

authority to do, in opposition to Dr. S. who said the church has no authority. We have had I do not know how many articles about evangelists in the pages of the Banner within the last six or eight months. The first of these (in the Oct. No., 1856) signed T. F., contains valuable matter. It should be read, re-read, and read again. T. F. and Dr. S.'s articles are in direct opposition to each other upon a most important point, namely, whether churches or evangelists are highest in authority.

T. F. maintains that the churches have authority to educate, choose, call, appoint, or ordain, and send forth evangelists; in other words, churches have authority to make or consecrate evangelists. Dr. S. on the other hand says the church has no authority. He represents evangelists as a *superior order* of men, having the sole power or authority to make churches, in other words to form and organize churches, choose and ordain overseers and deacons, also authority over churches even so far as publicly to reprove elders. He also constitutes evangelists a court of appeal for settling differences arising between members of the same church. See his address. Now, although these contradictory statements have found their way into the pages of the Banner, without any remarks from our editors, they cannot be both scriptural. If the one is right, the other is wrong. It is for the reader to examine and judge for himself. As I agree with T. F., I shall now attempt to prove that he is on scripture ground, and if I succeed it will necessarily overthrow Dr. Shepard's position.

I now proceed to prove T. F.'s position, viz; that churches have authority to choose, call, appoint, and send out evangelists, missionaries, or messengers, I care not which of these names be given them. By turning to the book of the Acts, chap. 8, we find that a great persecution arose against the church at Jerusalem, and they were all scattered abroad except the apostles. Those scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word. Some traveled as far as Antioch; the hand of the Lord was with them; many believe and turned to the Lord. Here we have a swarm of evangelists: (evangelists, did I say? Yes, reader, evangelists. The term evangelist means neither more nor less than a preacher of the gospel, and these were preachers, and successful preachers too,) without call or ordination, preaching the best way they could and their labors abundantly blessed. Tidings of these things came to the ears of the church of Jerusalem, and they (the church) sent forth Barnabas that he should go as far as Antioch, Acts 11: 22. Now observe, this was a *deed* of the church at Jerusalem, and this one passage proves *all we proposed*; the church calling, appointing, and sending an evangelist and limiting his mission to go far as Antioch.

Again, the church at Antioch consecrates and sends Barnabas and Saul forth as evangelists, Acts 13: 1—4. Again, this same church sends messengers to Jerusalem about circumcision, and the Jerusalem church, including apostles and elders, sends back messengers or evangelists to Antioch. Let the reader now consult Acts 15: 2, 3, 4, 22, 23,