

CIRCULAR LETTER.

To the Churches composing the African Baptist Association.

DEAR BRETHREN,—

Through the unlimited mercies of a kind and indulgent Heavenly Parent we have been spared to meet each other face to face, at our annual gatherings, and a real blessed time we had. The Brethren of Hammond Plains who have prided themselves with the next best Church of the Association, had it neatly painted and thoroughly cleansed, which created much admiration from the strangers who had flocked from the city, and neighbouring districts; and as we expect, some to worship, others to mock and criticize. But such was the case at the time of our Blessed Lord and Saviour, and so will it be to the end of time. But Brethren, let us use the words of the Apostle to the Gentiles.

We, who were at one time far off, are made nigh by the Blood of Christ; for he is our peace and so being "Justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood," we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Now dear Brethren the year that has just passed has not been one of much spiritual growth to us, as regards new members; yet we must be thankful to our Heavenly Father, for his continued kindness and undeserved attention that we receive from time to time. Then let us copy the example of one of the most patient of God's anointed. This venerable patriarch, in the early part of his life was the greatest of all men in the East. His possessions were large, his family was numerous and flourishing, his own character was fair and blameless. Yet this person it pleased God to visit with extraordinary reverses of fortune. He was robbed of his whole substance, his sons and daughters all perished, and he himself fallen from his high estate,—Childless and reduced to poverty, and smitten with sore diseases.

In distress so appalling, what was the temper of this good man? Fully persuaded that all blessings come from God, who has a right to withhold or distribute them, as he sees best. He then piously exclaims, "Blessed be the name of the Lord!"