

was, "look ye out seven men of good report, whom *we** may appoint over this business."

But the office of the Ministry was unconnected with this duty of charitable distribution; and was even found inconsistent with an attention to its details. The Apostles complained that their time was withdrawn from preaching and prayer to "serve tables;" and it was on this ground that they recommended the appointment of Deacons, whose very title implies the nature of the duties which they were to perform.

They who discharged this office well, St. Paul says, purchased to themselves good "degrees;" attained to a respectable station in the Church; and were frequently promoted to become Preachers of the Gospel. But the Ministers appear to have been always chosen, as well as ordained by Apostles; St. Paul "chose" Silas, when St. Barnabas "determined to take" Mark†; and the former Apostle likewise selected Timothy and Titus, whom he not only ordained, and consecrated Apostles or Bishops of his own sole authority; but he commissioned them also to "ordain elders, (presbyters, or priests,) in every "city;" and he furnished them with directions respecting the nature of those qualifications, which should guide them in *their* choice of the

* The well-known fraud of the Puritans, in misprinting this word "ye" for "*we*," affords a convincing evidence that the original is unanswerably on our side.

† Acts xx., 37—40.