

HOME COUNTIES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

(FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE "SURREY AND MIDDLESEX"
ASSOCIATION—Formed in 1877.)

➤ REPORT FOR 1896. ◀

WITH
CIRCULAR LETTER
FROM THE COMMITTEE TO TEACHERS AND PARENTS,
UPON
THE URGENT NEED FOR INSTRUCTING OUR YOUNG
PEOPLE IN OUR DISTINCTIVE PRINCIPLES.

This Report is intended to be distributed freely amongst the
Officers and Workers of the Associated Churches; and
also amongst Sunday School Teachers.

GUILDFORD:
BILLING AND SONS, RAILWAY ESPLANADE.

Home Counties Baptist Association.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE, 1896.

Moderator :

PASTOR CHARLES SPURGEON, of Greenwich.

Vice-Moderator :

MR. J. T. DUNN, Metropolitan Tabernacle.

Ex-Moderator :

MR. JOSEPH CORPE, of Ealing Dean.

Treasurer :

PASTOR E. H. BROWN, of Twickenham Green.

Secretary :

PASTOR E. W. TARBOX, Epsom Road, Guildford.

Minute Secretary :

PASTOR PERCY J. SMART, of High Barnet.

Committee :

PASTOR R. J. BEECLIFF, Metropolitan Tabernacle.

PASTOR E. POOLE CONNOR, Aldershot.

PASTOR J. W. DAVIES, Lee.

MR. C. DEAYTON, Teddington.

PASTOR W. L. GIBBS, Ealing Dean.

PASTOR C. INGREM, Wimbledon.

PASTOR J. RANKINE, Guildford.

PASTOR F. M. SMITH, Peckham.

PASTOR D. THOMPSON, Norbiton.

PASTOR G. WRIGHT, Kingston.

The Committee meet in Rooms at Kingston Chapel, at 3.30 p.m., on the second Tuesdays in February, May, July, September, and December.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

The year 1896 has a special interest, for it is the twentieth year of our existence as an Association.

A RETROSPECT.—It cannot be out of place to glance for a moment at the history of those years. On June 6, 1877, a meeting of pastors and deacons was called at Kingston, to confer and decide concerning the formation of an association for the scattered churches of rural Surrey and Middlesex. Nine pastors and twelve delegates were present. (Of these twenty-one brethren, twelve are still alive, and six—Pastors W. Baster, H. Bayley, E. H. Brown, and E. W. Tarbox, and Deacons Corpe and Hart—are still in our Association.) The Surrey and Middlesex Association was then formed with nine churches, whose united membership was 1,100, and the first year's income was £7. So isolated and inert were the rural churches in those days, that this beginning was not reached without the exercise of much patience and tact on the part of the three pastors to whom the enterprise owed its existence—H. Bayley, E. H. Brown, and the indefatigable convener and first secretary, J. Hunt Cooke. The S. and M. B. A., being thus resolved upon and constituted in June, 1877, was publicly launched at Guildford in the following October. In its early years progress was slow, and the presence of two dozen pastors and delegates was then reckoned a large meeting.

Glance at it again, ten years later, in 1886. The nine churches have grown to twenty-five, and the annual income to about £30. In 1889 Charles Haddon Spurgeon joined our ranks, and for two brief years we enjoyed his presence and counsel. He had taken a friendly interest in the Association from its commencement, an interest which in a measure may be said to abide with us still, in the noble help rendered to us by his sons.

In 1890 the restrictions on our area were somewhat relaxed, and so the name of the Association was altered to Home Counties, as we were receiving churches beyond the borders of Surrey and Middlesex, and from London. It should be noted, however, that the Association has never altered its original character, a large majority of the churches in it still belonging to Surrey and Middlesex, and country churches being to Metropolitan churches in the proportion of three to one.

Look, then, at the Association to-day, at the end of twenty years. It has sixty-one churches, with a membership of 11,400, and its annual income touches £300. Truly 'the Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad.'

1896.—The General Meetings of the year have been held at Teddington in May, and Ealing Dean in October. The intermediate quarterly meetings were at Hornsey Road in February, and Dormansland in July. All were hearty, happy, and well attended. The minutes are on page 10. Seven churches have joined during the year, and two (Rotherhithe and Southall) have lapsed under Rule 13.

STATISTICS.—The tables will be found on pages 20 to 22. They cannot be compiled without much time and care. Yet *it is to be feared* that very few of the readers of the report will trouble to examine them. We say *feared* advisedly, because a thoughtful study of them is the only means of forming a just opinion of the condition of our churches, and of the difficulties in the way of our progress. True it is that many important facts cannot be tabulated; but much may be learnt from the figures, and we venture on this occasion to prove the usefulness of the tables, by pointing out some of the conclusions that can be drawn from them.

Of our sixty-one churches, fifty-two sent in returns, of which forty-six were fully *detailed*. This is an uncommonly good proportion, showing that for the most part our church books are carefully kept, and our secretaries are obliging and business-like. To complete aggregate totals we have used the previous year's figures in the nine cases where we received no returns for 1896. And we take the opportunity of urging the prompt return of the forms sent round every September for this report and the Handbook.

The returns show that from September, 1895, to September, 1896, our *churches* increased from 56 (in 1895) to 61 (in 1896); *places of worship* in use, from 86 to 92; *sittings provided*, from 28,940 to 32,630; *church membership*, from 10,771 to 11,393; *Sunday-school teachers*, from 1,576 to 1,740; and *Sunday scholars*, from 18,857 to 20,328.

Thus, everything has improved, *except the average membership of the churches!* For, though 34 churches show some net increase, the other 27 are either at a standstill, or suffer appreciable diminution. This fact, be it noted with joy, *is not due to any lack*

of additions, but to an exceedingly heavy list of removals—a truth we could not know but for the statistical tables. For the 46 detailed returns show 1,138 admissions—667 by baptism, 118 by profession, 335 by letter, and 18 by renewal; while the losses register no less than 527 *by transfer*, 358 *by erasure*, 102 by death, and 13 by exclusion! Allowing the proper proportion for the churches that made no return, and adding it, we may safely say that our churches have had over 1,400 additions during the year, and have baptized at least 950 persons; but that the losses equal the gains. Evidently rural populations are becoming more migratory, and there is also a terrible leakage in the matter of transfer, since, for every five persons transferred *away* by letter, only three are *received* by letter! *Where are the Erased?* Do they drift away to the world, or to other sects? We would impress the circular letter on our readers in reference to this.

