

**THE PASTORAL CARE: OR
PRACTICAL HINTS ON THE
CONSTITUTION, DISCIPLINE, AND
SERVICES OF CONGREGATIONAL
OR INDEPENDENT CHURCHES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649516582

The Pastoral Care: Or Practical Hints On The Constitution, Discipline, And Services Of
Congregational Or Independent Churches by Samuel McAll

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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SAMUEL MCALL

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OR,

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ON THE CONSTITUTION, DISCIPLINE, AND SERVICES OF
CONGREGATIONAL OR INDEPENDENT CHURCHES:

AND

THE VARIOUS BRANCHES OF MINISTERIAL DUTY
IN REFERENCE TO THE SAME.

BY

SAMUEL McALL,

Principal of Hackney College.

SECOND EDITION



London:

HODDER AND STOUGHTON,

27 & 31, PATERNOSTER ROW.

MDCCLXXV.

110. h. 572.

The Standard Press,
UNWIN BROTHERS, CHILWORTH AND LONDON.

PREFACE.

THIS little Work is intended as a kind of MANUAL for those who are entering upon the Congregational or Independent Ministry. At the same time, a glance at the INDEX will show that it touches upon many subjects on which Deacons, Church Members, and Sunday-school Teachers have considerable interest, as well as Ministers themselves.

The brief "Lectures," &c., of which it is composed, have formed the basis of a series of College exercises, chiefly of a *conversational* character, and designed to elicit questions and remarks in which all present might freely participate. The result has been a constant, and somewhat earnest, discussion of the various topics introduced.

Many of the Students who had gone through the course, and who had written the larger portion of it, have (after a few years' experience in the Ministry)

expressed the wish to see the work in print ; and it is in deference to their desire that it is now committed to the press.

Considering the limited demand that may be expected for such a publication, it is perhaps needless to say that it is issued with no view to pecuniary profit.

The INSTITUTION with which the Author has the honour to be connected has not identified itself with any particular section or party of the Christian Church. Acting irrespectively of all ecclesiastical organisations, its leading and acknowledged aim has been purely evangelistic and spiritual. At the same time, from the doctrines it has maintained, and its entire independence of any State connexion, it was inevitable that, for all religious purposes, it should come into very close contact with the Congregational Churches of our country. It is these Churches which almost exclusively seek "Supplies" and "Pastors" among those whom it has trained. Hence the apparent propriety of making the discipline and methods of those Churches an object of consideration—the responsibility for the particular views advanced remaining, at the same time, with the *Author himself*.

If the frank and homely style of some of the cautions and recommendations of this book are thought to need an apology, the writer begs it to be remembered that it was prepared solely with a view to the benefit of young Ministers. The presumption was that they would be prepared to welcome every hint or allusion by which they might be helped in view of a work so varied in its requirements and so grave in its responsibility.

Nor was the expectation a mistaken one. The aspirants to the sacred office do not want flattery. What they value, and what they long for, is patient, faithful *guidance*. The Author is thankful if the experience of nearly thirty years of pastoral duty, and now of more than thirteen in another employ, has qualified him in any measure to afford that "guidance," and may justify the hope that his attempt will be favourably received.

HACKNEY COLLEGE,

June 14th, 1873.

