

est them water for their thirst. Yea, forty years didst thou sustain them in the wilderness, so that they lacked nothing." But what was the result? Did they obey? No, for it is added in the 26th verse. "Nevertheless they were disobedient, and rebelled against thee, and cast thy law behind their backs, and slew thy prophets which testified against them to turn them to thee, and they wrought great provocations." And again in the 30th verse, "Yet many years didst thou forbear them, and *testifiedst against them by thy Spirit* in thy prophets: yet would they not give ear: therefore gavest thou them into the hand of the people of the lands." See also, Acts 7, 51; xiii, 46. But though many disobey God, rebel against him, and resist his Holy Spirit, all who hear and learn, all who yield to his grace and are drawn by the cords of his love, come to Christ, and find in him wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption. Or, as our Lord himself expresses it, "Every man therefore that hath heard and hath learned of the Father cometh unto me." Yes, as if our Lord had said, *he cometh unto me*, "of whom Moses in the law and the prophets did write," that he may find light, life, liberty peace, and purity. *He COMETH unto me*. There is no force, no compulsion, no dragging, or driving in the matter. The sinner is a free agent, acts freely, and is conscious that he takes every step of the journey himself and no one else for him.† Dear reader, the Divine Father is now seeking to draw *you* to Christ; will you yield to his influence? God is speaking to *you*, will you listen? He is now teaching *you*; will you learn? Jesus is now seeking to draw you to himself; surely he has given you evidence of his love to your soul. He was lifted up upon the cross that he might *draw you to himself*; he died that you might live, and he now lives that you may not die. O come to him and you will find peace, and rest and righteousness. Come

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† In his Critical Edition of the New Testament, *Dean Alford* in his notes on the 45th verse says: "This clearly intimates *the kind of drawing* meant in the last verse;—the opening of the eyes of the mind by divine teaching. This is the final decision of the human will, acted on by the divine attraction to Christ. *The beginning* is, The Father draws him; *the progress*, he hears and learns—here is the consenting will—speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth;—*the end*, he cometh to Christ—here is the will acting on the whole man." In his note on John xii, 32, he has the following remark which is worthy of more than a passing notice. "Before the glorification of Christ, the Father drew men to the Son, but now the Son Himself to Himself. Then it was, 'no man can come except the Father draw him'; now the son draws *all* and to *himself*, as