

Bethany, September 7<sup>th</sup> 1809.30<sup>th</sup> Session.

The presbytery of Hopewell met according to adjournment; and was opened with a sermon by the rev.<sup>d</sup> Francis Cummins from Mark 16. 15. 16.

Ministers,	present,	Elders.
Francis Cummins,		David Allan,
Edward Pharr, &		William Echols, &
John Hodge		James Nisbet.

Constituted with prayer.

Mr. Cummins was chosen Moderator, & Mr. Hodge, Clerk.

Ordered, That calls, supplications, &c. be presented

Calls, from the churches of Siloam & Bethany, & addressed to the rev.<sup>d</sup> Francis Cummins, and requesting one half of his ministerial labours at each, were handed to presbytery: Which calls, being presented to Mr. Cummins, were by him taken into consideration till the next session.

Adjourned, to meet at this place tomorrow morning half past 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Bethany, September 8<sup>th</sup> 1809.

Presbytery met agreeably to adjournment. Members present



as above. Constituted with prayer.

The minutes of yesterday, and also those of our last stated sessions were read.

On inquiry, relative to a previous order enjoining on the members to report the number of communicants and of baptized persons in their respective charges, it appeared that reports have been prepared & forwarded to presbytery, from the churches of Hebron & Union, by Mr. Newton; from the church of Mendum, by Mr. Pharr; from that of Shiloh, by Mr. Hodge; and from the church of Bethany, by the elders thereof. Mr. Montgomery & Mr. Thompson, have forwarded no reports.

Resolved, That all the members of this presbytery, be prepared to report at our next spring sessions, on the above subject, according to the forms recommended by the general assembly.

It appears that Mr. Cummins has addressed a letter to the general assembly, as directed at the last session. And also, that presbyterial appointments have been generally fulfilled, by the members present. Reasons for a partial failure by Mr. Pharr, were sustained.

Ordered, That supplies be made out. Mr. Cummins is



is directed further to supply statedly, as much as will be convenient for him, at Bethany and Siloam in Greensboro'. And two sabbaths & two week days, are allotted to each of the other members, at discretion.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet at Shiloh, on the first Thursday in April next. Concluded with prayer.

John Hodge, clk.

Shiloh, April 5<sup>th</sup> 1810. 31<sup>st</sup> Session.

Two members only of the presbytery of Hopewell, to wit: Mr. Newton & Mr. Hodge being present, & unable to form a constitutional quorum, it was concluded to proceed to the exercises of public worship. And a sermon was delivered by Mr. Newton from Matt. 11. 19. No other members having yet appeared, it was agreed by those present to meet at this place tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock.

Shiloh, April 6<sup>th</sup> 1810.

The presbytery of Hopewell met; and was opened with a sermon by the rev.<sup>d</sup> William Montgomery, the former moderator being absent, from John 6. 29. Constituted with prayer.



Ministers,

present,

Elders,

William Montgomery,

James Espey.

Thomas Newton &amp;

John Hodge

A Letter from the rev.<sup>d</sup> Francis Cummins was received & read informing presbytery that he is confined to his house by disease, and therefore cannot attend the present session. Direct information from the rev.<sup>d</sup> Edward Pharr, also informs presbytery of the impracticability of his attendance at the present session. These reasons were sustained in favour of both the absent members.

Mr. Newton was chosen moderator, & Mr. Hodge, Clerk.

Ordered, That calls, supplications &c. be brought forward.

Mr. Newton handed to presbytery a request, from a church lately organised, to be taken under the care of this presbytery. This request was granted; and it was ordered that the said church be known by the name of Carmel.

The minutes of our last stated sessions were read.

The consideration of the calls, from the churches of Siloam & Bethany, presented to the rev.<sup>d</sup> Francis Cummins, at our late session, was necessarily deferred till our next, as none of the parties



concerned were present.

Inquiry being made, whether the members present were now able to report the number of communicants & baptized persons in their respective charges; and it appeared that Mr. Newton and Mr. Hodge had complied with the order; Mr. Montgomery was still not ready to report. His reasons for failure, both now and at our last session, as well as for his absence at the last presbytery, were sustained.

Presbyterial appointments were found to have been fulfilled.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet at this place tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock. Concluded by prayer.

Shiloh, April 7<sup>th</sup> 1810.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

The minutes of yesterday were read.

Ordered, That presbyterial appointments be made out. One sabbath and two week days are appointed to each of the members at discretion.

Adjourned, to meet at Bethsaida C. Creek, on the 2<sup>d</sup> Thursday in September next. Concluded with prayer.

J. Hodge, clk.



Bethsaida, September 13.<sup>th</sup> 1810. 32.<sup>d</sup> Session.

The Presbytery of Hopewell was unable to constitute on this day, owing to the inclemency of the weather. But on the day following, viz: September 14.<sup>th</sup> Presbytery met at the place appointed, and was opened with a sermon by the rev.<sup>d</sup> Thomas Newton, the last moderator, from Cor: 2. 6. 16. Constituted by prayer.

Ministers,	present,	Elders,
William Montgomery,		John Espie,
Thomas Newton,		Samuel Mackie,
Edward Pharr, &		John Barnhill, &
John Hodge.		William Hodge.

A letter from the rev.<sup>d</sup> Francis Cummins was handed to presbytery, stating that he came a week ago into the neighborhood of this place with a view of meeting presbytery, then supposing it was the time appointed; and regretting that in consequence of his misapprehension, he had made such arrangements, in the disposition of his clerical duties, as necessarily prevents his attendance, at this meeting. These reasons were sustained.

Mr. Montgomery was chosen Moderator, & Mr. Hodge, clerk.

Ordered, That calls, supplications, &c. be brought forward.



A request, forwarded to the clerk, by the rev.<sup>d</sup> Francis Cummins, was handed to presbytery, from a collection of people in Morgan county, that they may be taken under the care of this presbytery, and be known by the name of Pergamos. This request was granted.

A request, was also handed to presbytery by Mr. William Hodge, from a congregation lately organized on the waters of Broad river, to be taken under the care of presbytery. This request was granted, and that the said congregation be known by the name of Pisgah.

The minutes of our last stated sessions were read.

The consideration of the calls heretofore presented to the rev.<sup>d</sup> Francis Cummins was, for special reasons, deferred till our next spring sessions.

It appeared, upon inquiry, that presbyterial appointments had been generally fulfilled. Reasons for partial failures were sustained.

Mr. Montgomery reported the number of communicants and baptized persons, in the churches of Bethesda & New-Hope; and also, in that of Pisgah, a vacant congregation.



Mr. Pharr having been absent from our last spring sessions, now makes the annual report from the church of Mendum, which ought then to have been made.

Ordered, That all the members of this presbytery, be prepared at our next spring sessions, to make the annual report on the above subject, as directed by the general assembly; and thence forward, annually. And further, that the members respectively use their endeavors to obtain from vacant congregations, not yet reported, the necessary reports, in order that they may be presented to presbytery as soon as may be.

The presbytery taking into view the small number of ministers within its bounds; the number of new counties, as well as other tracts of country within this state, where multitudes are destitute of the word of life, and of the established ordinances of the gospel; and the urgent applications made for ministerial aid, from different quarters, which is found to be unable to be bestowed. Whereupon,

Resolved, That a letter be addressed to the general assembly, representing the state of our country, and praying missionary aid. And that the rev.<sup>d</sup> Francis Cummins be requested to prepare and transmit the same to the next general assembly.



Presbytery adjourned, to meet at this place at half past ten o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Bethsaida, September 15.<sup>th</sup> 1810.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

The minutes of yesterday were read.

Ordered, That supplies be made out. Mr. Cummins is appointed one sabbath & as many week days as he may find it convenient, at discretion. Mr. Montgomery is appointed a stated supply at Pisgah, till our next sessions; and one sabbath and two week days in the new counties South of the Oconee. Mr. Newton is appointed one sabbath at Union, and one sabbath & two week days at discretion. Mr. Pharr & Mr. Hodge are appointed a sabbath & two week days each, discretionally South of the Oconee.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet at this place, Bethsaida, on the first Thursday in April next. Concluded with prayer.

John Hodge, clk.

Synod of the Carolinas, October 6.<sup>th</sup> 1810.

Thus far examined & approved. Samuel Stanford, Mod.<sup>r</sup>



Bethsaida, April 4<sup>th</sup> 1811.

33<sup>d</sup> Session.

The presbytery of Hopewell met agreeably to adjournment, & was opened with a sermon by the rev.<sup>d</sup> William Montgomery, the last Moderator, from Rom: 1. 16. Constituted with prayer.

Ministers, present, Elders,

Francis Cummins,

William Fergus.

William Montgomery,

Thomas Newton, &

John Hodge.

Mr. Cummins was chosen Moderator & Mr. Montgomery, temporary clerk.

Ordered, That calls, supplications, &c. be brought forward.

Presbytery adjourned, <sup>'till</sup> tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.

Concluded with prayer.

Bethsaida, April 5<sup>th</sup> 1811.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

Mr. Pharr being also present, rendered satisfactory reasons for his absence yesterday.



The minutes of yesterday, and also those of our last stated sessions were read.

The members being called upon, made an annual report of their respective charges, agreeably to the form recommended by the general assembly, except from Bethany, which was not quite complete.

Ordered, That the stated clerk prepare and transmit, by mail, the above mentioned reports, and also a presbyterial report to the next session of the general assembly.

Mr. Cummins, on inquiry, gave satisfactory reasons, why he had not complied with an order of the last sessions, requesting him to address a letter to the general assembly.

Presbyterial appointments, appear to have been generally fulfilled. Reasons for failures, sustained.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet at this place at half past ten o'clock tomorrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

Bethsaida, April 6<sup>th</sup> 1851.

Presbytery met agreeably to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

The minutes of yesterday were read.



Mr. Pharr petitioned for a dismissal from the operation of a call, which he accepted some years since, from the congregation of Curry's creek; which, from the diminished & disorganized state of that society, was granted.

The consideration of the calls from Bethany & Siloam, was deferred.

Ordered, That presbyterial appointments be made out. Two sabbaths and two week days, are appointed to each member at discretion.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet at Siloam, Greensboro', on the first Thursday in September next. Concluded with prayer.

W<sup>m</sup> Montgomery, temp. clk.

Siloam, September 13<sup>th</sup> 1811.

34<sup>th</sup> Session.

Owing to the inclemency of the weather, the presbytery of Hopewell was prevented from constituting yesterday, agreeably to adjournment; but on this day it met, and was by request, opened with a sermon by the rev<sup>d</sup> Ezra Fisk, from Psalm 119. 165

Present, Francis Cummins, William Montgomery, & John Hodge, Ministers; & George Irving, Elder. Constituted with prayer.



Mr. Cummins was chosen Moderator, & Mr. Montgomery, Clerk.

The rev. & mess.<sup>rs</sup> John Brown & Ezra Fisk, being present, & invited to sit with us, as corresponding members, accepted the invitation.

Ordered, That calls, supplications, &c. if there be any, be brought forward.

The minutes of our last stated sessions were read.

Adjourned, to meet at this place tomorrow at 10 a.m.

Concluded with prayer.

Siloam, September 14<sup>th</sup> 1811.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

The minutes of yesterday were read.

Upon inquiry, the stated clerk Mr. Hodge replied, that he had transmitted a presbyterial & other reports to the general assembly, as directed at the last session.

The consideration of the calls, from Siloam & Bethany, was still deferred.

Presbyterial appointments, are found to have been fulfilled.

Mr. Archibald Bouie, a licentiate from the presbytery of



Orange, appeared in presbytery, and gave satisfactory evidence of his being in regular standing; and applied for permission to preach within our bounds, until the next Spring sessions: which was granted. And he is, especially, to preach on two sabbaths within the late purchase, South of the Oconee.

Ordered, That the clerk furnish Mr. Bowie with an attested copy of this minute.

Ordered, That presbyterial appointments be made out. One sabbath and two week days, are appointed to each of the members, at discretion; and to be fulfilled previous to our next spring sessions.

The presbytery, taking into consideration the widely & thinly scattered situation of the church within its bounds, and the deprivation of the stated privileges of the gospel, under which, many labour; and willing to afford, before the approach of winter, the most convenient opportunity for a number to assemble together and enjoy the means of grace: Whereupon,

Resolved, That this presbytery be adjourned, to meet at Bethany, on the last Friday of October next, for the express purpose of preaching the word, and administering the ordinances of



the gospel; and that the members be particularly enjoined to attend. Concluded with prayer.

Wm Montgomery, temp: clk.

Athens, February 14.<sup>th</sup> 1812. 35.<sup>th</sup> Session.

The Presbytery of Hopewell, having, by unforeseen circumstances, been prevented from meeting at Bethany, according to adjournment, did meet on this day, by a call of the moderator, duly notified to the members; and was opened with a sermon by the rev.<sup>d</sup> Francis Cummins, the last moderator, from 1. Pet: 2.7. Constituted with prayer.

Ministers, present, Elders.

Francis Cummins,

William Cules.

Thomas Newton, &

Edward Pharr.

Mr Cummins was chosen Moderator, & Mr Newton, clerk.

