

19th. Received Communications from Corresponding Associations in the State of Maine, by the hands of Brother Elder CHASE.

The business of the Association being over, the MODERATOR preached a very impressive Discourse to a large and attentive Congregation, from Acts 20th chap. and 32d verse—and all was concluded by Prayer, by Elder C. MILLAR.

Circular Letter.

*The Elders and Messengers of the NEW-BRUNSWICK BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,
to the Churches which they have the honor to represent.*

BELOVED BRETHREN,

IMRESSED with the thought that God has set us in the Church as under him your spiritual guides, and feeling it devolving upon us to feed the flock over which the Holy Spirit has made us overseers, which God hath purchased with his own blood; we cannot but view with feelings of the most afflicting kind, the dead and dying state of many of those among whom we are called to minister in holy things. Did we not view the state alluded to, and keenly feel on account of it, the Great Shepherd might justly charge us as being guilty of the greatest carelessness, sloth, and inattention; he might address us one by one in these words, "Give an account of thy stewardship, for thou mayest be no longer steward." When we consult these words—Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds—Prov. 27. 23. we recognise the divine mandate, and we feel a woe coming upon us, if we do not preremptorily attend to the voice of the Upper Shepherd. Many of yourselves, no doubt, discover that we are not generally in that flourishing state so much to be desired, and you must be possessed of a very large portion of that charity which covers a multitude of infirmities, if you do not in some degree at least reflect.—But the censure or applause of men is of no such moment with us as the testimony of a good conscience. This is a continual feast—This is an antidote to all discouragements, and these we often meet with, even from those of whom better things might have been expected. Yet we endeavour through some difficulty to muster the resolution of a very self-denied Apostle—We will very gladly spend and be spent for you, though the more abundantly we love you the less we be loved. But it is not enough to bewail our uncomfortable situation, we must do something more; we must enquire what are the causes of our present low state, and then endeavour to suggest something that may be a means of removing them.

Our blessed Lord informs us, that because iniquity shall abound the love of many shall wax old—Matt. 24. 12. When iniquity abounds in the place where Providence has cast our lot, it has too often a very pernicious effect upon us, as might be shown from the circumstance of God's ancient people being drawn away from him and from that pure and simple worship which he required of them, by means of their wicked and idolatrous neighbours. Yet we have in Scripture many instances where a contrary effect was produced. Witness Noah, Lot, Joseph, Moses, Daniel, the few names that were in Sardis, and many others we could mention, who endeavoured in the midst of abounding wickedness, to keep themselves unspotted from the world; and surely when iniquity abounds in a place we ought not to view it as an