

CIRCULAR LETTER.

THE PASTOR'S OFFICE AND RELATION TO HIS CHURCH.
BY REV. JOSEPH CAHILL.

Being impressed with the importance of the Pastor's office and the vital union he bears to the church, we beg leave to address to you dear Brethren on this subject, this our Circular Letter.

THE PASTOR'S OFFICE.

Of all callings that of the Pastor or under-shepherd is the most sacred. In its origin it is divine. It belongs distinctively to God and Christianity.

The Protestant Pastor goes forth, not a mere professional official or humanly appointed priest but a divinely commissioned and God called laborer in the Vineyard of his Lord. His credentials are from on high. "Called not of men or by men but by Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised him from the dead." He who goes forth upon mere human authority, armed alone with intellectual power will not slay the Goliaths who defy the Lord's host.

The Pastor's hope of success is, that God has called and qualified him, and hence will approve and bless him in the work.

THE PASTOR'S OBJECT.

is to bring men to Christ ; the noblest that can occupy the mind. This implies more than adding names to a church-book, or even the gathering in of sinners. The Pastor may toil, unaided by the church : he may see many brought into the field, and yet Zion may languish and the spiritual life's blood of the church be at a low ebb.

The building up of Christian character is as important a work as the conversion of sinners. If the Pastor succeed in