

Circular Letter.

FROM THE N. S. WESTERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION TO THE
CHURCHES OF WHICH IT IS COMPOSED.

Dear Brethren,

It is our purpose to set before you in this our Annual Epistle the *Scriptural Authority* for the Observance of the *First* day of the week as the Sabbath of the New dispensation.

It is of paramount importance that we recognize the authority of the law of God as respects every thing concerning which it speaks. That authority is supreme, it is divine. Man has no right to change its enactments in the least. No inconvenience, no opposition, no views of propriety should induce a departure from the authoritative requirements and teachings of Scripture. The Divine Law can in no respect be changed, except by its Author. It does not however follow of necessity that a formal or express enactment is requisite in order to change or modify some circumstance connected with the observance of a particular precept of that Law. Even the whole ceremonial law was abrogated without a formal and positive enactment to that effect. God may choose to intimate his will in respect to a change by certain significant facts which indicate his design, and at the same time afford intelligible ground for the change.

It is confidently believed that such facts exist as fully warrant the conviction that it is the Divine will that the weekly Sabbath should under the New Dispensation be celebrated on the *first* day of the week, instead of the seventh as originally enacted. It is a question of *time* only.