

## CIRCULAR LETTER.

*The Ministers and Messengers of the Nova-Scotia and New-Brunswick Baptist Association, convened at Newport, N. S. June 24 and 25, unto the Churches they represent, send Christian salutation.*

DEAR BRETHREN,

Being permitted by Him who walketh in the midst of the Churches and holdeth their stars in his right hand, to meet together, our hearts are gladdened by your Messengers and Epistles. We perceive some of you are in Sackcloth; and truly mourning, fasting and prayer become us, when the bridegroom is withdrawn, and that we enquire what hath separated between us and our God. We rejoice in your stedfastness in the doctrines, laws, and ordinances of God our Saviour, and particularly that the Lord hath sent down a gracious shower of the refreshing influences of his spirit upon some of the fields of Zion, and caused a joyful harvest—may the Lord make it universal.

Dear Brethren, we may never all address you again, as many of us may end our mortal race before the ensuing year, and know the worth or want of the religion of Jesus Christ; therefore in view of our journey's end, and in prospect of a judgment seat, we would address a few lines to you on the nature and excellencies of that Religion, which we conceive no one can have right views of without some acquaintance with its Divine author, and his design in the Gospel scheme.

Religion is of high and heavenly birth and essentially resembles its parent, for he is possessed of every divine excellence in perfection, surely if a man speak thereof he shall be swallowed up. He is universal in goodness, infinite in wisdom and Almighty in power. From his goodness we are led to expect, he will desire to do and perform to the utmost extent, all that is good, and from his wisdom we are fully persuaded that he cannot err or mistake in judgment, but must know what is good, what is the greater and only good—in permitting, determining and doing, this grand impulse must move the mighty wheel; and from his power we are made to believe, he is able to do and perform all his good pleasure. To suppose that his goodness and wisdom wills or desires what his power does not perform, would be to suppose one attribute over balanced the other. Sceptics will ever cavil, by which their minds are darkened and their hearts hardened, they ask, why such a God should create man in so mutable a state? Why diversify his bounty to characters equally unworthy or deserving? or bestow the luxuries of life on the vilest, while the griping hand of poverty and distress lies heavy on a portion of the pious few, as the Scriptures teach, "not many rich, wise or noble are called, but the poor in this world, rich in faith, are heirs of the kingdom."

Again, why is the Gospel sent to so few of the Nations comparatively, for centuries past? and to few of those to whom it comes, does it prove the power of God to Salvation. To such persons and such thoughts, we wish you to say "who art thou that replieth

against

against God. find out the something is ed at the bar is written and is beyond our our reach and pel would ne being of infi derstand, is h fectly consiste too high for u cording to the in the deed as piety, treache salvation secu The love of G of Salvation f this mysteriou of God, shine holiness, wisdo

The design perfections in and men to his and truth shou and kiss each o hcrorable; Sat chasen people glory. The lo Holy Spirit is i sanctifying his sanctifies the L changing, wash works, by whic with the image and serve the I delight in the p know them, and taught, they m to the Saints, no Cross of Christ ly Lamb of God

We are led from the length provements, but ness, and all exp creature—by ou embracing the C Grace, which se every creature at vation of sinners