The rev.<sup>d</sup> Dr Brown, a member of Harmony presbytery, being present, was invited to sit with us, as a corresponding member; which he accepted.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet at this place tomorrow morn.



ing 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Athens, February 15<sup>th</sup> 1812.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

Ordered, That calls, supplications, &c. if there be any, be brought forward.

The minutes of yesterday, as also those of our last stated sessions were read.

Upon inquiry, Mess<sup>rs</sup> Newton & Tharr rendered satisfactory reasons for their absence at the last session.

Upon inquiry, the members, for special reasons, were not ready to make their annual reports of church members.

It appeared that presbyterial appointments were fulfilled.

The rev.<sup>d</sup> Francis Cummins, accepted the calls, from the congregations of Siloam and Bethany.

Ordered, That appointments be made out. One sabbath and two week days, are assigned to each member, at discretion.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet at Bethesda, on the last Friday in July next. Concluded with prayer.

Tho<sup>s</sup> Newton, temp. Clk.



Bethsaida, July 31<sup>st</sup> 1812.

36<sup>th</sup> Session.

The Presbytery of Hopewell met agreeably to adjournment, and was opened with a sermon by the rev.<sup>d</sup> Francis Cummins, the last moderator, from Rom: 8. 3. 4. Constituted with prayer.

Ministers, present, Elders.

Francis Cummins,

Thomas Mayes.

Thomas Newton, &

Edward Pharr.

Mr. Cummins was chosen Moderator, & Mr. Newton, Clerk.

Ordered, That calls, supplications, &c. be presented.

The minutes of our last stated sessions were read.

Adjourned, to meet at this place, tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Bethsaida, August 1<sup>st</sup> 1812.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

Dr. Brown, a member of Harmony presbytery being present, was invited & took a seat as a corresponding member.

Mr. Huey, Elder appeared & took a seat.



The minutes of yesterday were read.

Upon inquiry, it appeared that the members had fulfilled their respective appointments made at the last stated sessions.

The members were directed to make their reports of church members at the next stated sessions.

Appointments were assigned to each member, as at our last.

Mr. Archibald Bouie, a licentiate, produced suitable evidence of his regular licensure by, and dismissal from the Orange presbytery; and requested to be taken under the care of this presbytery; which was granted.

Mr. Bouie was directed to preach three sabbaths at Pergamos, and the rest at discretion.

The minutes of the present sessions were read.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet at Bethesda, on the first Thursday of April next. Concluded with prayer.

Francis Cummins, Mod<sup>r</sup>

Thomas Newton, temp. Clk.

Synod, in Sessions at New-Providance, October 12.<sup>th</sup> 1812.

Examined and approved to this page.

Edw. Hall, Mod<sup>r</sup>



Bethsalem, April 1<sup>st</sup> 1813. 37<sup>th</sup> Session.

The presbytery of Hopewell met agreeably to adjournment, and was opened with a sermon by the rev.<sup>d</sup> Francis Cummins, the late moderator, from John 13. 13. Constituted with prayer.

Ministers,	present,	Elders,
Francis Cummins,		William Greer,
Thomas Newton,		James Espey,
Edward Pharr, &		John Barnhill, &
John Hodge.		John Luckie.

Mr Archibald Bowie, a licentiate, absent.

Mr Newton was chosen moderator, & Mr Hodge, clerk.

The rev.<sup>d</sup> Dr Brown, presented to presbytery a regular dismission from the presbytery of Harmony, of which he was late a member; and applied for admission, and was received as a member of this presbytery.

It was ordered, that calls, supplications, &c if any, be presented to presbytery.

A petition from a settlement of people in Twiggs county, praying for supplies, was handed to presbytery.



The minutes of our last stated sessions were read.

It appeared that the appointments last made, have been fulfilled by the members present.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet at this place tomorrow morning at ten o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Bethsalem, April 2.<sup>d</sup> 1813.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above, except Mess.<sup>rs</sup> Greer & Espey. Constituted with prayer.

The minutes of yesterday were read.

On motion, Resolved, That Mr. Hodge be appointed a commissioner to the next general assembly; and that the clerk be directed to make out his commission.

Mess.<sup>rs</sup> Greer & Espey came in & took their seats.

Upon inquiry, it appeared that the members present were not prepared to report fully the number of church members within their respective charges. Whereupon,

Resolved, That each member of this presbytery give special attention to this subject, and be prepared to report, without fail, at our next spring sessions.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet at this place tomorrow morning at



ten o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Bethsalem, April 3.<sup>d</sup> 1813.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above, except Mr. Pharr. Constituted with prayer.

The rev.<sup>d</sup> Nathan S. Beman, late a member of the Cumberland associate, and pastor of a congregational church in Portland, district of Maine, but at present residing within our bounds, made application to become a member of this presbytery; and having produced sufficient testimonials of his having been regularly licensed and ordained to the gospel ministry; of his good moral standing, and regular dismission from his pastoral charge: It was unanimously agreed, that Mr. Beman be accordingly admitted as a member of this presbytery.

Ordered, That supplies be made out. To Mr. Cummins is assigned, two sabbaths in succession and the intervening week, in Twiggs county: One sabbath, at Madison in Morgan county, is assigned to Mr. Beman.

Mr. Pharr arrived, & after rendering satisfactory reasons to presbytery, for his being tardy, took a seat.

Dr. Brown, was directed to spend one sabbath at Jefferson,



and one sabbath & two week days at discretion: To each of the other members, is assigned two sabbaths and two week days at discretion.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet at Siloam in Greensboro', on the first Thursday in September next. Concluded with prayer.

John Hodge, s. clk.

Siloam, Greensboro', September 2.<sup>d</sup> 1813.

Two ministers only, of the presbytery of Hopewell, to wit: Mess<sup>rs</sup> Cummins & Hodge having met in pursuance of the last adjournment; consequently, there was not a presbytery.

John Hodge, clk.

1.<sup>st</sup> Session of Synod, November 16.<sup>th</sup> 1813.

Examined and approved thus far:

J. R. Thompson,

Moderator.

[ It appears that the minutes of the next succeeding presbytery held at Mount Lion are lost.



Siloam, September 16.<sup>th</sup> 1844. 39.<sup>th</sup> Session.

There being not a sufficient number of members present to form a quorum, presbytery did not constitute.

September 17.<sup>th</sup> 1844.

The presbytery of Hopewell met and was constituted with prayer.

Ministers,	present	Elders
John Brown, D. D.		John Armor.

Francis Cummins, &

Nathan S. S. Beman. Absent, M<sup>r</sup>. Newton, M<sup>r</sup>. Pharr & M<sup>r</sup>. Hodge.

D<sup>r</sup>. Brown was chosen Moderator, & M<sup>r</sup>. Beman, Clerk.

Rev.<sup>d</sup> Francis Cummins laid before presbytery a written request to be dismissed from the pastoral charge of Bethany congregation; and it appearing that the congregation made no objection. The Rev.<sup>d</sup> Francis Cummins was accordingly dismissed; and the congregation declared a vacancy, in good standing, within our bounds.

Presbytery adjourned to meet at Athens on the last Friday in March next. Concluded with prayer.

Nathan S. S. Beman, Clerk.



Athens, March 31<sup>st</sup> 1815.

40<sup>th</sup> Session.

The presbytery of Hopewell met according to adjournment and was opened with a sermon by the Moderator, the rev.<sup>d</sup> Dr. Brown, from John 15. 8. "Herein is my Father glorified that ye bear much fruit."

Ministers

present

Elders.

John Brown, D. D.

Rev.<sup>d</sup> Francis Cummins,

Edward Pharr, &

John Hodge. Absent Rev.<sup>d</sup> Thomas Newton & Nathan S. S. Beman.

Mr. Cummins was chosen Moderator, & Mr. Hodge clerk.

Ordered, That calls, petitions, &c. if any, be presented. None were presented. Concluded with prayer.

Adjourned to meet at this place tomorrow morning 9 o'clock.

Athens, April 1<sup>st</sup> 1815.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above, with the addition of Mr. Newton, whose reasons for absence yesterday were sustained. Constituted with prayer.

The minutes of yesterday were read.

The rev.<sup>d</sup> Henry Reid, late a member of South Carolina presbytery presented a regular dismission from it to this presbytery. He was



accordingly received and took a seat.

Mr Andrew G. Lemms, an elder from the presbyterian church at Washington, being present, took a seat.

The minutes of the last stated session, and of the adjourned session at Siloam were read. Mess.<sup>rs</sup> Newton, Pharr & Hodge, who appear to have absent from the two last mentioned meetings of presbytery, viz. that at Mount Zion & the adjourned meeting at Siloam, rendered such reasons for their absence as were satisfactory.

Mr Eli Smith, a graduate of Dartmouth college, N. Hampshire, appeared before presbytery and expressed a desire to be taken under its care as a candidate for the gospel ministry. Presbytery then proceeded to examine Mr Smith on experimental religion and such other things as appeared necessary in order to their being able to judge as to his soundness in the faith. In all which, he gave full satisfaction. He also produced satisfactory testimonials of his literary and moral character, of his being in full communion with our church, and his having been engaged in the study of Divinity for nearly two years last past under the Rev.<sup>d</sup> Dr. J. P. Wilson of Philadelphia. Presbytery was further informed by Dr Brown, that Mr Smith since his late residence within our bounds, has written several sermons on differ-



ent portions of scripture. Whereupon Mr. Smith was requested to read a sermon, which he did on Feb. 11. 1. and afterwards, at the direction of presbytery, he delivered the same in public. It was agreed that these exercises be sustained as parts of trial previous to licensure.

Presbytery finding Mr. Smith's qualifications for the ministry very satisfactory, and his desire to preach the gospel of our common Lord, founded on what is believed to be good and proper grounds, and considering the destitute state of the churches in this part of the world, resolved to license Mr. Smith without further delay. And on his answering satisfactorily the questions directed to him, as required to be put to candidates by the discipline of our church, the following entry was made on our minutes, viz:

At Athens April 1<sup>st</sup> 1815. The presbytery of Hopewell, having received sufficient testimonials in favor of Mr. Eli Smith, of his having gone through a regular course of literature, of his good moral character and of his being in the communion of the church, proceeded to take the usual parts of trial for his licensure: and he having given satisfaction as to his accomplishments in literature, his experimental acquaintance with religion, and his proficiency in Divinity and other studies: The presbytery did, and does hereby express its appro



bation of all those parts of trial: and he having adopted the confession of faith of our church, and satisfactorily answered the questions appointed to be put to candidates for licensure. The presbytery does hereby license him the said Eli Smith to preach the gospel of Christ, as a probationer for the holy ministry within the bounds of this presbytery, or wherever he shall be orderly called.

Mr Wilton Hodge, an elder from the church of Pisgah arrived and took a seat.

The appointments given to the members at our last sessions appear upon enquiry to have been fulfilled.

Mr Beman, in a letter addressed to presbytery, and which was read, stated that from not having in his possession, the name, place of residence, &c of the rev.<sup>d</sup> William Montgomery, he had failed to forward to him a letter of dismissal from this presbytery, as directed at our last. Wherefore it was ordered that this duty devolve on the stated clerk, and that the said letter be forwarded without unnecessary delay.

Mr Buie, having failed to attend the present sessions, the consideration of his application for dismissal was deferred until our next fall sessions.



Appointments. Two sabbaths, at discretion, were allotted to each of the members. Mr Smith was directed to preach one sabbath at Sandy creek, one at Thyatira, one at Pergamos, and one at Center. Concluded with prayer.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet at New Bethsalem, on the first Friday of May next.

Francis Cummins, Moderator

John Hodge, Clerk

New Bethsalem, May 5<sup>th</sup> 1815. 41<sup>st</sup> Session.

The presbytery of Hopewell met according to adjournment and was opened with a sermon by the Rev.<sup>d</sup> Francis Cummins, Moderator, from 2. Tim: 3. 18. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." Constituted with prayer.

Ministers

present

Elders.

Rev.<sup>d</sup> Francis Cummins,

John Brown, D. D.

Nathan S. S. Beman

Henry Reid &

John Hodge. Miss.<sup>rs</sup> Newton & Pharr, absent.



Mr. Cummins was chosen Moderator, & Mr. Hodge, Clerk

Persons having calls, petitions & other papers to lay before presbytery, were invited to present them. None were presented.

The minutes of the last sessions were read.

Mr. Beman's reasons for absence from the last sessions were sustained.

Adjourned to meet at this place tomorrow at 12 o'clock.

Concluded with prayer.

New Bethsalem, May 6.<sup>th</sup> 1816. — or, 1815

Presbytery met agreeably to adjournment. Members present as above. Mr. Andrew G. Semmes, an elder, was also present & took a seat.

Constituted with prayer.

The minutes of yesterday were read.

Mr. Benjamin Gilderleeve, a graduate of Middleberry College, Vermont, at present residing within our bounds, made application to be taken under the care of this presbytery as a candidate for the gospel ministry. Wherefore presbytery proceeded to examine Mr. Gilderleeve on experimental religion and the motives which induced him to desire the office of a gospel minister; and being fully satisfied as to his experimental piety, and believing that his desire to preach



was founded on evangelical principles, and also having received the evidence of his being in the membership of our church together with his literary and moral character, it was agreed that Mr. Gildersleeve be received as a candidate for the gospel ministry.

