

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The Elders and Messengers of the Nova-Scotia and New-Brunswick Baptist Association, convened at Sackville, N. B. June 21st 22d, and 23d 1820, to the Churches they represent, greeting.

DEAR BRETHREN IN THE LORD.

AS the Lord hath favored us with the privilege of meeting again in Association, and the season being made very refreshing to our souls, on account of what the Lord is, and what he hath done, and is doing in our world, and particularly in some of our Churches, as you will learn by the Minutes; and as we feel a special solicitude for your welfare, we have unspeakable pleasure in addressing you in another Circular, particularly upon the nature and necessity of Communion with the blessed God.

"COMMUNION Spiritual, or Divine, is that delightful fellowship and intercourse which a believer enjoys with God. It is founded upon union with him, and consists in a communication of divine graces from him, and a return of devout affection to him. The believer holds Communion with God in his works, in his word, and in his ordinances. There can be no Communion without likeness, nor without Christ, as the mediator. Some distinguish Communion with God from the sense and feeling of it; that is, that we may hold Communion with him without raptures of joy; and that a saint may, even under desertion, have Communion with God as really, though not so feelingly, as at any other time. This Communion cannot be interrupted by any local mutations. It is far superior to all outward services and ordinances whatever. It concerns the whole soul; all the affections, faculties, and motions of it being under its influence. It is only imperfect in this life, and will be unspeakably enlarged in a better world. In order to keep up Communion with God, we should inform ourselves of his will; John 5th 39th be often in prayer; Luke 18th 1st embrace opportunities of retirement; Psalms 4th 4th contemplate on the divine perfections, providences, and promises; Eph. 4th 30th and be found in the use of all the means of grace. Psalms 27th 4th. The advantages of Communion with God are, deadness to the world, patience under trouble, fortitude in danger, gratitude for mercies received, directions under difficulties, peace and joy in opposition,

sition, happiness and glory."*

As it is our duty to this all, it would shew our evils necessary union with our ing, we trust, crimes; (as w any of our C yet not less in there are man tend into parti which are, av a cold, formal

1st. Avarice is duces men to d honest industry or it is an imm tended with ex a person rob hi fear of diminis tion of the evil is denominated stands distinctly as ye profess to weight, and the your affections earth." Shew to greatest good. L and your hearts or criminal att world, ye cannot rious God.

2d. Worldly h thought much of disposition is juti cious ointment." God should refuse the Providence o

* See Bucks Theology