

## TEACHERS AND TEACHING.

We have received a private communication from a brother in the western part of the Province, in which he informs us that in the region where he resides and labours as a minister there are individuals calling themselves Disciples, professing Baptist principles; and yet teaching erroneous and dangerous doctrines. "They repudiate all ministers as not being necessary, and contrary to the gospel. They deny the existence of the Holy Spirit, as a person in the Trinity;—and say the Spirit is in the Word, that Jesus Christ is not God equal with the Father." &c. It is really matter of wonder that such teachers should in a land of Bibles obtain a second hearing; but it is still a patent truth that men have itching ears. We have only to think of the success which has crowned the efforts of the darkest apostate from the truth in all ages; the success which has, in enlightened lands, attended the irrational ravings of the Mormon fanatics; we have only to think of the gifted minds who have been bewildered amid the reveries of Emanuel Swedenbourg, in order to be convinced that no teacher, however impure his life or destructive his doctrines will fail to secure disciples. In the sentiments above mentioned, and said to be taught in Canada, the gospel system is not even discernable, all that is valuable in the plan of justifying the ungodly, and much that is essential to the order of a Christian church is completely ignored. They regard all ministers as unnecessary. This is exalting human wisdom above the wisdom which the Holy Spirit teaches. It would be difficult to conceive how any arrangement could be more unequivocally stated, than is the arrangement concerning pastors—The qualifications of Bishops are specifically given, their duties as rulers and teachers distinctly stated and the nature and extent of their authority clearly indicated, while the brethren are taught to submit to their authority, to give them a generous support, for the labourer is worthy of his hire, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. In the days of the apostles, Elders or Bishops were ordained in every city, and for the very purpose of completing the order of the churches. And the divine injunction "lay hands suddenly on no man," exhibits the care which the Spirit has taken to guard the sacred office against being filled by persons not qualified for such an important position. We reject in toto the dogma of a successional order in the church of Christ, and all the mummerly and nonsense therewith connected; but must ever contend for that God-established institution, the pastor's office. Churches are not complete without these officers, and to be voluntarily without them, must be displeasing to God. How wretched the teaching that would annihilate the office altogether.

But the second error specified is infinitely worse than the first. It is twofold: first, the divinity of the Spirit is denied; and second, His work amongst men. The first sentiment is destructive to the soul that is enlightened by Bible truth, and ought to be resisted and deprecated by God's people wherever it exists. Who but a divine being could accomplish the Spirit's work. But we shall speak more fully of the divinity of the Spirit in our next issue. The sacred sentiment,