Presbytery was further informed by Mr. Beman that Mr. Gildersleeve, who resides in his family, had been for some months attending to the studies of Divinity, and had written a lecture, which he was prepared, if called upon to deliver before the presbytery.

It was therefore agreed that Mr. Gildersleeve should be requested to deliver his lecture; which he did accordingly. The subject of which being contained in Rom: 3. from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> verses inclusive. The lecture was sustained as part of the trial for licensure.

Mr. Gildersleeve was then directed to prepare a sermon from John 1. 13. to be delivered at our next session; and the first sixteen articles of the Confession of Faith, were also given him as subjects of examination.

Appointments, to remain as at our last. Concluded with prayer. Presbytery adjourned to meet at Thyatira on the first Thursday of September next. Francis Cummins, Moderator  
John Hodge, Stated Clerk.



Thyatira, September 7.<sup>th</sup> 1815.

42.<sup>d</sup> Session.

The presbytery of Hopewell met according to adjournment, and was opened with a sermon by the Rev.<sup>d</sup> John Brown, D. D. from Heb. 10. 24 & 25. "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love & to good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is." Constituted with prayer.

Ministers present Elders.

Rev.<sup>d</sup> John Brown, D. D.

Thomas Newton, &

Henry Reid. Absent The Rev.<sup>d</sup> Francis Cummins, Edward Tharr, Nathan S. S. Beman & John Hodge.

Mr. Newton was chosen Moderator, & Mr. Reid clerk.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Newton gave satisfactory reasons for absence from our last session. Concluded with prayer.

Adjourned to meet at this place tomorrow morning 10 o'clock.

Thyatira, September 8.<sup>th</sup> 1815.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

The minutes of yesterday were read.



Mr. Pharr, now present, took a seat and rendered satisfactory reasons for delay in attending the present session, as well as for absence from the last.

Appointments, for supplying vacant congregations, were all fulfilled.

The General Assembly, at their last session, having recommended to the churches, that the evening of the first Monday in every month, be set apart by the friends of Zion, as far as shall be convenient for prayer to Almighty God for the coming and glorious reign of Christ on earth. Therefore,

Resolved, That the same be observed by the members of this presbytery, and that it be recommended to the churches under our care to act in like manner.

The recommendation of the General assembly with respect to petitioning congress on the subject of transporting and opening the mail on the sabbath was also taken into view by presbytery, but the consideration was deferred until tomorrow.

The General assembly's request to pay special attention to the religious education of young slaves was likewise taken into consideration by the presbytery. It was resolved that presbytery pay

Instruction (Religious)  
of negro children



attention to this important object, and also recommend the churches under their care to do the same.

The presbytery, in consequence of the frequent violations of the sabbath and other open and abounding iniquities which are prevalent in our country, resolve to solicit the aid and cooperation of christian brethren of other denominations to put a stop to these evils. It was therefore resolved, that a committee be appointed to prepare a letter to be addressed to the next conference of the Methodist church in this state, and also to the several associations of the Baptist church, requesting them to appoint members, to meet with members, who shall be appointed by the presbytery, at some convenient place to devise necessary means of accomplishing this object. The place appointed for the general association is Athens; and the time of meeting is the Thursday before commencement in 1816. The Rev.<sup>d</sup> Mess<sup>rs</sup> Cummins & Beman are appointed a committee to prepare and transmit the said letter to the other religious denominations in the state.

Mr. Gilderleeve delivered the sermon assigned him at our last as a part of trial previous to licensure; which, being considered, was sustained.

The following question was proposed for the consideration of pres-

Letter to Conference & the Baptist Association  
touching the Sabbath.



Dancing &c  
1815

bytery, viz: "Is it right that a member of the presbyterian church should permit his children while under his immediate control to attend balls, dances and other places of vain and worldly amusement?" To this question, the presbytery unanimously answered, No.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet at this place, tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Thyatira, September 9<sup>th</sup> 1815.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Opened by prayer.  
Members present as above.

Presbytery proceeded to the examination of Mr Gildersleeve on the Confession of faith and Theology in general; which examination was sustained as part of trial previous to licensure; and after having signified his assent to the engagements prescribed in the book of discipline, his licensure was ordered accordingly, and in the following form, to wit:

At Thyatira, September 9<sup>th</sup> 1815.

The presbytery of Hopewell having received sufficient testimonials in favour of Mr Benjamin Gildersleeve, he having gone through a regular course of literature; of his good moral character; and of his being in the communion of the church, proceeded to take the



usual part of trial for his licensure. And he having given satisfaction as to his accomplishments in literature, of his experimental acquaintance with religion, and as to his proficiency in Divinity and other studies; the presbytery did, and hereby do express their approbation of all these parts of trial. And he having adopted the faith of this church, and satisfactorily answered the questions appointed to be put to candidates before licensure, the presbytery did and hereby do license the said Benjamin Gilder sleeve to preach the Gospel of Christ as a probationer for the holy ministry within the bounds of the presbytery, or wherever he shall be orderly called.

Thomas Newton, Modr.

Henry Reid, Clk.

The deferred business of yesterday was resumed.

Resolved, That this presbytery comply with the recommendation of the General assembly with respect to the transporting and opening of the mail on the sabbath day; also that the stated clerk be directed to furnish all the members belonging to this presbytery with a copy of said petition.

Appointments. Two sabbaths at discretion, for each member.

W.<sup>r</sup> Gilder sleeve, one at Center, and one at Pergamos.



Adjourned to meet at the presbyterian Church in Washington on the first Thursday in April next. Concluded with prayer.

Thomas Newton, Mod<sup>r</sup>

Henry Reid, clk.

This book has been examined & approved up to this page.

John Brown, Mod<sup>r</sup> of Synod.

Washington, Wilkes county Georgia, April 4<sup>th</sup> 1816. 43<sup>d</sup> Session.

There not being a constitutional number of members present to form a quorum, adjourned to meet at this place tomorrow morning.

Washington, April 5<sup>th</sup> 1816.

The presbytery of Hopewell met agreeably to adjournment, and was opened with a sermon by the Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. Newton, Moderator, from Numbr: 23. 10. "Let me die the death of the righteous and let my last end be like his." Constituted with prayer.

Ministers	present	Elders.
Francis Cummins,		Thomas Terrell,
John Brown, D. D.		Joseph Bryan.
Thomas Newton, &	Absent, the Rev <sup>d</sup> Mess <sup>rs</sup> Pharr, Hodge	
Nathan S. S. Beman		and Reid.



Mr. Cummins was chosen Moderator & Mr. Beman, Clerk.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet this evening at Mr. Terrell's, at 4 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

At Mr. Terrell's, April 5<sup>th</sup> 1816.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above. Mr. Reid now present, and having given satisfactory reasons for absence, took a seat. Constituted with prayer.

The minutes of last session were read and amended, and also the minutes of this day were read.

The Rev.<sup>d</sup> Mess.<sup>rs</sup> Cummins & Beman gave satisfactory reasons for absence from our last session.

Mr. Ira Ingraham, a graduate of Middlebury College, Vermont, now an inhabitant of this state and rector of an academy at Powelton, offered himself as a candidate for the ministry of the gospel, & requested to be taken under the care of this presbytery. After producing satisfactory evidence of his being a member of the church, of having experienced a work of grace in his heart, and of his views and motives as to the holy ministry, he was received.

Appointments, to supply in the vacancies, were all fulfilled.

On inquiry, it appears that the committee appointed to address the



judicatories of the Methodist and Baptist churches on certain subjects referred to in our last minutes, had performed the duty assigned them so far as it respects the Baptist church, but were unavoidably prevented from communicating their designs and intentions to the conference of the Methodist church. In pursuance of the plan previously adopted, the Rev.<sup>d</sup> Francis Cummins & the Rev.<sup>d</sup> G. Brown are appointed commissioners to meet the brethren of other denominations at the time & place, and for the purposes described in the minutes referred to above. It was ordered that the commissioners address a letter to the presiding Elder of the Methodist church in the circuit where the meeting is to be held, requesting him to attend the proposed convention, or to appoint some one or more persons of his order, to meet and confer with the delegates from other churches, on the subjects proposed.

A letter was received from Mr. Buie, a licentiate under the care of this presbytery, on the subject of difficulties relative to his dismissal. The consideration of which was deferred.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet at the church, tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Washington, April 6.<sup>th</sup> 1816.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present ad



134.

above. Constituted with prayer.

The consideration of Mr. Buie's case was resumed. The moderator was directed to lay before the presbytery of Fayetteville, within whose bounds Mr. Buie now resided, all the material facts and documents in our possession relative to his case. And Mr. Buie is hereby dismissed, that his case may be entirely under the management, and be subject to the cognizance of that presbytery.

Mr. Ingraham delivered a sermon on Rom. 5. 1. which was sustained as part of trials for licensure.

Adjourned, to meet at Mr. Terrell's, this evening at 3 o'clock.

Concluded with prayer.

Mr. Terrell's, Saturday 3 o'clock.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Present as above. Constituted with prayer. The minutes were read.

Mr. Ingraham was directed to prepare a sermon from John 15. 23. to be delivered at our next. He was also directed to prepare for examination on the doctrines contained in the first eight chapters of the Confession of Faith.

The members were directed to preach in the vacancies, each, two sabbaths at discretion. Mr. Gildersleeve was directed to preach one sab-



bath at Concord, one at Center, and the rest at discretion.

The following query by the Rev<sup>d</sup>. Mr. Reid was laid before presbytery, and an answer requested, viz: "A person living in a neighborhood where there is a newly organized church, has a certificate from a church to which he formerly belonged testifying that he is a member in regular standing, denies the authority of the church where he now resides to call him to account should he be guilty of any irregularity of conduct. Query: To whom is he answerable, and whose business is it to call him to account?"

Answer. He is answerable to the church where he resides, and it is the business of the officers of that church to call him to account, and should he refuse to attend when duly and regularly cited, he may be cut off for contumacy.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet at Washington on Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> of November next. Concluded with prayer.

Francis Cummins, Mod<sup>r</sup>

Nathan S. S. Beman, Clk.



Washington, Wilkes County, Georgia, November 9<sup>th</sup> 1816. 44<sup>th</sup> Session.

The presbytery of Hopewell met according to adjournment and was opened with a sermon by the Rev.<sup>d</sup> Francis Cummins, the Moderator, from John 3. 14. 15. "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the Wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up; that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life."

Ministers, present, Elders.

Rev.<sup>d</sup> Francis Cummins,

Thomas Terrell &

Nathan C. S. Beman, &

Alexander Thompson.

Henry Reid. Absent John Brown, D. D. Thomas Newton, Edward Pharr, and John Hodge. Constituted with prayer.

Adjourned to meet at the house of Mr. Terrell at 4 o'clock P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

Mr. Terrell's, Saturday P. M. November 9<sup>th</sup> 1816.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Present as above. Constituted with prayer.

Mr. Cummins was chosen Moderator, and Mr. Reid Clerk.

The stated clerk having failed to bring or transmit the minutes, they could not be read.

The Rev.<sup>d</sup> Ezra Fisk, a member of the presbytery of Hudson, New York,



being present, was invited and took a seat as a corresponding member.

Mr. David Root, a graduate of Middlebury College, Vermont, expressed his desire to be received as a candidate for the gospel ministry. Having produced sufficient testimonials of his literary acquirements, of his good moral character, and of his being in the communion of the church, presbytery proceeded to examine him on experimental religion, and his views in desiring to enter on the sacred office. His examination was sustained, and he was received under the care of the presbytery.

Adjourned, to meet at this place, on Monday morning 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Monday, November 11.<sup>th</sup> 1816. Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted by prayer.

Mr. Ira Ingraham read a sermon on John 15. 23. which was considered, but not sustained. He was examined on the first eight chapters of the Confession of Faith, and his examination was sustained. He was directed to prepare an Exegesis on this theme, *in Christus sit Deus?* & a sermon on Rom: 9. 16. to be delivered as parts of trial at our next.

A letter was received from the presbytery of Fayetteville respecting the case of Mr. Buie, and questioning the propriety of his being tried for misconduct by any other presbytery than the one in the bounds of which his offence



was committed. The subject of which letter was in part investigated.

Adjourned to meet at this place, tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Tuesday morning, November 12<sup>th</sup> 1816. Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

The subject of the letter from the presbytery of Fayetteville was resumed & considered. Mr Buie came forward and acknowledged that he had been sundry times intoxicated and had behaved imprudently while living in the bounds of this presbytery, also that he had been in some measure intoxicated sundry times while living within the bounds of the presbytery of Fayetteville, since he had left the state of Georgia. Whereupon presbytery Judged that Mr Buie should be admonished by the Moderator, and suspended from the ministerial office, and the communion of the church, until the presbytery of Fayetteville, or some other in whose bounds he might be, be satisfied of his penitence and reformation, and should see fit to restore him. He was admonished and suspended accordingly. And in this standing, dismissed, to put himself under the care of the presbytery of Fayetteville in North Carolina.

