

the order in which he is placed by the gift of God."

"So likewise our Apostles knew by our Lord Jesus Christ, that there should contentions arise about the name of the Bishopric. And therefore having a perfect foreknowledge of this they appointed persons, as we before said, and then gave direction how when they should die, other chosen and approved men should succeed in the ministry."

IGNATIUS says:—"I exhort you that ye study to do all things in a divine concord; your Bishops presiding in the place of God; your Presbyters in the place of the Council of the Apostles; and your Deacons most dear to me being entrusted with the ministry of Jesus Christ." In his Epistle to Polycarp, this communication is made through him to the Church at Smyrna,—*"Attend to the Bishop that God may attend to you. I am of the same mind with those who are subject to the Bishops, the Presbyters and the Deacons."* In his Epistle to the Ephesians:—"It becomes you to acquiesce in opinion of your Bishop which you do."

I might cite many pages from these writings, all showing that in the last days of the Apostles and during the succeeding ages all Church authority was vested in the ministry. Are these emphatic utterances to go for nothing? Even the learned among the Congregationalists, if I am correctly informed, agree with the statements of the earliest and most eminent Historians that the Epistles of Clement were written long before St. John's Vision in Patmos and before the date of