

penitance towards God, and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ." And, in the written communications of the Spirit of God, through the instrumentality of these "messengers of the Churches, the glory of Christ," we find them, giving to themselves, and all their brethren, such names as these—"Servants of Jesus Christ—Ministers of Christ—Stewards of the mysteries of God—Bishops, or Overseers—Elders, or Presbyters—Pastors—Teachers." "The Elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed : feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight (that is, exercising the office of a Bishop or overseer over the flock of God, or the Church of Christ which is among you), not by constraint but willingly, not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind ; neither as being *lords* over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock : and when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away"—the whole of the language of the Bible, bearing on the subject of the titles of those who, in every age of the world should carry the embassy of Christ to sinful men, demonstrating with a clearness which the English translation of the Bible very faintly represents, that "He who is the Head of the body, the Church ; who is the beginning, the first born from the dead, must, in all things, have the preeminence ; for it pleased the Father, that in Him should all fulness dwell."

And it is equally worthy of notice, with a view to the same truth, that the language of the Redeemer, while on earth, and of the Holy Spirit, who, on Christ's ascension, was given to guide His people into all truth, is most explicit in declaring that those who should be set apart, appointed, or, as it is generally termed *ordained*, to be the Servants of Christ in administering His laws, are brethren—fellow labourers—yoke fellows—fellow ambassadors for Christ—fellow elders or presbyters—no one of them possessing from Christ, and forbidden to possess from any other quarter, superiority or dignity above the rest—the language employed on this point conveying a very plain and emphatic intimation from Christ, that if any professing Servant of His, in any succeeding age of the world, should presume to set himself, or allow himself to be set above his fellow servants, and to attempt to overrule them, instead of giving himself wholly to the work assigned him, He, who is the only Chief Shepherd, and who will not give His glory to another, when He cometh to judgment, shall subject every man's work to a fiery trial, to manifest of what sort it is. The Redeemer, who is justly jealous of His honor, for his Church's sake, solemnly and affectionately warns His public servants, who, He well knows, have within them, and ready to be manifested by them, some besetting sin, as all His disciples have, against the indulgence and the commission of an