NEW CHAPELS.—Larger buildings are superseding those formerly in use at Chiswick, East Greenwich, Lee, and Woodford; and new places of worship have been erected at Feltham, Southend, and Waltham Cross. Also many less important enlargements and improvements have been made, at Ealing and other places, which need not be enumerated here.

BUILDING DEBTS.—In addition to those enterprises named in the previous paragraph as belonging to this year, there are many other places where new chapels have been erected (during 1894–1895 or earlier) where debts remain on the buildings, such as Teddington, Norbiton, Kensal Rise, Silvertown, Aldershot (School), Hornsey Road, Morden, etc. The Association cannot help all these simultaneously, or in any direct way; but we are doing the only thing that seems possible. The Committee select one case each year and recommend it to the help of the other churches, and of God's stewards in those churches. *A small gift from each church during the year, would be a very light burden, but the combined result would be a real help to a worthy cause.* The case chosen for 1896 was Teddington. Unfortunately the pastor's lameness and illness have hindered him from the personal visits so essential to the working of this scheme, and we fear his inability to do this has made a difference beyond the power of our appeals to remedy. For 1897 the Committee heartily commend Norbiton, Pastor Douglas Thompson, and support any appeal he may make.

GRANTS TO CHURCHES.—Seven grants have been made from the *General Fund* to weak churches, amounting to £36. See page 17.

GRANTS TO PASTORS.—Three pastors have been qualified for assistance from the Augmentation Fund (which is still in its infancy), and have together received £40 10s.

We call special attention to the Moderator's offer, fully described in his own words on page 8. It is most needful that the Augmentation Fund should be strengthened, and his kind and generous service is most heartily appreciated by all of us.

HOME MISSION WORK.—(1) We have completed the third year of our work at *Godstone* with very satisfactory results. Pastoral oversight is given by Brother Rankine and the Secretary. Mr. Skinner is a model deacon, and Mr. Macowen an able and earnest school superintendent. Mr. Barrow continues his generous contribution. (2) With regard to *Hampton Court*, the Committee, after much careful consideration, invited the Pioneer Mission to undertake the work there for us, and Mr. Carter has assumed entire responsibility, while we shall continue to render some financial assistance. (3) We are taking over the management of the cause at *North Cheam*. Unfortunately it has fallen into a low state; and as Pastor Ingrem, of Wimbledon, with his church and band of preachers are willing to undertake the work for us, we expect before long to hear of improvement.

COLPORTAGE.—We continue to employ and support the two Colporteurs at Horsell and Egham—Mr. Bridger and Mr. Cole. These excellent men are continuing their patient and valuable work as usual. For this we pay the Society £80 a year, £60 of which is specially given for the purpose.

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.—The interests of the young are not forgotten. The whole subject is presented by the Committee in the circular letter, and therefore it is superfluous to enter upon it here.

FINANCE.—The balance-sheets of all the funds will be found on pages 17 to 19. They are satisfactory, and show encouraging support. We would call attention to the following statement: The gross income of the Association for the last ten years has been £2,000. Of this only £180 has been consumed in working expenses, while £1,750 has been applied to the interests of our churches, and a balance is held in hand of £70. Of the £1,750 expended in our work for the churches, £1,050 has been used in

direct financial help by grants, etc., and £700 in colportage. These facts are eloquent proof that the Association lays itself out to help to its utmost power our poorer churches and pastors.

OBITUARY.—It is with very deep regret that we record the death of *Mr. Benjamin Tice*, of Egham, who had been a personal member and generous helper of this Association for more than seven years. He was a man of great influence in his town, and a leader in every good work. He manifested deep piety and a humble and retiring spirit. His loss will be severely felt, for it will not be easy to fill the place he has left vacant. He passed away in November after much suffering. The bereaved family have our deep sympathy.

We ought also to mention the decease of the *Rev. Henry Beddow*, who served us as itinerant Evangelist from 1880 to 1883. He was a good and earnest man. For the last eight years he held the pastorate of a small church in Buckinghamshire. Brethren who were with us thirteen years ago will remember him.

The years pass swiftly away. Let us work while it is day, not knowing how soon we may hear the Master's call, or see His appearing. May we all be found loyal to His truth, and diligent in His service!

AN OFFER FROM THE MODERATOR.

DEAR FRIENDS,

Once again I have been honoured by the brotherhood in being elected to the Moderatorship of our beloved Association. I have accepted this position in the hope that all the pastors and churches will aid me to complete the work I commenced during my previous term of office—the work of visiting the churches under such an arrangement as will bring a *direct financial benefit* to them, and at the same time enable me to increase the Augmentation Fund of our Association.

I assure you, beloved brethren, that your kind assistance in this undertaking will be very greatly valued by me. My *one wish* is to be of some small service to you during the term of my office, that God may be glorified!

There are in our Association a good many small churches whose utmost efforts do not enable them to bring their ministers'

stipends up to £100 a year, in some cases falling a long way short even of that modest figure. We ought to stand by these weak churches, many of them outposts where the flag of truth is upheld in the face of immense difficulties. What can be more desirable than to put upon a sound financial basis a fund to augment these small stipends?

It may not be known to all of you, though it is to some, that while my beloved father was a member of our Association, he greatly desired to see an Augmentation Fund established in connection therewith, and for some years he furnished the funds wherewith grants were made, on conditions similar to those now in use.

Many a time has he talked to me about the need of organized regular help for these struggling churches, and the kindly wish was so near his heart, that had he lived, I doubt not he would have carried some scheme into existence to secure it. But since he has gone into the glory, my love for *him*, joining with my love for *you*, constrained me to make an effort to accomplish the formation of our Augmentation Fund. In 1894 we made a beginning. Since then the fund has been in operation on a small scale, and contributions have come in sufficiently to provide grants of over £100, without drawing upon the little capital my visits in 1894 produced. Such a fund *must* have a *capital*, or else it is precarious, and unequal to meet emergencies. My present proposal is with a view to enlarged capital.

