

Moments in Our History

(Excerpts from the Dissenting Church of Christ at St. John's 1775 – 1975)

The Employment of Begging (Part 2)

John Jones was encouraged that fall to receive a contribution of £ 5 from Richard Valentine at Carbonear (who Jones had felt was opposed to the scheme) collected from two captains. He had attempted to solicit more but there was little response- “bad voyages made it impossible.”

In March 1788, the Committee met on three occasions. The purpose of the first meeting was to replace James Barnes, who had been “turned out of the church fellowship.” A church meeting chose George Brace. The second meeting was to determine the summer wages of the workmen, which was set at six shillings a day. And then on 14 March, it was agreed that Wallis Lang assist the wintermen in the gathering of stones for the foundation wall. The work was entrusted to Walker and McMinn at a cost of two shillings a yard. More labourers were to be hired as required for the summer's work.

Meantime, in England, the faithful Samuel Greatheed had set out on a money-raising tour. He had hoped to solicit in London the previous fall but the committee of Messrs. Crew, Kemp and Ashburner advised against it because of “the wealth of applications” at that time. Greatheed acknowledged the help of the Reverend Simon Reader of Wareham who had raised £ 14 and the Reverend John Horsey of Northampton who sent him £ 13. An advertisement placed in the Theological Miscellany had yielded £ 10 each from Lady Mary Fitzgerald and a Lady Smith. Greatheed's travels took him to Portsmouth (£ 26) and the Isle of Wight (£ 10) and Southampton (£ 10). Then on to Poole.