

A. To the History of the Primitive Church.

Q. What information does this give us concerning the office of Deacon ?

A. It tells us that they were from a very early age regarded as a distinct order in the Ministry.

Q. What ministerial duties did they perform ?

A. They assisted in distributing the elements, at the administration of the Lord's supper, they baptized new converts, and celebrated marriages.

Q. What besides ?

A. They also read Scriptures in the Church.

Q. What early writers and martyrs testify to this.

A. Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, Justin Martyr, and Tertullian.

Q. When did they live ?

A. Ignatius was appointed Bishop of Antioch, A. D. 70. Justin, martyr, flourished in the early part of the Second Century, and Tertullian, the latter part of the Second and beginning of the Third.

Q. Who among the Continental Reformers bear testimony of the same character ?

A. Martin Bucer, Calvin and Beza.

Q. What further argument may we use against the Presbyterian view of the Diaconate ?

A. That if we assume the first institution of the office was in order to provide for the relief of the poor, still the Church had power to extend the sphere of their labours.

Q. Who uses this argument ?

A. The great Richard Hooker, author of the Books of Ecclesiastical Polity.

Q. What further powers were afterwards given to them besides those before enumerated ?

A. They were frequently allowed by the Bishops to preach the Gospel.

Q. What are the views of Presbyterians concerning Diocesan Bishops as practised by our Church ?

A. That there is no Scripture ground for the existence of any Officer superior to that of a Presbyter.

Q. What is their position in making this assertion ?

A. It devolves on them to prove that herein the whole Christian world has been in error, from the very