

laying on of the hands of the brethren of the Presbytery, to the office of the pastorate, as their life's business, to which they are to consecrate all their time and strength; whereas the ruling elders are ordained by prayer alone, by authority of the Session, and do not enter into obligations as to the amount of time they are to take from their secular calling to devote to their spiritual functions in the Church, but only undertake to serve the congregation, as occasion demands, from their leisure and with what energy they are possessed of, after the discharge of their ordinary duties of life. The Ministers and Elders, therefore, stand upon two distinct platforms in the matter of ordination. At the same time, the fact that Elders give up even a portion of their time and strength gratuitously to church work, very properly increases their influence and deepens the gratitude and respect of the members of the Church.

5. *In the Higher Courts.*—It is in the Session and congregation that the relative status of the Minister and Elder is determined, as it is the sphere in which the latter is specially elected and ordained to fill; and while the Minister is *ex officio* a member of the Presbytery, an Elder does not of necessity ever obtain a seat in any of the higher courts. Many elders never appear in them, because not chosen representative elder. When he appears in the Presbytery as representative Elder, he is no more than an Elder, and acquires no elevation of status, and when he meets his Minister on this new platform, his relation to him is nowise altered; and they are placed on the roll of Presbytery in two distinct classes. Then, no Elder is appointed representative for longer than a year at a time. These limitations, even if the way were open to him otherwise to be elected Moderator of Presbytery, would amount to a practical disqualification for the office. But no stress is laid on this point. Stress is, however, laid on the next point I make. The remit does not propose to change the rule which prescribes that the Minister is *ex officio* the Moderator of the Session. Not only is the pastor, in virtue of his office, Moderator of the Session, but in case of a vacancy, or when the Minister is absent, the Elders cannot constitute themselves into a legal session, but some neighboring Minister is sought to come and preside over it. So serious are some of the matters coming before sessions that only "pastors and teachers" are held to be competent to deal with them efficiently, and give effect to the findings of the Court. The supporters of the Remit apparently acquiesce in the need to have a Minister preside over a session; but they overlook the fact