

Circular Letter.

STRIVING TOGETHER FOR THE FAITH.

THE CIRCULAR LETTER OF THE NOVA SCOTIA CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCHES OF WHICH IT IS COMPOSED.

Beloved Brethren,—

After much anxiety and prayerful consideration, coupled with a strong desire to serve you in the spirit of christian meekness, we present for your consideration a few thoughts upon the important duty of *striving together for the faith of the Gospel*. As the old serpent entered the sacred enclosure where God placed the happy couple he had made in his own image, and drew them into the snare of disobedience, bringing down upon them the rod of Gods' displeasure, under which all their posterity have been called to pass, so does he still go about seeking whom he may devour, boldly practising his enchantments even in the House of God. If it be not so, what is the meaning of all the ritualistic display of the present time? the outward trappings and adornings substituted for the lowly and spiritual worship of God, who is a Spirit, and seeketh such to worship him as worship him in spirit and in truth? Let us not be deceived, saith the Apostle Paul, "God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth that shall be also reap, for he that soweth to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

The tempter bred discontent in the mind of the woman by saying unto her concerning the forbidden fruit, "God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof then your eyes shall be opened and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." It we mistake not the signs of the times he is still playing at his old game, striving hard to turn away the servants of Christ from the path of obedience by the promise of exaltation. In too many cases succeeding in his work of destruction, drawing men away from the feet of Christ to walk in a vain show. Alas, alas, for poor weak man, what a mighty current of evil influences is continually coming down upon him, threatening to overwhelm and destroy him soul and body.

Infidelity is stalking through the earth, trampling beneath its feet the precious name of Jesus. Romanism, with its pomp and show, its boast of infallibility, is stoutly contending for the ascendancy. Spiritualism is pouring its contempt upon all who abide by the lively oracles of God. Universalism comes shutting down the gates of perdition, and opening the portals of Heaven alike to the servants of God and the servants of Satan. While worldly conformity is everywhere exerting its influence among christians aiming at the destruction of all vital godliness. If these statements are