

of the Banner would say the churches did their duty, and could not consistently do any other thing.

I give it as my humble opinion that any man who says the church has no authority, or that evangelists have authority over churches, manifests a degree of ignorance in scripture knowledge that is very surprising, and no title of Dr. will be sufficient to give such a man the character of an able minister of the New Testament.

I shall now make a few remarks upon the term evangelist, for there seems to be some mysterious ideas attached to this term. The term evangelist occurs three times in the common version of the christian scriptures. Evangelists are one of the gifts given for the edifying of the body of Christ, Ep. 4 : 12. We read of the work of an evangelist, 2 Tim. 4 : 5. Phi. ip. (one of the seven) is the only man named in scripture who is actually called an evangelist, Acts 21 : 8.

Morison in his Bible Dictionary defines the term a preacher of the gospel, or proclaimer of glad tidings. Elder A. Campbell gives the same definition. T. F. agrees with this ; and even Dr. S. admits this to be the meaning of the term. The above authorities seem to be sufficient to settle the meaning of the term. It simply means a preacher of the gospel. The "Christian Baptist" says that christian mothers who make known to their children the glad tidings, are most worthy of the name (evangelist) of any persons now on earth, page 300. This work agrees with T. F. that a church has authority to send a preacher to those who stand in need of his service, page 586. Shepard (if I understand him) maintains that evangelists are continually needed to move among the churches to ordain elders, organize new churches, and correct any disorder that may arise in the churches. Elder Campbell on the other hand says, the office evangelist as a proclaimer of the gospel was always contingent ; he was needed in some places ; he compares him to the prophets of old occasionally needed, and he adds, "But when christian congregations cover the country and walk in the instituted order of the new institution, such persons will not be necessary any more than a standing army in time of peace."

Experience proves that evangelists have their faults like others, and it appears to me that it is not only unscriptural but extremely imprudent to give evangelists such power and authority as is claimed for them by brethren Shepard and Errett.

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Although we fail to see that the preceding adds the least strength to brother Sillar's general argument against friend Shepard, it is willingly inscribed upon our pages, seeing that he regards it as of importance.

We are very much gratified that the address published a year ago relative to evangelists and evangelizing is making a stir. Good will grow out of it. Truth fears neither investigation nor opposition. None of us would ever learn anything if we gravely convinced ourselves that