

A Greater Election.

"Choose you a man for you" (1 Sam. 17: 8.)

FROM ordinary elections let us turn to a greater. All are electing a representative man, a favorite, thus giving the vote of the heart.

THERE ARE MANY CANDIDATES.

The world, with its fame and fashion, the flesh, with its luxuries and indulgences, the devil, with his schemes and devices, these and others represent the side of misrule. Who is the opposing candidate? The Man Christ Jesus, God's great candidate for the vote of the world. Surely all will vote for this good and glorious Person? Is it so? Look back! When on His wonderful canvassing tour He healed, fed, helped, pitied, blessed, but what was the vote of His countrymen? "Crucify Him!" "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not" (John i. 11). Are we better than they? Do all vote for Jesus today? Remember, "He that is not with Me is against Me" (Matt. xii. 30).

Both sides

TAKE GREAT PAINS TO SECURE VOTERS.

Personally, how Satan "goeth about," "walking up and down in the earth," ever busy. How his friends help him! Publicans, scepics, false prophets, high, low, rich and poor, all earnest to maintain sin in popularity. Are we as earnest to secure votes for Christ? Do we compass sea and land to make converts? Our Leader has set us the example, visiting us, blessing us, dying for us, He deserves our whole and undivided interest.

BOTH SIDES MAKE GREAT PROMISES.

The devil will give us position and possessions, give us any number of joys, and as many acres of liberty as we please. So he says; but does he keep his word? What are Christ's promises? We can read them for ourselves, no mere word of mouth promises, but written and signed in blood, and "He will ever be mindful of His covenant" (Psa. cxi. 5). Satan can show no such promises. He has no Bible.

When voting we often consider

WHO MAKE UNJUST WARS?

Does Jesus? Was it not Satan who first took up arms against God and His government? Was it not Satan who first set man fighting against his Maker? Does he not daily make war against every individual heart? Whence come wars—social, moral, domestic, spiritual? We need not wait long for the answer; while of God's Candidate it can be said, "In righteousness He doth judge and make war" (Rev. xix. 11).

WHO MAKES UNJUST LAWS?

Laws that protect sinners and punish sin-revealers? If Satan was sovereign in an unlimited monarchy, what would be the rule of his kingdom? Lust, rapine, debauchery, oppression, murder. Are not Christ's laws holy, and just, and good.

WHO MAKES UNJUST TAXES?

Taxes upon the body, the mind, the soul; taxes upon purse, person, and property? Does the Lord Jesus? Does He not release us from all but the just and royal claims of a righteous government? His yoke is easy and His burden light.

What weighs further in an election?

THE CHARACTER OF THE CANDIDATE.

Here one "is a liar and the father of it" (John viii. 44). The other is the "Faithful and True." (Rev. xix. 11). The one goeth about seeking whom he may destroy; the other goeth about seeking whom He may deliver. The one worketh death, the other giveth life.

THE PAST SERVICES OF THE CANDIDATE.

What good has sin ever done for our race? Sin entered into the world, and death by sin (Rom. v. 12). Sin has honeycombed the whole earth with graves. Sin brought pain, disease, ill-will, strife, a curse, hell. What are the past services of Christ? He comes to us with love bleeding from every pore of His body, wounded from His head to His feet, fighting our battles. "Christ died for our sins" (1 Cor. xv. 3). "Christ died for us" (Rom. v. 8). Does He not deserve our vote?

THE SYMPATHIES OF THE CANDIDATE.

Christ's great recommendation is, that He is One "chosen out of the people" (Psa. lxxxix. 19). A farmer can best represent farming interests; a working man can best represent working men. Christ is "God with us," one of ourselves, a Brother, "bone of our bone." Is He not the right One to stand for us?

THE VOTES OF OTHERS

have great weight with some. On the side of Christ we have the men of the ages. A mother, a sister in heaven, a father gone home, a darling child—these all voted for Jesus. Were they wrong? God Himself voted for Christ in a thunder-clap from the skies, when He said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear ye Him" (Matt. xvii. 5).

THE HEAVENLY CANDIDATE IS MISREPRESENTED.

"An austere man, a friend of publicans and sinners." "A gluttonous man and a winebibber." "The Carpenter." So they still say. Would any know the truth?

HAVE A PERSONAL INTERVIEW.

He is to be met at any hour. Ask Him of all that is in thine heart. What is His programme? "Peace on earth and goodwill towards men;" the welfare of the poor, that the rich may no more oppress, the freedom of all slaves, the overthrow of all evil, a final and universal millennium.

THE TIME OF VOTING IS FIXED.

Not when you feel inclined, but *now*. "Choose you this day whom ye will serve" (Josh. xxiv. 15). Satan or the Saviour; sin or salvation; heaven or hell. Which do you choose? Which would you like to rule?