

as Dr. Shepard contends for, and possessing all the authority claimed for them, there are certain questions that must be answered before the churches are bound to acknowledge or submit to these evangelists. 1st. When or at what period of time did these evangelists have a beginning in America : for we can easily fix a time when there were not one of this order of men on this Continent. Perhaps I may be told that the first of them was imported from Britain (like any other ware, I suppose) but this answer will not be deemed satisfactory. It only removes the difficulty to a greater distance, for we can again fix a time when there was not one of these evangelists even in Britain. 2nd. From whom did the evangelists of the present day receive their authority ; in other words who gave them this authority. According to Dr. Shepard the churches could not give them this authority, for he says the church has no authority. If evangelists have received a special call from the Lord to exercise this authority in and over churches, let them produce their credentials that we may examine them, for we are determined to probe this subject to the bottom. 3rd. Who are the parties or persons now to be acknowledged as evangelists ? Our country is overrun by a multitude of opposing sects, each and every one of these claim to be the true church, and excommunicates all the rest ; each claim that they have the true preachers or evangelists. Now when there are a multitude of competitors or candidates for any inheritance, office, or honor, there must be some discriminating rule by which we may be able to distinguish between the true heirs and false pretenders. Let Dr. S. produce this rule. 4th. What are the qualifications of evangelists. The qualifications of Elders, Deacons, and Deaconesses are minutely described in the christian scriptures ; when we see any person in some happy measure qualified for any of these offices, we consider this a reason or call to appoint the person to the office for which the Holy Spirit has qualified him. I maintain that it is incumbent upon Dr. Shepard to give us a clear rule by which we can discern between the true evangelists and false pretenders. If I understand brethren Sheppard and Errett, they are contending for a succession of evangelists, ordaining each other down from Timothy to Dr. Shepard. Let these brethren prove their genealogy or pedigree in a direct line from Timothy, and also that they have a right to exercise the same authority in the churches as Timothy received from Paul at Ephesus, and if they fail to do this, the churches are not bound to submit to them in the capacity claimed.

Perhaps I may be told that it is an easy matter to propose questions, and puzzling questions too, and that any one can do that. I freely admit this, and I also admit that the questions I have proposed may prove puzzling enough to those for whom they are designed ; but I deny that they are captious questions ; they are questions that must be answered before the churches are bound to acknowledge or submit to this order of men.

Before proceeding any farther I remark that much of the strife about