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As you could know nothing of the nature of the Gospel covenant when you were, through the mercy of God, admitted into CHRIST'S Church by Baptism, it is proper that, when you shall become acquainted with Christian truth and Christian duty, you come forward, freely, of yourselves, and be publicly confirmed in the resolution to forsake sin and to follow CHRIST:—As you have very often, already, fallen from God's favor by youthful impieties, it will be very necessary, that, when you come to a sense of your unworthiness, you humbly acknowledge both your past sinfulness, and your present want of power to live a Christian life, without the help of God's grace;—and you should piously seek that the promises of God and the privileges of your Christian state, may be confirmed to you in this solemn rite, while you may yourselves be confirmed or strengthened, by it, in your Christian course.

Unless you do make a personal profession of religion, & Holy Ghost (by whose inspiration alone the new life, which was given at your baptism, can be maintained), will not imparted to you,—and this solemn ceremony of Confirmation is the most ancient and approved way in which those who have been baptized as children, can make, for the first time, such a personal profession of Christianity. Unless you are blessed by God and assisted with His grace, you cannot advance a single step in your Christian course;—now those who, at the time of Confirmation, ask a blessing upon you from God, are the successors of those Apostles whose ministerial actions CHRIST engaged to acknowledge to the end of the world.

When you regard, then, the importance of this ordinance, in order to the completion or the confirmation of your baptism;—when you consider how much it may tend towards the confirmation or establishing of yourselves in your most holy faith, and in a practice suitable to it; and when you bear in mind, moreover, that the proper officer for the administration of this rite, can so very seldom be seen amongst us, you cannot be surprised at the serious preparation which you observe is making on every side for the due reception of our excellent Bishop and of the advantages which may be expected to arise from his visit.

You, my young friends! will not, I trust, be behind any in the respect with which you will regard this our spiritual