

CIRCULAR LETTER.



THE CIRCULAR LETTER TO THE AFRICAN
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, CONVENED AT HAM-
MOND PLAINS, SEPTEMBER 30, 1871.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN:—

BEING chosen to write the Circular Letter for this Association I intend giving you a brief account of my travels during the past year, and a few of the particulars which have come under my notice.

First: The Churches of my charge, or which I am Pastor over, are, chiefly, Halifax, Hammond Plains, Beech Hill, and Dartmouth. The most of my labors are in the city, and in fact, when I leave my pulpit must be supplied. This is readily done, as most ministers are encouraged to preach to a well filled house. This we have no call to complain of: our congregation is large; our collections are good, enabling us to meet all present expenses and leave something to place in the funds. But, brethren, while we rejoice at a well filled house, etc., we lament that there are so few conversions, while we hear the Lord say, "to-day is the day of salvation."

And again, brethren, we are called to lament the loss of our late and much esteemed brother William Barrett. Our brother was converted while a young man, a slave, in Virginia, United States. But God made a way for his escape, and in the year 1820 he was safely landed in Halifax. He appreciated the freedom of man very much, and was ever found thanking God for his great deliverance; and fervently prayed that the day might not be far off when all his brethren would be emancipated. He lived to see the same verified, in which he greatly rejoiced, also to hear of some of his near and dear friends and many of his acquaintances.

But, my brethren, although our brother was converted while a young man, and all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance fervently believed that he was a good man and ought to be united with the church and show to the world that he was on the Lord's side, our brother lacked faith in himself. But