

before citing other proofs of interference in elections by Bishops, I would draw attention to the fact that immense confusion of ideas has arisen from giving to words used by the Fathers, such as *suffragium* (suffrage), and *ordinatio* (ordination), the modern meaning attached to them. Lord Bacon truly says, "Men imagine that their minds have the command of language, but it often happens that language bears rule over their minds." We are so accustomed to associate the word *suffrage* with vote and ballot, that we assume that *suffragium* implies both in primitive times. This is as unreasonable as if we took the suffrages in the Litany to mean votes. In the Cyprianic age we find the word constantly used to describe the people's part in an election, but it meant nothing more than acclamation, plaudits and good will. St. Cyprian says that Cornelius was elected Bishop of Rome "by the judgment of God and the suffrage of Clergy and Laity." *De Dei judicio et cleri ac plebis suffragio ordinato*.* Here the word is applied to the share the clergy and people took in the election, but surely if as St. Cyprian says, and as was generally believed, Cornelius had been designated by God, by some miraculous manifestation of His will, the election could not afterwards have been referred to popular voting. Elsewhere St. Cyprian alluding to this same event, says, "Cornelius was made Bishop by the *testimony* of almost all the clergy and the *suffrage* of the people who were present."† Once more, in an epistle to Cornelius himself, he says "Let them both know and understand that when a Bishop has been once made and approved by the *testimony* and *judgment* of his colleagues and of the people, another can by no means be appointed." *Et agnoscant et intelligent episcopo semel facto et collegarum ac plebis testimonio et judicio comprobato, alium constitui nullo modo posse*. In these quotations the words suffrage, testimony and judgment are used so indiscriminately, that it is evident the word *suffragium* had no technical meaning such as recording a vote.

The term *suffragium* is applied also to God's part in an election when He indicated His choice by some special interposition. St. Cyprian says, "When divine suffrages preceded, human testimonies are not to be waited for."‡ *Sed expectanda non sunt*

* Ep. 68, p. 177.

† Ep. 55, p. 104.

‡ Ep. 38, p. 74.