

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The Ministers and Messengers of the Nova-Scotia and New-Brunswick Baptist Association, to the Churches they represent, wish Mercy and Peace from God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, who is our hope.

BELOVED BRETHREN,

AS those who are set for the defence of the Gospel and the Gospel church, we wish connected with its prosperity to seek your best interest, as well in our own united council as in our private study. The intercourse of christians, united as they are by bonds of tender and holy fellowship, can never fail to be a source of peculiar enjoyment. And if we have felt this pleasure during the present meeting, we owe it to that grace which stamps something of the image of God on every heart which it renews: for "God is love;" and "by this we know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren;" and wherever this love is exercised, there concord is maintained, and there, peace is felt. But whatever may be the pleasure attending these annual seasons of friendly and religious associations, this pleasure is not unmingled with pain; since at every such anniversary some ungrateful tidings must reach the ear. The cause of God will be seen to ebb as well as to flow: if on one side it present an appearance of life, activity and vigour; from another quarter we are compelled to hear the language of complaint—complaint, called forth by declension in principle, or inconsistency in the practice, of the professed disciples of Christ. A short interval is sufficient to furnish reports the most gloomy, as well as the most cheering; death is suffered to make inroads among the flock of Christ; the grand enemy sows discord in the Church below: and there are too often those, disaffected to pure Gospel discipline, "it must needs be that offences come, but woe to that man by whom they come." That you dear Brethren, may not be instrumental of increasing these trials. We recommend to you,

1st. Stability in the doctrines of grace. If you are unestablished in the doctrines of the Gospel, you will be exposed to the assaults of every intruder; and carried about by the cunning craft, and artful insinuations of men, who lie in wait to deceive. We recommend therefore as the best antidote, a studious and prayerful attention to the scriptures which your Heavenly Father has given, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in