So I ask you to give me an opportunity to come and preach or lecture for you; half the collection will be for your work, and half for this fund. All this is explained in the circular you have received. As far as I can, I will fall in with the wishes of all, and only ask that, where possible, I may be permitted to suggest the date, when I have received intimation that a visit will be welcome.

I shall also be most grateful for any personal donations that anyone may feel moved to send me for this object.

God bless our brotherhood! So prays

Yours to serve,

C. SPURGEON.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS.

QUARTERLY MEETING AT HORNSEY ROAD, FEBRUARY 25.

Pastor Edwin Smart and his church invited us to afternoon conference, tea, and evening service in their new neat iron chapel, and there was a good attendance, representing twenty-six churches.

Mr. Corpe took the chair at three o'clock, and conducted a devotional meeting. This was followed by a conference on "Soul-winning," ably introduced by Pastor John Wilson, of Woolwich, who was followed by Brethren J. T. Mateer and A. Dickerson. Among subsequent speakers were Dr. Gritton, C. Spurgeon, W. Frith, and T. G. Griffiths.

After an excellent tea in the Wesleyan Schoolroom across the road, service was held at seven o'clock. The preacher was Pastor Charles Spurgeon.

SPRING MEETING AT TEDDINGTON, MAY 13.

The new, elegant, and capacious chapel at Teddington was our place of meeting for the Spring General Meeting. Pastor R. J. Williamson had been laid aside with serious and very painful illness (from which he is even yet suffering in a measure), but we were all glad to see him able to be present to act as host. The attendance was excellent, thirty-seven churches being represented by 107 pastors and delegates. Mr. Corpe presided. After an hour of earnest prayer, business commenced at noon. The church at Hornsey Park and Pastor Newton, the church at Waltham Cross and Pastor Douglas, and the church at South Woodford and Pastor Cox were received. The following were also added to us as personal members: Pastors Fidge, Burnham and Scoones, and Messrs. Klickman and Sortwell. The Moderator gave a brief but wise address on the relations between pastors and deacons.

A very animated debate then took place on the Education Question. Pastor Ingrem moved a resolution condemning the Government Bill. This was supported by Brethren Dunn, Smith, Tarbox and Brown, and carried unanimously.

Pastor W. L. Gibbs, of Ealing Dean, then read an excellent paper on "The Priesthood of Christ," treating of its origin, ordination, and order.

Dinner was served in the schoolroom. About 140 sat down. Vote of thanks was moved by Brethren Fidge and Burnham, and replied to by the Pastor and Mr. C. Deayton.

The afternoon meeting was well attended both by the delegates and the public. Three eloquent and masterly addresses on the subject of "Christian Holiness" were given by Pastors S. H. Moore, of New Malden, E. J. Mateer, of Dulwich, and W. F. Edgerton, of Harlington.

Tea at 5.45. A crowded attendance.

Public service in the chapel at night. The place was filled to overflowing. Pastor Thomas Spurgeon preached an eloquent and helpful discourse on Psalm lxxxiv. 11, "God our sun and shield," which was much appreciated.

QUARTERLY MEETING AT DORMANSLAND, JULY 7.

It has often been our custom to visit some outlying village church at Mid-summer, travelling being easier and the country more attractive than at other seasons of the year. Pastor Reuben Wilson and his church gave us the opportunity by inviting us to tea, and our generous and considerate Moderator himself provided luncheon for all early comers.

A good company met at noon for prayer and praise. Luncheon was served at one o'clock. Opportunity was given for an hour's stroll in the charming country, and then, at three, an interesting conference on "The Significance of Baptism" was introduced by Brother Dunn. Discussion was sustained by Brethren Wright, Lockhart, Rankine, Turner, and Brown.

After a social tea, a public meeting was held in the evening. Mr. Corpe presided. Addresses were delivered by Pastors W. Williams, of Upton Chapel, G. Turner, of Sutton, E. H. Brown, of Twickenham, and P. J. Smart, of High Barnet.

AUTUMNAL MEETING AT EALING DEAN, OCTOBER 21.

Pastor W. L. Gibbs and the church at Ealing Dean (of which our Moderator, Mr. Corpe, is a deacon) heartily welcomed us for the autumnal meeting, which is in fact our Annual Meeting, as our official and financial year begins from that date. The day was fine and the attendance large, thirty-eight churches sending their pastors and delegates.

Mr. Corpe conducted the devotional meeting, which was very profitable and helpful.

At twelve o'clock the minutes were read and confirmed, and reports of the year's work were presented by the Secretary and Treasurer. (These will be found in full on pp. 4-8 and 17-19.)

The following churches joined our ranks: Fleet and Pastor Fidge; West Cliff, Southend, and Pastor Frith; Uxbridge Road, Shepherd's Bush, and Pastor Monti; and the following personal members were received: Pastors E. Judson Page, T. G. Williams, T. F. Snell, and J. C. Byford.

Two ballots were taken for the election of Officers and Committee, with the result set forth on p. 3.

Pastor E. W. Tarbox then read a paper on "Holiness by Faith." It was a

definition and a commendation of Keswick teaching, closing with a personal testimony. Farnest discussion followed, in which part was taken by Brethren Rankine, Dr. Gritton, Freeman, Professor Ferguson (the aged, blind, and beloved former pastor at Ealing Dean, and Tutor at Pastors' College), Dunn and Smith.

Dinner was handsomely served at two o'clock. A vote of thanks was proposed by Brethren Chesterton and Newton, and replied to by Pastor Gibbs, Mr. Sortwell and Mr. Corpe.

The new Moderator, Pastor Charles Spurgeon, presided at the afternoon meeting, which was wholly devoted to the consideration of the growing need for organized denominational and free church teaching in our families and Sunday Schools. The recommendations of the Committee were presented by Pastors P. J. Smart, C. Ingrem, and D. Thompson. These were generally approved, and the Committee were asked to prepare a Circular Letter on the subject, and to proceed with the scheme. This letter will be found, with the aforesaid recommendations, on pp. 13-15. Brethren Turner, Moody, Cox, Smith, Brown, Tarbox, and Rankine took part in the conference.

