

## HOW TO SECURE AN ELECTION.

*Fragment of a conversation between a Candidate and his christian Friend.*

Candidate. My dear sir, can you inform me how I may secure my election.

Friend. Yes sir; by diligence. You must give all diligence to make it sure.

C. That I have already done, sir; I have spared, I assure you, neither trouble nor expense. I have opened my house for entertainment; I have canvassed personally; I have employed agents to collect voters; I have set the printer to work on broadsides and handbills; and to let you into a secret, I have got a clever fellow from — to draw them up; one who is used to write for the newspaper, and can draw up an advertisement with spirit, and a little smart abuse of my antagonist.

F. Alas! sir, that a gentleman and a Christian, as you no doubt profess to be, should stoop to such arts, to influence and corrupt the minds of the people. I heartily wish you would bestow as much pains to secure your election for a better place!

C. A better place, sir! How do you mean! Is not this as respectable a borough as any in this part of the country.

F. True sir; but I refer to a city, and even an heavenly one. The true Christian, sir, is a 'citizen of no mean city.' My advice is, to 'give all diligence to make your election sure,' in the New Jerusalem.

C. O ho! I understand you now. But gentlemen of your sentiments, I believe, consider that business as already settled. Do you not, sir, consider your election already fixed and unalterable?

F. No more, sir, than the business in which you are engaged.

C. How so? I wish my election were as sure as you represent.

F. And do you think the event is known to God?

C. Certainly.

F. Then the event is sure to him.

C. No doubt of it.

F. And must infallibly correspond with his foreknowledge.

C. That it is certainly foreknown to the Supreme Being, I have no doubt; but that does not make it sure to me.

F. I admit that, and therefore your anxiety to make it sure to you. But why not employ the same diligence in a case of infinitely more importance?

C. O, sir, if I am to be saved, I shall be saved, and if not, you know I cannot help it.

F. And if you are to be elected for this borough, you will be elected; why then all this trouble and expense!

C. Ah, sir! if I do not use the means, I know that I shall not be chosen.

F. And what reason have you to suppose you shall be saved without means?

C. The subject we will defer, if you please to a 'more convenient season.' I must wait on my electors.

F. Alas! sir, so said Felix the Roman Governor, when Paul "reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come;" but that season never came; and I fear it will be so with you. The world will always find you an excuse for neglecting religion; and the enemy of souls will represent every thing as more important than the *one thing needful*. The Lord awaken you from the delusion.