Mr Orson Douglas, a graduate of Middleberry College, Vermont, came forward and expressed a desire to be taken under our care as a



candidate for the gospel ministry: And having produced satisfactory testimonials of his literary acquirements, his good moral character, and membership of the church. He was examined on experimental religion, and his views in entering on the gospel ministry. His examination was sustained, and he was taken under our care. Mr. Douglas then delivered a discourse, which was sustained. He was then directed to prepare a sermon on Gal. 5. 25. to be delivered at our next.

Mr. David Root delivered a discourse, which was sustained; and he was directed to prepare a sermon on Acts 9. 20. to be delivered at our next.

Each member of presbytery is directed to supply in the vacancies two sabbaths at discretion.

Adjourned, to meet at Pisgah Church on the first Thursday of April next. Concluded with prayer.

Francis Cummins, Mod<sup>r</sup>

Henry Reid, Clerk.

Pisgah Church, Madison county, Georgia, April 3<sup>d</sup> 1817. 45<sup>th</sup> Session.

The presbytery of Hopewell met according to adjournment, and the moderator not being present, was opened with a sermon by Dr. Brown from



Matt. 26. 46. "Sleep on now and take your rest."

Ministers, present Elders.

Rev.<sup>d</sup> John Brown, D. D.

Alexander Thompson.

Henry Reid, P

Nathan S. S. Beman. Absent, Francis Cummins, Thomas Newton,

John Hodge & Edward Pharr. Constituted with prayer.

Dr. Brown was chosen Moderator, & Mr. Beman clerk.

The minutes of the last stated sessions were read.

Dr. Brown gave satisfactory reasons for absence from our last, likewise, for the absence of Mr. Hodge from our present and last. He presented a letter, which was read, from the Rev.<sup>d</sup> Mr. Cummins, stating reasons for absence from these sessions; which were sustained.

Adjourned, to meet at this place tomorrow morning at 7 o'clock

Concluded with prayer.

Pisgah, April 4.<sup>th</sup> 1817.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Present as above. Constituted with prayer.

The minutes of the stated sessions at Washington, April 1816, which were not brought up to the subsequent meeting were called for & read.

A call from the Church at Mount Zion, to the Rev.<sup>d</sup> Nathan S. S.



Beman, to take the pastoral charge of said church was brought forward and read, and was presented to Mr Beman for his consideration, acceptance, or rejection, with the proviso, that in case Mr Beman should accept, it will be understood to be for only one half of his time.

The rev.<sup>d</sup> Thomas Newton appeared and took a seat.

Mr Root delivered a discourse on the subject assigned him at our last; which was considered and sustained. And he was directed to prepare a sermon on 2.<sup>d</sup> Tim: 2. 13. to be delivered at our next. He was also directed to prepare for examination on the first fifteen chapters of the Confession of Faith.

Adjourned, to meet at this place, tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Pisgah, April 5.<sup>th</sup> 1857.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

Mr Newton rendered reasons for absence from our last, and for tardiness at our present sessions. His reasons were sustained.

John Mayes, an elder of the church of Hebron, appeared and took a seat.

Whereas this presbytery have experienced, for several years past,



considerable difficulty, in collecting the necessary materials for making out presbyterial reports to send on to the Synod and General Assembly; and some difficulty in the administration of sealing ordinances, and exercise of discipline in the church, from not being able to know as distinctly as might be wished, who are to be considered as really belonging to our connexion. And whereas we have not been able to send ministers to preach in our vacant congregations, with any thing like a confident expectation that a suitable exchange of temporal <sup>good things</sup> would be made to those whom we might send to minister in spiritual things: Therefore, with a view to remedy these evils, presbytery

Unanimously Resolved, That the several members of this body be directed, in the course of the next ensuing half year to visit the several congregations under our care and within our bounds, and to have the names of members enrolled in a book to be kept by some suitable person in each congregation. In this book must be noted, in different columns, the names of persons in full connexion; the names of married persons belonging to our order not in full connexion; and the names of single persons over the age of fourteen years; and the names of all baptized persons belonging to families in our connexion under fourteen years.

And it is further resolved, That all persons of our order and



living in our bounds who shall refuse to enrol, and give in the names of the several members of their families to be enrolled as above, shall be considered as having withdrawn themselves from our communion.

It is further resolved, That the minister visiting each congregation to enrol members, be directed to give notice that it is recommended to every member in full connexion with us to pay into the hands of some one who shall in each congregation be appointed to receive and receipt for the same, the sum of twenty-five cents, every three months: which, when collected, shall be sent on, by some mode to be hereafter described, to the treasurer of the presbytery, and the treasurer shall give receipts for all monies thus put into his hands by the collectors of the several congregations.

And it is further resolved, That the minister who shall visit the congregations to enrol the members, be directed to cause a collection to be made in each congregation of such sum or sums of money as the charitable in those congregations may think proper to give, besides the twenty-five cents from each member; which monies when collected shall be given to the congregational collector, and the amount entered on his book, which monies shall also be sent on to the presbyterial treasurer, as shall hereafter be directed.



And it is further resolved, That as soon as a sufficient sum of money is collected, or is in reasonable expectation of being collected, that the moderator for the time being shall immediately, or as soon as convenient, employ some suitable and proper minister or ministers of the gospel, of the presbyterian church to itinerate in our bounds & preach in our vacant congregations, in such rotation as the moderator for the time being may think proper to direct.

And it is further resolved, that each itinerant thus employed, shall be expected to preach every sabbath day, and remain in the congregation for the following part of the week, or as much thereof as may be consistent with his travelling to his next appointment; and during the week he shall be expected to preach frequently, and by day or by night, as his views of propriety may direct, and at such places as may be most convenient for the congregation to attend. It will be understood and expected that he shall as frequently as practicable, catechise the children, and examine the young people, either by visiting from house to house, or collecting a few together as may be most expedient.

And it is further resolved, That persons or families refusing to submit to catechetical instruction and examination as aforesaid, shall be considered as contumacious, and dealt with accordingly.



And it is further resolved, That should the monies procured, by quarterage and collection or otherwise, be sufficient to enable the moderator to do so, that he increase the number of itinerants, until preaching be established in all our vacant congregations, one sabbath in every month.

And it is further resolved, That whenever any of our vacant congregations shall be able, either separately, or two or more united, to maintain a minister, on their presenting a call to an itinerant, or any other minister belonging to our presbytery, that he shall be entitled in such way and manner as is prescribed by the discipline of our church. But the members in full connexion shall not be excused from paying their quarterage, for the maintenance of itinerants in vacant congregations.

It is likewise resolved, That the salary to be given to an itinerant, shall not exceed thirty three dollars per month.

It is also resolved, That the moderator for the time being, shall administer the Lord's supper, or cause it to be administered to every congregation in our bounds, and of our order, at least once in every year, and on those occasions, collections shall be made for the support of itinerants.



And further, the presbytery do hereby recommend and enjoin upon all in their connexions, both ministers and people, a more careful examination of the doctrines of the gospel, and a strict and holy walk with God in the duties of the christian religion; and very particularly recommend a more zealous attention to the instruction of youth in the doctrines and duties of christianity.

Ordered, That in conformity with the above resolutions, and for the purpose of carrying them into effect, the rev.<sup>d</sup> Francis Cummins visit the churches in Greene, and Oglethorpe; John Brown, D. D. the churches in Clarke, Jackson & Morgan; M.<sup>r</sup> Newton, the churches in Franklin and Madison; M.<sup>r</sup> Reid, the congregations in Elbert and Lincoln; and M.<sup>r</sup> Reman, the churches in Wilkes and Hancock, and make report of their proceedings at our next stated sessions.

Joseph Bryan, Esq.<sup>r</sup> of Hancock was appointed treasurer.

Ordered, That the Moderator cause the foregoing resolutions to be printed in the form of a circular, and a copy transmitted to each member of the presbytery as soon as convenient.

Each member of presbytery, was ordered to supply in the vacancies, two sabbaths at discretion.

Concluded with prayer.



Presbytery then adjourned, to meet at Madison in Morgan county, on the first Friday of September next.

John Brown, Modr

Nathan S. S. Beman, Clk.

Madison, Morgan county, Friday September 5.<sup>th</sup> 1817. 46.<sup>th</sup> Session.

The presbytery of Hopewell met according to adjournment, and was opened with a sermon by the rev.<sup>d</sup> Mr Reid, at the request of the moderator, from Eph. 5. 14. "Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light."

Ministers

present,

Elders.

Rev.<sup>d</sup> Francis Cummins,

George Campbell &

John Brown, D. D. &

Alexander Thompson.

Henry Reid. Absent the Rev.<sup>d</sup> John Hodge, Thomas Newton, Edward

Pharr, and Nathan S. S. Beman. Constituted with prayer.

Mr Cummins was chosen Moderator, and Dr Brown, clerk.

The Rev.<sup>d</sup> Robert Finley, D. D. President of the University of Georgia, and late a member of the presbytery of New Brunswick, signified his desire to become a member of this presbytery, and stated that he had taken a regular dismission from the presbytery of which he had been



a member, but had it not with him, and requested that he might be allowed to give it in, at our next stated sessions. Presbytery having full confidence that Dr. Finley was in regular standing, he was received as a member and took a seat. Concluded with prayer.

Presbytery then adjourned, to meet at this place, tomorrow morning at 8 o'clock.

Madison, September 6.<sup>th</sup> 1817.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

The minutes of yesterday were read. Those of the last stated sessions were called for, but the stated clerk not being present, nor the minutes sent on, presbytery was obliged to proceed to business without them.

Mr. Root delivered a sermon on 2.<sup>d</sup> Thess. 2.<sup>d</sup> 13. the subject assigned him at our last; which was sustained as part of trials; and he was directed to prepare a sermon on James 1.<sup>st</sup> 13. and a lecture on James 2.<sup>d</sup> 23 to 26 inclusive, to be delivered at our next.

Mr. Douglas appeared and gave satisfactory reasons for not attending at our last sessions, and stated that through indisposition of body, and a great press of business, he had not been able to prepare the sermon assigned him at our sessions in November last. He was



directed to prepare on the same subject, and another sermon on 1<sup>st</sup> Tim. 4. 10. to be delivered at our next.

Alonso Church, a graduate of Middleberry College, and now rector of the academy at Eatonton, appeared in presbytery and expressed his desire to be taken under our care as a candidate for the holy ministry; and having produced satisfactory testimonials of his being in the full communion of the church: expressed his approbation and acceptance of the Confession of Faith adopted by the General Assembly of the presbyterian Church in the United States of America; declared his willingness to submit to this presbytery in the Lord; he gave satisfactory evidence of his having experienced a work of grace on his heart, and was received as a candidate under our care. He was directed to prepare a sermon on John 20. 29, latter clause, to be delivered at our next.

Presbytery taking into consideration the destitute state of the churches in our bounds; knowing that many of our people have been obliged to join other religious societies, or remain in a great measure bereaved of the enjoyment which arises from the communion of saints in gospel ordinances: Believing that our churches might be increased, and many new congregations formed, provided we could



give reasonable assurances that they would be supplied with pastors; the members feel it their duty to pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth more labourers. And whereas, our prayers ought always to be accompanied with dutiful endeavors for the attainment of the blessings for which we pray. And whereas there is but little opportunity for young men to acquire the knowledge of those things which are necessary to qualify for the discharge of ministerial duty; presbytery feels it incumbent on it to endeavour to make some provision for the continuance and increase of a gospel ministry in this part of the vineyard, when those who now officiate in holy things shall have rested from their labours. And believing that a Theological school in this part of the world might be subservient to that end, Unanimously resolved to take that subject into consideration, and to use such ways and means, as God in his providence may seem to open up to view, as likely to be conducive to the end. And the rev.<sup>d</sup> Francis Cummins, Dr. Brown & Dr. Finley were appointed a committee to draft a plan for a Theological school, to be laid before presbytery at the next sessions, together with a statement of their views of the best means for carrying the measure into effect.

Dr. Brown informed the presbytery that the resolutions entered

It found a Theological School



into at our last, had been published in the form of a circular, according to order, and measures taken to send a copy to each member.

The members directed to enrol in the several districts mentioned in these resolutions were requested to make report of their progress in the business.

The rev.<sup>d</sup> Mr. Cummins reported that he had received the circular containing these resolutions at so late a period, that it was not in his power to go through the whole; but that he had enrolled in the congregations of Bethany, Siloam and Center.

D.<sup>r</sup> Brown reported that in consequence of bodily indisposition he had not completed the enrolment in the district assigned him.

Mr. Reid reported that he not received a copy of the circular, and had made no enrolment.

Mr. Newton was not present, but Mr. Thompson, an elder, gave in an enrolment of the congregations of Hebron, Pisgah, and Newhope.

From Mr. Beman, no report.

Ordered, That the members complete the enrolment agreeable to the order of our last, and report at our next.

The Moderator was directed <sup>to procure</sup> as soon as convenient a suitable minister and employ him to itinerate in our bounds until our next, and should



there be any deficiency in the funds, the members pledge themselves to the moderator for an equal proportion of such deficit.

