

distinction between Ruling and Teaching Elders."

St. Peter was surely a Presbyter, and we find him saying, "The Elders which are among you I exhort, *who am also an Elder.*"

### The Duty of Systematic Beneficence.

BY FREEMAN DENNIS, ESQ., YARMOUTH, N. S.

For years past the attention of the Christian Church has been directed to the subject of proportionate giving. It happily is among the questions of the day. Nor can it be doubted that many Christian men and women in the Church are beginning to ask themselves the question, "What proportion of my income ought I to give to the cause of God?" and the question has been discussed repeatedly with great ability by such men as Rev. Jno. Ross, of Hackney, London; Henry Constable, of Cork; Dr. Morgan, Belfast; Robert Spence, and many others; and the conclusion they arrived at is, that if we take the word of God for our guide, no Christian ought to give less than one-tenth of his whole income towards the support of the Gospel, and to give or lay part by, on the first day of the week, as God has prospered him.

If Christian men would realize their obligation to give at least a tenth of their income for beneficent purposes, there would be no want of funds to carry on the cause in this or any other land. Until this is done, we have reason to fear that the world will never be converted to Christ; for, unless God works by miracles, one missionary to half a million of people, as is the case in some heathen lands, will be a long while bringing about that state of things "when Christ shall see the travail of his soul and be satisfied."

Although every one cannot go into all the world to preach the Gospel, yet every one can contribute a little to the sustenance of those who do, and help in sending forth more labourers into the field. All Christians should view themselves as God's stewards, and remember that they will be called to give an account of their stewardship, "For the earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof."

"The silver and the gold are mine, saith the Lord of Hosts." "All souls are mine." If we would see a picture of man's exact position before God, given by our Saviour Himself, we will find it in the parable of the talents. Who are they to whom the talents are given? They are all of them the servants of God, and the talents are God's goods that He has given them, and they are given to His stewards to use for the glory and praise of the giver. True, to some is given more than to others, but all are in their proportion as God has given them, on the same footing—that of managers in trust, and under a grave responsibility, having the care of another's goods. It is apparent enough that riches are not the only talents entrusted to man as spoken of here; but they are certainly among them, and not the least important of them. What would we think of a man who was entrusted by his friend with property, who, during that friend's absence, appropriated it to himself, and on his return denied that he had done any wrong? We should think that he was untrue to his trust, and possibly pass severe condemnation upon him; and, alas! how many are the transgressors. God has given them wealth, and the power and opportunity of getting wealth, but they have said, with prosperous and covetous Israel of old, that it was of their own power and the might of their own hand, and the strength of their own intellect, that they have done it all: they look not to Him who gave them the opportunity and the talents to make money—to Him who has watched over their property by sea and land, but bound their vision by the narrow horizon of their own making, and will not look beyond it lest they should discover that they are, after all, in God's own world. As remarked in the beginning, there are many who ask themselves how much ought I to give of my whole income to the cause of God and charitable purposes? Let us turn to the Word of God, which should be our rule of faith and practice, and we will there find that one-tenth of all that God gives us is the smallest proportion we should give to Him; and the Bible teaches us that we should lay by, on the first day of the week, as God has prospered us. A short glance at the Old Testament will