

behold I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more. Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the Church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears. And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified. I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel. Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me. I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, it is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts xx. 17-35.

ON THE ELDER'S OFFICE.

No. 2.

EXTRACTS FROM "A TREATISE ON THE ELDER'S OFFICE," BY
WILLIAM FALLANTINE.—INTRODUCTION.

"It will, perhaps, be invariably found, that the growth of the Churches of Christ bears proportion to the fitness and usefulness of their Pastors for the work assigned them; nor can it be doubted that the conversion of sinners will bear proportion to the edification of the Churches. If Christians are well taught in the word of life, it will naturally sound out from them. Few subjects, then, can be of greater importance than the Pastoral office.

In searching the Scriptures on this subject, we do well to consider the many prejudices we have to overcome in ourselves and others. The Elder's office is one of those subjects that has been peculiarly affected by antichristian errors. The Romish hierarchy gradually arose and kept pace with the growing distinctions of a worldly kind between the Pastors and the people; and the whole of it is so intermixed and supported by these distinctions