

Resolved,—That this Association adjourn to meet with the First Salisbury Church on the Second Saturday in July 1860 at 2 o'clock P. M.

Resolved,—That the thanks of this Association be tendered to the friends in Hopewell for their kindness and hospitality during the Session.

JOHN MCKENZIE,  
JOHN S. TRITES.

GEO. F. MILES, *Moderator*.

## CIRCULAR LETTER.

*To the Churches comprising the Eastern N. B. Baptist Association.*

In this our annual epistle permit us to solicit your attention and consideration to a few remarks on the subject of the permanency of the pastorate; which subject you will unitedly admit to be of great importance. We are fully persuaded, because we have you in our hearts, that you hold the faith of God's elect—and therefore are peculiarly anxious that you should enjoy such means as will insure your advancement in the Divine life; but we would remind you that the means that give this warrant are only such as have been authorised and appointed by the great head of the Church, and no means comes to us with greater power and blessing than the preaching of the glorious gospel together with all the other labors of the Christian pastor. When we reflect upon the sacredness of the relationship that exists between the Church and its Pastor, we can but suppose the severing of those ties to be afflictive, therefore detrimental to the interests of the cause of God; neither can we be persuaded that such separation should take place unless good reasons for it can be assigned. Authority for it we have not found, though it has become an almost every day occurrence among us. Young men called of God to preach the gospel are chosen by churches to be their Pastors and to such choice in many instances tokens of divine approval are given, yet in a few months the relationship is broken up. We cannot conceive how this can be for the glory of God when changeable men can scarcely be persuaded to set his seal to an act that is to be disannulled in a few months. This course is not only pursued by those recently set apart to the work of the ministry, but in many cases those that have been long labouring as Christian Pastors have seldom if ever continued long enough in any one place to become fully acquainted with the wants of the people. In view of all this we ask is such a course right? The Bible and every right thinking man says no. It is dishonoring to God and injurious to his cause. Who, then, is benefitted? The churches certainly cannot be. We believe this is the greatest cause of the unceasing complaint of churches being without Pastors, and Ministers without churches; neither can there be a readier way to cripple a church and destroy its influence for good than to change its Pastor every year or two. Of this we have abundant proof in the history of the past. In almost every instance the churches that have been most prosperous, and have done their work efficiently, have been those that have continued the same Pastor until God in his providence removed him; while those that have been ever changing Pastors, and those that imagined they could do without Pastors, have in most cases come to nought. That such practice still exists among us we cannot deny; that the churches are not benefitted by it is evident. Who, then, are benefitted? Are the Ministers? Certainly not; whatever is injurious to the churches must be to the Ministers. It prevents them from storing their minds with useful know-