

known to the primitive disciples, as is their philanthropy and zeal to the professors of our day ; who, if their chests should once expand with the love of God and man, as did the chests of the primitive Christians, they would imagine themselves afflicted with a congestion of the lungs, and if the great thought of converting all the nations, should enter their heads, they would fear a fit of apoplexy. So unused are we to such a magnitude of thought, and to such expansive benevolence. Still the church is a missionary organization, and only needs the missionary spirit. Thank the Lord, this is found on the increase here.

A thorough missionary organization, such as characterized the Apostolic age, is greatly needed at this time. We need competent Evangelists to travel through the country—to set in order the things which are wanting, and ordain Elders and Ministers in every church and city where persons who are qualified can be found. This is the proper business of Evangelists. The Scriptures give this authority to no other persons. The incompetency of many churches to select and ordain these officers has been exemplified in very many instances. Not one man out of a dozen who has been appointed to these offices is eligible, according to the law of God.

To evade the force of the evidence which the Christian Scriptures contain in favor of the divine authority of Evangelists over churches and church officers, the objection has been raised that there are now no Evangelists in the New Testament sense. We have already shown the perpetuity of that office, but promised to notice the subject still farther. This we now attempt. The objection rests on two facts. First, that Evangelists, in the primitive church could work miracles ; and second, that no men can now do this. This, they say, proves that there are now no Evangelists. This reasoning proves entirely too much. It proves that there is no Christian church now ; for, as a community, the church possessed spiritual gifts in all its officers. Nay, indeed, it proves that there are no believers or christians now ; since all the disciples of that age had some spiritual gift.

The Apostle teaches that spiritual gifts would cease, but not that the church should cease, nor that Evangelists, Elders, nor Ministers should cease.

The Evangelists, with their official auxiliaries, are not legislative but executive officers—not makers, but executors of law. Jesus is King, and the Christian Scriptures contain his code. No officer in his kingdom has the authority to make or amend a single law.