After tea, evening service was held. The Moderator conducted the service. The sermon was preached by Pastor J. H. Shakespeare, M.A., of Norwich, on James i. 27; subject, "The expression of heart religion in service and character." It was a plea for fidelity to high spiritual ideals, and a protest against the use of worldly expedients in religious work. It was much enjoyed.

These records are slightly abbreviated from the minute-book.

NOTE.

Hampton Court Baptist Chapel has been sold because, owing to the development of the district in the last ten years, another site is more desirable, and this has already been secured. The change has only been made with a view to more extended usefulness, and to remove the burden of a heavy mortgage, which crippled the whole work.

CIRCULAR LETTER

ON THE URGENT NEED FOR INSTRUCTING OUR YOUNG
PEOPLE IN OUR DISTINCTIVE PRINCIPLES;

ADDRESSED TO

OUR SUNDAY-SCHOOL TEACHERS, PARENTS, AND
CHURCH MEMBERS, BY THE COMMITTEE.

The subject of the circular letter this year appeals not only, as usual, to the churches, but specially to those in the churches who are parents, or workers in our Sunday-schools.

For a long time it has been growing evident that the advance of our denomination has been seriously retarded by the drifting away from us of numbers of young people belonging to our families and schools, who are attracted in other directions by society, fine music, or material advantages, just as they are giving promise of usefulness and influence; and so they, and their testimony and service, are lost to the denomination they might so well have served. And we greatly fear that in most cases they do not realize what a sacrifice of principle their action involves.

Surely this must be due to the lack of distinctive teaching in pulpit, school, or home. Whilst presenting the Gospel as regards Christ's saving work, we have not sufficiently explained our principles as Free Churchmen, nor the great truths which justify our existence as a denomination, and which require us to protest against priestcraft and superstition—viz., the supreme authority of the Word of God in all matters of religion; implicit obedience to our Divine Lord in preference to the doctrines and traditions of men; justification by faith; the uselessness of all forms and ordinances apart from an intelligent and personal belief; the freedom of the Church of Christ from State patronage and control; liberty of conscience; and the inalienable right of every man to worship God according to his own faith.

We admit that there are difficulties in the way of teaching these glorious truths; but our forefathers taught them under circumstances much more difficult than ours, and it is owing to their fidelity and their suffering for conscience' sake that we

possess the liberty we now enjoy. We are joined to a noble past. Our history of struggle and of testimony, as well as our present freedom, demand our loyalty to the truths that have made us free.

Hence we address the *teachers* as well as the *churches*, asking them to consider the matter, and to believe that Gospel work will be done no less effectively because *supplemented* by organized denominational teaching. What we propose will not take the place of, or interfere with, the ordinary teaching hitherto in use, but will be added to it. While *other denominations* are active in teaching their particular beliefs to the children, we Baptists form a conspicuous exception. We fail to tell our children why we are what we are. Although there are some cases in which this is done, yet we know that in the large majority of Baptist families and Sunday-schools it is entirely overlooked. No such neglect can be found in the Anglican schools, or in those of most Protestant dissenters.

We raise the question with an earnest and prayerful desire to offer practical suggestions, and to use all our efforts to bring about a change for the better. It is our hope and intention to invite all the superintendents and workers in the schools of the associated churches in the early summer of 1897 to meet and confer with us upon this subject, so as to learn their mind in the matter, and with them devise the best methods of carrying the proposal into effect.

Meanwhile it seems to us likely to help the consideration of the question if we offer the following suggestions (prepared with much careful thought by a sub-committee specially appointed for the purpose), as in some measure indicating the general line that should be taken, and the points which need attention :

1. That an organization be formed which shall be a department of the Association, and shall be called 'The Home Counties Baptist Association *Sunday-school Department*.'

2. That the aim of this department shall be to promote and encourage Sunday-school work in general, and also to aid in the fuller education of all our young people in our distinctive principles.

3. That a catechism be used. The one we recommend is 'The Baptist Scholar's Catechism of Nonconformity,' by Thomas Goadby, B.A.

4. That the area of the Association be divided into districts.
5. That a Department Committee be formed, comprising the six officers of the Association, and six representatives elected from the delegates sent by the affiliated Sunday-schools.
6. That examining centres be formed, a system of examination arranged, and prizes given.

To meet the obvious need for a basis of definite teaching, the adoption of a catechism is strongly urged. Old-fashioned it may seem to modern critics, but it supplied the material upon which our sturdy sires and grandsires were reared, and we believe that a resumption of its use would largely conduce to a race of successors worthy of those whose faith we follow.

The tendency of the times for the last quarter of a century has been towards unsectarianism—a noble ideal, but sought after by the unwise method of compromise.

Now, a more excellent way is being presented to the churches by the great movement of Evangelical Free Church Federation. This substitutes *inter-denominationalism* for *un-denominationalism*, and offers all the advantages of Christian brotherhood *without any sacrifice or suppression of distinctive principles*. Fidelity to our convictions is not bigotry. To teach our children what we believe to be the mind of Christ is not narrow-mindedness. The more loyal we are to our own Baptist principles, the more readily and heartily can we afford to give our love and help to our brethren of other bodies.

To win the young ones for CHRIST be ever our chief aim ! But second only to this we should desire to educate them in those undying principles which establish us as His followers, which distinguish us as a denomination, and which constitute us Protestant Free Churchmen.

OUR FINANCES.

WHAT WE NEED, AND HOW TO GET IT.

Our work and its cost grow with the growth of the Association. It is very desirable that all our church officers should clearly understand what money we want, why we want it, and how it may be forthcoming without any undue or inconvenient pressure or burden upon their churches.

No appeal is needed for the *General Fund*. The small annual subscriptions paid by the churches, with the collections at our General Meetings and district contributions for Colporteurs, now bring this fund up to £150. This meets our present need, our usual expenditure being £80 for Colporteurs, £20 for working expenses, and about £50 grants to poor churches.

Our Moderator's visits are no burden. Quite the contrary. The churches benefit financially exactly as much as we do, the collections being evenly divided. See pages 8 and 9.

