

passages in support of a plurality of Deacons, although even these are sufficiently numerous to prove a plurality in every church.

The intention of the writer of this article, is to lay before the readers of the *Christian Banner* the scripture evidence in support of a plurality of Elders in every church, as it is thought by many that this subject is too much overlooked: but before proceeding we would observe, that we suppose that it will be admitted by the readers of the *Christian Banner* that the terms Elder, Pastor, Bishop, Overseer, &c., all refer to the same class of office bearers.

As the church at Jerusalem was the first church planted by the apostles we shall begin there, and we find the Elders of that church mentioned in the following places, Acts xi. 30.; chapter xv. 4. 6. 22. 23.; chapter xxi. 18.; in every one of these places the Elders are spoken of in the *plural*, and plurality of Elders in every church, was considered so essential; that even the church at Jerusalem that enjoyed the labors of so many of the Apostles, had a plurality of Elders. We learn from Acts chapter xiii., that Paul and Barnabas, after being set apart by fasting and prayer, were sent forth from Antioch, and preached the gospel in many places; it also appears that many Believed, churches were formed, and we are told that they ordained them *Elders in every church*, Acts xiv. 13. Any common sense reader will see that a plurality of Elders was here ordained in every church. Again we find that Paul from Miletus sent to Ephesus and called the Elders of the church. Acts xx. 17. The reader is respectfully requested to read the whole of this solemn address, as it contains much valuable instruction for Pastors and people. Throughout the whole the apostle addresses them in the *plural* number. The epistle to the Philippians is addressed to all the saints, with the Bishops, and Deacons, if this text is any proof of a plurality of Deacons in every church; the proof is equally strong for a plurality of Elders in every church. Again, Paul says to the Thessalonian church, "We beseech you brethren; to know them that labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake." That this has reference to the Elders of the church is without a doubt, and the plural number is also made use of, Thes. v. 12. Paul in writing to Timothy says, "Let the Elders that rule well, be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in word and doctrine," 1 Tim. v. 19.; and again, "the things thou hast learned of me, commit thou to faithful men who shall be able to teach others also;" 2. Tim. ii. 2. Paul says to Titus, "for this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou should set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain *Elders* in every city, as I had appointed thee" The writer to the Hebrews, says, remember them who have the rule over you, who have spoken to you the word of God, and again, "obey them who have the rule over you, for they watch for your soul;" and again, "salute them who have the rule over you" Heb. xiii. 7. 17. 24. James says, "Is any sick among you? let him call for the Elders of the church, and let them pray over him" Peter says, "the Elders which are among you I exhort to feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint