

dered to the Baptist Church, and friends in this city and vicinity for their kind hospitality.

The Association thereupon adjourned to meet in Mangerville the first Saturday in September, 1850.

Prayer by the Moderator.

SAMUEL ROBINSON, *Moderator.*

EDWARD D. VERY, *Clerk.*

THOS. TODD, *Ass't. Clerk.*

CIRCULAR LETTER,

TO THE CHURCHES COMPOSING THE WESTERN NEW BRUNSWICK BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Dear Brethren.—In selecting a subject for your consideration, and upon which to address you in this annual epistle, we have made choice of one that yields to few others in importance. Although it has been inculcated from the Pulpit, the Platform and the Press, yet it may be received with less pleasure than some other topic. We refer to the obligations resting upon the Church of Christ, to exemplify a spirit of Christian liberality. The importance of such a spirit may be seen from its inseparable connection with the progress of the kingdom of Christ set up in the world; and his holy religion which he came from heaven to make known to the lost and perishing.

The efforts of the primitive disciples to advance the reign of righteousness and truth among their fellow beings, were crowned with unparalleled success; and the spirit of Christian benevolence, which they possessed and exhibited, goes far to account for this prosperity. Their numbers were comparatively few, and their pecuniary resources small, but such was their Christian enlargement of soul, that all they possessed was thrown into one consecrated channel, and through divine grace, it had a powerful influence in securing the salvation of souls, and forwarding the interests of Zion.

It was not long, however, that real prosperity continued to crown the labours of the primitive Churches. And the reason is obvious. They lost the spirit of Christian benevolence, and imbibed the selfishness of the world; and, while actuated by that, their efforts could not meet the approbation of God, nor be attended with the divine blessing.

Comparatively nothing is being done at the present time to ameliorate the condition of men and save them from impending ruin. Where so many fields for Christian enterprise are presented, and so many affecting voices are calling upon the Churches for aid in behalf of those who are perishing. And why is it thus? The reason is clear. The same worldliness that crept into the primitive Church, pervades that of the present day; and men who are called the disciples of Christ, are panting and toiling for the pleasures and emoluments of this world. They are almost entirely destitute of that spirit of benevolence, which was a living, operating, and ever-expanding principle in the breasts of the early disciples.