The Committee have been careful to avoid multiplying funds and appeals. But two objects could not be passed by. And these two appeal to us; and *the easy way* to meet these needs is for *each church* to give a small sum *every year* (either from Communion money, or a moiety of an ordinary offering) to each of the two funds—the *Augmentation*, and the *Building Fund*. The objects of these funds are explained fully on pages 4 and 8. This special help may best be given in connection with 'Association Sunday' in September every year. This suggestion is made for the benefit of the smaller churches particularly. The large ones will no doubt esteem it a privilege to help on a larger scale.

The Augmentation Fund ought to be supported well enough to enable it to make all necessary grants without drawing from the fund raised by Mr. Spurgeon, which forms *Capital*—a capital that before long we hope to raise to £1,000, so as to make the fund in some measure self-supporting. If *every* one of our 61 churches will do a little, the result will be a good, steady, sufficient income, without any appreciable tax on the churches.

THE SECRETARY AND THE TREASURER.

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

GENERAL FUND.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	PAYMENTS.	£	s.	d.
Collections at Meetings—				Balance due from 1895	5	10	5
Hornsey Road	2	8	8	Colportage Association for our two			
Teddington	12	15	4	Colporteurs, 4 quarters to Dec. 31	80	0	0
Dormansland	1	8	4	Grants to Churches—			
Ealing Dean	7	5	3	Hampton Court (for 1895)	5	0	0
Church and Personal Subscriptions—				Ditto 1896	10	0	0
Aldershot	0	5	0	Morden and Merton	5	0	0
Anthonys	0	10	0	Chiddingfold and Worpleadon	5	0	0
Barnet	1	1	0	Anthonys	5	0	0
Bedfont	0	5	0	Oxshott	8	0	0
Brentford	0	10	0	Bouverie Road	3	0	0
Brixton Hill	0	10	0	Printing account for 1 year, Billing			
Cheam	0	10	0	and Sons	14	2	6
Chiswick	0	10	0	Travelling expenses of Secretary			
Dorking	0	5	0	and Committee, Tea and sundries	7	19	3
Dormansland (3 yrs.)	0	15	0	Stamps, carriage of parcels, etc.	5	19	10
Ealing Dean	0	10	6	Rev. J. H. Shakespeare's fare	1	1	0
Feltham (2)	0	10	0				
Fleet	0	5	0				
Greenwich, South St. (2)	4	4	0				
Guildford	0	10	0				
Horsham	0	5	0				
Hounslow	0	10	6				
Leigh-on-Sea (2)	0	10	0				
Metropolitan Tabernacle	5	0	0				
New Malden	1	0	0				
Peckham (3)	0	15	0				
Silvertown	0	10	0				
Slough	0	5	0				
Southgate (2)	0	10	0				
South Tottenham	0	10	0				
Surbiton Hill	0	5	0				
Tooting	0	10	0				
Twickenham	0	10	6				
Uxbridge (4)	1	0	0				
Vauxhall	0	7	6				
Waltham Cross (2)	0	10	0				
Wealdstone	0	10	0				
Wimbledon	1	1	0				
Woodford	0	10	0				
Wraysbury (4)	1	0	0				
Mr. W. Allen	0	5	0				
Rev. J. Aubrey (2)	0	19	0				
Mr. R. J. Braithwaite	0	10	0				
Mr. J. Brewer	0	10	0				
Rev. J. Burnham	0	10	0				
Rev. C. Byford	0	5	0				
Rev. E. A. Carter	0	19	0				
Rev. F. Carter	0	10	0				
Mr. A. Coots (don.)	2	0	0				
Mr. Deayton	1	1	0				
Mr. J. Dice	0	10	0				
Rev. W. F. Edgerton	0	5	0				
Rev. T. S. Fidge	0	5	0				
Rev. Dr. Gritton	0	10	0				
Rev. A. E. Jennings	0	10	6				
Mr. Klickman	0	5	0				
Mr. Marnham (don.)	0	10	0				
Rev. E. T. Mateer (4)	1	0	0				
Rev. J. T. Mateer (3)	0	15	0				
Mr. Meredith	1	1	0				
Rev. F. B. Monti (3)	1	0	0				
Mr. Mould	0	10	0				
Carried forward	£64	10	1	Carried forward	£150	13	0

GENERAL FUND—Continued.

RECEIPTS.		£ s. d.		PAYMENTS.		£ s. d.	
Brought forward	...	64	10	1	Brought forward	...	150 13 0
Church and Personal Subscriptions	...						
<i>continued—</i>							
Rev. J. R. Scoones	...	0	5	0			
Mr. Sortwell	...	0	10	6			
Rev. J. L. Stanley	...	0	5	0			
Rev. E. W. Tarbox	...	5	0	0			
Mr. B. Tice	...	0	10	0			
Friends at Twickenham	...	0	8	6			
Wesleyan Circuit Steward	...	0	10	6			
Proceeds of two lectures by the Hon. Secretary	...	3	10	9			
Proceeds Organ recital, ditto	...	2	2	0			
Metropolitan Tab. (Colporteur)	...	40	0	0			
Egham, per Mr. Tice (Colporteur)	...	20	0	0			
Surplus from Godstone	...	5	0	0			
Sale of Rev. J. Aubrey's Address	...	1	11	3			
Balance due to Treasurer	...	6	9	5			
		<u>£150</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>0</u>			<u>£150 13 0</u>

AUGMENTATION FUND.

RECEIPTS.		£ s. d.		PAYMENTS.		£ s. d.	
Balance in hand, Oct., 1895	...	79	17	0	By grants paid—		
<i>Collections—</i>							
Aldershot	...	1	0	0	Esher	...	10 0 0
Dorking, 1895	...	1	7	5	Vauxhall	...	20 0 0
ditto, 1896	...	1	11	2	Wealdstone	...	10 10 0
Dormansland	...	0	6	6	Balance in hand	...	78 17 2
Ealing Dean	...	1	10	0	(Of which £50 is reserved for capital.)		
Gutlford	...	0	6	0			
High Barnet	...	1	13	1			
Horsell	...	0	5	0			
Leigh-on-Sea	...	0	5	0			
Mitcham	...	0	10	0			
Norbiton	...	2	0	0			
Slough	...	0	15	0			
Wealdstone	...	1	0	0			
<i>Donations—</i>							
Rev. T. Spurgeon	...	1	0	0			
Rev. E. W. Tarbox	...	5	0	0			
Mr. W. Taylor	...	1	1	0			
Surplus from Godstone	...	5	0	0			
<i>Conditional Payments—</i>							
Esher	...	5	0	0			
Vauxhall	...	10	0	0			
		<u>£119</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>			<u>£119 7 2</u>

HOME MISSION FUND—GODSTONE.

