

No! We are not here to decide any merely earthly question, or to make any merely human choice. Our duty may be stated in a paradox. We are here to choose for ourselves; and yet it is not we, who are to choose! We are here to determine whom the Holy Ghost has marked out to take up the reins of government in this part of His Great Spiritual Kingdom!

How are we to discover that secret? Under what circumstances will the Divine Spirit vouchsafe to reveal to us His will? Obviously this is a question of primal importance! Let our text answer it. "Them that are *meek* shall He *guide in judgment*; and such as are gentle them shall He *learn His way*." There seem to look out at us from this formula three simple conditions: (1.) Meekness; (2.) Cooperation, Union and Communion with God; (3.) The right use of our own faculties.

I. Meekness:—He who would know God's will must subdue his own. He must quell all uprisings of self. He must watch against prejudice. He must submit himself as completely as possible to the sway and direction of the Divine Spirit. He must choose to let God choose. And this is at once a very real and a very difficult choice. Self will is as strong as it is disastrous. It is no easy matter to restrain our impetuosity of act and speech and to give due weight to opinions which traverse our own. The masterful instinct is strong in most of us; and the policy of self-assertion and bluster naturally commends itself in the Church as well as out of it. But these things quench the Spirit. He does not compel us. He waits for us to submit. If we demand our own way, He does not reveal His. With arrogance and self-assertion He will make no compact. If we will, we may, by yielding to human impulses and adopting earthly methods, make this Synod's choice a human choice and not divine, our own and not the Holy Ghost's. It will be only as we submit to be guided like obedient children, used as willing instruments, that we shall be safe from rash judgments, and entitled to claim the result of our election as God's doing. Every man among us then is required at the outset as a first condition of the discovery of the Divine Will, to make an act of self-oblation, offering up himself, his prejudices, his affections, his faculties of perception and judgment, above all his will, that the Spirit of Christ, may be free to work within him unhindered; at the same time determining to say and do only what he honestly believes God would approve, and resolving loyally to accept the voice of the constitutional majority as the voice of God Himself!

I am much mistaken if it was not in something of this spirit that the election of our late beloved Diocesan was conducted twenty-nine years ago. Quiet, orderly, without conflict or debate,—though prolonged through the anxious ordeal of eleven successive ballots,—that election was of such a character that they who took part in it, whatever their views at the outset, could say from the heart "This is the Lords' doing," and that we, looking