

SERIOUS QUESTIONS FOR BISHOPS
AND BIBLE READERS.

"To the Law and to the Testimony—if they Speak not according to this word
it is because there is no light in them" (Isaiah VIII, 20.)

1st. What is the Scriptural meaning of the word "Church," and what constituted a member of the church in apostolic times?

2nd. What is the Scriptural Character of a Bishop, and were there more Bishops, Pastors or Elders, than one placed over *each* Congregation in apostolic times?

3rd. Can any thing analogous to the *puerile and absurd ceremony of* Episcopal "CONFIRMATION" be gathered from the Holy Scriptures?—If so where?

4th. Is there the remotest shadow of a reason to be found in the New Testament for the appointment of what is called "SPONSORS"? and if not, are not such persons therefore guilty of the most daring perjury against heaven under the sanction of the "Chief Priests and Scribes" of our day?

5th. Why do we not find anything like an epitome or abstract of the christian doctrine in the Scriptures bearing a resemblance to the Creeds, Articles, Confessions of Faith or Diciplines of modern times?—were the Apostles less wise than modern Scribes?

6th. When a "Diocesan Bishop" at the laying on of hands in the ceremony of ORDINATION, says "*Receive ye the Holy Ghost*" is he not guilty of daring impiety, because knowingly and profanely *mimicking* an apostolic reality?

7th. When also he says, to the subject of ordination, "*whose sins soever ye remit they are remitted, and whose sins soever ye retain they are retained*" is he not knowingly guilty of uttering a falsehood before God, because assuming powers which Christ himself alone possessed, and which the Apostles themselves never assumed? When did any Apostle ever pretend to *bestow* this authority upon another?

8th. When a Candidate for ordination declares, *as they all do*, that he believes that he was "called by the Holy Ghost" to the office of the ministry—is it not a horrible trifling with Sacred things—because—1st. In *their sense* it is not true: 2nd In nine cases out of ten they believe no such thing: and 3rd. Many of them are Profane and ungodly men?

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