RECEIPTS.		PAYMENTS.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance in hand, Oct., 1895 ...	9 18 8	Incidental expenses ...	15 0 6
Weekly Offerings ...	17 2 3	Supply of pulpit ...	27 16 6
Pew rents ...	5 0 0	Voted to H.C.B.A. Funds ...	10 0 0
Collections ...	1 13 6	Repairs ...	4 10 0
S. Barrow, Esq. ...	30 0 0	Balance in hand ...	6 12 5
	<u>£63 19 5</u>		<u>£63 19 5</u>

BUILDING FUND.

RECEIPTS.		PAYMENTS.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Collection at the Committee Meeting, Dec., 1895 ...	10 0 0	To Building Fund of new chapel at Teddington, the case recommended for help during 1896 ...	27 1 0
Contributions from Churches to end of November ...	17 1 0		
	<u>27 1 0</u>		<u>27 1 0</u>

NOTES.

The accounts are audited by Messrs. Slade and Wright. The financial year closed on October 31. The deficiency on the General Fund has been more than covered by subscriptions paid a few days too late for insertion in the 1896 account. Some friends evidently think we strike the balance at Christmas; but this is done in October, when the election of treasurer takes place.

Payments for the General Fund and Augmentation Fund should be made direct to the Treasurer, Rev. E. H. Brown, Brathay Lodge, The Green, Twickenham, Middlesex.

The late Rev. C. H. Spurgeon gave the H.C.B.A. several thousands of Norcott's little book on Baptism. A few are still left, and can be had for the asking. Apply to Pastor G. Wright, 18, Gibbon Road, Kingston, saying how many you would like.

A few copies of Rev. C. Spurgeon's Address at Norbiton are also in stock. They can be had from the Secretary at half the cost price, namely, 8d. a dozen, post free.

The Circular Letter by Pastor Aubrey can also be had, printed separately, for distribution, from the Secretary, at 6d. a dozen, post free. It is a most convenient and valuable statement of Free Church Principles, with Scripture proofs. Apply to the Hon. Secretary.

Churches north of the River Thames are informed that the Minute Secretary, Rev. P. J. Smart, Ballater, Strafford Road, Barnet, has kindly agreed to act as the Secretary's agent in the northern district, as it is very difficult for the Secretary, living at Guildford, to keep in close touch with them.

STATISTICS.

CHURCH.	Date of its Formation.	PASTOR.	Date of his Settlement.	Sittings in Chapel.	Members at last return.	INCREASE.				DECREASE.				Present No. of Members.	Local Preachers.	SCHOOL.	
						Baptism.	Profession.	Letter.	Renewal.	Transfer.	Ereasure.	Exclusion.	Death.			Scholars.	Officers.
Addlestone, Surrey ...	1828	Henry Bayley ...	1888	330	112									131	6	305	24
<i>Stone Hill</i> ...				100										17		60	5
Aldershot, Hants ...	1883	E. Poole Connor ...	1893	450	66	6	3	7		4	11		1	66	5	120	15
<i>Ash Vale</i> ...				250	9			4						13		30	2
Bedfont, Middlesex ...	1881	J. E. Johnson ...	1881	100	19	2								21		75	7
Bouverie, Stoke Newington	1838	W. Mitchell ...	1895	300	49	16		5		2				68	2	79	10
Bracknell, Berks ...	1886	C. Crabb ...	1893	200	31									31		60	5
Brentford, Middlesex ...	1802	T. G. Pollard ...	1895	500	76	25	2	7	1	2			2	107		290	20
Brixton Hill (Raleigh)	1889	A. Dickerson ...	1895	400	50	15		10						75		50	8
Cheam, North, Surrey ...		H.C.B. Association		150												20	3
<i>South</i> ...	1862	W. J. Potter ...	1896	150	111			3		3				111		74	12
Chiswick, Middlesex ...	1866	A. G. Edgerton ...	1892	620	152									164	3	300	24
Dorking, Surrey ...	1869	T. F. Waddell ...	1892	250	83			1		4	12			68		92	11
Dormansland, Surrey ...	1792	Vacant ...		400	42	2				1				43		61	7
Ealing Dean, Middlesex	1864	W. Leonard Gibbs	1893	400	180	6		7	3	5	3			188		312	37
Esher, Surrey ...	1852	T. G. Head ...	1893	200	57	13		1		2				69	4	70	8
<i>Oxshott</i> ...	1873			100												48	6
Feltham, Middlesex ...	1894	J. W. Avis ...	1894	100	13		1	2		1				15			
Fleet, Hants... ...	1846	T. S. Fidge ...	1895	300	40	3	1	3	1		6			52		70	10
Godstone, Surrey ...	1882	H.C.B. Association	1893	250	12			2			2			12	1	45	4
Greenwich (East), Kent	1892	W. E. Wells ...	1892	250	69									69		113	9
Greenwich, South Street	1879	Charles Spurgeon...	1879	950	640	95	8	21	5	58	86		2	623		1189	62
Guildford, Surrey ...	1824	John Rankine ...	1879	220	67	16		1			4			80		100	12
<i>Chiddingfold</i>	1839			120	26	10		1			1			36		30	6
Hampton Court, Surrey	1885	Pioneer Mission ...	1896	300	58									58			
Harringay, Middlesex	1888	Vacant ...		400	108									108	4	120	13
High Barnet, Middlesex	1892	Percy J. Smart ...	1892	300	113	9	6	10		6	3		1	128	7	107	15
<i>South Mimms</i>				70													
Holloway, Hornsey Road	1893	Edwin Smart ...	1893	250	31	7	10	3		1	6			44	4	90	8

