

is an uncertainty as to the baptism of a child : ' If thou art not already baptized (N) I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.'

At the close of the service for the baptism of infants the godparents are ordered to have the child instructed in the Church Catechism preparatory to presenting it to the Bishop for the laying-on of the Bishop's hands, or the rite of confirmation. This leads us to the consideration of the catechism or instruction to be learned of every person before he be brought to be confirmed by the Bishop.

The Catechism.

The keynote of the Catechism.

The Catechism consists of a system of religious instruction, compiled under the direction of James I, by Bishop Overal, and based on the fact of the child's baptism ; of the vows then made, and of the necessity of making these vows the rule of the growing life. The keynote of the Catechism is that the child, because baptized, is treated as "a child of God ;" "a member of Christ," and "an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven ;" that it is spoken to as a member of God's visible church, and taught that it has a positive right to look up to God as its Father, and as his child to live in accordance with his will. It is as if the church said to the child : "My child, as a child of God I desire to teach you what you should believe, and how you should live as 'a member of Christ, and as an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven.'"

First, the Catechism teaches the child what it should believe. It does this with the wisest spirit of brevity, leaving it to parents and teachers to expand its beautiful description of the divisions of the Apostles' Creed. First, the child should believe in God as its Father and Creator ; in God the Son as its own personal Saviour, and as the Redeemer of all mankind ; and third, in God the Holy Ghost as the source of all divine strength. Then, as if to show that this belief should not be merely intellectual, it calls on the child to repeat God's great laws of holy living in which the individual proves the reality of his faith by his daily life, through seeking to do his duty to God, and his duty to his fellow-man ; and this the child answers by repeating the ten commandments, thus acknowledging the Bible as the source of divine teaching ; and also that faith without works, knowledge without life, is dead, being alone.

Then the Catechism, reading the natural thoughts that would rise up even in a young child's mind as it realizes the pure, spotless law of God and its own drift towards wrong doing, proceeds to comfort and sustain the baptized child of Christ by pointing out the helps that God has given us to make this law our rule of life. Already it had pointed to