

# THE CANADA BAPTIST MAGAZINE.

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## MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

*Fifth* CIRCULAR LETTER of the OTTAWA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

BY THE REV. DR. DAVIES.

The Ministers and Delegates, assembled in Association at St. Andrews, on the 22d day of January 1840, to the Churches which they represent, send greeting.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHERN,—  
As it has pleased Him, who has been made head over all things to the church, to bring us together at this yearly season, when it is our privilege to hold fraternal intercourse, and our duty to devise measures for promoting the peace and usefulness of our religious community, we think it meet to call your attention to a matter of great moment, as it regards the success and stability of the sacred cause.

We pray you then to give your candid and Christian consideration to the subject of this year's epistle, viz :

*The Importance of Education for those who undertake the Work of the Ministry.*

This may seem to many not a suitable subject for a Circular Letter; yet our present circumstances justify the selection. There are doubtless many among us, who have not hitherto considered this matter and felt its im-

portance, and it is to be feared there are some, who look upon it with jealousy, if not with hostility. But at the same time there is among us a Theological Institution which cannot be adequately supported, without the countenance and liberality of the fraternity in general. How then can such a support be secured, unless the indifference of some and the opposition of others be removed? When therefore we endeavour to effect the removal of these evils, it cannot be deemed foreign from the design of the annual epistle. As the object of every Christian confederacy, whether of individuals in churches, or of churches in associations, should be the advancement of religion, it cannot be inconsistent with the purpose of the present yearly meeting of the churches, to invite the attention of the members to the importance of securing a well-informed ministry.

As the present subject is novel to many, it is necessary, in order to prevent misapprehension and to remove some common mistakes and prejudices, to state distinctly, before we attempt to show the importance