

CIRCULAR LETTER.



DEAR BRETHREN,

WHEN a Circular Letter only a few years ago was first addressed to the little Sisterhood of Baptist Churches in this Province, our numbers were few, and many were the discouragements which we had to encounter : and few were the Heralds of the Cross, who were instrumental in bringing souls to the knowledge of the truth and in the establishment of those Churches of which the Association was then formed. During all that period we had no organized Missionary Society in operation—no systematic combination of effort in extending the interests of the Redeemer's Kingdom—no Religious Newspaper in circulation—and no Institution of Learning, where our youth, and especially those whom the Holy Spirit might be preparing for the Ministry, could embrace the privilege of obtaining academical cultivation ; and the most sanguine then could not have anticipated that in so brief a space of time as that which has elapsed, since the formation of our Association, such a happy change could have taken place in our prospects as a body of professed believers. Without pretending to enter into a minute recapitulation of our present prosperity, we would advert to the numerous revivals of religion in various parts of the Province, by which our denomination has been especially distinguished, as well as to the consequent increase of Baptist Churches, which have been established in almost every section of this growing Colony. Our prospects are brightening ; and new channels of Religious and Missionary enterprise and benevolence, are opening around us ; and we rejoice that you have manifested a disposition to avail yourselves of the favourable facilities you possess, for the promotion of Evangelical Religion. To the praise of divine mercy be it spoken, our Missionaries are visiting the spiritually destitute, in many of the most remote parts of our country, and successfully preaching "the Word of Life"—we have a Seminary, not inferior in reputation and usefulness to any in the Province—we have a Religious Newspaper, the Evangelical character of which has a tendency to imprint such religious information and instruction, as is adapted to our present prosperous circumstances—and we have other institutions of a subordinate character, which are directed to the same object—the increase and extension of Bible Religion.