On motion of Dr. Finley, Resolved, That Dr. Brown be directed to endeavour to procure one hundred copies of the Confession of Faith, and one thousand copies of the Shorter Catechism, and a like number of the Mother's Catechism, for the use of our churches.

On motion of Dr. Finley, Resolved, That the members of this presbytery look out for young men suitable to be educated for the gospel ministry, and report at our next.

Mr. Root & Mr. Douglas were examined on the first eight chapters of the Confession of Faith. Their examination was sustained, and they were directed to be prepared on the remaining chapters of the Confession, by our next. Mr. Root was directed to prepare an Exegesis, on this topic, *Num infantes fidelium baptizandi?* And Mr. Douglas, an Exegesis on this topic, *Quid sit mors spiritualis?* to be delivered as parts of trial.

The members present, it appears, have fulfilled their appointments in the vacant congregations, and they were directed for the ensuing term, to supply, each, two sabbaths at discretion. Concluded with prayer.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet at Athens on the first Wednesday of Feb. next.

Francis Cummins, Modr.  
John Brown, Clk.



Athens, Clarke county, Wednesday February 4<sup>th</sup> 1818. 4<sup>th</sup> Session.

The Presbytery of Hopewell, not being able to form a quorum to day, there being present only the rev<sup>d</sup> Dr. Brown, and the rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. Hodge, adjourned until tomorrow 12 o'clock.

Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup> 1818.

Members present as above. Adjourned until tomorrow 12 o'clock.

Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup> 1818.

Presbytery met according to adjournment of yesterday.

Ministers present Elders

Rev<sup>d</sup> John Brown, D. D.

John Espey

John Hodge, &

Alexander Thompson, &

Henry Reid

John King.

Absent, the Rev<sup>d</sup> Mess<sup>rs</sup> Francis Cummins, Thomas Newton, Edward Pharr, and Nathan S. S. Beman.

Presbytery was opened by the Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. Reid with a sermon from Matt: 11. 29 "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest to your souls." Constituted with prayer.

Dr. Brown was chosen moderator & Mr. Reid, clerk.

The minutes of last session were called for to be read, but the



stated clerk not being present, nor the minutes sent on, presbytery had to proceed to business without them.

Having received the mournful intelligence of the death of the Rev.<sup>d</sup> Dr. Robert Finley, late president of the University of Georgia, this presbytery in the spirit of condolence with the family of the deceased, and with one another under this dark and afflictive dispensation of Divine Providence, and with a view to a due improvement of the same, appointed the Rev.<sup>d</sup> Mr. Deman to preach a funeral sermon on the occasion, at Athens on the second sabbath of March next, and in case of his non attendance, the sermon to be preached by Dr. Brown.

A letter was received from the Synod of South Carolina and Georgia charging this presbytery with delinquency in not making out and sending up presbyterial reports to Synod, also with negligence as to attendance at their sessions. Whereupon the stated clerk was directed to prepare as well as he can, from the materials in his possession, a presbyterial report to be sent to Synod at their next session, also a like report to be sent to the General Assembly.

Mr. David Root delivered an Exegesis from, *Nisi infantis fidelium baptiaandi*. the theme assigned him at our last; which was



considered and sustained.

Mr. Alonzo Church delivered a discourse on the subject assigned him at our last, which being heard and considered, was sustained. He was directed to prepare a discourse on Rom: 8. 23. to be delivered at our next; and an an Exegesis on this theme, *Quomodo lra, priusquam sol creatus?* He was also directed to prepare for examination on the first eight chapters of the Confession of Faith.

Mr. Joseph Ratchford, an elder from Thyatira church, appeared and took a seat.

Mr. Root was examined on part of the Confession of Faith, as assigned at our last; and his examination was considered and sustained.

Concluded with prayer. Adjourned to meet at this place tomorrow morning 9 o'clock.

Athens, Saturday February 7.<sup>th</sup> 1818.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as on yesterday. Constituted with prayer.

Mr. James Espey, an elder from Bethesda church, appeared and took a seat.

The minutes of yesterday were read.

Presbytery viewing with regret the apparent declension of vital reli-



Attendance on Eccl-  
esiastical Meetings

Duties of Elders.

gion among the members of the church of our communion, and their neglect in attendance on the means of grace, feeling the necessity for more energy in our measures, Resolved, That the moderator be directed to draft and transmit, as soon as possible, a letter to each member of presbytery absent from our present presbytery, requesting him by that authority which we have received from the Lord, for edification and not for destruction, that for the future he be more careful and punctual in his attendance on ecclesiastical judicatories; also that he transmit a letter to one Elder in each congregation, requesting that Elder to convene the other Elders, and that they unite their efforts in the support of discipline, the instruction of youth, and suppression of vice: reminding them of the bearing of their ordination vows to the discharge of these and such like duties: and further, requesting that some one Elder in each congregation be appointed to report to every stated session of this presbytery as to their fidelity and success in these things.

Whereas presbytery has received information that a man known by the name of Johnston, has been travelling for some time through this state and the state of South Carolina, holding himself up to the consideration of the community as a preacher of the presbyterian



167.

order: And whereas we know nothing of him as a minister of the gospel, and know not whether the said Johnston be, or be not an impostor, we therefore think it our duty to warn the people of our connexion to be cautious how they receive said Johnston as a preacher of the gospel, and we recommend that he be not received as on good standing, unless he produce sufficient testimonials of his being in the faith and order of our church.

Ordered, That the above minute be three times published in the Milledgeville Journal.

Mr David Root entered into the engagements required of probationers before license; and after prayer by the moderator, he was in due form licensed to preach the gospel, and record thereof was ordered to be entered on our minutes in the following form, viz:

At Athens, on the seventh day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighteen, the presbytery of Hopewell, having received sufficient testimonials in favour of David Root, of his having gone through a regular course of literature; of his good moral character; and of his being in the communion of the church; proceeded to take the usual parts of trial for his licensure. And he having given satisfaction as to his accomplishments in literature; as to



his experimental acquaintance with religion; and as to his proficiency in Divinity, and other studies; the presbytery did and hereby do express their approbation of all these parts of trial: And he having adopted the Confession of Faith of this church; and satisfactorily answered the questions, appointed to be put to candidates to be licensed, the presbytery did, and hereby do license the said David Root to preach the gospel of Christ, as a probationer for the holy ministry, within the bounds of this presbytery, or wherever he shall be orderly called.

Ordered, That the moderator write to some Elder, or to some other person in each of the congregations under our care, requesting that such congregational returns be immediately made to the stated clerk, as will be sufficient to enable him to make out presbyterial reports for the Synod and General Assembly.

Whereas, two of the candidates under our care, have not attended this meeting, nor sent forward any written cause of failure, and one of them has not attended for three sessions last past. Therefore,

Resolved, That the moderator be directed to write to these young men, and inform them, that unless they attend at our next stated sessions, or send on a good and sufficient excuse, they shall be dealt with as our discipline directs.



The members present, it appears, have fulfilled their appointments for supplying in the vacancies, and are directed for the ensuing term to supply two sabbaths at discretion. Concluded with prayer.

Presbytery then adjourned to meet at Center Church in Oglethorpe county on the first Thursday of September next.

John Brown, Modr.

Henry Reid, clk.

Center Church, Oglethorpe county, September 3.<sup>d</sup> 1818. 48.<sup>th</sup> Session.

The presbytery of Hopewell met according to adjournment, and was opened with a sermon by the rev.<sup>d</sup> Francis Cummins from John 1.<sup>st</sup> 29: "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world."

Ministers	present	Elders
Rev. <sup>d</sup> Francis Cummins,		John Espey,
John Brown, D. D.		and
John Hodge,		William Campbell.
Edward Pharr,		
Henry Reid.	Absent Rev. <sup>d</sup> Thomas Newton & N. S. S. Deman.	
Constituted by prayer.		

Mr. Cummins was chosen Moderator, and Mr. Reid, clerk.



The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev.<sup>d</sup> Mr. Cummins & Mr. Pharr gave satisfactory reasons for non attendance our last.

Mr. Campbell made application for supplies at Center.

Concluded with prayer. Adjourned to meet at this place tomorrow morning 9 o'clock.

Center Church, September 4.<sup>th</sup> 1818.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as on yesterday. Constituted with prayer.

The Rev.<sup>d</sup> Mr. Cummins gave notice that a respectable number of persons in the counties of Morgan and Jasper, who had associated together for the purpose of enjoying public worship, and the administration of the ordinances of the gospel, desired to be received under our care, and known by the name of Thyatira congregation. They were accordingly received, and hereafter to be known and distinguished by the name aforesaid. Concluded with prayer.

Adjourned, to meet at this place tomorrow morning 9 o'clock.

Center Church, September 5.<sup>th</sup> 1818.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted by prayer.



Mr. Alexander Thompson, an elder, appeared & took a seat.

The minutes of yesterday were read.

Mr. Orson Douglas was examined on several chapters of the Confession of Faith, say from the ninth to the seventeenth inclusive; and his examination was considered and sustained.

The Rev.<sup>d</sup> Mr. Beman, & Mr. Joseph Bryan, an elder, appeared and took seats. Mr. Beman gave satisfactory reasons for absence from two preceding sessions of presbytery, & for tardiness at the present.

A letter was received from the Synod of South Carolina & Georgia, addressed to the moderator of this presbytery, on the subject of our members neglecting to attend the last meeting of Synod in Augusta. Our moderator was directed to write a respectful answer to the moderator of Synod on that subject, stating that we had been misinformed as to the time of the meeting of the reverend body.

Appointments to supply in vacant congregations, it appears, have been generally fulfilled. For the ensuing term, Mr. Cummins is directed to supply two sabbaths at Thyatira congregation in Jasper and Morgan; and the other members, each, two sabbaths at discretion.

The Rev.<sup>d</sup> Mess.<sup>rs</sup> Francis Cummins & Nathan S. S. Beman are appointed Commissioners to represent this presbytery in the next General



Assembly; and the clerk is directed to make out their commissions.

The Moderator of the last session reported that he had written, agreeable to order, to our candidates on the subject of nonattendance. Mr. Douglas rendered satisfactory reasons for absence; and he was directed to prepare for delivery at our next, a discourse on the subject assigned him on a former occasion, and a sermon on Ephes: 2. 8.

Mr. Bryan, our treasurer, gave information that he had received a small sum of money for the payment of itinerants, and that he had reason to believe more could be procured. The Moderator was authorized to employ two itinerants, and to have them in service, if possible, by the first of January next.

Mr. Beman resigned the office of stated clerk, and Dr. Brown was elected to fill the vacancy.      Concluded with prayer.

Presbytery then adjourned, to meet at Mount Zion Church, Hancock county on the first Saturday of April.

Francis Cummins, Modr.

Henry Reid, Clerk.



Mount Lion Church, Hancock county, Saturday April 3<sup>rd</sup> 1819. 49<sup>th</sup> Session.

The presbytery of Hopewell met according to adjournment, and was opened with a sermon by the Rev.<sup>d</sup> Mr. Reid from Matt: 12.21 "And in his name shall the Gentiles trust."

Ministers,	present	Elders.
Rev. <sup>d</sup> Francis Cummins,		Joseph Bryan &
Nathan S. S. Beman &		Dr. James Nisbet.
Henry Reid.	Absent	Rev. <sup>d</sup> John Brown, D. D. Thomas Newton
and John Hodge.	Constituted with prayer.	

The Rev.<sup>d</sup> Mr. Cummins was chosen Moderator, and Mr. Reid, clerk.

The Rev.<sup>d</sup> Mr. Stephen Saunders, from New Castle presbytery, being present was invited and took a seat as a corresponding member.

Concluded with prayer. Presbytery then adjourned to meet at this place Monday morning at 9 o'clock.

Mount Lion, April 5<sup>th</sup> 1819.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as on Saturday. Constituted with prayer.

Dr. Brown, now present, rendered satisfactory reasons for absence on Saturday, and took a seat. He gave information of the death of our beloved brother the Rev.<sup>d</sup> Mr. John Hodge. "Blessed are the dead that



die in the Lord."

The minutes of Saturday, and also of our last session were read.

A letter was received from Mr. Eli Smith, a licentiate under our care, requesting a dismission from this presbytery, to join the presbytery of Louisville. Whereupon Resolved, That he be dismissed accordingly; and the clerk is directed to furnish him with a copy of his license, and a certificate of his good standing with us as testimonials to the presbytery of Louisville.

Dr. Brown gave information that a letter had been received, directed to this presbytery, from the synod of South Carolina and Georgia in answer to ours on the subject of our nonattendance at the Synodical meeting at Augusta in May last, and that our reasons for not meeting with our brethren at that time and place had been deemed satisfactory.

The moderator informed presbytery that he had employed the Rev.<sup>d</sup> Mr. Stephen Saunders, a member of New Castle presbytery in the state of Maryland, to preach as a missionary in our bounds, from the 18.<sup>th</sup> of February last, to this time. Mr. Saunders gave in a written report of his missionary tour, from which it appears that he had faithfully discharged the duty assigned him; and he received



The cordial thanks of presbytery. And the clerk was directed to issue a draft in his favour for sixty dollars, as compensation for his services. Mr. Saunders received while on his mission twenty dollars, which was paid over to the treasurer.

