

THE CALL

TO

The Sacred Ministry.

Beloved, believe not every spirit; but try the spirits, whether they be of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.—1 JOHN, vi. 1.

It has never been the plan of Almighty God to make his truth so clear, that man could not deceive himself. On the contrary, there has been scarcely any age in which such difficulties did not beset the truth, that ignorant and unstable minds might without difficulty be led astray. No doubt we may desire that it should be otherwise: but it is not so. Error is allowed to prevail, as well as truth, for a trial to us which we will choose; "that they who are approved may be made manifest." Under the law of Moses it pleased God to suffer men who upheld the worship of false gods to give signs in support of their pretensions, which signs came to pass, (Deut. xiii. 1—3) although in opposition to God's truth and honour. We may easily imagine that many would be grievously perplexed, when they saw that the prophets of Baal could give signs, and that their signs came to pass as well as those given by the prophets of God. We may imagine that many would say, How can we know which is right and which is wrong? But still God thought fit to allow it, for a trial to show who were his sincere worshippers, and who not. For the sincere-hearted worshippers never were misled: they found the worship of God to be the salvation of their souls, and they could not be tempted to depart from him.