

THE CANADA BAPTIST MAGAZINE.

No. 11.

MONTREAL, MAY, 1840.

Vol. III.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CANADA BAPTIST MAGAZINE.

SIR,—Believing your excellent periodical is open to temperate discussion, I beg leave to offer the following animadversions on a Circular Letter in your Number for March, 1840, by Dr. Davies, Teacher of a Theological Academy, Montreal.

Your's truly,

HOYES LLOYD.

New Glasgow, April 4, 1840.

TO DR. DAVIES.

SIR,—Having perused your Circular to the Churches on the subject of "Ministerial Education," a sense of duty constrains me to lift my feeble voice against your theory. And while I do so, I disclaim the most distant idea of hostility or disrespect to you, as a fellow-man, though erring from the truth. You set out with a most extraordinary position, viz., that you and those who assembled with you in their Synodical capacity at St. Andrew's, were come together "*to devise measures for promoting the peace and usefulness of your religious community.*" This appears to me to be a very sinful idea; inasmuch as in the Church of Christ there is no room left for human contrivance to devise. "The law of the Lord is perfect." Every truth the disciples of Christ are bound to believe, and every duty they ought to practise, are clearly and explicitly *devised* by infinite wisdom; and every other contrivance and device of the most sage and learned of men, is by the King of Zion denominated vain. "In vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men."—Matt. xv. 9. If in any instance we do not perceive our duty, the fault is our own, arising from our ignorance, pride, and carnality; and in no instance to be laid to the charge of ambiguity or imperfection in the Scriptures, which are "all given by inspiration of God."

That the disciples of Jesus are left at liberty to arrange their social order and observances by their conventional agreement and discretion, is a device that proceeded from the father of lies, and has been the fertile source from whence the "mystery of iniquity" issued forth in all its pious frauds and