Mr. Church delivered a discourse on Rom: 8. 23; which was sustained as part of trials. Concluded with prayer.

Adjourned to meet at the Female academy at 4 o'clock P.M.

Female academy 4 o'clock. Presbytery met according to adjournment. Constituted with prayer.

Mr. Douglas delivered a sermon on 1<sup>st</sup> Tim: 4. 10 which was sustained as part of trials.

Mr. Church delivered an Exegesis on this topic, Quomodo lux, priusquam sol creatus? which was sustained.

Mr. Douglas delivered an Exegesis on this topic, Quid sit more spiritualis? and also a sermon on Ephes: 2. 8. Both of which were sustained. Concluded with prayer.

Adjourned to meet at the church tomorrow morning 9 o'clock.

Mount Zion, April 6<sup>th</sup> 1819.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as on yesterday. Constituted with prayer.



The minutes of yesterday were read.

Mr Church was directed to prepare a sermon on Gal: 5. 25 to be delivered at our next.

Mr Douglas was directed to prepare a sermon on Rom: 10. 4 to be delivered at our next.

On motion, Resolved, That Mr Beman be appointed to act in conjunction with the moderator in procuring Itinerants to preach in our bounds, on the plan stated in our printed Circular, until our next.

Letters were received from Mr Gildersleeve and Mr Root signifying their wish to be ordained as Evangelists, Sine titulo.

After considerable deliberation on the subject, it was agreed that Mr Gildersleeve be directed to prepare a lecture, on Rom: 8. 1-5. inclusive; and a sermon on 1<sup>st</sup> John 3. 9. And Mr Root a lecture on 1<sup>st</sup> John 5. 1-5 inclusive; and a sermon on 2<sup>d</sup> Tim: 2. 15. to be delivered as popular trials for ordination at our next stated session. Mr Beman to preach the ordination sermon; and Dr Brown to preside and give the charge.

Mr Douglas stated to presbytery that he found it extremely inconvenient to make desirable progress in his Theological Studies



whilst engaged in teaching a school; that he had for some time thought of going to Princeton to become a member of the Theological Seminary, and wished the advice of presbytery in the case. Presbytery unanimously and warmly recommended that he should go on to Princeton; and the clerk is directed to give him a certificate of his good standing with us, provided he should go to complete his studies at that institution.

In consequence of the death of Dr. Finley, the committee appointed in September 1817 to draft a plan for a Theological School did not report. Mr. Cummins, Dr. Brown and Mr. Beman are appointed a committee to report on that subject at our next.

Appointments for supplies, it appears, have been generally fulfilled; and the brethren are again directed to preach in the vacancies as usual.

The clerk is directed to send on a presbyterial report to the next General Assembly.

Concluded with prayer. Adjourned, to meet at Siloam Church, Greensborough, on the first Saturday of September next.

Francis Cummins, Modr.

Henry Reid, Clk.



Siloam Church, Greensboro, September 24<sup>th</sup> 1819. 50<sup>th</sup> Session.

The presbytery of Hopewell met according to adjournment, & was opened with a sermon by Mr. Cummins, the Moderator, on Rom: 3. 1. 2.

"What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God."

Ministers,	present	Elders.
Rev. <sup>d</sup> Francis Cummins,		Joseph Bryan,
John Brown, D. D.		George Watkins, &
Henry Reid &		D <sup>r</sup> . James Nisbet.
Nathan S. Beman.	Absent the Rev. <sup>d</sup> Mess. <sup>rs</sup> Thomas New-	
ton & Edward Pharr.	Constituted with prayer.	

Mr. Beman was chosen Moderator, and D<sup>r</sup>. Brown, clerk.

The Rev.<sup>d</sup> D<sup>r</sup>. Moses Waddel, president of the University of Georgia, a member of the South Carolina presbytery, being present, was invited and took a seat with us as a corresponding member.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Church delivered a sermon on Gal: 5. 25. which was sustained.

Concluded with prayer. Adjourned till Monday morning.



Siloam Church, September 6. 1859.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as on Saturday. Constituted with prayer.

The minutes of Saturday were read.

The order of our last respecting the ordination of Mr. Gildersleeve & Mr. Root was called up and read. Mr. Root was not present. The question respecting ordination, sine titulo, was taken up and discussed at considerable length: and as there appeared to be some difference of opinion among the members present, on the subject, it was agreed that the ordination of Mr. Gildersleeve be deferred.

Mr. Reid requested to be dismissed from this presbytery to join the presbytery of South Carolina: His request was granted: and the clerk was directed to furnish Mr. Reid with proper testimonials of his good standing with us, and to recommend him to ministerial fellowship with that presbytery.

Presbytery having understood that Mr. Root a candidate under our care had taken a distant journey to the north; the clerk is directed to write to Mr. Root, and inform him it is expected that he either attend our meeting; or by letter or otherwise give such information as will enable us to judge of his fidelity in the discharge of ministerial duty, and his due re-



gard to the order and discipline of the church.

Mr. Cummins, our last moderator, and Mr. Beman appointed to assist him, in endeavoring to procure itinerants to minister in our bounds, reported; That they had, not as yet, been able to procure a suitable person to be employed in that business. Mr. Cummins stated that he had written to the professors in the Theological Seminary at Princeton, and had reason to hope that one or more would be sent on from thence. Mr. Beman believed that some assistance could be obtained from the north at an early period. The moderator is authorized to employ one or two, at the rate of six hundred dollars a year: and our members are directed to be diligent in endeavouring to procure funds for the payment of such as may be employed.

The report of a committee of the General assembly appointed to revise the form of government &c. of the presbyterian church, was laid before presbytery for consideration; and Mr. Cummins was directed to confer with the said committee, in behalf of this presbytery on the subject of their report.

On the subject of a Theological school, a report of considerable length was brought in and read, and in part considered; but not adopted. Presbytery then proceeded to the choice of a site for this institution. Athens and Mount Zion were put in nomination. On taking the votes it was

1819  
 Revision of the  
 Form of Gov.  
 Theological  
 School.



carried in favour of Athens.

Concluded with prayer. Presbytery then adjourned to meet at this place at sun rise.

Siloam Church, September 7<sup>th</sup> 1819.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as on yesterday. Constituted with prayer.

The minutes of yesterday were read.

On the subject of a Theological school, another report was brought in and read; but not adopted. The further consideration of the subject was indefinitely postponed.

Appointments for supplies, it appears, have been fulfilled. Members are directed to supply in the vacancies as usual.

Concluded with prayer. Presbytery then adjourned to meet at Athens on the first Saturday of April next.

Augusta George (Du 4<sup>th</sup> 1820)  
Examined & approved to pay 171

Nathan S. S. Beman, Mod.  
John Brown, Clk.  
Thomas Goulding, Mod. Synod

Athens, April 1<sup>st</sup> 1820.

51<sup>st</sup> Session.

The presbytery of Hopewell met according to adjournment and was opened with a sermon by the Rev.<sup>d</sup> Nathan S. S. Beman, the



last Moderator, from Job 11. 7. "Canst thou by searching find out God?  
Canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection?"

Ministers present Elders.

Rev.<sup>d</sup> Francis Cummins,

Thomas Harris,

Edward Pharr, &

James Nesbit, John Alex-

Nathan S. S. Deman

der & James Witherpoon.

Absent, The Rev.<sup>d</sup> John Brown, D. D.

Presbytery was constituted with prayer. After which the Rev.<sup>d</sup>  
Francis Cummins was chosen Moderator, & Nathan S. S. Deman, Clerk.

The Rev.<sup>d</sup> Dr. Waddel, a member of the South Carolina presbytery,  
being present, exhibited a dismission and recommendation from  
that presbytery, and was received as a member of Hopewell,  
after which he took a seat.

The Rev.<sup>d</sup> Mr. Field, an ordained minister of the Congrega-  
tional Church in Massachusetts and a missionary in the ser-  
vice of this presbytery, being invited, and took a seat with us  
as a corresponding member.

Concluded with prayer. Presbytery then adjourned, to meet  
again this afternoon at half past four o'clock.



Athens, Saturday afternoon.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present, as above.

Constituted with prayer.

Mr. Beman was excused from the duties of clerk, on account of indisposition, and Dr. Waddel was chosen to fill his place.

A communication was received from the temporary clerk of the Synod of South Carolina and Georgia, containing a resolution of the Synod at their last sessions, requiring the presbyteries under their care, each to pay Twenty dollars, as their quota of a debt due by the Synod of the Carolinas at the time of its division; otherwise to exhibit evidence from their minutes that the aforesaid debt or arrearage has been paid. Whereupon it was

Ordered, That the moderator of this presbytery write to the stated clerk of the Synod of South Carolina and Georgia, requesting information respecting the nature of the claim and the consideration for which it is due.

Concluded with prayer. Presbytery adjourned to meet at this place, at half past eight o'clock.

Athens, Monday morning, April 3<sup>d</sup> 1820.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present, as



above, except Dr. Nesbit. Constituted with prayer.

The minutes of the session of Saturday were read.

Mr. William Hodge, an elder representing the churches of New-Hope & Pergamos; and also Mr. John Barnwell, a representative from the church of Mendham in Jackson county, appeared & took their seats.

A communication was received from a number of persons residing in the town of Clinton & Jones county, expressing a desire to be received under the care of this presbytery, and their ability & willingness to compensate Mr. Gilderleeve for one fourth part of his ministerial labors during one year among them.

The presbytery was informed that the moderator of the last session had employed the Rev.<sup>d</sup> John Field, of the Congregational church of Massachusetts, as a missionary for three months and a half within the bounds of this presbytery. Mr. Field, being present, delivered his report: on which, it was directed that the treasurer pay to Mr. Field one hundred and seventy-five dollars; and that the clerk write to Dr. Brown, that he endeavour to collect twenty dollars of the same and transmit them to Joseph Bryan, Esq<sup>r</sup> our treasurer as early as possible.

The Rev.<sup>d</sup> Mr. Cummins, the Moderator, having obtained



leave of absence during the remainder of the present session, Mr. Farr was called to the chair.

\*Pharr

The subject of Mr. Gilderleeve's ordination was resumed. Mr. Gilderleeve produced a letter from the Rev. Dr. Miller, professor of Ecclesiastical History in the Theological Seminary at Princeton, in answer to a letter enquiring his opinion on the subject; in which he referred the writer and the presbytery to the extracts of the General Assembly for the year 1814, in which the decision of the General Assembly is that "Presbyteries have a right to ordain sine titulo, without consulting a Synod or General Assembly". Whereupon the presbytery agreed to submit to the decision aforesaid, and decided that Mr. Gilderleeve's trials for ordination be attended to this evening and tomorrow.

Mr. Remembrance Chamberlain, a missionary under the direction of the General Assembly appeared before presbytery and having made it appear that he had been acting as a missionary during two months past within this state: On motion, it was Ordered, that this presbytery assume the payment of his salary for this term of time; and that the ministers make arrangements to collect the sum necessary for this purpose, and remit it



to the committee of the General Assembly for missions, as soon as practicable.

Mr Church delivered a sermon founded on Luke 23. 43. being the subject assigned him at our last sessions; which, being considered, was approved and sustained.

Mr Gilderleeve delivered a sermon from 1. John 3. 9. the subject assigned him at our sessions last spring, which, after due consideration, was approved as a part of trials previous to ordination.

Concluded with prayer. Adjourned to meet tomorrow morning at 8 o'clock.

Athens, Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> 1820.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present, as above. Constituted with prayer.

The minutes of yesterday were read.

Presbytery proceeded to examine Mr Gilderleeve on experimental religion, natural and moral philosophy, Theology, the Greek language, church history, and church government; all which examinations were sustained.

The Rev<sup>d</sup> Nathan S. S. Beman then delivered an ordination sermon from John 21. 16. after which the Rev<sup>d</sup> Moses Waddel,



who had been previously appointed to preside, proposed the usual questions to Mr. Gilderleeve, the candidate, and he having answered them in the affirmative, and publicly adopted the Confession of faith and the government and discipline of our church, was then solemnly set apart to the office of the Gospel ministry by prayer and the imposition of hands of the presbytery. The right hand of fellowship was then given, and a suitable charge delivered, by the presiding member, the newly ordained minister was invited to take a seat in presbytery.

The clerk having been directed to prepare a presbyterial report and forward it by mail to the General assembly: which report is as follows, viz:

Ministers,	Churches.	Communicants.
Rev. <sup>d</sup> Francis Cummins, . . . . .	Greensborough, . . . . .	20.
John Brown, D. D. . . . .	Without a charge.	
Moses Waddel, D. D. . . . .	Sandy creek, . . . . .	25.
Thomas Newton, . . . . .	Without a charge.	
Edward Pharr, . . . . .	Without a charge.	
N. S. S. Beman, . . . . .	Mount Lion, . . . . .	40.
Same, . . . . .	Eatonton, . . . . .	18.
Benjamin Gilderleeve, . . . . .	No charge.	



