

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The Ministers and Messengers of the Nova-Scotia Baptist Association, convened at Horton, June 24th and 25th, 1822, to the Churches which they represent, wish Grace, Mercy and Peace, through him that hath loved us.

BELOVED BRETHREN IN THE LORD.

GOD, of his infinite mercy, hath been pleased to favor us with the return of another anniversary season; and likewise with the privilege of addressing you in our Annual Epistle. Although we cannot fully comprehend, nor clearly describe to you, the fulness of that love which the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called his children, and enjoy the privilege of the sons of God, yet we desire to call your attention to trace the blessed streams of heavenly love to the sacred fountain from whence they flow. We shall find them all to centre in a God of love.

Let us turn our attention to meditate upon that love, the everlasting love of God the Father, as it dwelt in the eternal mind, and divinely moved his sacred Majesty in the glorious arrangement of that mysterious, great, eternal plan of creation, providence and grace, in such a way as should bring the highest honor to his exalted character, sweetly harmonize with all the divine perfections, and secure eternal felicity to all the objects of his grace. Let us view the divine love as gloriously displayed in the execution of this wondrous plan, agreeable to the perfections of infinite wisdom, in the creation of an innumerable multitude of angels and men, which should show forth his praise, and manifest his declarative glory in heaven and in earth. And when a part of the angelic world, and all the human family, had broken heaven's righteous law, and revolted from their God, how was divine love made known in securing the rights of deity, establishing heaven's righteous claims, and consigning the rebellious angels to everlasting chains under darkness, where they are reserved unto the judgment of the great day; yet restoring fallen man, through the merits of a glorious Redeemer. This everlasting love of God the Father set apart his own Son, Immanuel, as the head of his people, their Saviour and Redeemer; and gave their persons to him before the world was; and, in the fulness of time, gave him to die for them, that he might redeem them from the curse of the law, and become their propitiation and ransom.

And again, let us consider the divine love still looking forward to the purchased inheritance, which is the flock of God which he hath purchased with his own blood. Although for a time they are scattered upon the barren mountains, (1st Pet. ii. 25) yet is his providential care over them; and at the time appointed of the Father, he calls them *with an holy calling*; (Matt. xx. 6. Rom. viii. 28—30.) for, having loved

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