addressed thro' the Chairman 2^{dly}. that a Member should only speak once on the same question except^{ly} for the purpose of explanation.

961

The subject of the Missionary to the Church was then introduced. & after an account of the weekly off^g was read, it was moved seconded & carried that the Com^{tee} be requested to take measures to procure a Missionary.

The Annual Meeting of the Church was held on Wednesday the 1st January 1868 when a goodly number of friends were present (more especially at the Meeting).

962

The Minutes of the previous monthly Meeting were read & confirmed. A request was made & granted for the dismissal of Agnes Middlemas from this Church to that at St. Andrew St. Cambridge: the Pastor also requested permission to apply to the Church at Gaimbury for the transfer of Ann Smith.

The Report for the Year included the following particulars.

No: of Members added was 25; no: of members deceased, 9; no: of members dismissed to other Churches, 9; no: of members lapsed thro' non attendance, 2. Clear increase only 5.

963

The no: at present on the Books 284, of whom still a large proportion resides at a distance. The average no: of Communicants was 145: of Brethren at Prayer Meet^g not more than 9 or 10.

During the month our aged sister M^r. Foster had fallen asleep in Jesus having been a Member of the Church close upon 70 years. It was remarked that with another Member who deceased in M^r. Search's pastorate, M^r. F. supplied the link of connection between the first & the present Pastor of the Church.

964

Church Meeting - January 30th 1868. The minutes of the previous Meeting were read & confirmed.

The letter transferring Ann Smith from the Church at Gaimbury not yet received.

965

The Pastor called upon the Secretary of the Committee appointed to secure a Missionary for his Report when the following Minute was read "That seeing the necessary funds for the employment of a Church Missionary cannot be obtained this Committee beg to refer back to the Church the whole question."

966

108
967 After a few words from the Pastor it was then moved by Mr. Hainworth seconded by Mr. Lane that all thought of securing a Missionary be now dropped.

968 It was also moved by Mr. Halsey seconded by Mr. Foster of Wymondley that applicat.ⁿ be made at the next meeting of the Anti Union for the renewal of their offer of £30 annually & that upon the condition of that offer being renewed we resort to the attempt of procuring an Evangelist.

The Meeting concluded with prayer.
969 * (Mission) The Pastor requested permission & apply for the transfer of Sarah Payne & Emma Deacon from the Ch. at Union Chapel Luton.

Church Meeting Thursday Feb. 27. 1868. when the Minutes of the previous Church Meet.ⁿ were read & confirmed.

970 The transfer of Anna Smith shall not receive. likewise those of Sarah Payne & Emma Deacon.

971 The applicat.ⁿ to the Anti Union deferred to the Quarterly Meet.ⁿ

972 The Pastor stated that it was the desire of Mr. Smooty who had some time been a Communicant with the Church to become a Member. As our f.^d was well known among us & it was not likely ^{1st} from the constitution of the Welwyn Church & ^{2^d} from her length of absence we should get a dismission were we to apply for it, it was moved & seconded that we should receive her as one of fellowship. Carried.

973 The Pastor proposed for fellowship the follow.^g Candidates
Elizabeth Day Deputat.ⁿ Brethren Morgan & Chambers.
Margaret Throold " " Lane & Hainworth.
Charles Barker " " Halsey & Pryor.

974 Her sister Nancy Newton fell asleep in Jesus the 26. Jan. 68.

Church Meeting Thursday March 26th 1868. The Minutes of the previous Church Meeting were read & confirmed.

97⁵ The transfer of John Smith still not received.

976 A highly satisfactory letter was received from Mr. Steadman pastor of Union Chapel Luton transferring Sarah Payne & Emma Deacon. The letter gladly received.

977 The Pastor stated the result of the Church's application to the North Union Com^{tee}. The North U. agreed to renew their offer of £30 per annum to the Ch: at Tilehurst St. Nicholas on the previous conditions for the support of an Evangelist. with this modification. supposing the conditions to be complied with £10 should come direct from themselves, £20 this being medium from the Congregational Home Mission. It was resolved on this encouragement to renew the attempt for an Evangelist. & the Brethren previously appointed as Committee for the object were requested to renew their effort.

978 The Candidates proposed for fellowship were severally reported on & their written communications having been read it was resolved to welcome them to fellowship.

979 Permission was asked & granted for application to the Independent Church in this town for the transfer of the membership of Miss Bomford.

Church Meeting Thursday April 23rd 1868. The Minutes of the previous Church Meeting were read & confirmed.

