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ON

## CONSECRATING OURSELVES AND OUR ALL TO CHRIST.

THIRD CIRCULAR LETTER OF THE OTTAWA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

*Read at Bredalbanc, on Wednesday the 24th January, 1838.*

DEAR BRETHREN,—By the good hand of the Lord our God upon us, our lives have been spared through another year, and we are again permitted the privilege of addressing you on subjects pertaining to the interests of our Zion. In our last letter we laid before you the duties of individual members of Churches; and we indulge the fond hope that it has been the means of warming your hearts, and stirring you up to strive together for the faith once delivered to the saints, to confirm it to yourselves, and diffuse its benign influence more extensively around you.

On the present occasion we invite your attention to the Duty of consecrating *ourselves* and *our all* to the Lord Jesus Christ. And we do this the more readily, as there is reason to fear that many, practically at least, have reckoned its performance a matter more of feeling and emotion than of conscience and principle.

Nor is this a groundless suspicion. It is a fact too well known to be doubted, that many in the churches act merely mechanically. They seldom do any thing unless moved on by some extraneous cause. If Providence has placed them in the midst of a revival—in the neighbourhood of ardent and devoted Christians—if they happen to listen to some powerful and impressive harangue,—like the people of Israel, the language of their feelings is, “all that the Lord has spoken we will do.” But let the period pass off, let the orator pass away, and a few months intervene, and they soon fall back into their usual lethargy. Their piety apparently is shaped by circumstances, and modified by accident; the creature of times and opportunities,—withering away when the impelling cause is removed. This will not do. The principle of CONSECRATION is a leading part of the Christian character,