BAPTIST HISTORY

OF the Lower Provinces.

COUNTY OF DIGBY.

CHAPTER XXII.

Years rolled away subsequently to the Revival, with a description of which, we closed our last Chapter; and a spirit of equity was manifested in the Sissiboo Church. While the faithful few, among its faith and members in piety, were pursuant on all the appointments of the Church, many forgetful of their baptismal vows, had become tremendously chilled by worldly influences, and had apparently lost their former interest in the service of Zion. It proclaimed to children the name of Christ by gross and flagrant sins of startling immorality, it was morally certain that many of them were seldom found in the prayer and conference meetings, and that those pious affections, which they once evinced, were less evident and indwelling than their formerly were. Their names still remained on the records of the Church, but their seats were vacated, and the duties devolving upon them were not performed. The spiritual declension to which we refer is attributable, no doubt, to an unregenerated inconsistency with nothing in the social circle. The piety or worldly character is seldom proof against the spirit of the world, if they mingle freely amongst those who are strangers to grace. Social companionship exercises a powerful effect, either for good or for evil, upon the moral and spiritual identity of all who come within the scope of its influence. Strange, indeed, in the exercise of christian faith is that young convert, who can associate with the ungodly, and escape the seductive power of evil communications. Few are sufficiently fortified by grace to pass such a perilous ordeal uncontaminated. Those particular sins to which we are all of us liable—and the greatest innocence may be called of and pronounced; but indulgence proves clearly that every circle, which is not consecrated upon christian principles, is a dangerous one.

It was by too frequent and unnecessary intercourse with worldly companions, conformities of the prevailing manners of the Sissiboo Church, that many of its members were induced to offer to the world, and to the Church, the spectacle of a departure from the principles of the Gospel, and from the standard of christian consistency. Many were the sorrowful hours which the pastor and his flock spent in prayer, on account of the backsliding of those who had been the joy of their hearts, and who had been the means of bringing many souls to the Saviour. Many were the tears which were shed in secret, and many were the prayers which were offered up in the sanctuary, for the restoration of those who had fallen from their first love, and had wounded the cause of their Redeemer in the house of their friends.

Such was the state of the Church when the Revival commenced. It was a season of refreshing from the presence of the Lord, and many were the souls that were added to the Church. The Revival was not confined to any particular denomination, but it was a season of refreshing to all the Christian Churches in the County