

CIRCULAR LETTER.

To the Churches composing the Western N. B. Baptist Association.

BELoved BRETHREN IN THE LORD :—

In this, our annual epistle, permit us to invite your attention to the claims of Domestic Missions. The risen Saviour instructed His Disciples to preach repentance and remission of sins in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. "The idea is, that Christians in prosecuting the great work committed to their care, are to commence at home.

Our departed Fathers in the Gospel acted upon this principle, and amid manifold discouragements and divers obstacles, they hastened with the Gospel Message to the waste places of this Province, proclaiming in all fidelity, publicly, and from house to house, the glad news of pardoning love. They have gone to their reward; but the obligations which pressed upon their conscience, and impelled them forward in their great work, now press with equal weight upon us.

In speaking of the claims of the home field, we might ask you to lift up your eyes and contemplate its Eastern sections, its Northern shores, its Western districts, and its Southern coasts; its enfeebled churches, and its multitude of perishing souls; and as you look upon this wide field, "Say not there are yet four months and then cometh the harvest,"—for it is already ripe for the Gospel Sickle. Fifteen or twenty Baptist Missionaries of the right stamp could be successfully employed to-day in getting in this ripened harvest. Churches weak and indigent are wasting away and dying out for the want of Missionary labor, and souls are perishing by thousands for the lack of Gospel teaching. If we fold our hands in indifference, and fail to put forth individual and combined efforts to rescue these souls from the fall to perdition, may not their blood be required at our hands?

If, Brethren, there are voices from the three worlds, Heaven, Earth, and Hell, summoning us to action in the Master's service, shall we not obey? Our population is increasing; our young men are still finding homes in the wilderness, far removed from Educational advantages and the privilege of the Christian Ministry. Shall their rising families be permitted to grow up without being taught the way to God, the path to Heaven? Our appeal is to the Ministry and to the Churches, and we ask shall there not be more thoroughness of organization? more liberality in constitution? and more whole-hearted co-operation in this work of Domestic Missions? Let us rather resolve with one heart and with one voice that henceforth we will make greater sacrifices, and more powerful and determined efforts to supply all the destitute portions of the Province with the aid and invaluable blessings of the Ministry of God's Holy Word; and let us be cheered in the fulfilment of this solemn duty with the glorious promise of our Sovereign Lord, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."—*Amen.*