

A Scotch Baptist Circular.

Communicated by Prof. Witton Davies.

EDINBURGH, Feb. 1822.

The Church of Christ, Meeting in
Pleasance, Edinburgh,

To the Church in Beverley: to the Deacons.

BELOVED BRETHREN,

In reference to our letter of May last, we have the pleasure of informing you, that we have received answers from all the Churches in the Connection, furnishing the necessary information, from which we have prepared, and now Annex as an Appendix to this letter, a condensed view of the intelligence communicated to us.

We sincerely rejoice that the Proposal of interchanging Annual Circulars, as formerly practised amongst us, has been received with much approbation by all the Churches, which we hope may be considered as a pledge that the measure will be persevered in, and that it may be blessed as a means of keeping up and increasing our interest in each other's welfare, of animating us in the great common cause in which we are engaged, and of leading us more earnestly to pray, That the great Head of the Church would pour out his Spirit upon us, and direct and bless our efforts for the extention of His kingdom.

On the contents of some of the letters, we think it may be proper to make a few remarks.

The letter from Kircaldy, earnestly recommends that some measure should be adopted for a re-union with those Churches from which we have of late years been disunited.

This is an event most earnestly to be desired, and no means for its accomplishment on Scriptural principles, should be omitted.

That from Dundee, suggests the propriety of a fund being collected among the different Churches, and place[d] at the disposal of this Church, for the assistance of such of the Elders in the Churches as require pecuniary aid.

This, in our opinion, would be placing the support of Elders on an unscriptural footing.—The Scriptures clearly shew the source from which this support should flow: "Let him that is taught in the word, communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things." Here, not only the duty is enforced, but the nature of the connection from whence the duty arises,—the duty of the taught to their teacher—of the flock to their pastor.

This letter further proposes, that one or more Elders should be placed in such circumstances that they could visit the other Churches, which might tend to animate and refresh them; and that the support of Elders should be more generally attended to among all the Churches.

The first of these objects would be gained by attention to the second; and, in regard to it, let each of the Churches for itself consider the clear rule of Scripture, and if they are in circumstances to follow it, not only they, but the profession at large will find their profit in it.

The letter from Nottingham, contains some just and striking remarks on the importance of sending forth persons to preach the gospel, of which we most

cordially approve. The paramount importance of this object must surely be deeply felt; it is not only our duty to pray that the Lord of the harvest would send forth labourers, but in connection with prayer, to use means for the improvement and encouragement of gifts in the Churches, to render them subservient to this object.

We cannot leave this subject, without remarking, that when we look at the aggregate number of members in the Churches, and consider the state of some of them, the prospect is by no means cheering. This should impress us deeply with the necessity of fervent prayer to the great Head of the Church, that he would strengthen the things that remain and are ready to die; that he would send down his Holy Spirit, to quicken and revive us, increasing our zeal for his glory, blessing his ordinances, and giving his word power and efficacy upon the hearts both of his own children and of sinners ready to perish.

We live, brethren, in a most eventful period, when exertions, beyond all example since the apostolic days, are making for the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom; it becomes us therefore, to beware of acting the part of cool indifferent spectators. Let us bestir ourselves, and according to the opportunities we possess, forward the great cause of truth and righteousness. Above all, let us be living witnesses for Christ, by all holy conversation and godliness, letting our light shine before men, that they, seeing our good works, may be led to glorify God.

In the annexed abstract, the state of the Churches is given as at August 1821.

In the letters to be sent this year by the different Churches, the alterations which have taken place within the year, will of course be particularized; and, as none have offered to be the medium of communication,

the letters may be addressed to this Church, until some other volunteer their services.—We shall expect your letter between and the month of August.—And, are, Beloved Brethren, for self and colleagues, yours in the Gospel

Wm SCOTT.

APPENDIX.

67 James's Squire, 12 March, 1822

N.B.—The Churches are arranged in alphabetical order.

