

A. Forgiveness of past sins, present grace—future glory.

6. What officers did Christ appoint?

A. Apostles.

7. What authority had he?

A. "As *My Father* hath sent me, even so send I you.

8. How long did he promise to be with them?

A. With them and their successors all days until the end of the world.

9. What is the difference between the Clergymen and Laity?

A. The Clergy are the Church officers; the Laity or lay brethren form the body of brethren.

10. What orders of clergy did the Apostles institute?

A. Deacons and Presbyters, or Bishops.

11. Which order was first instituted?

A. Deacon. (Acts vi: 1.)

12. What is the meaning "Deacons?"

A. Minister.

12. What was the chief duty of the Deacons?

A. To take care of the funds for the poor.

14. What other duties did they sometimes perform?

A. They preached and baptized.

15. Give an example?

A. Acts viii: 12.

16. What order was next introduced?

A. Presbyters, called also bishops in the N. T.

17. What do these terms mean?

A. "Presbyter" means an elderly person, now commonly contracted into "Priest," "Bishop" means an 'overseer.'

18. Whom did the Presbyters superintend?

A. The Deacons and Laity.—They also preached and administered the Sacraments.

(To be Concluded.)

THE PREACHER AND HIS CRITICS.

WE wish in this article to raise our voice against what is, we fear a too common practice, and one which in its results must prove disastrous to true religion. We refer to the habit of criticising the sermon, and that in a spirit of depreciation, amounting perhaps in some cases to ridicule.

This practice is fatal to the reception of any good impressions which would otherwise be received by attending God's House; nay, rather it were better for us, if we display such a spirit, that we entered not at all the Sanctuary for not only does the sermon go for naught, but alas, such a frame of mind plainly proves that the Intercessions and Prayers have been lost upon us and forgotten.

And this evil is not only widespread, but it is most insidious, requiring great watchfulness and special prayer to guard against its encroachments. It is the besetting sin of many constant Church-goers, and is not confined to the thoughtless and frivolous alone, but may often be found in the men and women of sound and mature minds; and we have known it prominently displayed in those who have had the care of the young.

Now what is the natural fruit of such a spirit and practice? Clearly this: our minds being on the *quiver* for anything in the discourse which may afford us food for adverse criticism, gradually lose sight