

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The Ministers and Messengers of the Nova-Scotia and New-Brunswick Baptist Association, convened at St. John, N. B. June 23 and 24, 1819, to the Churches they represent, send Christian salutation.

DEAR BRETHREN,

WE have now been favored with another meeting of a social nature, as the Representatives of the Churches we stand connected with, and as an Associate body; we need not assign any other reason for addressing a letter to you, than what Paul assigned in Cor. 7, 12, which is, *That our care for you in the sight of God may appear to you.* Were we not careful for your best interest, we should be every way unworthy of the offices we fill in the respective Churches, of the confidence you place in us, and of the characters we sustain, as Christians, fellow members with you, messengers of the Churches, and Ministers of Christ. Paul and Timothy, in the passage above noticed, considered themselves in the sight of God, while they cared for and addressed the Corinthians; and God is our record also. Dear Brethren, how much we long, labor and pray for your welfare; we are partakers in your joys and sorrows, and have much reason to be thankful for the Blessings granted you. Some of you are favored with Gospel Ministers and privileges, are blessed with unity, and are increasing in number; we would show *our care for you*, by exhorting you never to undervalue such mercies, let not the constant enjoyment of them diminish their value, and never may you experience *a famine of the word of the Lord.* Others of you have no Pastors and only the occasional Ministry of the word and ordinance of God's House; therefore from carefulness for your welfare, we exhort you, *not to forsake the assembling of yourselves together as the manner of some is*, but exhort one another daily, with your eyes fixed upon the termination of your privileges, the coming of the day of God, and the Gospel trumpet silenced by that of the Archangel.

Our care of you will appear, by our desire that you will endeavor to hold the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace, and walk together in love; there will be many attempts made, to sow discord and gender strife among you. Yea to make your *minds evil affected towards each other*; to separate and scatter you; and among yourselves, men may arise, speaking perverse things: roots of bitterness may spring up and trouble you. But you will do well to attend to such passages as these; *study the things that make for peace; and things whereby one may edify another; Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem, they shall prosper that love her; for my brethren and companions sake I will say peace be within thee; I will prefer the peace of Zion above my chief good.* Mark those that make divisions, and have no fellowship with such men.

We are careful that your hearts may be established with grace; there are too many who are tossed to and fro with every wind of Doctrine, ever learning and never coming to the knowledge of *the truth.* We recommend stability in the Doctrines of Grace, and that are according to Godliness; those truths that equally maintain the honors of Grace and the interests of Holiness: for *by Grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves it is the gift of God*, not of works, lest any man should boast; for we are his workmanship created in Jesus Christ, unto good works which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. Now he that establisheth us together with you is God; we hope you will be fervent with

with God in pra-
tures, and const

Our care for y
every good wor
nigh unto cursin
and we fear the
awful a state, y
dresser prayed—
it, and if it bear
We pray the wa
be barren nor un
fruit, so shall ye

Our care also
Lord has others v
straight for us; h
—of the increase
shall be no end.

it accomplished;
fuse the savor of
others may be cor

We are likewis
the gifts and grac
may make it clea
greater usefulness
with. It is not a
tried by the Chur
should be encoura
mighty.

In this day, whe
on the other, we v
excellencies is nec
light soon becomes
in religion.

We are careful t
has assigned you, b
to his name, that yo
house of God, and a
ters, you may walk
ving yourselves w
Mothers, &c. you
well. As Children

in the sight of the I
lity adorning the do

Our care for you
power of religion in
and his Son Jesus C
and joy in believing
live in the flesh may
walk worthy of your
the Grace of God at
ness may follow you
of God forever.