

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 28, 1864.

New Testament Studies.

NO. XV.

THE PASTORATE.

Part I.

The Christian church is Christ's great army. Every believer is a soldier in that army.

Every church of Christ is a company in that army. Every such company must have its officers.

Thus it was with the "pastors and teachers" of Paul's day. They were not angels but men.

And as a bird of God endears itself to tempt her new-fledged offspring to the skies, He tries each art, repeats each duty.

But this is not all, much as it is. Here is "the body of Christ" that is, "the church, which is his body."

So much for the design of the pastorate, viewed in the light of Paul's description of that design—a description which affords much matter both for thought and prayer.

We begin with a remark by way of distinction. "He gave," says Paul, "some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers."

Yet although it were improper to apply to pastors, in a strict sense, the terms above indicated, they may fitly be styled bishops.

Some cases as to what is a bishop of the church, and what is a pastor, are mentioned in the text.

ministerial office which more amply describes it than that of pastor; nor any which more appeals, in many ways to the best affections both of a minister and his people.

Pastors, again, are styled elders; in Greek presbuteros, presbyters. Paul says, that bishops must not be "novices, nephylis, or new converts."

Pastors are joined with teachers in the passage from the Ephesians to which we have so often referred. It is theirs to "teach all things whatsoever their Lord has commanded."

Pastors, once more, are rulers. Thus writes Paul to the Hebrews,—"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves."

And as a bird of God endears itself to tempt her new-fledged offspring to the skies, He tries each art, repeats each duty. Allures to brighter worlds, and leads the way.

Have you organized your Sabbath School? Many of the churches in our province dismiss their Sabbath School every fall and organize anew every spring.

But I propose to say something about reorganizing. Attend to this matter early. In this northern climate the summer season is short, and if we are to have no schools in the winter, it is desirable that we should make the best of this short season.

The superintendent you want. The first inquiry, in looking for a man to fill this office should be who will attend to the matter punctually and faithfully? These are qualifications, the absence of which nothing else will supply.

Having organized attend immediately to secure books and papers. The tendency is to delay this matter for a number of weeks and until the season is far spent. The first thing is to obtain the money which will pay for these things.

For the Christian Visitor. Correspondence from the Army. CAMP DISTRIBUTION, VIRGINIA, APRIL 20th, 1864.

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CAMP DISTRIBUTION, VIRGINIA, APRIL 20th, 1864.

DEAR EDITOR—This post, better known as Camp Convalescent, is situated in one of the most beautiful regions of country along the whole line of the Potomac.

The post of the Sanitary Commission here is in charge of Miss Major Bradley, an old soldier, as she calls herself, who has been in the army as hospital nurse and in other positions of usefulness, ever since '61.

The Sanitary Commission has also a soldier's library of several thousand volumes, and circulates a considerable number of Unitarian tracts among the men in the barracks and camps.

At the summit of the Santa Scala or the Holy Stairs at Rome, said to have been brought from the house of Pilate in Jerusalem, and to have been pressed by the feet of the Saviour, there is a dimly lighted chapel, containing among other things a picture of the youthful Jesus at the age of 14 years.

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For the Christian Visitor. My Reasons for Becoming a Protestant.

To the Right Reverend Thomas Connolly, Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Church, Baltimore, N. S.

MR. LORD—We have now taken our place between two conflicting parties; one formed of Roman Catholics, who affirm that their system is identical with Apostolical Christianity; the other of Protestants, who contend that it is not.

For the Christian Visitor. From the Christian Commission. Fort Esperanza, Matagorda Island, Texas, March 16, 1864.

As intimated in my last, the anticipated evacuation of Indianola has taken place, and we are now here. This fort was built by the Rebels a few months ago, and soon fell into our hands.

been exposed to the winds during the sand-storm. The troops marched, and were nearly two days going twelve miles. The pontoon bridges across the bayous were not secure, and broke down.

THE CONDITION OF CITIZENS outside our lines, is truly deplorable. Before our troops came to Indianola everything for sale was held at starvation prices.

WESTERN TERMS NEW ENGLAND TROOPS. The men who mainly compose this (the 18th) army corps, are from the West.

Religious Intelligence. Earnest efforts are put forth by the ministry and churches of the Northern States to supply the army in all its departments with the means of grace.

UNION REFUGEES. Since I commenced this sheet, I have met with some men who have travelled hundreds of miles to get within our lines.

THE RELIGIOUS AND TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT, which has been in progress at Indianola, will be checked in consequence of our removal to this Island, where we have no accommodations for meetings, and where the troops are more scattered.

For the Christian Visitor. What Can I Do?

One young man came to our daily prayer meeting in the vestry of the Presbyterian church. After meeting he lingered. One of the delegates, Rev. Mr. Atkinson, took him aside.

WHAT CAN I DO? "Never saw me? you were looking straight at me all the time you were talking in the barracks this morning, and every time you cut me to pieces—I couldn't stand it, and I got up and went out."

For the Christian Visitor. My Reasons for Becoming a Protestant. No. 4.

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copying books, and of their audacity in corrupting them. Interpolations and mutilations are very numerous. Pious frauds, as they were called, were not only committed, but defended.

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angels to the general assembly and church of the first-born written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect.

DEAR EDITOR—I know you will be rejoiced to hear that the revival is still progressing in Mackinac.

Revival Progress at Mackinac. DEAR EDITOR—I know you will be rejoiced to hear that the revival is still progressing in Mackinac.

A correspondent to Zion's Advocate speaking of the good work in Saco and Biddeford, Me., says:—

Rev. Mr. Bartley, we are pleased to learn, is improving in health, under the treatment of Dr. Day. We preached for him on Sabbath last at 8 P. M., and at the close of the sermon he announced that he would endeavour to preach next Sabbath morning.

Secular Department. CONVERSATION WITH THE HON. MR. TILLEY. In conversation with the Hon. Mr. Tilley we were happy to learn that he is very much encouraged in reference to "Western Extension," and the "Inter-colonial Railway."

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