

(because it is the one Spirit which is leading us) in company "with them who call on the Lord out of a pure heart." (2 Tim. ii. 23.) If it be the meeting, or the ministry, or the brethren, I am on a poor foundation.

The more evil the time, the more pointed, though less open, is the attempt to set aside the plan and rule of Christ. It has been done openly in Christendom, and now the malice of Satan would have it done among them who profess to stand apart from the growing apostasy in the world. If I am seeking a place to worship in, I am sure to go wrong; for I am looking for what suits my taste, and I am not guided by principle; but if I am seeking to worship my Lord (then it is a Person, not a place, that is before my soul), I am sure to be led rightly, for the Spirit of light which is in the blind man (John ix.) always leads the soul that is morally outside the place of worship (as this man was, on account of his new light,) to worship the Lord of light. One faithful one, like this self-same man, confounds the most learned theologian.

Let us be like Mary Magdalene in true devotion of heart to our Lord; and like the once blind man, maintaining our light, its reality, and its source, against all comers, and *in the way*. We shall surely be rewarded as they were, with the assured presence of our Lord.

Gracious God, thy children keep;
Jesus guide thy silly sheep;
Fix, O fix, our fickle souls;
Lord, direct us; we are fools.

Bid us in thy care confide;
Keep us near thy wounded side;
From thee never let us stir,
For thou know'st how soon we err.

Lay us low before thy feet,
Safe from pride and self-conceit;
Be the language of our souls,
Lord, direct us; we are fools.

Dang'rous doctrines from without,
Lies and errors round about;

From within a treach'rous heart,
Prone to take the tempter's part.

By thy word we fain would steer,
Fain thy Spirit's dictates hear;
Save us from the rocks and shelves;
Save us chiefly *from ourselves*.

Never, never may we dare,
What we are not, say we are;
Make us well our vileness know;
Keep us very, very low.

May we all our wills resign,
Quite absorb'd and lost in thine;
Let us walk by thy right rules;
Lord, direct us; we are fools.