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FOREKNOWLEDGE AND FOREORDINATION.

ROM. VIII. 29.

“For whom He foreknew, He also foreordained to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren.”

AS children of God, we are joint-heirs with Christ: and if we suffer with Him we shall also be glorified with Him. The suffering is not worthy to be compared with the glory. And there is much to support us under it. The Spirit helpeth our infirmities. And we know that to them that love God all things work together for good, seeing that they are the called according to his purpose. For their well-being is guarded by a chain of gracious deeds on their behalf that spans the two eternities. It begins with purpose, which includes foreknowledge and foreordination, and proceeds through calling and justification to final glory.—Such is the line of thought. Our present object is to consider the two links into which the divine purpose is resolved.

We begin with the second, viz: foreordination. Its ultimate aim—that relating to the Son of God—is that he might be the first-born among many brethren. Its immediate object—that relating to true Christians—is their conformity to the image of Christ. They are to be Christ-like. There is nothing requiring us to limit the image of Christ to a mere blaze of light surrounding his human form. We may be conformed to the image of Christ, here and now by having in us that mind which was in Him. And the mind of Christ means such love to the Father as delights to do his will, though at the cost of toil, self-denial and suffering. Our pathway to the crown may lie, as his did, through