

HAVE YOU BEEN CONFIRMED.

"Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.—Acts viii. 16.

"And when Paul had laid his hands upon them the Holy Ghost came on them."—Acts xix. 6.

"Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands."—*Hebrews* vi. 2.

If you have not, let me tell you why you ought. If you have, let me remind you of some things you have learned.

Everybody ought to be confirmed. For many reasons. Because—

I. The Bible teaches Confirmation

In the eighth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, verses 5, 6, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, is the story of Confirmation. Philip went to Samaria, preached Christ, and baptized those that believed. The Apostles at Jerusalem heard of it, and sent Peter and John. When they came, they prayed for the people who had been baptized, and laid hands on them; and they received the Holy Ghost. The same thing happens now. Ministers like Philip preach and baptize; but Chief Ministers like the Apostles—I mean, the Bishops—come afterwards, pray for those that have been baptized, and lay their hands on them.

Of course is not enough, perhaps. Let us see what the apostles commonly did. For example, St. Paul came to Ephesus, and found some disciples there. He asked them, "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?"—Acts xix. 2. In this case there was no need to send for one of the Chief Ministers; for St. Paul was an Apostle. "When he laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came upon them."

Now look at the first two verses of the sixth chapter of the Epistle to the Hebrews. Here you see a list of six "foundation" doctrines of Christianity. They are in three pairs:—

1. 2. Repentance and Faith.
3. 4. Baptism and Laying on of Hands,
5. 6. Resurrection and Judgment.

All these are most important, as you see from the way they are joined together. And the texts quoted before show what is the meaning of the Laying on of Hands which came after Baptisms.

Without quoting more passages it is enough to show that the Bible gives an example of a Confirmation in Acts viii., tells us that such Confirmations were usual in Acts xix., and explains the importance of the doctrine in *Hebrews* vi.

II. The Church teaches Confirmation.

Of course she does, for she must teach the doctrines of the Bible. And her teaching is plain. At the end of the Service for the Public Baptism of Infants, the Church directs that all children thus baptized shall "be brought to the Bishop to be confirmed by him so soon as they have learned the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments, and have been further instructed in the Church Catechism."—*Selected*.

HAPPINESS no more depends on station, rank, or any local or adventitious circumstances in individuals, than a man's life is connected with the color of his garment. The mind is the seat of happiness; and to make it so in reality, we must be content with our lot.