

a Greek word with an English termination, and the latter, a translation of that Greek word into pure English. To avoid confusion, I shall only use the word *presbyter*, as having less ambiguity.

It seems that *presbyters* were the ordinary ministers of the Church. Paul and Barnabas, in their first tour from Antioch, *ordained them* *presbyters* in every church<sup>1</sup>. Paul being in haste to be at Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost, determined to sail by Ephesus, and called the "*presbyters of the Church*"<sup>2</sup>, giving them his parting advice, as to ordinary ministers of the Church. Paul left Titus in Crete, to "*ordain presbyters in every city*"<sup>3</sup>. The business of *ruling* and *teaching* the flock belongs to them. "Let the *presbyters* that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine"<sup>4</sup>.

The terms *bishop* and *presbyter*, are used in the New Testament for the same kind of minister. There are five passages from which this appears to be the case. When St. Paul sent from Miletus for the *presbyters* of Ephesus, he commanded them "to take heed to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost had made them *overseers*, (it is the same word in the original, which is elsewhere translated *bishops*), to feed the Church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood"<sup>5</sup>. St. Paul says to Titus, "For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest ordain *presbyters* in every city, as I had appointed thee. If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children, not accused of riot or unruly; for a *bishop* must be blameless"<sup>6</sup>, &c. In these two passages, the terms are clearly synonymous.

The same apostle addressed his Epistle to the Philippians, "To all the saints in Christ Jesus,

<sup>1</sup> Acts xiv. 23.

<sup>4</sup> 1 Tim. v. 17.

<sup>2</sup> Acts xx. 17.

<sup>5</sup> Acts xx. 28.

<sup>3</sup> Titus i. 5.

<sup>6</sup> Titus i. 5—7.