

CANADA BAPTIST MAGAZINE,

AND MISSIONARY REGISTER.

No. 10.

MARCH, 1839.

VOL. II.

P E A C E O F Z I O N .

Fourth CIRCULAR LETTER of the OTTAWA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

Assembled at Chatham, 24th January, 1839.

BELOVED BRETHREN,—Through Divine goodness, we have been permitted once more to assemble together as an Association. We hail the return of this annual season of meeting, as it affords a fresh opportunity of declaring the Lord's dealings with us as churches, to enkindle afresh the flame of zeal and devotion in our Redeemer's cause, and to enquire again what can be done to repair the waste places of Zion, and to hasten the happy and long wished-for day, when Jerusalem shall become a praise in the whole earth.

With these ends in view, few subjects can more suitably occupy our attention than that proposed for our present Annual Circular, "ON THE DUTY OF THE CHURCHES TO SEEK THE PEACE OF ZION, AND THE BEST METHOD OF ATTAINING AND SECURING IT."

Zion, we need hardly remind you, is a Scriptural name for the Church of God, and owes its origin to the hill so called on which David pitched the Tabernacle for the Ark. The

name was afterwards extended to the mountain on which the Temple was built, and whither the tribes of Israel went up to worship. It came at length to be applied to the assembly of worshippers; and, finally, to God's people throughout the world, considered as one grand assembly.

To seek the peace of Zion supposes her in a state of warfare. The Church in the world is called the Church militant, in distinction from the Church triumphant in heaven. But it is not the termination of the Church's militant state here which we are to seek. The Church is at war with the evil customs and maxims of this world, and with those she is never to seek peace, either by compromise or compliance. She is also engaged in a warfare against all sin and error, and in this conflict she is never to yield, but, by presenting the banners of holiness, to appear terrible to the workers of iniquity, and earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the Saints. The Church is engaged in a war of conquest, for