

perimental acquaintance with the truths of the Gospel, if they desire to be happy, able, successful ministers of the Word. We endeavour to urge upon them the conviction that without this all their studies and exertions are comparatively useless. Knowing how deceitful the heart of man is, and how prone we are to judge our own motives and actions with partiality, we counsel them to analyse their motives in seeking the sacred office, with earnest prayer for the Divine assistance in doing so, lest they be actuated by low views; lest they find when too late that they have been prompted by self-gratification, or some other insufficient motive, instead of by a single desire to promote the glory of God, and the eternal good of their fellow-creatures. We teach them continually to bear in mind the solemn question which will be put at their Ordination: "Do you trust that you are inwardly moved by the Holy Ghost to take upon you this Office and Ministration, to serve God for the promoting of His glory, and the edifying of His people," and not to regard it as involving a principle with which they have *at present* nothing to do, but to apply it to themselves with reference to their present conduct. In the words of an eminent prelate of our Church, we desire them to remember that "it is not to be thought that a man is inwardly moved by the Holy Ghost to undertake it, when he enters upon it merely because it is an honourable profession, and has attached to it a certain rank, respectability, or endowment; or because his friends have designed him for it; still less because he has good prospects of preferment; or, least of all, because he is unfit for any other business or calling. * * * * To have been educated for the work; destined to it by pious parents; led to it by the outward appointments of God's Providence; to desire rather to live moderately by the altar than more abundantly upon secular earnings,—all of these may properly come in to aid a choice, but they must not be its basis. Some desire, at least, to live nearer to Christ in employment and pursuit than worldly callings render possible; some personal sense of the deliverance brought to the soul by His Gospel; some desire to speak His precious Name to others; some love for souls; some aptness for ministering to them; some of the desires and qualities of the Watchman, the Steward, the Shepherd, the Physician, the good Master-builder, must be certainly within us, and attest the working of the Spirit of the Lord, if we would assert safely that we act beneath His guidance."*

Satan employs no more fatal delusion than when he suggests to a young man destitute of personal religion, that he will be made better by entering into Orders. Many are influenced by the example of others, whom, perhaps,

* Bishop of Oxford, Addresses to Candidates, pp. 7, 8.