

either when they are mentioned together, presbyters and bishops, or elders and bishops, are never individually named at the same time, as though they were two separate orders of ministers. But on the contrary, the names of elder, or presbyter and bishop are used alternately to designate the same order. As a sample of such alternate use of these names, we would direct attention to the Epistle to Titus, i. 5-7, which reads as follows:—"For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldst set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee, if any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children, not accused of riot or unruly. For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God, 'not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre—but a lover of hospitality, etc.'" Nothing is more evident than that Elders and Bishops are here spoken of as one and the same order. "To say ordain presbyters, for a bishop must be blameless, is like saying crown the sovereign, for a king must be crowned." As sovereign and king would here be considered as synonymous terms; so those of Elder and Bishop, as used above, can be nothing less or more than synonymous. Nearly the same terms are used by the Apostle in his First Letter to Timothy, iii. 1-4, only the word elder is left out, but the honest inquirer after truth will at once admit that the reason must be because the terms are synonymous. The same in Acts xx. 17. Thus much then for the title. We come now to examine the qualifications and powers of the office of Bishop.

As far as the authority given to Bishops by the act of ordination is concerned, we believe it to be the same as that of presbyter, and nothing more. Indeed, if there is any superiority it is found with the presbyters—if we undertake to separate these orders (which we have no sanction in scripture for doing), for the presbyters alone are said to have practised ordination. It may be asked, then, if presbyters have the same power to ordain, which are vested in a bishop by virtue of their