

CIRCULAR LETTER,

THE MINISTERS AND MESSENGERS COMPOSING THE NOVA-
SCOTIA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, CONVENED AT WILMOT,
JUNE 27, 1842, TO THE CHURCHES THEY REPRESENT.

By Rev. Joseph Dimock.

BELOVED BRETHREN,

Being by the kind providence of God, permitted to meet in this highly favored portion of the Lord's vineyard, we cannot but linger in recollection for a short time on scenes that are past, and compare them with the present. We regard with great satisfaction, the rapid improvement manifest in this fine section of our country, which affords so large a measure of comfort and independence to its teeming population.

But our minds dwell with more intense interest and admiration on the wonders grace has wrought! and on the means by which so great a moral and religious influence as we now behold, has been effected. We look back on the moral waste this land presented but a few years ago. How few there were then who knew the joyful sound; but yet, how ardent the piety of those few. How welcome to their hospitable fireside the messengers of peace, who came within their borders—how welcome the message they brought,—O surely, God was with those heralds of salvation, and worked by them in a remarkable manner. Through their instrumentality, He was pleased to break up the fallow ground and cultivate the fields, which now bloom around us on every side with heavenly verdure. How deeply do we venerate the character of our late lamented brother, Handley Chipman. His memory indeed, is embalmed in all the early churches of Nova Scotia, but he was instrumental in an eminent degree in the hand of God, in planting and sustaining the gospel in this County—here he labored indefatigably until he saw Aaron's rod not only bud and blossom, but also bear fruit. He saw a vast increase of preachers of the gospel running to and fro with messages of mercy to sinners, and he also witnessed the blessed fruits resulting from their labours. He beheld churches multiplying around him, and now instead of their being but one church here, of which he was pastor, and which extended over a large tract of country, on the same field of labour ten or twelve churches are to be seen with seven or eight ordained ministers. All this he lived to see effected in a considerable degree, and like a shock of corn, in due season he at last was gathered to his own people, and, we doubt not, welcomed by the master he so long and so faithfully served, with a "well done good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

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