

CIRCULAR LETTER,

THE MINISTERS AND MESSENGERS OF THE SEVERAL REGULAR CHURCHES IN NOVA SCOTIA, P. E. ISLAND, AND CAPE BRETON, IN ASSOCIATION, ASSEMBLED AT YARMOUTH, N S, JUNE 26TH, 27TH, AND 28TH. 1843—TO THE SEVERAL CHURCHES THEY REPRESENT, SENDETH CHRISTIAN SALUTATION.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,

As the Infinite Majesty has been pleased to spare our lives and health, and hath indulged us to enjoy another Anniversary Meeting of a most interesting character, in this flourishing town, and with this prosperous and highly favoured Church which the Lord hath so often revived that it has grown as the vine, and flourished as the cedars of Lebanon,—and more particularly during the last season, in which the Lord hath made great additions to it in its various branches.

It is truly gratifying to meet again in an Association with our venerable and much esteemed Father Harris Harding, now in the 82nd year of his age, and 56th of his ministry, who hath spent nearly half a century in Yarmouth, and through great mercy is still favoured with a comfortable state of health and ministerial activity and usefulness, and is surrounded with a constellation of young and evangelical ministers of the New Testament, and hundreds of old and young professors. Surely Yarmouth resembles a field which the Lord hath blessed.

It will cheer your hearts dear brethren, as it has our own, to learn that during the last and current year, more revivals have been and are still in progress within the limits of our Association, than in any former year since its existence. The particulars of those you will more fully learn from the Minutes of the Association.

We are doing a great work in our associated capacity, and we feel deeply impressed with a sense of the absolute necessity of personal religion,—or, in other words, of communion with God. And as we feel this to be of such vital importance to ourselves, we would most affectionately offer a few thoughts upon—the necessity of it,—the nature of it,—the means of promoting it,—and the benefits resulting from it.

And first—The necessity of Holiness:

Holiness is likeness to God. "Without holiness no man can see the Lord;" "Be ye holy, for I am holy;" "Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord." These passages mean holiness, and nothing short of real personal holiness. What, we would ask, is the employment of holy beings in heaven, who, beholding the immaculate holiness of Jehovah, are made partakers of the Divine nature, or the spirit of holiness; and what is the burthen of their song? They cease not, day nor night, to repeat before the Throne the song of the Lamb—"Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God Almighty!" &c. But we feel that we are addressing an Evangelical people, and need not enlarge. Nor do we mention these things because ye do not know them, but because ye do, and because we wish to stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance.