

Minutes of a Meeting of Missionaries

AT MAULMAIN, AUGUST 22, 1837.

MORNING SESSION.—Met at 9 o'clock.

A meeting was convened this day composed of brethren ABBOTT, HANCOCK, HOWARD, INGALLS, JUDSON, KINCAID, OSGOOD, VINTON, and WEBB, which was called to order by the appointment of bro. OSGOOD as chairman.

Bro. HANCOCK standing Secretary.

After a prayer by bro. ABBOTT, the object of the meeting being to take into consideration the sentiments contained in a late communication from the Board, regarding SALARIES, it was

Voted, That a committee be appointed to draw up an expression of the views of this meeting, with reference to the sentiments of the Board regarding Salaries, contained in a recent Circular.

Voted, That brethren HOWARD, KINCAID, and VINTON, be that committee.

Voted, That we adjourn, to meet again at the call of the committee. Prayer by bro. Vinton.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Met again at 2 o'clock, pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by bro. Ingalls. The committee appointed in the morning made the following

REPORT.

Your committee to whom was referred the communication lately received from the Board, regarding Salaries, beg leave to report,

That we have considered ourselves as engaged in the service of the Board on principles mutually agreed upon at the time we entered this service; and, consequently, that either party in order to depart from these principles, must have the consent of the other. This course of procedure still seems to us to be right; and we conceive it to be the *only* course by which mutual good feeling can be preserved, and the blessing of Heaven secured on our connexion.

Though we are ignorant of the motives which dictated the course they have taken, and know not how to view the proceedings of the Board in regard to Salaries in any other light than that of a departure from these principles, still we believe that they will not consider the importance of saving a few rupees to the Treasury, as paramount to that of keeping the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.

Far be it from us to countenance any thing in regard to our expenses, not in accordance with that rigid self-denial which the gospel inculcates: we would not deprive ourselves, neither do we wish any of our fellow-laborers to be deprived of the rich blessing that this course ensures. But we cannot labor effectively without adequate means of support; and this, we think, should be afforded according to our several circumstances. If even the disinterested of our number (those who have no children) may be allowed to speak, they will say, and we

must, *with one united voice*, say, we think justice and equity are not satisfied on the score of allowances made to children.

It is acknowledged by every missionary, and by many, if not by all the members of the Board, that the allowance for children is not in proportion to that of a missionary. Indeed every one, who has had any experience on the subject, knows, that unless parents devote to their children the time which ought to be sacred to the heathen, the allowance is decidedly inadequate to their support. If this view of the subject be correct, we are at a loss how to interpret the late proceedings of the Board. They say on the subject of allowances for children, that "an addition of two rupees per month for every child, is all the advance on the present rates that can consistently be allowed. More than this would defeat the original design of the measure,—the *reduction* of salaries." If to do what is just and equitable be the rule of action, (and we think it should be) then we conceive that the Board should have met the question here, and decided accordingly.

It will appear that the rates of allowance recently proposed by the Board, although professedly "based on the system proposed at the Conference held at Maulmain, in 1834," differ very widely from them when viewed in detail. To be satisfied on this point, it is only necessary to refer to the allowances for children,—the substitution of Company for Sicca rupees,—and the reductions made in our extra expenses, the particulars of which it is unnecessary to mention. We think, on a dispassionate review of the whole subject, that no reduction ought to be made from the rates fixed upon by that meeting, viz:

	Old rates.	Proposed rates.
A man and wife,	Sa. Rs. 130	Sa. Rs. 100
A single man,	100	70
A widow, (or single female keeping her own table,)	70	60
A single female, residing in a missionary's family,	70	50
A child, until 16 yrs. of age,	10	
A child, until 7 yrs. of age,		12
" " from 7 to 18,		15

Extra expenses, *as formerly*.

Voted, That the Report be adopted.

Voted, That from July 1st, 1837, we adopt the rates above proposed, until some terms shall be mutually agreed on.

Voted, That the Secretary be requested to forward a copy of the proceedings of this meeting to the Secretary of the Board, and to all those stations embraced in their late Circular.

Voted, That we adjourn. Bro. WEBB prayed.

R. B. HANCOCK, Secretary.

Approved,

Proceedings of a Meeting at Tavoy, &c.

AT a meeting of the members of the Mission at the Tavoy station, held on the 6th September, 1837, present brethren WADE, MASON, KINCAID, and BENNETT, Br. Wade was called to the Chair, and Br. Bennett appointed Secretary.

A communication from the Board regarding Salaries was then read, together with the proceedings of a meeting of the Missionaries in Maulmain.

With reference to the Resolutions and Circular of the Board, dated, "Baptist Missionary Rooms, Boston, Feb. 17th, 1837,"—

1. Resolved, unanimously, That from the reference of the Board's Committee on Salaries to the 3d Article of the Regulations adopted in 1827, they and the Board evidently construe that Article as giving them the power to alter our rates of allowance at their pleasure; whereas, we understood the Article when we signed it as referring to rates already fixed, and still so understand it; and we believe it is so understood by all our brethren.

2. Therefore, resolved, unanimously, That it is not within the province of the Board to *reduce* the allowance of Missionaries, without their concurrence.

The Board conclude, from the circumstance that some Missionaries have not drawn all their allowance, and others have paid back certain portions of it, that a reduction of allowances ought to be made, &c. Those Missionaries no doubt acted very conscientiously; and it is to be supposed they acted quite as conscientiously in proposing the rates at the meeting in Maulmain, in 1834.

3. Therefore, resolved, unanimously, That we cannot think the Board acted generously in attempting to put the rates materially below what the most self-denying and conscientious brethren proposed.

With reference to the 2d Resolution of the Board, 1st Proviso,—

4. Resolved, unanimously, That we have never contravened it ourselves, nor has any other Missionary to our knowledge.—Moreover, we have ever paid for our own provision, and whatever in America would be termed Tavern expenses; and, therefore, do not see the object of the Proviso.

With reference to the same Resolution, 2d Proviso,—

As it frequently happens in travelling for health, the family in whole or in part is left, so that the current expenses are increased, rather than lessened, therefore,

5. Resolved, unanimously, That the Proviso cannot be well applied in practice.

6. Resolved, unanimously, That we approve the Proceedings of the meeting of our Brethren, the Missionaries at Maulmain, held August 22d, 1837.

7. Resolved, unanimously, That the Secretary of this meeting be directed to forward a copy of our Proceedings to the Secretary of the meeting at Maulmain, requesting him to forward a copy to the Secretary of the Board, and to all those stations embraced in the late Circular of the Board.

Adjourned.

C. BENNETT, *Secretary*.

The following Note was received from Bro. Simons, referring to the meeting at Maulmain. To R. B. Hancock, Secretary, &c.

"MY DEAR BROTHER,—I have signed this paper, not because I was dissatisfied with the old rates, but because it appears from the late Circular of the Board that a change *must* take place in our Salaries, and the Missionaries seem more likely to be united in these proposed rates, than in either the old ones, or those recently proposed by the Board.

Yours in the Gospel,

THOMAS SIMONS.

"Rangoon, Sept. 1, 1837."

DEAR BRO.—I approve of the Proceedings of the brethren concerning Salaries. To R. B. Hancock, Secretary, &c.

Yours, truly, JAMES M. HASWELL.