

the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, except his own voluntary refusal to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ; which refusal will subject him to an aggravated condemnation."\*

Notwithstanding this explicit declaration of faith in the fullness and freeness of salvation by the Lord, yet in the year 1775, one of the largest and most intelligent associations in America discussed the following question, namely: "Is salvation by Christ made possible for every individual of the human race?"† This question was then decided in the negative!

The Baptists, however, increased very rapidly, amidst much opposition, and soon became the most formidable denomination in the United States. "The number of Regular Baptists in America, as reported in Allen's Register for 1833, was as follows: 309 associations; 5458 churches; 3204 ordained ministers; 402,863 communicants." During the last seven years the number has, doubtlessly, very much increased.

The first church formed in these provinces [N. B. and N. S.] was at Sackville, N. B. 1763, of *thirteen* persons, who had been members of the Baptist Church in Swansea, Massachusetts. These persons being disappointed with their new habitation, returned to New England. Subsequently there were a number of Baptists in various parts of the provinces, and an occasional preacher—several of the latter came as Missionaries from New England. According to Benedict, the Church in Horton appears to be the oldest in the provinces; in the "general table," however, he has left it without date, and the Cornwallis Church bears date 1776; but it appears from the above authority, that it was then a question whether the last named church was a Baptist or a New Light Church. It did not adopt close communion sentiments until 1807. The church in Chester was constituted in 1788, and that of Halifax in 1795. In 1812 the Nova Scotia and New-Brunswick association contained 19 Churches; 13 Ministers, and 1230 communicants. At present they probably number four or five, times as many churches, ministers, and members.

The reader will not suppose that we design any thing like a history. Our object is just to give a brief outline of the commencement of the Baptists in America, and their present state, as introductory to the rise of later sects.

The sentiments of the Provincial Baptists have been, until a short time, if not now, more highly Calvinistic than the brethren of the United States. Their articles are nearly word for word those of the "Westminster confession of faith," and are probably what the Baptists were in the United States fifty years since.

#### SEVENTH DAY BAPTISTS.

A Church of these was formed in Rhode Island about the year 1771. The latest accounts which we have, gives 18 Churches; 29 ministers, and 2862 members. "They hold, in common with other christians, the distinguished doctrines of Christianity." They differ

\* Ency. of Religious Knowledge—Article, "Baptists."

† Benedict's History of the Baptists, Vol. 2. page 56