

A. Pro-istamenos, or ruler, and applied to the regular Ministry.

Q. What passage do they most rely on as favouring their views?

A. 1 Tim. v. 12, where such a distinction as they speak of seems to be made.

Q. What does the word elder literally mean?

A. An old man?

Q. Where do we first find it applied to an office?

A. In the Old Testament where under the Jewish Theocracy, and afterwards it was used to signify a civil officer.

Q. Is not the same phraseology generally employed in the New Testament?

A. Yes! Here the word *presbuteros*, or elder, is generally however applied to a *religious* officer, the minister of the Gospel.

Q. Who were the elders then mentioned in the New Testament in connection with the Scribes and Pharisees?

A. A well known and honoured body of civil rulers.

Q. How then may the passage they dwell upon properly apply?

A. To religious, and to civil governors.

Q. How does Beza the great Continental Reformer use the word, *pro-estos*?

A. As referring to the office of a Bishop or chief spiritual ruler.

Q. How does the learned Mr. Meade interpret the passage.

A. As above, that by the "elders who rule well," are to be understood, *civil rulers*, and "those who labour in word and doctrine," *ministers of the Gospel*.

Q. How may we fully explain it?

A. All rulers are to be esteemed for their office sake. Those who *rule well* are worthy of *double honour*, and while this is due to civil magistrates, more especially is it due to the clergy as *spiritual* rulers.

Q. Upon what basis does Dr. Chalmers place their system of ruling elders?

A. That of "modern practice."