

Circular Letter.

"GO FORWARD."

THE CIRCULAR LETTER OF THE N. S. EASTERN ASSOCIATION TO THE CHURCHES OF WHICH IT IS COMPOSED.

Dear Brethren,—

There was a time when our people might with propriety cry: "Doubtless thou art our Father, though Abraham be ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge us not." Through the patient efforts and prevailing prayers of those who compose our churches, our progress has been great. To the student of our history a steady growth is visible. The Holy One has attested His truth, and baptized believers in these Provinces, are numbered by tens of thousands. Now, the Baptists are acknowledged and respected. If denominational position be anything, we have it. But suppose that we were first in numbers, influence, and wealth, that we were far ahead of all other bodies, we should not dream of standing still. The salvation of the world, not denominational distinction, must be our chief desire. No matter what our position, recognized, or unrecognized, loved, or feared, or hated, it is ours to "preach the gospel to every creature," to baptize those who believe it, and to teach "them to observe all things whatsoever," the Anointed One "has commanded." As heretofore, we must go on to fill the waste places, to preach the gospel to the poor, to set forth the distinctive doctrines of the New Testament. We hear a voice loud and clear, "SPEAK UNTO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL THAT THEY GO FORWARD."

But in order to do this, we must survey our position, and see what our agencies are. We must question ourselves as to the means by which we are to flourish.

First, *We must have more men.* It is an alarming fact that many of our churches are destitute of pastors. Evangelists can scarcely be obtained. Students for the ministry are few,—not enough to supply the vacancies caused by death and removals. We should make this a matter of prayerful