

DIVINE GUIDANCE IN MINISTRY.

If the ministry is to be convicting and converting, full of freshness and power, able to inspire with noble ideals, to help the struggling soul into the peace of God, to comfort the weary, to teach the new duties that the new age brings, it must be a word fitly and sincerely spoken, a message flowing from heart to heart, in the freshness of Divine guidance. To some the guidance comes in clear and powerful impressions of duty; to others in ways that are scarcely perceptible, as in a purifying of the power of judgment. The true minister will not rise unless he believes he has a definite message,—short it may be, but pointed,—some clear-cut thought that has come before his mind with impressiveness, or that has been with him for some time, and he believes should be handed on to others. The purified judgment will suppress utterances that are obviously unsuited to the place and time.

CALL TO MINISTRY: NEED OF FAITHFULNESS: APPEAL TO YOUNGER MEMBERS.

We believe it is of the utmost importance at the present time to keep before our younger members the responsibility that our system of free ministry lays upon them for filling up the ranks and keeping the ministry in touch with the needs of the day. There can be no higher spiritual ambition than to be used in the service of the Lord and the Church. "Desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy." It is not great powers of thought or of language, but experience of the things of God, that forms the chief condition of receiving a call to the ministry:

"From the glory and the gladness,
From His secret place;
From the rapture of His presence,
From the radiance of His face,—
Christ, the Son of God, hath sent me
Through the midnight lands;
Mine the mighty ordination
Of the pierced hands." *

And, when the call comes, there should be no "quenching of the Spirit," no "contempt for prophesyings," on the ground that the offering is small, but, instead, a willing-hearted, humble-minded obedience. Faithful use of a gift brings increase: un-

* "Hymns of Tersteegen, Suso, and others." by Frances Bevan.