

reports of those who walk not with you; silence the public outcry that you withdraw your custom from tradesmen, simply because they venture conscientiously to differ from you; be assured that persecution will never excite or increase christian affection; and remember that others have a right to advance the cause of the Lord Jesus as well as you; cherish the religion of holy love to God and to your fellow christians; and then shall all admire your piety; peace shall be enjoyed in your midst; neighbouring churches shall cease to weep over you, and instead thereof shall rejoice with you, and "God, even our own God, shall bless you." That this may be your happiness in years to come, is my fervent prayer.

Before I put a final period to this letter, allow me to entreat you, and your literary colleague, as editors of what professes to be the organ of the Denomination, and as those who direct the Collegiate, the Missionary, and the Associational interests of the Baptist Body in this Province, to remember your solemn responsibility to God for the influence you possess. It is commonly reported of you that you use that influence for worldly rather than for holy purposes; certain it is that you ask the state to support what should be sustained by the Denomination at large. The State must not be allowed, either in whole or in part, to educate the rising Baptist ministry in this Province. This would and must make them politicians, and injure their christian character for life. Do not frown, and seek to crush those who venture to maintain this sacred Baptist principle. Condescend to believe in the christianity of some who "do not belong to the Association," and somewhat relax your authority over those who do. You have, by implications, given them instructions in "The Messenger" not to hold fellowship with those of whose conduct you disapprove; if any of them should, on high principles of religious freedom, act otherwise, do not withhold "A Mission" from their pastor, nor in any other way chastise them for acting out their consciences. There is a spirit of restlessness, of dissatisfaction, with things as they are; and a desire after freedom is springing up, which it will require all your experience, and tact, and talents of government to check. Nay, you cannot do it. Wisdom dictates that you yield to the pressure which is coming upon you. That "the wisdom that is from above," which is first pure; then peaceable, gentle and easy to be intreated; full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy," may be liberally bestowed on you, is the prayer of your injured friend and servant, JOSEPH BELCHER.

Halifax, January 7, 1846.