

Box  
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## A Letter, &c.

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CHRISTIAN BRETHREN AND FRIENDS—

The usage of your Church preventing a Pastor from being present at any of its Meetings for the transaction of business, has placed me in a considerable difficulty. Some things are needful to be said to a Church which cannot properly be stated from the pulpit; such are the contents of this letter. I might, it is true, leave these things unsaid, but that would neither be just to you, nor to my own reputation; I might have called a Public Meeting, which would probably have been the most popular, as it certainly would have been the most exciting step; but, on the whole, I have preferred the calm, deliberative mode of addressing you from the Press. You can review the whole affairs I have to discuss, while that portion of the public who may feel interested in our matters, may read it too. Baptists have nothing to conceal; publicity is their very life; in Religion there is sin where there is concealment.

In former days, and in other Countries, Pastors have had to address their people on the persecutions they have endured from the world. Such is not my case. During my twelve-month's residence among you, I have not met with a single act, word or look from any one connected with any class of Christians differing from ourselves, to give me a moment's pain. The Clergy, Legislators, Professional Gentlemen, Merchants, and all other classes in this City and Province, have manifested towards me and my family all possible courtesy and kindness. Persecution, so far as I know, is not to be found in any Denomination apart from our own.

Neither have I to complain of you, Christian Friends, as a body. Nine-tenths of your number, or even more, have continued to show me the same urbanity and cordial kindness, which marked your first intercourse with me. I do not blame the whole of you for the faults of a few, and protest against any remarks I may offer, as implicating the character of the Church