

Circular Letter.

*The Ministers and Messengers of the Central Baptist Association,
to the members of the several churches represented.*

BELOVED BRETHREN.

The subject of this our annual address is Holiness. We mean that holiness which should be developed by christians, in the purity of their character, and propriety of their conduct. There are other terms in Theology which convey to us the same idea with holiness; or if indeed there is a distinction of meaning, it is so faint that we shall not attempt to define; those terms are 'pure,' as required in christian purity; and 'perfect' as God's people should be perfect. Our conceptions of holiness originate in our knowledge of the attribute of holiness in the Deity. We learn that God is holy from general manifestations of his purity; especially from his moral law; from sacrificial declarations, and requisitions; and mainly from the substitution of Christ, comprising the perfection of his life, and involving the agonies of the garden, and the cross. All our knowledge of God is in harmony with the more perfect knowledge of angels, who continually cry, Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty.

The subject is presented as a christian grace, and a christian duty. Our holiness originates in the grace of God, and is graciously conveyed to us through the interposing love of Christ; and is consummated by the sanctification of the Holy Spirit. These graces are endowments of saints, which are