980 The transfer of John Smith at length received from the Church at Buntingford: accepted.

981 The resolution of the Church affecting the matter of the Evangelist adjourned.

982 A satisfactory letter rec^d from the Church at Queen St. dismissing Miss Bomford & kindly remarking on the friendly feeling between the Churches.

983

The Pastor proposed for fellowship Mr. Bakerfield.
visitors Brethren Lane & Morgan.

984

The Pastor then vacated the Chair when Mr. Lloyd
was asked to fill it the following letter was read.

To the Church of Christ assembling at
② Town Street Chapel, Hitchin.

My dear Brethren and Sisters in Christ.

I feel that the time has ~~now~~ arrived when I must
resign the Pastorate over you which I have now held
more than nine years. I do so with deep pain
and great reluctance. Be assured I do not lightly
act upon this decision and without the personal solemn
conviction I have in this step the sanction of the Master.
My official connection with you has in some respects
been painful of trial, but it has also been cheered with
proofs of mercy which I shall ever remember and for
which I shall give God thanks. My Wife's health
and my own overtaxed powers are the first considerations
inducing my resolve. It would be wrong however to
imply that they are the only ones. Difficulties have arisen
for which I am not responsible; and which after the
protracted patience I have already exercised I do not
feel myself called any longer to encounter. My relation
as a Christian, a Minister, and a Husband in my
opinion forbid the risk. It will always my
dear friends be a great pleasure to hear of your
well fare. one soweth and another reapeth. I believe
that by the blessing of God I have sown seed of the
Kingdom which another may reap. But be that as
it may it is my earnest desire that God will

985

ever bless you and yours. I stand fast in the Lord my
dearly beloved: My resignation will take effect on the
24 of June next. Mrs Short unites with me in
affectionate regards. I am my dear Brother's Sister
in Christ yours in the bonds of the gospel

Park Road April 23. 1868. George Short.

The following is a copy of a letter in reply.

My Dear Mr Short April 23. 1868

After you left the church meeting this
evening your letter of resignation was read by Mr Chadwell
I need not tell you with what surprise and sorrow
many of us received the announcement. The following
Resolution was then carried:

785
That having listened with deep regret to Mr Short's
letter of resignation, we beg very earnestly to request
that he will reconsider the matter. Let me
entreat you my dear Sir to give this resolution
your prayerful consideration, and may the All wise
God guide you into the right result; And let me also
express our deep sympathy with you on account of
Mrs Short's protracted illness, and we sincerely hope
I pray that your sojourn in the South, may be the means
of restoring her to perfect health, praying that we
may be all guided aright in this all important step.

I remain Dear Sir

D. Lloyd
Chairman.

Rev J. Short B. A.

The following is Mr Short's reply,

My dear Sir Fitchin April 1868

I cannot sufficiently thank you and the kind
friends who joined in sending the Resolution

172
so affectionately conveyed on the 24th. At the same
time I do not see my way to alter my Decision
and retract my letter of resignation, the circumstances
which led to it remaining the same, with those cir-
cumstances our friends the Deacons are fully
acquainted, as I have had frequent and full commu-
nications with them. though I did not deem it wise
to enter more at length into the nature of those
communications in my letter of Resignation.

It may be necessary now. Several misre-
ceptions are afloat which I think should be cor-
rected and it may spare the necessity of a more public
notice if they are removed at once.

1st. It has been stated I wished to exclude certain
members - in reply to which I wish it to be understood
I have never urged, asked, or even breathed the desire to
exclude a single person, I am not conscious of an
ill feeling to an individual, and only regret I cannot
agree with some from whom I am compelled to differ.

2^{ndly}. It has been stated I have made requests con-
cerning attendance irrespective of distance and claims
of religious services at Village Stations &c. I have com-
mitted no such thing and would appeal to letters and conversation
as proofs. All I have said is If distance sickness
or causes of lawful detention do not prevent, a member
(to say the least) ought to attend more frequently at his
own place of worship than at another.

3^{rdly}. As with regard to Missions Hall I would wish to state
my difficulty has had nothing to do with the question
of its use, that I leave, or would gladly allow
Difference of opinion about, but my difficulty

has respected the origin, the mode in which it was undertaken and has been carried on - and especially the irregularity of attendance on the part of members, and members families, which it involves. Although it should involve the entire transfer of Church and Congregation from Whitehouse Street. I would not lift up a finger to stay it if it were thought to be for the glory of God, but this irregularity whilst membership remains seems thoroughly inconsistent. I should be much obliged to you if you will communicate these things to the Church. In the meanwhile accept my thanks for the interest you have always manifested in me, and for the kind sympathy expressed in Mr. Short's illness.

