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PASTORS AND THEIR CHURCHES.

We learn from the teachings of the New Testament that Christ has designed that all who embrace christianity shall be gathered into local organizations called churches.

In order that churches may more successfully accomplish their great work, Christ has ordained that each shall have her own officers—a pastor and deacons.

Preaching the gospel and taking the pastoral care of churches is the most sacred and important work ever committed to man.

Now when a church calls a man thus called of God to be their pastor, the relationship becomes one of great importance, and should be well understood and its requirements faithfully performed both by church and pastor.

All this being true, it is a matter of great importance that pastors should be well informed in regard to their work, and that they should ever feel a deep interest in it.

Again, Hiscox says: "Permanency in the pastoral relation should most earnestly be sought, as tending to the welfare of all concerned.

These are words of sound wisdom and are worthy of careful consideration.

But there are circumstances which justify both churches and pastors in changing. For instance, a church ought to dismiss a pastor whose moral character proves to be defective, or one whose qualifications are utterly unequal to the duties he has undertaken.

But suppose a church has a pastor who is a man of piety and ability, but who, at the same time, on account of the frailty of human nature, may at times say and do some things that may to some extent injure his christian character and the cause of Christ.

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and their neighbors and talk of their pastor's defects until his influence is so crippled that it will be necessary to dismiss him as pastor?

May God hasten the time when all our churches and pastors shall study until they understand the duties He requires each to perform to the other and to live in the faithful discharge of these duties;

OUR NEW YORK LETTER.

Were you in New York you would be simply one of a vast crowd of strangers within its gates.

Many of these people are in a large city for the first time in their lives, and, not being acquainted with the tricks that are often played off on innocence, furnished rich picking for the sharpers who inhabit this metropolis.

The Centennial still attracts thousands of people from every part of the world.

I see in your issue of the 13th ult. the following query: "Can we as Baptists consistently, and according to the revealed word of God, hold in fellowship members who traffic in intoxicating liquors, buying and selling them? Shall we deal with them as offenders?"

From the words of the query, the answer must be based on the revealed word of God.

But New York is the objective point of all people who visit Philadelphia, for, excepting the show at

demand upon him, and, instead, replied: "I had to walk further the other night than I expected, and when I returned you were gone."

While I am writing about preachers I may as well tell you of an episode which occurred with Rev. J. B. Hawthorne and myself.

I know of nothing better calculated to cool our ardor, paralyze our usefulness and check our efficiency than a spirit of dissatisfaction.

Brethren, your restlessness impedes you in your work. Stick to your church or churches; God will take care of the towns and cities; and a hundred and one or more preachers are ready to come to his help.

This spirit is not confined to ministers, but is sometimes found in the churches. They are also responsible for the restlessness of the pastor because they do not pay his salary.

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Other intoxicating liquors may or may not be discussed hereafter.

NOTE.—In our reply to the query referred to by Bro. N., we had reference to the traffic in distilled alcoholic liquors.

Every 5th Sunday ought to be utilized for Sunday-schools, Association Missions, State Missions, Home Missions, Foreign Missions and endowment.

Rev. Alfred Luther Bond and Mrs. Helena Dameron Bond.

For the principal facts of this sketch, and of the one immediately following, we are indebted to the eloquent discourse of Dr. Jno. W. M. Williams, pastor of the First Baptist church of Baltimore, delivered in that church, December 28th, 1861, in commemoration of the life and death of "The Lost Missionary."

Alfred Luther Bond was born of Methodist parents, Dr. A. J. and Mrs. P. Bond, in Athens, Ohio, July 2nd, 1833.

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Several instances have lately come to our knowledge in which children just before dying seemed to have a view of heaven.

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A preacher of the name of Taylor, who had remarkable power in addressing sea-faring hearers, was on one occasion attempting to give to his sailor congregation an idea of redemption.

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