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NEW TESTAMENT EPISCOPACY.

The Rev, T. BINNEY, of London, in an address at the late meeting of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, on the subject of the contemplated Augmentation Fund, is reported as saying :—

“ I think you are not in a condition to take this matter up if you will not go into the fundamental question as to what it is that constitutes a minister, as to whether you are to recognize everybody and consider that half-a-dozen people in a village may make a pastor. Before you settle that question you cannot go into the idea of a sustentation fund. I think we err in two respects. Though it may be very heterodox in me to say so, I do not think we are quite apostolical in our church government. I think we do not carry out our principles of Independency far enough in one direction, and I think we ought to perfect them with a little more of apostolical development in another direction. Why should all these people in a village have paid pastors? Why should every little handful of men in a village have a minister to be paid and who is not to touch work? Your Congregational principles make provision against that, for you believe that any number of men may meet together and edify one another. I think if there was a little more of the idea that men who profess to be Congregationalists might, upon their own principles, meet together to edify one another, and not have the expense of supporting a paid minister who does nothing, it would be far more apostolical. Then, again, why should these little societies be called and constituted independent churches? Why should they not be associated as branches of a central church? and why should you not call forth your educated laity, your men who can stand up at political meetings or corporation meetings, who can be made common councillors and mayors, and come forward and make speeches, and who, if they would bring the same talents to bear upon Christian work, might be as local preachers going out from a central church to visit these little churches? I believe they might in this way do a great deal of good, and in many cases remove the necessity of a paid minister. I have said that we do not go far enough in another direction. I believe in the epistles of Timothy; you do not. (Laughter.) I believe that in the epistles of Timothy there is a rudimentary element of a moderate episcopacy. I think we ought to come to that. There ought to be in every county some individual of experience and intelligence, with or without, (I should prefer without) an independent charge of his own, who should have the superintendence of the whole district, and that he should have associated with him a council of laity from these different churches. If such men were to exercise a superintendence, both spiritual and temporal, over the whole diocese, so to call it, I think you would be more apostolical, and be able to do a great deal more good. There