

### DISCOURSE III.

*"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning."* ROM. xv. 4.

IN former sermons, I directed attention to some mistaken views with which many persons read the Scriptures of the New Testament, when they search them for the purpose of identifying the Apostolic form of Church Government. In order to correct these views, and to enable enquirers fairly and successfully to perform their task, two points are to be remembered. First, that the Christian Church is not so much a new organization, as an enlargement and remodelling of an old one; that the Church of the old Dispensation bears to the Church of the new, a relation very similar to that which the Old Testament bears to the New Testament; the New being *enveloped* in the Old, and the Old being *developed* by the New. The second point to be kept in view is, that the New Testament was not written with the intention of conveying either at the time its authors wrote, or since, any such information as we express by the words Canons, Constitution and By-laws of Church Government. Having been written long after the Church was established in a great part of the world, and addressed to members of