

It is highly creditable to Dr. Wordsworth, Bishop of St. Andrews, in his *Outlines of the Christian Ministry*, and to Dr. Witherow in *The Form of the Christian Temple* (5) that the differences between Episcopacy and Presbyterianism are discussed in such an admirable and able manner, with a view to their removal and adjustment. It would indeed be idle, now that both systems have deeply struck so many roots into society, that either one or the other should be absorbed. But both may be stripped of much that is hurtful, and both may return to more scriptural positions; both may learn to make less of accidents and more of essentials; and thus be drawn into closer spiritual bonds of fellowship. Nothing else but good can result from such a scholarly discussion of Church Polity.

The threefold divisions of Dr. Witherow's work—"Temporary Agents," "Divine and Permanent Elements," and "Human Additions," are exceedingly clear; but the first is a point which many might fairly challenge. The agencies named are Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, and Charisms. Strictly speaking, the first of these are agents, and the latter, properly speaking, is an agency. It must be borne in mind in this matter that the claims of Episcopacy rest upon the fact that some only of the offices of the Apostles were temporary, and that, in process of time, without any ecclesiastical revolution, certain offices, such as ordination and confirmation, were usually restricted to the Bishops, and not allowed to be performed without their intervention.

The book, independently of the particular question of Episcopacy or Presbyterianism, contains an immense amount of valuable information and sound Scriptural teaching upon Church Polity, and affords excellent weapons against sacerdotal encroachments upon the rights of the laity, and upholds the importance of Church rule against modern representatives of Montanus.

The style as well as the spirit in which this learned Treatise upon Ecclesiastical Polity is written merits high praise. Few, if any living Presbyterian divine, could have performed so difficult and delicate a task with more tact and judgment, or popularised without injuring an important question. This work will establish Dr. Witherow's reputation as one of the leading authorities upon ecclesiastical history, when viewed in the light of Scripture.

(5) *The Form of the Christian Temple*: being a Treatise on the Constitution of the New Testament Church. By Thomas Witherow, D.D., LL.D., Professor of Church History in Magee College, Londonderry. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 38 George Street. 1889. Price 10s. 6d.