

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The Messengers of the Churches of Christ, composing the HALDIMAND ASSOCIATION, to the various Churches which they represent, send Greeting.

DEAR BRETHREN,

In accordance with our custom we send you our Annual Epistle. We have chosen for our theme,

The duty of the Churches to disseminate Bible truth in the destitute parts of this Province.

When the Blessed Redeemer was upon the earth he established *The* system of truth, commonly called the Gospel of the Son of God: to bring its immunities within the reach of mortals he led a suffering life, and died an ignominious death. In the days of his humanity he prayed his Father thus, "Sanctify them through thy truth, thy Word is truth."

The duty of the Churches of Christ to disseminate Bible truth appears *first*, in the fact that God has revealed himself to the world as a "God of Truth;" and enjoined the duty of dissemination upon us in the language of the Apostle Paul, "speaking the truth in love." Jesus, "the Truth," has ascended on high; he lives to intercede for us; we live to act as the "Stewards of the manifold grace of God:" there is to us no other name given, no hope but in Christ as revealed in the Gospel.

Are we deeply impressed with the fact that, when a "Spirit ascends to God" its destiny is for ever sealed for *weal* or *woe*? Could we but cast aside the veil of futurity and see the eternal impress of sorrow, or our ear catch the wail of a lost soul, methinks we would chide our cold hearts, and discover a just anguish o'er the fact of our deadness and apathy. At the expiration of the "Witness for the truth," the booming of the severed rocks,—the mourning sun,—the secret recesses of the tomb,—exhibited a sympathy with the sufferer; yet the dying love of Jesus for poor sinners calls upon us in a tone that "wakes the echoes of eternity." We sleep on! the faithful word declares "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, to give an account for the deeds done in the body, whether they be good or bad!" *Comparatively*, we heed it not. Great God!!!

Our duty appears—*second*—in this fact;—when God spoke peace to our souls we vowed to prove faithful to our trust. We have proved *recreant* to our vow. We consecrated our all to Him who bought us with his blood; we have "kept back part of the price." As a proof of this, *witness* ye, Backwoods of Canada! *witness* our neighbours and friends! *witness* thou barren soul! are we not guilty? "Be astonished, ye heavens, and be ye horribly afraid, be ye very desolate, saith the Lord, for my people have com-

Excluded.	Total.
8	114
1	31
	31
	31
15	51
6	94
144	145
15	
25	
23	
38	
34	
52	
24	
70	
193	
40	
74	
1081	
1046	
35	