

did interested and disingenuous interpretations begin to cloud the light which scripture might have thrown on ecclesiastical questions. The English version has hardly dealt fairly in this case with the sacred text, in reading *episcopous*, verse 28, *overseers*, whereas it ought there, as in all other places, to have been *bishops*, that the fact of *elders and bishops having been originally and apostolically synonymous* might be apparent to the ordinary English reader, which now is not." In his comment on 1 Tim. iii, 1, he says: "But the *episcopoi* (bishops) of the New Testament have officially nothing in common with our *bishops*."

Bishops Ellicott and Lightfoot teach substantially the same view. G. A. Jacob, D.D., in his Ecclesiastical Polity of the New Testament, says, on p. 72: "The only bishops mentioned in the New Testament were simple presbyters; the same person being a bishop—*episcopos*, i.e., a superintendent or overseer, from his taking an oversight of his congregation, as is distinctly shown by Acts xx. and other passages; and a presbyter—*presbuteros*, or elder, from the reverence due to age."

This agrees with the statement of Gibbon, the historian of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, who says: "The public functions of religion were solely entrusted to the established ministers of the church, the bishops and the presbyters, two appellations which, in their first origin, appear to have distinguished the same office, and the same order of persons. The name 'Presbyter' was expressive of their age, or rather of their gravity and wisdom. The title 'Bishop' denoted their inspection over the faith and manners of the Christians who were committed to their pastoral care. In proportion to the respective numbers of the faithful, a larger or smaller number of these *episcopal presbyters* guided each infant congregation with equal authority and united counsel. — Vol. I., ch. xv., pp. 555, 556; Boston edition, 1853.

Conybear and Howson, in the Life of St. Paul (Am. Ed. 1858), vol. II. p. 536, says: "The ordaining of *presbuteroi* (elders) in every city was a step always taken by St. Paul immediately on the foundation of each church (Acts xiv. 23). On the other hand, there are some points in the church organization described, which seem clearly to negative the hypothesis of a date later than the apostolic age; especially the use of *presbuteros* (elder) and *episcopos* (bishop) as synonymous."

Many other Episcopal authorities have expressed the same view,