Vacancies, Bethany,	23.	Communicants, Thyatira,	25.	Comm.
Salem,	15.	Mulberry,	27.	
Washington,	15.	Hebron,	30.	
Bethlehem,	15.	Madison,	25.	
Danielville,	15.	Athens,	21.	
New Hope,	20.	Clinton,	6.	

An address of the Synod of South Carolina and Georgia at their last sessions was received and read, proposing and recommending the formation of the Synod into a Missionary Society. Whereupon it was Resolved, That this presbytery highly approve and adopt the plan proposed by the Synod, and that each member solicit contributions and bear or send them to Synod at their sessions in November next.

Presbytery proceeded to examine Mr. Church on his literary attainments; on which, his collegiate diploma, and his approved reputation as an academical teacher for several years in this State, as well as his being now a professor in the State University, were deemed satisfactory evidences. He was then examined on natural and revealed Theology, as well as on Church history; which examination, was approved and sustained. Whereupon, Mr. Church



having adopted the Confession of faith of this church, and satisfactorily answered the questions appointed to be put to candidates for licensure, the presbytery did proceed to license Mr. Church to preach the Everlasting Gospel, as a probationer for the Holy Ministry, within the bounds of this presbytery, or wherever he shall be orderly called.

On enquiry, it appeared that the members had fulfilled their appointments for supplies. It was then ordered that each member supply two sabbaths in our vacancies before our next sessions.

Concluded with prayer. Presbytery adjourned to meet in Eaton on the Saturday before the third sabbath in September next.

Edward Pharr, Modr.  
Moses Waddel, Clk.

Eaton, September 16.<sup>th</sup> 1820. 52.<sup>d</sup> Session.

The presbytery of Hopewell met according to adjournment and, by the request of the Moderator, was opened with a sermon by the Rev. Thomas Goulding of the presbytery of Harmony, from 1.<sup>st</sup> Cor: 11. 28. "But let a man examine himself."

Members present. Ministers. Rev.<sup>d</sup> Francis Cummins, D. D. John Brown, D. D. and Edward Pharr; with Elders, Price Gai-



ther, George Erwin, Richard Lay, and John Henderson. Absent, Rev.<sup>d</sup> Moses Waddel, D. D. Nathan S. C. Beman & Thomas Newton. Constituted with prayer.

The Rev.<sup>d</sup> Dr. Cummins was chosen Moderator, & Dr. Brown, Clerk.

The Rev.<sup>d</sup> Mr. Goulding was invited to sit as a corresponding member.

Mr. John Harrison, late a licentiate under the care of the presbytery of South Carolina, presented a dismission from that body and expressed a desire to place himself under the care of this presbytery; and he was accordingly received.

Calls from the congregations of Hebron & Concord to Mr. Harrison, for one fourth part of his ministerial labors in each, were presented through presbytery to him; and which were accordingly accepted.

Concluded with prayer. Presbytery adjourned to meet at this place on Monday morning at 9 o'clock.

Edmonton, September 18.<sup>th</sup> 1820.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present, as above. Constituted with prayer.

The Rev.<sup>d</sup> Mr. Beman appeared, and rendered satisfactory reasons for his absence on Saturday & took a seat.



Mr David Root made application for a dismission from this presbytery to join the presbytery of \_\_\_\_\_ in Ohio: on which the clerk was directed to make out a regular certificate & dismission for Mr Root as of good standing with us.

Dr Cummins, the Moderator, informed presbytery that Mr Orson Douglas, a candidate for some time under our care, but now a member of the Theological Seminary at Princeton in New Jersey, had written to him requesting a dismission from this presbytery to join the presbytery of New Brunswick: Whereupon it was ordered, that Mr Douglas be regularly dismissed; and that the clerk forward to him a certificate of his good standing with us, together with a copy of this record.

Mr Carlisle P. Beman, a graduate of Middlebury College in the state of Vermont, requested to be taken under the care of this presbytery, as a candidate for the Gospel ministry: and having produced satisfactory testimonials of his being in full communion with the church, expressed his approbation and acceptance of the Confession of faith adopted by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, declared his willingness to submit to the presbytery in the Lord. And having given



satisfactory evidence of his having experienced a work of grace on his heart, he was received as a candidate under our care. He then read a sermon on 2. Peter 1. 19 which was sustained as a part of trials for licensure; and he was directed to prepare a sermon on 2 Cor: 5. 21. to be delivered at our next sessions, and to be prepared for examination on the first eight chapters of the Confession of faith.

A letter was received from Dr. Waddel, stating reasons for his not attending our present sessions; which were sustained.

Mr. Harrison was directed to prepare a lecture on Rom: 5. 1. 5. inclusive, and a sermon on Heb: 9. 22. latter clause, to be delivered at our next stated sessions as parts of trial for ordination. The Rev.<sup>d</sup> Mr. Beman is appointed to preach the ordination sermon, and the Rev.<sup>d</sup> Dr. Cummins to preside and give the charge; and should Dr. Cummins not attend, the senior member present, to preside.

The members, it appears, have fulfilled appointments, and were directed to supply, as usual.

Concluded with prayer. Adjourned to meet at Hebron in Franklin county on the Saturday preceding the fourth sabbath in March next.

Francis Cummins, Modr.

John Brown, Clk.



Hebron Church, Franklin county, March 23.<sup>d</sup> 1821.

This being the time and place to which the presbytery of Hopewell stood adjourned to meet. No members attended except Dr. Waddel & Mr. Pharr; and a constitutional number of ministers not being present, it was therefore impracticable to constitute a presbytery. Religious exercises, however, of a congregational kind were attended to and performed on that day, and the Lord's Supper administered and received on the Lord's day, which succeeded; after which, the meeting ceased.

Athens, September 7.<sup>th</sup> 1821.

53.<sup>d</sup> Session.

The Presbytery of Hopewell met at this place, agreeably to a notification previously made in a constitutional manner by the Rev. Francis Cummins, D. D. the Moderator of the last sessions, and was opened by Mr. John Harrison, with a lecture founded on Rom: 5. 1-5. and a sermon on Heb: 9. 22. being the subjects appointed to him at our last stated sessions, as trials for ordination. Members present: Ministers, Rev. Francis Cummins, D. D. Moses Waddel, D. D. & Edward Pharr, with Elders, James Copey, Joseph Patchford, John Alexander, William Hodge & John King. Ministers absent, Rev.



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John Brown, D. D. Thomas Newton, Nathan S. S. Beman, & Benjamin Gilderleeve. Constituted with prayer.

The Rev. Joseph Wallis, of the Associate reformed presbytery; and the Rev. Mess<sup>rs</sup> Thomas Goulding and Remembrance Chamberlain, of the presbytery of Harmony, being present, were invited and took seats as corresponding members.

The Rev. D<sup>r</sup> Cummins was reelected Moderator & D<sup>r</sup> Waddel, Clerk.

The minutes of the last stated session, not being present, could not be read according to usual custom.

D<sup>r</sup> Cummins assigned reasons for his not attending the presbytery appointed to meet at Hebron last spring, which were sustained.

Presbytery proceeded to examine and consider the lecture and sermon delivered by Mr. Harrison, and sustained them as parts of trial prior to ordination.

Mr. Harrison was then examined on natural & systematic Theology; and, after some time spent in this exercise, adjourned to meet at D<sup>r</sup> Waddel's house at half past seven o'clock this evening. And concluded with prayer.

D<sup>r</sup> Waddel's half past seven o'clock, P. M.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present,



as above. Constituted with prayer.

Presbytery then proceeded to examine Mr. Harrison on his acquaintance with experimental religion; as to his knowledge of Natural and Moral Philosophy, Ecclesiastical History, and the Learned Languages; the consideration of all which examinations was deferred.

Concluded with prayer. Presbytery then adjourned, to meet in the College Chapel tomorrow morning at 8 o'clock.

Athens, College Chapel, September 8.<sup>th</sup> 1821.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present, as above. Constituted with prayer.

The consideration of Mr. Harrison's trials exhibited yesterday, was then resumed; and, after mature deliberation, the presbytery was unanimously of opinion that no part of his examination could be properly sustained as trials previous to ordination. This intelligence was communicated to Mr. Harrison by the Moderator, and was received by the candidate with becoming submission. He was directed to prepare a sermon on Proverbs 8. 36. and a lecture on Mal. 3. 1-4, as farther trials previous to ordination, to be exhibited before presbytery at their next stated sessions. Dr. Cummins was appointed to preside and give the charge, and Mr. Deman to preach the ordination



sermon, as on the former minutes on that subject.

Mr. Nahum Nixon, originally a member of the church of Marlborough & lately of Mount Zion, having professed a desire to place himself under the care of this presbytery, as a candidate for the Gospel ministry, and exhibited the requisite testimonials of his moral character and literary qualifications; and after giving a satisfactory detail of the religious exercises of his mind, was unanimously approved and received by presbytery, as a candidate under their care.

It was then stated to presbytery that Mr. Nixon had been under the direction and patronage of a member of this body since October last, who had prescribed several presbyterial exercises, which he had prepared & expected to exhibit at the sessions of the presbytery appointed to meet at Hebron in March last; and that Mr. Nixon had devoted his undivided attention to the study of Divinity under the direction of the above mentioned member, since October last to the present time.

Mr. Nixon then produced and read an Exegesis on the following theme, viz: Num liceat Christi discipulis saltare secundum modum hujusce aevi? and, afterwards, a sermon on Matt: 5. 8. which had been assigned to him, by the member alluded to before, as sub-



jects of trials previous to licensure: both of which were considered and sustained by the presbytery.

The Rev. Dr. Brown attended and rendered reasons for his absence from the meeting appointed to meet at Hebron in March last, as well as for his tardiness in attending the present sessions; all of which were sustained.

A letter was received from Mr. Beman, stating reasons for his absence from the present sessions of presbytery, which were not satisfactory.

The minutes of our last stated sessions at Eatonton having been brought forward by Dr. Brown, were read.

Mr. Carlisle J. Beman produced and read a sermon on 2 Cor: 5: 21. the subject assigned him at our last sessions, as a part of trial for licensure, which was not sustained.

Dr. Brown resigned his office as stated clerk of this presbytery, and Dr. Waddel was appointed to succeed him; which he accepted for the present.

A congregation, known heretofore on our minutes by the name of Thyatira, in Morgan & Jasper counties, expressed through Dr. Brown their desire to be known in future by the name of Bethel; of which presbytery approved.

The small presbyterian society in Clinton, lately organized, petition



This presbytery for supplied to administer the ordinances among them.

Mr. Alexander H. Webster, a graduate of Union College, having afforded satisfactory evidences of his good moral character & communion in the church, expressed his desire to study Theology under the care of this presbytery. After relating the exercises of his mind on the subject of experimental religion and his views of duty as to entering on the Gospel ministry, he was approved and received under the care of presbytery, as a candidate for the sacred office.

Mr. Webster then produced and read a discourse founded on Prov. 10. 24 which had been previously assigned him by a senior member of presbytery; which discourse was sustained as a part of trial.

Mr. Nixon read a lecture, founded on 1 Pet. 4. 1-7, which had been previously assigned to him, as stated above; which lecture was approved and sustained as a part of trial previous to licensure.

Concluded with prayer. Presbytery then adjourned to meet at this place on Monday morning next at half past seven o'clock.

Athens, Monday morning September 10.<sup>th</sup> 1821.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present



as above, except Elders Alexander & King. Constituted with prayer.

Presbytery proceeded to examine Mr. C. P. Deman on that part of the Confession of faith prescribed to him at our last September sessions; which examination was sustained with unanimous approbation.

Mr. C. P. Deman was directed to prepare a lecture on Ephes: 1. 5-8. and a sermon on Actim: 4. 10. as trials previous to licensure to be exhibited at our next stated sessions.

Mr. Webster was directed to prepare a sermon on Psal: 19. 8 & to be examined on the first eight chapters of the Confession of faith, as trials previous to licensure to be exhibited at our next stated sessions.

Each member was directed to supply two sabbaths at discretion, before our next stated sessions.

Mr. Nixon was directed to prepare a lecture on James 3. 21-24 and a sermon on John 1. 29. to be delivered at our next stated sessions.

The members, it appears, have fulfilled their appointments.

The clerk was directed to make out a synodical report.

Concluded with prayer. Presbytery then adjourned, to meet at Salem Church in Wilkes county on the last Thursday in March next.

Francis Cummins, Modt.

Moses Waddel, Clerk.



Salem, Wilkes county, Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> 1822. 54<sup>th</sup> Session.

The presbytery of Hopewell met according to adjournment and, at the request of the Moderator, was opened by the Rev. D<sup>r</sup> Waddel, with a sermon from Psal: 5. 12. "For thou, Lord, wilt bless the righteous: with favor thou wilt compass him as with a shield."

Ministers present Elders.

Rev. Francis Cummins, D. D.

Cunningham Daniel, of

John Brown, D. D.

Salem Church, & Joseph

Moses Waddel, D. D.

Ratchford of Tryalira.

Members absent, Rev. Edward Pharr & Thomas Newton.

Rev. D<sup>r</sup> Brown was chosen Moderator, & D<sup>r</sup> Waddel, clerk. Constituted with prayer.

