

professed faith, and consequently, were "such as should be saved." This is the feature whereby they, and all true christians are known, "that they believed in the Lord," and without this faith in candidates for this ceremony *now*, it will be in vain that they have repeated the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Episcopal Catechism—it will be in vain that a Bishop's hand has been laid upon their heads—it will be *utterly in vain* that he has certified "by that sign of God's gracious favor and goodness," for the Scriptures declare that it is faith in Christ that justifies from sin—that faith gives us peace with God—that faith overcomes the world—that it is faith which cleers in death—and that it is faith which will bring a glorious resurrection to eternal life. The Lord Jesus Christ, the *Head* of the Church, has said, "he that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him."

I must request you again to observe, that the qualification required of candidates for Episcopal confirmation, does not consist of holiness of life. I know that the question is publicly proposed to all, not *individually*, but collectively, at the same time, "whether they renew the vows made in their name at their baptism," and they, *all at once*, answer in the affirmative, and the service proceeds on the assumption that they are all sincere, though there is no evidence supplied of sincerity and integrity of heart. Perhaps you will reply, they "are examined and approved." True; but what is necessary for that approval? simply the repetition of the lessons enumerated in your Rubric, to do which would not cost many boys half a day's attention; and in some instances, ability even for this is not required. But may not this, and much more, be done by those who are entirely destitute of spiritual life, who would delight in a visit to the ball-room, the theatre, the card-table, and the race-course, while they would neglect Christian duties, and a call to social prayer? How different to the qualification required by Jesus Christ, who said, "not every one who saith Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of Heaven; but he that *doeth the will* of my father who is in heaven." "Whosoever doth not bear his cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple." "Whosoever shall *do the will of God*, the same is my brother, and sister and mother." Jesus spake of Christians as "the light of the world," as the "salt of the earth," and as the witnesses of himself before a crooked and perverse generation. Such are the qualifications which you *do not* require of candidates for Episcopal confirmation, but which are essential to spiritual happiness, and usefulness. A few words shall now suffice in the examination of what you do require. First—The candidates for Episcopal confirmation, are to say they believe in the *articles of the Christian faith*; those, if I rightly judge, are not the