I am dear Sir affectionately yours
 George Short.
 Chairman at Church Meeting. 23/4/68.

Church Meeting July 2nd 1868, Mr. Lloyd Chairman
 The newly appointed Treasurer Mr. A. Foster
 read a Statement of the Weekly Offering for the
 past year, also a Balance Sheet of Receipts
 and Expenses for the year of the Accidental Fund,
 After the adoption of this report,
 It was moved by Mr. A. Foster, and seconded
 by Mr. Brown, That the sum of 150 £ a moiety
 of the sum received by Weekly Offerings be
 invested by the Deacons, until such time as the
 Church shall deem it expedient to revive the
 project of a Church Missionary. Carried.
 Moved by Mr. Johnson That the present
 system of Weekly Offerings be continued for

286

286

194
raising the sum necessary for ^{accidental expenses} carried.

990
Moved that the thanks of the Church be presented to Mr Jones Esq, for his past services as Treasurer, and to Messrs Halsey and Perry, for their management of the Wokeley Offering, and that they be solicited to continue their efficient services.

Church collecting held Aug. 27. 1868.

991
The former minutes were read and confirmed. It was moved by Mr Woodfield seconded by Mr Morgan, that the Rev. S. C. Aldis be invited to supply the Pulpit at Salem Chapel for four Sabbaths on probation with a view the Pastorale.

Mr Johnson moved as an amendment that the Rev Mr Best be invited to supply the Pulpit on probation but this was not seconded.

992
Mr Henry Foster having read a statement of the Subscriptions towards the support of the Ministry and the Disbursements, it was moved by Mr Johnson and seconded by Mr W. Foster, that the statement of the pecuniary accounts be approved and passed. After a long conversation on the pecuniary affairs of the Church generally, it was agreed
1st That all Subscriptions towards the support of the Ministry be considered as belonging to the Minister,
2^d That money contributed after the Lords

suffer, be given to the poor.

3. That the incidental expenses be made to include the payment of the Supplies during the Ministers Holiday.

293

At a Church Meeting held Oct. 1. 1868, it was proposed by Mr. Smith Woodfield and seconded by Mr. John Morgan that the Rev. John Aloisius be invited to become the Pastor of this Church.

12 voted for the Resolution, 7 did not vote, none against.

294

At a Meeting of Subscribers held Oct. 5. 1868. It was moved by Mr. B. Leonard seconded by Mr. John Palmer that the Resolution of the Church inviting the Rev. John Aloisius be approved by this meeting.

58 voted for, 1 voted against, 1 was absent.

The following Letter was sent to Mr. Alois.

Stamford

Sturmag Oct. 6. 1868.

My Dear friend

On the behalf of my brethren, I beg now to convey to you the Resolution passed by the Church and Subscribers, both were carried with great harmony and cordiality, and we submit them to your serious consideration, earnestly praying that the great Head of the Church may guide you to a right decision, as our hope and faith is. We have led us.

295

I think I need not enlarge much now, should you be led to accede to our request, no effort will be wanting on our part to evince our hearty sympathy and cooperation in every thing that concerns the welfare

196
of the Church and Congregation, as well as to
manifest the respect due to you as our Instructor
and leader. It is only right to state that our
Subscriptions for the support of the Minister for
several years past, have averaged 200 £, and
we have no reason to think that the amount will be
less in the future, on the contrary we hope.
With respect to the Ministers House, we are sorry
to say, that a Rent of about 10 £ will be required
for the present, to pay the interest on remaining debt,
and to form a fund for repairs &c, But we hope
ere long the debt will be paid off, with best wishes
for yourself and Mrs. Davis, I am my Dear friend
Yours very sincerely
W. A. Foster.
Rev. J. Davis Junr

The following are Mrs. Davis' replies
To the Church of N. meeting in Salem Chapel. ^{Hickory}
Beloved Brethren & Sisters in N. ^{Market}

966
There has been transmitted to me, a resolution
passed by you at a Church meeting held October 1st
inviting me to undertake the Pastoral office
among you. In this mark of your confidence &
esteem I heartily thank God, & thank you, &
now I write to signify my acceptance of your
invitations. It is with mingled emotions that I
do so, the thought of tearing myself away from the
endeared & hallowed associations
of my work in New York, is very painful, especially
as I find that it gives pain to many. And I
experience some trepidation at the prospect of

