

"Stewards." A Steward is a person who is employed to take charge of the property of another; and I am anxious to impress upon your minds the fact that this is the office you sustain. You are not proprietors, dealing with that which is your own, and therefore having a right to use it as you please; you are stewards, dealing with that which belongs to God, and therefore bound to deal with it in all things according to His pleasure. To this office you cannot appoint yourself, nor can you be appointed by your fellow-servants. A steward can only be appointed to the office by the proprietor. "No man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God." This call you have had. Those around you heard not the voice, and when you spoke of it first, perhaps, like Eli with Samuel, they doubted. With you, however, there was no doubt. The voice was clear and distinct, and you had no choice but to obey. You said, "Woe is me if I preach not the Gospel." You then offered yourself to the Church, but so anxious were we that we should not recognise one whom God had not called, that you were met at every step with the solemn question—"Do you believe that God has called you to this work?" This question has been put for the last time before this congregation, and in the presence of earth and heaven, of God and man, you have answered, "I trust so." With this declaration we are satisfied, and we have in the most solemn way avowed our satisfaction. We have not laid hands suddenly upon you, but have taken every possible precaution, and employed every possible test, to prevent mistake. And now our part is done. Your declaration we unhesitatingly receive, and we greet you as our fellow-stewards in this glorious and important trust. We in the most solemn and formal manner possible recognise your appointment to this high office, and we welcome you into our ranks. Henceforth you are to be known as "men of God," as men consecrated, and set apart,