

others. See J. Knox's address last July to the Prince Edward Island Association, 500 copies of which have been printed by order of the brotherhood on the Island. Brother Knox boldly maintains that each church has authority to manage and transact all its own affairs, including the choosing and ordaining all its own office-bearers. He also produces a considerable number of witnesses advocating the same thing. Elders Franklin and Campbell maintain the very same, as the reader will see by consulting the Feb. No. of the Banner for 1857, pages 48 and 59; also Christian System page 176, and Christian Baptist pages 260 and 261, where the right is maintained of each church to choose and ordain all its own office-bearers, without calling to their aid the assistance of any foreign bishop, deacon, or other officer. Here then is an opponent worthy of Dr. Shepard's steel near his own door in the person of A. Campbell. Why then did not Dr. S. attack Elder C.? The reason, no doubt, was, that he was afraid the aged warrior was still able to handle the sword of the Spirit, and that it would be safer to make a noise about people that were out of hearing. [—In view of these words, it is proper to observe that it will be news to friend Shepard and those acquainted with him to hear that he is 'afraid' of any man in America. There are men on the American Continent who possess more influence and perchance a greater measure of that element which we call devotion; but for close, compact, concentrated logic, it is a question with many if Dr. Shepard has his superior. D. O.—]

I shall now give a brief statement of some of the leading views and practices of the Scotch Baptists. They maintain that each church is an independent community, fully authorized to interpret the Bible for itself, preach it, attend to its discipline and government, as well as receive and exclude members. They reject all creeds, confessions of faith, and religious formulas of every description, as being not only useless but injurious, causing divisions and strife, and maintain that the scriptures are a perfect and complete rule of faith and practice. They form their churches upon the primitive plan, contending as much as possible for a plurality of elders and deacons in every church. Their elders are ordained or set apart by fasting, prayer, and laying on of hands, and their deacons are set apart by prayer and laying on of hands. In the choosing of these the Scotch Baptists are guided by the directions contained in the letters to Timothy and Titus. The duty of elders is considered to be, to lead and preside in the worship and discipline of the church, to watch over and feed the flock, teach, exhort, admonish, comfort, warn and approve as occasion may require. The elders are by office rulers in the church, to preserve order and decorum; in a word, the elders have the charge of superintending the spiritual concerns of the church. The deacons are the public servants, treasurers, and almoners of the church, having the charge of all monies collected by the church, distributing the same under the direction of the church. It is their business to look after the poor and see that their wants are regularly supplied; also provide bread and wine for the Lord's table, and place the same before the presiding elder for the time being, at