

these qualifications no man was eligible to the office of Elder, Pastor, Bishop, or Overseer. Such as possessed them were by these very possessions *pointed out* by the Holy Ghost as the parties for the office as certainly as David was when the sons of Jesse passed in review before the Prophet Samuel. Heavy were the responsibilities of their office to themselves and to their charge—"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to *all the flock* over which the *Holy Ghost hath made* you overseers, to feed the church of God which he hath purchased with his own precious blood." So also 1 Peter v. 1-2. They watched for souls as those who had to give account to God. If their responsibilities were heavy and their duties onerous their promised reward was great. Peter told them, "when Jesus, the Chief Shepherd, shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory which *fadeth not away*." Surely to be rewarded by such a chief, with such a gift, for the observance of such pleasant though onerous duties, would induce them to devote all those qualifications which marked them out for the office joyfully to the edification, comfort, and perfection of the churches over the which the Holy Ghost hath made them overseers, which "God hath purchased with his own blood." Have the churches such officers still? But on the threshold of this enquiry there is one which seems to claim precedence. Does the church of Jesus Christ exist—has it not long since been extinct—is it not become a matter of history—a thing of the past? Jesus Christ said, the gates of hell shall not prevail against my church—my church shall never die. It lives, then! Where? Wherever is found a company of reformed sinners, who upon faith in the Son of God, have been immersed for the remission of their sins, and who keep the ordinances as given by the Apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ, there is a church of Jesus. Falling back upon the saying of our Lord, such has ever been, is now, and shall be until he come. Along with its existence the office of Elder has ever been in the church. To such as ask for apostles, prophets, workers of miracles, &c. we simply have to say, that we require to be enlightened as to these being standing institutions in the church of Christ. They appear to me to be no more needed than is the scaffolding of a building after the house has been erected. But this cannot be affirmed of Elders. Does not nature itself teach the necessity of such officers? Although Christ's church is composed of saved sinners, they are not without the need of such office-bearers. What Christian, in the face of facts, can say they are not needed? Well, then, who appoints them to office? The Holy Spirit does. His word is with us. In the order of the building—1, there is the book; 2, there is the preacher; 3, there are the people brought to Jesus. Among that people are all the elements necessary for the life of the body. They are all called of God. Faithful teaching on the part of the preacher will develop Elders and Deacons. The Evangelist is enjoined to lay hands suddenly on no man. A little patience,

and the men will appear. After that the path is plain. Let the Apostles ordain them. Be guided by the Book. To such as are Elders, let me remind you of the qualifications—*READ, STUDY, and PRACTICE THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE SPIRIT*, if you would save your own souls and the souls of the churches, for the redemption of which Jesus suffered death.—*B.M. Harbinger.*

C. A.

LINES ON THE JUNE MEETING.

How truly pleasing is the sight
When christians here agree,
To serve the one eternal King
In truth and harmony.
'Tis like the nightly dew that falls
In every vale and hill;
When christians here in love unite
To do the Savior's will.
No opposition e'er can break
Our heaven united hand,
We're joined to Christ our living head
And bound to Canaan's land.
And from the world we've nought to fear,
With Jesus on our side;
His grace a Lamp unto our feet,
His precious word our guide.
Long may Disciples of the Lord
Thus meet in love below,
And drinking in our Saviour's grace
May ever onward go.
And when on this revolving sphere
We part to meet no more;
May we so live that when we die
We'll meet on Canaan's shore.

I. J. M.

DR. CHALMERS ON PREACHING.—In conversation with an American clergyman, Dr. Chalmers said, a sermon, properly considered, consists of two parts, *exposition* and *application*. The truth lies in the text, like a sword in its scabbard. The business of the minister is first to draw the sword, that is *exposition*, and next to cut and thrust with it on the right and left, that is *application*.

The hearers, first of all, must see what is the *mind of God* in the text, and then what mind of God is to be used for their reformation. It is not enough that the preacher preach the truth; the hearers must know for themselves that it is the *very truth of God*. The power does not lie simply in the truth, but it is the truth *perceived to be of God*. When this point has been gained, then the power of preaching is the *power of God*. Hence, careful exposition, showing beyond all question what is the mind of God in the text, is the indispensable first thing in every sermon. Without this, the sword of the Spirit is, practically, not there. The sword sheathed is of no avail. Let it be first drawn by exposition, and then let it be wielded with a will.

Knowledge of one's self, of the powers and attributes of the soul, its resources and capabilities, is an indispensable qualification for doing good.