

that our Church so earnestly presses on the consciences of its clergy to make sure that they are called of God to their office according to the will of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, innumerable instances press upon us to show that God thus prepares His servants for whatever work He has for them. The boy Joseph, during those hours when he lay hopeless in the pit—how were his ambitious dreamings of fancy chastened, when it seemed thus all over with him, and he felt that he was certain to die early and unhonoured. Doubtless during those sad solitary hours of darkness his heart was drawn, as it never had been before, to feel after and lean upon that unseen Friend, whom he never forgot afterwards amid the most dangerous seductions of temptation. In the prison, too, is it not certain that God was giving him the discipline of adversity, that he might bear himself the better in that strange reverse of sudden affluence and power and royal favour, which in like circumstances has proved ruinous to very many souls?

Again, the Hebrew youth Moses, nurtured at court, contrary to all that might have been expected for him in the humble lot to which he was born—instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians—who can doubt that, while God's Spirit prevented him, in that seductive position amidst their masters, from forgetting the enslaved