

and the mode of its treatment:—The moral and spiritual tone of the present age,—your peculiar position,—and the character of the place in which the service is held. I will direct your minds to 2 Timothy i. 13—“Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.” I purpose to consider,

1. *The office and position of those to whom this advice is given.* Now, without attempting to define precisely the exact relationship which Timothy bore to the Church, (for all this has been questioned), I may just remind you of the titles the Apostle gives him in these Epistles:—“‘A minister of the Lord Jesus Christ,’ ‘a preacher,’ ‘teacher,’ ‘exhorter’ of the word; he speaks of him as ‘a man of God,’ and one who is ‘a ruler in the Church.’” And unto these positions you, to-night, as you have stood before this congregation, and as you have been questioned in the presence of these people, have declared that you have been moved by the Holy Spirit to give yourselves. In the New Testament the ordinary spiritual officers of the Church, are called Presbyters or Elders, and Bishops or Overseers or Superintendents, and Deacons; but of the Diaconate I purpose not to speak. Now I need hardly tell you in reference to these two words, that one of them is taken from Judaism and the synagogue, and is ecclesiastical in its origin; and the other is from the Greeks, and their subject states, and is of political origin. In the selection of these two words we have presented the fulness and the breadth of the Christian Church, which selects equally from Judaism and Paganism, the names of its chief officers. The one,—Elder refers to personal character, one who is aged, or if not aged, exhibits the qualities of mind that belong to age—reverence of disposition, gravity of manners, soundness of judg-