

it may be convenient and profitable to request the advice of neighbouring churches of Christ. Acts i. 21—26 ; vi. 3—6 ; Mat. xviii. 15—18 ; Acts xv. 1—31 ; 1 Cor. v. 1—3 ; Rom. xvi. 17 ; 1 Thess. v. 14 ; 2 Thess. iii. 6.

5. A Bishop or Elder hath no more power to decide any case or controversy in the church than any private brother : yet they having superior gifts for teaching and ruling, ought to exercise and improve the same for the benefit of the church ; and the church ought to be subject to the gifts bestowed on the minister from the Lord, while he is rightly administering in his place, whose place it is to lead in the actings of the church, and to administer the ordinances of the gospel, and to devote himself to the work of teaching, warning, rebuking, and exhorting the people, publicly, and from house to house. Mat. xx. 25—29 ; 1 Pet. v. 3 ; Mat. xxviii. 19, 20 ; Acts xx. 20, 28, 31 ; 1 Thess. v. 12, 13 ; Heb. xiii. 17.

6. The Deacon's office or work is to take care of the poor, and to have the oversight of the temporal affairs of the church, and to minister at the Lord's table. Acts. vi. 1—5 ; 1 Tim. iii. 8—14.

7. Every believer is commanded to be faithful to improve every gift and talent which is bestowed on him ; in order to which, there ought to be such a gospel freedom that the church may know where every particular gift is, that it may be improved in its proper place, and to its right end, viz. the glory of God and the good of his people ; and the church ought to be subject to such improvements. 1 Pet. iv. 10, 11 ; v. 5 ; 1 Tim. iv. 14 ; 1 Cor. xii. and xiv. chapters ; Rom. xii. 4—8 ; Ephes. iv. 7—13.

8. There is a mutual obligation between minister and