

ye the Holy Ghost. Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained." These are solemn, weighty words and seem forever to settle and substantiate the claims of the priesthood.

If you turn to the office for the ordination of priests in your prayer book, you will discover four terms used to designate the relations existing between a priest and his people. A study of them may help us to realize more thoroughly our duties, for I am preaching as much to myself this morning as I am to you.

I. PRIESTS ARE WATCHMEN.

In the proper season for this service are these very strong and remarkable words: "I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night." It is a glowing picture of the work and responsibility of a priest.

See him as he stands there solitary and alone. Outlined against the sky, he is a striking figure. Behind him are the people in the city, in whose interests he watches. Before him is the plain, over which his eye ceaselessly ranges in order that he may detect the approach of any and every enemy and at once give forth the warning. Cut off from the people, separated from fellow-watchmen, his task is a lonely one. Does it not forcibly tell us of the many ways in which the priest of God must watch alone? There are secret troubles committed to his care that he dare never reveal to his closest friend. Confessions are made to him that he must hide down in the deepest places of his heart where only God can see and sympathize. He must bear upon his life the sorrows and anguishes and sins of his people and he must bear them alone. Only the other day, a friend in this congregation said to me, "I wonder that you