The minutes of the last stated sessions were read. Presbytery then adjourned to meet at this place tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Concluded with prayer.

Salem, March 29<sup>th</sup> 1822.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

Presbytery then proceeded to examine Mr. Nixon on Systematic



Theology; which examination was approved and sustained, as a part of trials previous to licensure.

Mr Webster was then examined on those chapters of the Confession of faith, assigned him at our last stated sessions; which examination was also approved as very satisfactory & sustained.

He then read a sermon founded on Psal: 19. 8, the subject assigned him at our last stated sessions, as a part of trials; which was considered and approved.

Mr Nixon delivered a lecture from James 2. 21-24, the subject assigned him at our last stated sessions; which was approved & sustained as a part of trial previous to licensure. It was then made known to presbytery that, by reason of bodily indisposition, Mr Nixon had been unable fully to prepare a sermon on the subject assigned him at our last sessions; from which representation, the presbytery being well satisfied with all the trials which he had before exhibited thought proper to require no further specimens of his competency to be licensed as a probationer for the exercise of the gospel ministry. The presbytery then called upon Mr Nixon for a public profession of his faith; and he having satisfactorily answered the questions appointed to be put to candidates for licensure, did proceed



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to license him to preach the everlasting Gospel of Christ, and he was licensed accordingly.

Mr. Webster was directed to prepare a sermon on John 14. 27. and an Exegesis on the following theme, viz: "An sit peccatum ens reale?" also, to be examined on the Confession of faith from the 9.<sup>th</sup> to the 16.<sup>th</sup> chapters, inclusively; which exercises are to be exhibited at the next stated sessions of presbytery.

On inquiry, it appeared that the members had fulfilled their appointments to supply vacancies; and the same order that each member should supply two sabbaths before our next sessions was continued.

A people residing within and near the northern limits of Morgan county, through Dr. Cummins, made known their desire to be organized and taken under the care of this presbytery by the name of \_\_\_\_\_; upon which Drs. Brown & Waddel were directed each to preach one sabbath to them before our next sessions.

The clerk was directed to prepare a presbyterial report and forward it to the next General assembly, if possible.

Concluded with prayer. Presbytery then adjourned to meet at Thyatira on Friday, the 24.<sup>th</sup> day of May next.



Thyatira, May 24<sup>th</sup> 1822.

55<sup>th</sup> Sessions. 193.

The presbytery of Hopewell met according to adjournment and was opened by the Rev. Thomas Goulding, a member of the presbytery of Georgia, who was present, with a sermon founded on Psal. 84. 1. "How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of Hosts."

Ministers	present	Elders
Rev. Francis Cummins, D. D.		Joseph Patchford, of Thyatira.
Moses Waddel, D. D. & Edward Pharr.		John King, of Sandy creek. & William Hodge.

Absentees. Rev. John Brown, D. D. & Thomas Newton.

Constituted with prayer.

The Rev. Dr. Cummins was chosen Moderator, & Dr. Waddel, clerk.

The Rev. Benjamin Gildersleeve, a member of the presbytery of Georgia, being present, was invited and took a seat as a corresponding member.

The Rev. Thomas Goulding, having expressed a desire to become a member of this presbytery, produced a certificate of his regular dismission from the presbytery of Georgia and of his favourable standing in that body; on which he was cordially received and took a seat as a member of Hopewell presbytery.

The minutes of the last stated sessions were then read.



The stated clerk informed presbytery that he had not forwarded a presbyterial report to the General assembly; having received no documents during the two past years, on which to found any certain statement as to the state and numbers of the churches within our bounds. Whereupon the following resolution was adopted, viz:

Whereas it is the duty of presbyteries to make an annual report to the Synod to which they belong, of the number of members in full communion in the several churches under their care, which cannot be done unless congregational reports be regularly made, therefore,

Resolved, That it be strictly enjoined upon the Ruling elders in vacant churches as well as on the ministers who labor in stated charges to be prepared to make a faithful report of the number of communing members in each congregation within our bounds, in order to be exhibited to this presbytery at our next stated sessions.

On enquiry it appeared that Dr. Cummins & Mr. Pharr had fulfilled their appointments to preach two sabbaths each in vacant congregations. Dr. Waddel had also fulfilled his appointments of the same kind; but had failed to preach to the vacancy in Morgan county as appointed at our last sessions. This failure was owing to the excessive depth of the water courses & the unusual fall of rain at the time



appointed for his visit to that people.

Mr Webster read an Exegesis on "An sit peccatum ens reale?" the theme assigned him at our last sessions; and also a sermon on John 14. 27. both of which were sustained as parts of trial. He was then examined on eight chapters of the Confession of faith, from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> inclusive; which examination was also sustained.

Mr Orison Douglas, a licentiate of the presbytery of New Brunswick, expressed to presbytery a desire to place himself under the care of this body; and having produced a certificate of his good standing & a recommendation from that presbytery, he was received as a licentiate under our care.

A call was then presented through presbytery to Mr Douglas from the congregation of Thyatira for one half of his ministerial labors, and also from the congregation of Mendham, for one fourth part of his labors; which calls were accepted by him; and as the churches desired Mr Douglas to be ordained and installed as their pastor as early as possible; with his consent presbytery appointed Tit. 2. 14, as the subject of a sermon to be delivered by him on tomorrow, as a part of trials previous to ordination.

Presbytery then adjourned to meet at the house of Mr Hugh Mont.



gomery, this evening at six o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

W<sup>r</sup> Montgomery's 6 o'clock.

Presbytery met according to adjournment, when the same members attended as before, except W<sup>r</sup> Patchford, who had obtained permission to be absent. Constituted with prayer.

W<sup>r</sup> Douglas was examined as to his acquaintance with personal and experimental religion, as also concerning his motives in desiring to engage in the gospel ministry. On these subjects, his examination was satisfactory and approved. The presbytery examined him on philosophy, Systematic Theology, ecclesiastical history, chronology, & the Greek & Hebrew languages; on all which, his answers were approved by the presbytery.

Concluded with prayer. Adjourned, to meet at Thyatira tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Thyatira, May 25<sup>th</sup> 1822.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. The members present, as on yesterday. Constituted with prayer.

The Rev. Thomas Newton applied by letter for a dismissal from this presbytery, in order to attach himself to the presbytery of Alabama: Whereupon the stated clerk was directed to forward to W<sup>r</sup> Newton a certificate of his good standing with us together with a regular dis-



mission from this presbytery, recommending him to the presbytery of Alabama.

Mr. Harrison was called on for his reasons of absence from our last sessions at Salem in Wilkes county, and he rendered such as were satisfactory. He also stated that he was unprepared as yet to exhibit on the subjects assigned him by presbytery as trials previous to ordination, but it was <sup>his</sup> design and expectation to be prepared at our next stated session.

Mr. Webster was directed to prepare a lecture on Psal: 10. 4-5 & a sermon on Rom: 8. 16, to be exhibited at our next sessions; also to be prepared for examination on the last seventeen chapters of the Confession of faith, as farther parts of trial previous to licensure.

Mr. Douglas delivered a discourse on Tit: 2. 14. the subject assigned him on yesterday; which was considered and approved as a part of trial prior to ordination.

An ordination sermon was then preached by the Rev. Dr. Cummins from Job 13: 4.5. After this, Mr. Douglas made a public profession of his faith; and having declared his approbation of the government and discipline of the presbyterian church in these United States, was solemnly set apart to the office of the Gospel ministry by prayer and



the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Having received the right hand of fellowship from his senior brethren in the ministry, a suitable charge was then delivered to the newly ordained minister and the people under his pastoral care, and Mr. Douglass was invited to take a seat as a member of the presbytery.

Each member was directed to supply by preaching two sabbaths in vacant congregations before our next meeting.

Concluded with prayer. Presbytery then adjourned to meet at Hebron church in Franklin county on the third Friday in October next.

Francis Cummins, Modr.

Moses Waddel, Stated Clk.

Hebron Church, October 18.<sup>th</sup> 1822.

This being the time and place to which the presbytery of Hope-well stood adjourned, the Rev. Moses Waddel & Edward Pharr attended. A constitutional number of members not being present, presbytery was not constituted. Nevertheless public worship was conducted & attended on this and the following day by the two ministers and people present with suitable solemnity; in which they were assisted on the second day by the presence and preaching of the Rev. Hugh



Wilson, a missionary from the presbytery of Concord, on his journey to the station at Monroe in the Chickasaw nation. On the succeeding Lord's day, the ordinance of the Lord's supper was administered; after which, a sermon suitable to the occasion was delivered by the Rev. Mr. Wilson, and a collection was made of \$31.56 $\frac{1}{2}$  in aid of the missionary society of South Carolina & Georgia. The solemnities of the day were then concluded and the congregation retired.

Athens, February 5.<sup>th</sup> 1823.

56.<sup>th</sup> Session.

The presbytery of Hopewell met at this place in the college chapel, agreeably to a regular call of the moderator, previously published, and was opened with a sermon by the Rev.<sup>d</sup> Dr. Cummins, the moderator of our last stated sessions from 1 Chronicles 29: 13. "Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name."

Ministers present Elders.

Rev. Francis Cummins, D. D.

James Nesbit &

John Brown, D. D.

Thatcher Pharr.

Moses Waddel, D. D.

Edward Pharr, &

Absent, Rev. Orson Douglas.

Thomas Goulding.

Constituted with prayer.



Rev. D<sup>r</sup> Brown was chosen Moderator, & D<sup>r</sup> Waddel, Clerk.

The Rev. D<sup>r</sup> William Hill of the presbytery of Winchester, Virginia; as also the Rev. Remembrance Chamberlain, of the presbytery of Georgia, being present, were invited and took seats as corresponding members.

A letter was received by presbytery addressed to the Moderator from the Rev. Henry Reid of the presbytery of South Carolina, on behalf of the members of the congregation of Bethel in Lincoln county, praying to be permitted to make their congregational reports to the presbytery of South Carolina, so long as they continue to enjoy the pastoral labors of a member of that presbytery. The consideration of this letter was deferred until tomorrow.

A letter was received through D<sup>r</sup> Waddel from the Rev. Orson Douglas, praying a dissolution of his pastoral connexion with the churches of Thyatira & Mendham; and a dismissal from this presbytery in order to join the presbytery of New Castle: upon which the presbytery, after due deliberation, directed the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Pharr to announce this request of M<sup>r</sup> Douglas to the people of those congregations, and require of them to appear, by their representatives, at our next sessions and show cause, if any they have, why this petition of M<sup>r</sup> Douglas should not be granted.



Concluded with prayer. Presbytery then adjourned to meet at the house of Dr. Waddel this evening at six o'clock.

Dr. Waddel's, six o'clock, P.M.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

Mr. Webster was examined by the presbytery on the last seventeen chapters of the Confession of faith, and on the subjects of Theology in general; which examination, was cordially sustained.

Concluded with prayer. Presbytery then adjourned to meet at the college chapel tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Athens, Thursday, February 6.<sup>th</sup> 1823.

The presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

The minutes of yesterday were read.

The consideration of Mr. Reid's letter was resumed. On deliberation it was Resolved, that Dr. Cummins be directed to answer Mr. Reid's letter in a manner expressive of the sentiments of the presbytery on the subject, viz: That the presbytery are solicitous only that the General Assembly be in possession of the number of members under their care in any way which may be consistent with the con-



venience of congregations and with the practice and discipline of our church: but as they are not advised of any important advantage that would arise to the church of Bethel from the plan proposed in Mr. Reid's letter, or of any inconvenience that would result to them from reporting through this presbytery, that they recommend the returns of the congregation be sent forward to the General assembly in the usual way.

Mr. Webster was examined as to his knowledge of the learned languages, mathematics, natural and moral philosophy & church history; the whole of which examination was sustained. He then delivered a lecture on Psal: 10: 1-5, and a sermon on Rom: 8: 16. the subjects assigned him as parts of trial previous to licensure; all of which were sustained.

Mr. Alexander H. Webster, having adopted the Confession of faith of this church, and satisfactorily answered the questions appointed to be put to candidates for licensure, the presbytery did proceed to license him to preach the gospel as a probationer for the holy ministry within the bounds of this presbytery, or wherever he shall be orderly called.

Ordered, That each member preach two sabbaths, at discretion, to the vacant churches within our bounds, before our next stated sessions.



The members present furnished congregational reports from the following churches, viz: from,

	Communicants.	Admitted last year.	Baptized.
Athens,			
Lexington,	20.	3.	3 adults & 5 infants
Bethany,	24.		
Siloam,	14		
Alcova,	13.	13.	2 adults, 12 infants.

The clerk was directed to write to the Rev. John S. Wilson, of the presbytery of South Carolina, who resides within our bounds informing him of the time and place of our next meeting and inviting him to attend.

The Rev. Dr. Cummins was appointed a commissioner to represent this presbytery in the next General Assembly, and Dr. Brown as his alternate, with Mr. John Cunningham of Siloam church, as Elder.

Presbytery concluded with prayer; and then adjourned to meet at this place on the first Wednesday in March next.

John Brown, Modr

Moses Waddel, Clerk.