

the government of the Christian church, for this, and that by the aid of the Holy Ghost was done by Paul, and James, and Jude, and John, as well as by Peter.—Neither can it mean that this apostle should have the sole power of admitting and excluding members—not into the church of Christ, for he that truly believed, received the end of his faith, even the salvation of his soul—not into the visible church, for Paul both admitted, and excluded, and re-admitted members. What then does this gift imply? We shall discover its meaning if we compare it with two other passages of Scripture. Luke c. 11. v. 52.—“Woe unto you lawyers, for ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered.” Observe here, that to possess the power of illustrating important truth is to have the key of knowledge, and that to prevent the ignorant from receiving instruction, is to take away that key. Compare this again, with Matthew 23. 13.—“Woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye SHUT UP THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN against men: for ye neither go in your-