

CIRCULAR LETTER.

TO THE CHURCHES OF THE EASTERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Dear Brethren,

In this annual letter we commend to your consideration, the Educational interests, connected with us as a denomination.

It is not deemed necessary to occupy much space in insisting upon the importance of Education in general. Every thing in the history of the past,—every thing connected with the present passing events—and all the anticipated future disclose its importance, and urge upon us its necessity.

Every thing in the outer world, the progress in the arts and science, the revelations of history, the proximity of nations to each other, through the influence of science, that are locally distant, every thing around us may impress us with the importance of knowledge.

And if we look within, the soul is formed for the attainment of knowledge, and every thing there,—its desires, its aspirations and its capabilities,—declare what inspiration infallibly teaches:—that for the “soul to be without knowledge is not good.” But the proper results of mind are no more to be looked for without study, long and patient investigation and training, than the fruits of the earth without the cultivation of the soil.

Not however, as intimated, to the importance of knowledge in general, which will be so readily admitted by all, is the subject of this letter devoted, but to that aspect of it which was