

ON THE
COMMISSION OF THE MINISTRY.

John xx. 21, 22, 23.

Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost.

Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained.

ONE of the titles of our Lord is *Shiloh*—that is, *the sent*, the Messenger of the Covenant; the Ambassador *sent* by the Father to proclaim glad tidings of great joy to all people, and to reconcile the world to Himself. Being thus appointed the Chief Minister of the Gospel, he deposes others to the same office under him; “as my Father hath *sent* me, even so *send* I you.” There seems no other reasonable interpretation of his words than this—that as the Almighty Father had openly commissioned his well-beloved Son, and poured out His spirit upon him “without measure,” to qualify him for the work whereunto He had appointed him, “even so,” in the same manner, by the ceremony of a formal Ordination, and by the communication of the Spirit of grace and power, that Son commissioned the first human Ministers of His Holy Word,* to preach

* I entirely concur in the opinion that our Lord's words in this text were addressed to the APOSTLES *only*; but the principle applies to all the inferior orders of the Ministry deriving their authority from Him through them.