

CIRCULAR LETTER.

THE CAUSE AND CURE OF RELIGIOUS DECLENSION.

THE CIRCULAR LETTER FROM THE NOVA SCOTIA EASTERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCHES OF WHICH IT IS COMPOSED.

Dear Brethren,—

It is cause of deep regret that in many of the letters from the churches complaint is made of coldness in spiritual life, and of not much having been accomplished in church work. Men are actively endeavouring to grasp gain, or pursuing popularity, but the things of God are left to suffer. We lament the want of spiritual activity and loss of Christian manhood in those who promised to be useful in the churches. On account of unfaithfulness and disloyalty to the cause of Christ there is spiritual dulness in the work of God. While there are many things in this world of sin to affect the spiritual life of the soul, we believe that upon a little reflection it will be seen that a want of proper regard for the Holy Scriptures, and prayer, lie at the beginning of every believer's departure from God.

I. One of the causes of religious declension is a want of proper regard to the Word of God. It has pleased God to magnify His word more than His name, and only when Christians love the truth are they found walking in the truth. In the Bible, God is speaking to the human soul, and he that hath ears to hear let him hear.

If transgressors are exposed to the eternal displeasure of God; if a door of hope is opened to them; if it is at no less expense than the death of God's dear Son in man's nature; if through the atoning death of Christ God can be just, and the justifier of him who believes in Jesus, if this is the only possible way to escape the punishment of sin, and through this way we are acceptable, and become well pleasing to God, it is of vast importance to every man.

Truth is important in its relation to philosophy, history and politics, or any other branch of science, because it affects the present and future condition of mankind. But what is truth in this direction, compared with the truth that involves the eternal destiny of the human soul. To answer the question, "What must I do to be saved?" is infinitely more important than the latest work on evolution or materialism. But man, who believes in the Divine authority and inspiration of the Sacred Scriptures, may not prosper in spiritual life :