

the Elders of the Churches, his brethren in the ministry, exhort them, saying, Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint but willingly, not for filthy lucre but with ready mind. And Paul in addressing the Elders of the Church at Ephesus, says, Take heed unto yourselves and to all the flock over which the Holy Ghost has made you overseers, to feed the Church of God which he has purchased with his own blood. Those who are thus made overseers through the operation of the Holy Spirit, possess the requisite qualifications. And as it is the Church of God over which they are to preside, in order to secure the blessing, we should follow very closely the instruction that God has given. The Bishop must be blameless as the steward of God, not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre, but a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate, holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and convince the gainsayers. Paul urged the foregoing duty upon Timothy. "And the thing that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men who shall be able to teach others also." An observance of the foregoing would prevent controversy which would otherwise be likely to arise with regard to the propriety of certain persons entering the ministry, set matters at rest in the Church, and glorify God. Again we are commanded to "lay hands suddenly on no man." Surely the Book of God is a safe guide. It is further observed by the Apostle, "And though I speak with the tongue of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal." Thus are we reminded of the necessity of having the love of God shed abroad in our hearts. Let us not mistake a readiness to communicate for an aptness to teach—the former may consist only in word, the latter gives both precept and example,—conforming to those requirements the Church is blessed,—the Divine presence is felt in her midst. Being united to Christ by living faith they love God supremely and love each other, they love God's word and are being established in the truth, hence lively stones, and are built up a spiritual house, and when one suffers all suffer, consequently an application is made forthwith to the remedy provided, and order and discipline is observed in the Church,—God is honoured, and members are brought to realize their continual dependence. This renders her position safe, and it becomes us to remember that every plant that our heavenly Father has not planted shall be rooted up. We need more Ministers, and we need efficient faithful ministers, and how shall they be obtained but by bringing ourselves to the standard of truth and uniting our supplications at the throne of grace. Where the Church is satisfied with the qualifications of a brother who is desirous of entering the ministry let him be encouraged, and let our prayers ascend to God on