Hornsey Park, Green-lane ...	1892	F. Horace Newton	1894	120	44		1			4				41		65	5	
Horsell, Anthony's, Surrey ...	1888	E. W. Tarbox, hon.	1888	100	25			2			2			25	2	70	4	
Horsham, Sussex ...	1895	W. R. Chesterton...	1895	200	34	9	3							48		68	10	
Hounslow, Middlesex ...	1871	J. E. Barnes	1894	300	79	9	7	4		1		1		97	9	195	17	
Kennington Cross (Regent)	1821	D. Henderson	1895	500	57	4		7		2	5	1		60	3	170	17	
Kensal Rise, Middlesex ...	1893	T. Maycock	...	400	116									116		250	20	
Kingston, Surrey ...	1790	George Wright	1883	760	270									270		330	32	
<i>Hampton Wick</i> ..				100														
Lec, Bromley Road, Kent ...	1877	James W. Davies	1886	350	132	20	1	9		13	7	1	2	139	6	150	18	
<i>Summerfield</i> ...				40														
Leigh-on-Sea, Essex ...	1893	A. C. Sidey	1893	150	27									27		35	5	
Manor Park, Essex ...	1889	F. D. Robbins	1890	350	88	7	4	5		4		1		99	3	120	11	
Metropolitan Tabernacle	1719	Thomas Spurgeon	1894	4880	4965	139	12	52		252	131	6	71	4708	130	3600	500	
<i>20 halls, 28 schools</i>		C. B. Sawday, Asst.	1896	3905												5200	218	
Mitcham, Surrey ...	1882	J. Thorold Figg	1891	200	69	4	1			3	8	1		62		86	12	
New Malden, Surrey	1862	S. H. Moore	1883	350	86									86		150	14	
Norbiton, Surrey ...	1882	Douglas Thompson	1892	850	254	13	1	10		12	4			262		475	33	
Outwood, Surrey ...		Thomas Green	...	150	22									22		50	6	
Peckham Tabernacle	1887	Frank M. Smith	1887	800	164	24	11	11		3		2		205	3	300	20	
Redhill, Surrey ...	1864	George Davies	1890	650	209	27	6	22		43		1		220	13	160	16	
Silvertown, Essex ...	1887	Vacant	...	350	105		1			2	7			97		320	31	
Slough, Bucks ...	1894		...	180	32	14	4					1		49		50	13	
Southend, West Cliff, Essex	1896	W. Frith	1896	250		12	10	8						30				
Southgate (New), Middlesex	1863	G. Freeman	1892	300	311	11	12	17		26		1		324	6	350	35	
<i>Muswell Hill</i>			...	120												200	13	
Southgate (Old), Chase Rd., Middlesex ...	1886	Vacant	...	250	59	1	1			3	4	1		53	1	63	8	
Stratford, Major Rd., Essex	1885		...	400	142									142		350	24	
Surbiton Hill, Surrey	1874	William Baster	1874	500	114	3		8		2	8	3	1	111		105	15	
Teddington, Middlesex ...	1893	R. J. Williamson...	1892	600	201	22	2	9		4		1		229		170	20	
Thornton Heath, Surrey	1888	Thomas Lardner	1892	300	155	17	2	3		11	14	2		150		276	32	
Tooting, Longley Rd., Surrey	1880	G. Hunt Rumsey	1888	340	100	5	3	7		3	10	2		100		290	20	
Tottenham, S. Middlesex ...	1887	R. H. Eastty	1887	250	38	13	2	2		6	9			40	1	240	13	
Twickenham, Middlesex, and St. Margaret's ...	1852	E. H. Brown	1874	250												400	24	
St. Margaret's ...		C. Underwood, Asst.	1895	140		190	11		10	2	14	5	1	3	190	6	120	8
Uxbridge, Middlesex ...	1885	Vacant	...	200	37									37		30	6	

STATISTICS—Continued.

CHURCH.	Date of its Formation.	PASTOR.	Date of his Settlement.	Sittings in Chapel.	Members at last return.	INCREASE.				DECREASE.				Present No. of Members.	Local Preachers.	SCHOOL.	
						Baptism.	Profession.	Letter.	Renewal.	Transfer.	Erasure.	Exclusion.	Death.			Scholars.	Officers.
Uxbridge Rd., Shepherd's Bb.	1890	F. B. Monti ...	1891	200	77	8		8		1	4			88	3	325	25
Vauxhall, Kennington Lane	1864	C. Pummell ...	1895	700	173	17	2	5		11		2	1	183		300	20
Waltham Cross, Herts ...	1895	T. Douglas ...	1896	300	18	6		3	4					31	3	130	12
Wealdstone, Middlesex ...	1875	J. G. Wells ...	1894	200	84	10		9		5				98		220	27
Wimbledon, Surrey ...	1871	Charles Ingrem ...	1880	400	333	36	2	35	4	15	4		3	388	21	531	39
„ Merton ...				200												180	15
„ Morden ...				200												68	11
Woodford, South, Essex ...	1883			620	130									130	3	150	16
Wraysbury, Bucks ...	1868	J. G. C. Irvine ...	1895	180	35									35		76	6

LIST OF PERSONAL MEMBERS.

MR. W. ALLEN, Newington, S.E.	PASTOR W. F. EDGERTON, Harlington.	PASTOR P. REYNOLDS, Highbury, N.
MR. J. ASHLEY, Woking, Surrey.	PASTOR J. GRITTON, D.D., Hackney.	PASTOR J. R. SCOONES, Peckham.
PASTOR J. AUBREY, Windsor, Berks.	PASTOR J. W. HARRALD, Norwood.	PASTOR F. T. SNELL, Peckham.
MR. R. J. BRAITHWAITE, Twickenham.	PASTOR N. HEATH, Dulwich.	MR. R. SORTWELL, Ealing.
MR. J. BREWER, Greenwich.	PASTOR J. S. HOCKEY.	PASTOR J. I. STANLEY, Lower Norwood.
PASTOR J. BURNHAM, Brentford.	MR. G. HOCKING, Greenwich.	PASTOR H. E. STONE, St. John's Wood.
REV. C. T. BYFORD, Harmondsworth.	MR. S. IRWIN, Teddington, Middlesex.	PASTOR E. W. TARBOX, Guildford.
PASTOR E. A. CARTER, Pioneer Mission.	PASTOR A. E. JENNINGS.	REV. J. WAITE, Kennington.
PASTOR F. CARTER, Barnet.	PASTOR W. C. JONES, Brixton, S.W.	MR. E. B. WARREN, Shap Street.
PASTOR C. CHAMBERS, Peckham.	PASTOR F. JOSEPH, Alford, Surrey.	PASTOR C. WICKERSON, Haringay.
PASTOR F. M. COCKERTON, Limsfield.	MR. R. KLICKMAN, Dutch Baptist Union.	PASTOR T. G. WILLIAMS, Southall.
MR. A. COOTE, Shalford, Surrey.	PASTOR E. J. MATEER, Dulwich.	PASTOR W. WILLIAMS, Upton Chapel.
MR. C. DEAYTON, Teddington.	MR. J. B. MEREDITH, Croydon.	MR. F. J. BRIDGER, COLPORTEUR.
MR. J. DICE, Lee, Kent.	PASTOR E. JUDSON PAGE, Woking.	MR. E. COLE, CORPORTEUR.

