

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The Ministers and Messengers composing the Central Baptist Association of Nova Scotia, to the Churches which they represent,

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,

How merciful is that God through whose providence we have been preserved another year and permitted again to meet in Association, where all the energies of our denominational Body is stirred up, and every faculty called into action. Here our minds become strengthened and encouraged while we take a retrospect of the last fifty three years, viewing the rise and progress of the Nova Scotia Baptist Association, witnessing the three distinct organizations which have grown out of our denominational tree, having their roots deeply imbedded in the rich soil of God's eternal truth, and growing up under the soul strengthening rays of the Sun of Righteousness, refreshed and invigorated by that word which, drops as the rain and distills as the dew, and here our souls are refreshed while we sit together in heavenly places in Christ, having the word and testimony to instruct us, a prayer hearing omnipotent being to assist us, and the Holy Spirit of wisdom to console strengthen and influence our minds, together with the cheering promise, that he will be with us unto the end, if we observe and teach all things whatsoever the Lord has commanded.

And in presenting you with this our annual Epistle, we would direct your attention to the importance of teaching and observing all things as commanded by the great Head of the Church. What but a strong attachment to divine truth, a love to its divine author, and a strict adherence to the divine command, secured success to that sect that was every where spoken against, while as a Church they were surrounded by the darkness of Heathen superstition and Jewish prejudice. Their light altho' bright may be compared to a little taper, shining amid the gross darkness of night, yet their faithfulness secured the fulfilment of the promise. The light of God's truth prevailed, the penetrating rays of divine grace made their way to hearts filled with enmity against God, and prejudice superstition and the persecuting spirit, fell prostrate before the truth. And to what under God do we as a denomination in these Provinces owe our prosperity, but to the faithfulness of our early ministers and their strict adherence to the word of life. On what then depends our future success, but the strict observance of the divine requirements in the doctrines and ordinances of the Gospel, being clothed with humility, built up in the faith, and led by the spirit of God. If in the early ages of christianity faithfulness secured the blessing, and if the history of the Church from that period to the nineteenth century establishes the same fact, shall not the faithful at this period be blessed. If so, whom shall we fear while we act

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