	No of Members August 1821
1.—BEVERLEY.—(Including 4 at Hull, and 3 at Thorn	58
1 Pastor.—John Charleton.	
3 Deacons.—John Selly, John Brandham, And Richard Jameson. Mr Charleton Preaches in four of the neighbouring Villages.	
2.—DUNDEE	111
3 Pastors.—William Gourlay, Alexander Pirrie, and John Gilbert.	
4 Deacons.—Robert Torbet, Geo. Brown, Andw. Low, Wm. Gourlay, Jun.	
1 Preacher.—Chas. Robertson, who labours occasionally in the Neighbourhood.	
3.—EDINBURGH	292
2 Pastors.—William Braidwood, and William Peddie.	
7 Deacons.—John Campell, Robert Wilson Roberts Anderson, William Scott, John Marshall, Peter Elder, and George Mercer.	
6 Preachers.—Robert Wilson, William Pattison, Robert Anderson, David Ritchie, Henry Elder, and H. D. Dickie.—Preach-	

ing in the Sabbath Evening in the Meeting-house is regularly kept up and occasionally at other places as opportunities can be got.

- 4.—FORDFORGE 25
 2 Pastors.—John and Thomas Black.
 2 Deacons.—George Smith, and Mark Allan.
- 5.—GALASHIELS 32
 2 Pastors.—William Berry, and James Leitch.
 2 Deacons.—William Johnston, and James Rutherford.
- 6.—GLASGOW 67
 2 Pastors.—Andrew Duncan, and David Smith.
 2 Deacons.—Richard Duncan, and Thomas Duncan.
 The above number includes the Brethren
 at PAISLEY, ... 10
 LANARK ... 2
 KILMARNOCK 2
- 7.—KIRKALDY 75
 2 Pastors.—Charles Arthur, and William Scott.
 2 Deacons.—Ninian Lockhart, and George Henderson.
- 8.—LARGO 34
 2 Elders.—James Murray, and Roberts Kellock.
 2 Deacons.—William Robertson, and James Dick.
 The Church living in peace, and well attended by hearers, particularly on the Sabbath Evenings.

9.—LONDON	...	...	...	...	60
2 Elders.—James Blaikie, and Samuel Jones.					
3 Deacons.—William Bell, John Stewart, and J. Bobins.					
3 Preachers.—John Hunter, James Eyre, and J. Rothery.					
A part of the Lord's Day Morning and Evening, has of late been devoted to instructing the poor children in the Neighbourhood of the Meeting-house of whom upwards of 50 attend.					
				Carry over,	754
				Brought Forward	754
10.—MUSSELBURGH	...	...	...	...	12
1 Elder.—James Sanderson, and 1 Deacon.—Richard Stewart.					
11.—NEWBURGH	...	...	...	...	16
1 Elder.—James Wilkie and 1 Deacon.—William Sutherland.					
12.—NOTTINGHAM	...	...	...	...	132
2 Elders.—J. Bayley, and Ward.					
4 Deacons.—J. Storer, W. Sissling, J. Baley, and S. Slack.					
4 Preachers.—J. Robinson, and three others, who labour occasionally.					
Besides the regular meetings of the Church, there is preaching on the Lord's Day Evenings, at Nottingham, Linton, and Bassford, two Villages in the Neighbourhood; and a sermon at each of these places on the week-day Evenings.					
13.—PERTH	...	...	...	...	16
At present destitute of Elders, one having, during last year, removed to Largo, and					

the Other 2 Deacons.—John Paton, and Alexander Donald.

14.—STIRLING 20

3 Elders.—William Jaffrey, Archibald Shearer, and George Home.

1 Preacher.—George Donaldson.

2 Deacons.—John Paton, and William Bruce.

15.—WOOLER 14

1 Elder.—Robert Law.

1 Deacon.—James Halliday.

The Elder occasionally preaches in the Neighbourhood.

16.—WEST ALLERDEAN 10

2 Elders.—Walter Oliver, and William Dodds.

1 Deacon.—Edward Maukins.

Besides the foregoing, there are a few Brethren at the following places:—

LANE END, STAFFORDSHIRE ... 7

NEWCASTLE 3

And, ABERDEEN 7

991

P.S.—Feb. 1822.

The Brethren at the latter place, have, during the last month, been restored to the fellowship of the Churches, after correspondence with the Churches in Dundee and Edinburgh.