R U L E S .

1.—That the Association consist of Churches and Pastors of the Baptist denomination in the Home Counties, or thereabout, and of such approved personal members, being Baptists, as shall subscribe not less than five shillings annually to the funds of the Association.

2.—That the Association meet from time to time for prayer and worship, to cultivate friendly intercourse between Ministers and Churches, to strengthen each other in distinctive principles, to consider plans for Christian work, to take mutual counsel on public questions, and in general to seek by united effort the advancement of the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

3.—That the Association meet in May and October in each year. The time of meeting to be 11 a.m., the first hour to be spent in prayer and praise, business to commence at 12 o'clock, public worship or a public meeting in the evening.

4.—That the officers consist of Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Treasurer, and Secretary, all of whom, except the Moderator, shall be elected annually at the Autumnal Meeting; the Vice-Moderator to become Moderator the following year. These, with the Ex-Moderator and six others to be elected at the same time, to form the Committee.

5.—That each Church be entitled to send its pastor, being approved by the Association, and one delegate if not more than fifty members, two delegates if more than fifty and not more than one hundred members, and three delegates if over one hundred members and not more than two hundred and fifty, one delegate being allowed for each additional two hundred and fifty members, to take part in and vote on the proceedings. Such delegates to be baptized members in full communion with the Churches they represent.

6.—That no topic affecting the terms of attendance at the Lord's Supper shall be discussed.

7.—That each Church send annually statistics, and a contribution to the Association Fund. This fund, after necessary working expenses have been met, to be appropriated to home mission purposes in the district.

8.—That the Secretary have power to call a Special Meeting on receipt of a requisition signed by representatives from five different Churches in the Association.

9.—That the Committee meet every other month, or at such other times as may be deemed necessary.

10.—That the Committee have power to act and decide on pressing business connected with the Association between the meetings of the Association.

11.—That all applications for membership in the Association be submitted to the Committee, who shall report the case at the next meeting, and a vote shall be taken thereon.

12.—That at the meeting of the Committee prior to the Association meetings of May and October, arrangements be made as to business and speakers for such meetings.

13.—That should any Church omit to send a messenger, or to subscribe to the funds of the Association, for two consecutive years, the Secretary remind such Church of the neglect, and if the omission be continued the third year, the Church so acting shall be considered no longer a member of the Association.

14.—That notice of all proposed changes in the rules be submitted to the Committee before the first day of March or the first day of August, and on their report the same shall be considered and decided by the Association at its next meeting.

15.—That the attention of each Church, and minister, and personal member, applying for entrance to this Association, shall be called to the following declaration.

DECLARATION.

That among the truths believed and held by the Churches comprising this Association, the following are entitled to special enumeration :

- 1.—The Divine inspiration of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, and their absolute sufficiency as the only authorized guide in matters of religion.
- 2.—The existence of three equal Persons in the Godhead—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- 3.—Eternal and personal election to holiness here, and eternal life hereafter.
- 4.—The depraved and lost state of mankind.
- 5.—The atoning efficacy and vicarious nature of the death of Christ.
- 6.—Free justification by His imputed righteousness; the necessity and efficacy of the work of the Holy Spirit in conversion and sanctification.
- 7.—The final preservation of the saints.
- 8.—The duty of all men to whom the Gospel is made known to believe and receive it.
- 9.—The spirituality of the Kingdom of Christ, and His supreme authority as sole Head of the Church.
- 10.—The resurrection of the dead, both the just and the unjust.
- 11.—The general judgment.
- 12.—The eternal happiness of the righteous, and the eternal misery of such as die impenitent.

A TABLE

SHOWING THE NAMES OF THE MODERATOR AND SECRETARY, THE NUMBER OF ASSOCIATED CHURCHES, AND THE TOTAL INCOME RECEIVED FOR EACH YEAR SINCE THE FORMATION OF THE ASSOCIATION.

YEAR.	MODERATOR.	SECRETARY.	CHURCHES.	INCOME.
1877	Rev. C. Slim (<i>pro tem.</i>)	Rev. J. H. Cooke	9	£5
1878	Rev. J. A. Spurgeon	"	11	8
1879	Rev. H. Bayley	Rev. E. W. Tarbox	13	10
1880	Rev. J. H. Cooke	"	15	24
1881	Rev. E. H. Brown	"	16	33
1882	Rev. W. A. Blake	"	18	54
1883	J. C. Woollacott, Esq.	Rev. E. H. Brown	21	65
1884	Rev. E. W. Tarbox	"	24	35
1885	Rev. J. Rankine	"	25	26
1886	Rev. G. Wright	"	26	22
1887	Rev. C. Ingrem	Rev. E. B. Pearson	25	20
1888	Rev. J. E. Jasper	Rev. G. Wright	24	30
1889	Rev. J. S. Hockey	"	26	180
1890	Rev. S. H. Moore	"	33	258
1891	Rev. J. A. Spurgeon	"	38	230
1892	Rev. J. E. Perrin	"	36	204
1893	Rev. F. M. Smith	Rev. E. W. Tarbox	40	175
1894	Rev. C. Spurgeon	"	50	265
1895	Rev. G. Wright	"	56	295
1896	J. Corpe, Esq.	"	61	290
1897	Rev. C. Spurgeon	"