entering upon so important a post, & so arduous a
 work, but on the other hand my deliberate conviction is
 that it is the path of duty; & I therefore desire to
 exercise trust for the rest. Many circumstances combine
 to lead me to this conclusion. I could not but be
 gratified by the very kind & cordial reception I
 received from so many during my visit, which seems
 to me an earnest of a happy & useful association
 with you. again, the large congregations I witnessed
 greatly encouraged me; though I cannot reasonably
 expect that they will continue as a constancy what
 they were during an occasional visit. Moreover, the
 remarkable unanimity & apparent earnestness of the
 invitation seem to me to be a striking proof that
 God's hand is in it, besides I felt from the first that
 the sphere of labour presented is remarkably congenial
 to me. Further those whom I have consulted are
 unanimous in the belief that it is my duty to comply,
 even some whose feelings & wishes would lead them to
 an opposite conclusion, but I rely especially on this
 decision as one that has been arrived at after much
 earnest prayer for evidence on both sides, & God
 is the hearer of prayer. Thus I accept your invitation
 with a good degree of confidence that it is the Lord's
 appointment. What the result may be is known
 only to Him who reads the future, but I breathe
 the prayer & venture to cherish the hope that the union
 thus consummated may continue for many years,
 fraught with blessings to many, & bringing glory to God.
 I will always be my aim to cherish & trust
 it may be my privilege to enjoy the most cordial

relations with those who have been chosen among you to the honourable office of Deacons. And as during nearly 15 years I have never had a jarring word with one of the Deacons in Neworth, I have no fear in this respect for the future. Their office and themselves I trust I shall always hold in honour. I regard my pulpit ministrations as my most important work; but shall endeavor to engage in domiciliary visitation as much as is practicable. But I must beg you not to be unreasonable in your expectations in this matter. It will also be my desire to assist & encourage as far as my strength will permit the Sunday School, the preaching Stations & any other agencies among you to do good. Some few among you are doubtful of the wisdom of the step now taken. I am thankful that they are only doubtful & not convinced that it is unwise or they would have opposed my coming. But though they do not find my ministry is of a kind to meet their want I trust I may be able so to act as at least to win their respect & that the result may prove the wisdom of the decision of so many.

I think it desirable to state that owing to bad sight I am very slow in remembering & recognizing faces; as that I fear it will be some time before I can know all the members of the church I mention this lest that should be put down to indifference which results merely from physical defect.

Beloved Brethren & Sisters in coming among you I deeply feel the responsibility & magnitude

of the undertaking & my own insufficiency thereto, but
 'our sufficiency is of God,' I therefore entreat you to
 sustain me by your earnest and constant prayers &
 to let me have your sympathy & cooperation.

The friends in Neworth are anxious for me to
 remain with them as long as I can, I have ^{therefore} promised
 to stay with them over the 14th Lords Day in November
 & if the vote be concenious to you I hope to begin my
 regular work among you on Lords Day Nov. 29th.
 That we may meet in the fulness of the blessing
 of the gospel of Christ is the prayer of
 yours in the bond of love & fellowship
 Neworth Oct. 14. 1868 John Aldis Junr

To the Congregation meeting in Salem Chapel
 British North

Dear friends

I have received a copy of a resolution
 passed by a meeting of subscribers on Monday
 October 5; reaffirming the resolution of the Church
 inviting me to be a Pastor at Salem Chapel,
 I wish to say that I have decided to accept your
 invitation, I hope if all be well to commence my
 work among you at the end of next month.

166
 The almost entire unanimity of your request
 is very gratifying to me; as it proves that the
 desire for my coming expressed by the members
 of the Church is shared also by those who have not
 yet declared themselves on the Lords side;

From my observation I judge that in the
 Congregation at Salem Chapel there are an

200
unusual number of real ones, who from some
cause or other have not made a profession of
their faith. I shall be thankful if I can be
the means of leading any such to be secret
Disciples no longer; but to discharge what I
believe to be a duty, & to sealize what I
believe to be a privilege.

It may be that some have joined
in the request who have never given their
hearts to the Lord, Dear friends you thus
show an interest in Divine things: I do grant
that your interest may be deepened, My
sincerest reward will be if by acceding to your
request I may be the means of leading you to
the Saviour; so that you may be doers of
the word & not hearers only receiving your
own selves. Beloved friends I
heartily thank you for your invitation
Give me the help of your sympathy & prayers
That God may richly bless you, & make
me a blessing among you, is the earnest
desire of your servant for Jesus sake
Newark, Dec 14 1818. E. A. S. Jun.

806
At a Church Meeting held Oct. 19. 68
It was proposed by Mr. Johnson and
seconded by Mr. Halsey, that the Deacons
be authorized to pay to Building Committee
the sum of thirty Pounds (more or less)
of the monies paid towards the Ministry
for defraying the expence necessary