

CIRCULAR LETTER.

*The Nova Scotia Baptist Association, &c. to
the Churches composing it, sends
Christian Salutation.*

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Dear Brethren,

The progress of true religion in the world, cannot but be an object of the deepest interest to every christian. He feels that the happiness of all the generations to come, how numerous or distant soever, is inseparably connected with it. Viewed on a great scale the pleasure derived from other sources than religion, are mere passing emotions. We can hardly think of them, and they are gone. They all perish in the very act of enjoyment. The advancement of human happiness—of that which alone deserves the name, must be sought in the advancement of true religion. It becomes an interesting inquiry, then, to know in what way this latter can be most effectually secured?

And here we assume it, as too obvious to need confirmation that this great object is to be accomplished by the instrumentality of men, and by the use of means. We rejoice in believing, that the time has past never again to return, when the maxims of the professed followers of Christ, in reference to the spread of the Gospel, shall be, *let us stand still and do nothing, that God may have all the Glory.* Some there may be who deem it [we are constrained to add “by reason of the ignorance that is in them”] an infringement of the doctrine of Divine Sovereignty to maintain the necessity of a diligent use of means. We trust, Brethren, for Christ’s sake and the Gospel’s, that this cannot be said of any of you; and that while you are careful, as becomes believers, to maintain good works, you will be equally careful to ascribe to the Sovereign Grace of God all the beneficial results of them.

As one of the most efficient means, then, for the advancement of religion, let us call your attention to the duty of giving *early Religious Instructions to the Young.*

We have been charged as a denomination with culpable negligence in this respect. We could most devoutly wish, that there was not the smallest ground for such a charge; but this we dare not assert. Even if it had originated in an unfriendly feeling, and had, in many cases been false, we not so much seek our own justification as the welfare of our children and the Church of Christ.

Religion is to be propagated by teaching, *Go teach all nations* was the Saviour’s last command. That the season of childhood is attended with peculiar advantages for being taught,

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