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delegated, to certain fit and faithful men, the commis-  
 sion to send labourers into the harvest of the Lord:—\*  
 we believe that this was a peculiar privilege not pos-  
 sessed by others, nor, as history shews, ever exercised  
 by any, but these successors of the Apostles, till the  
 Church of Geneva, at first from necessity, and after-  
 wards from, (as we conceive,) an erroneous view of  
 Scripture, substituted for the Episcopal, the Presbyte-  
 rian form of Government.† But without passing any  
 further opinion upon those other National Churches,  
 who have seen fit to depart from what we conceive to  
 have been the primitive order, we should never cease  
 to rejoice that we have been called to the Ministry by a  
 Church that has ever continued, as well Apostolic in go-  
 vernment, as Scriptural in doctrine. But while we do so  
 rejoice let it be with trembling—how can it ever be  
 otherwise? Can we forget what a precious charge is  
 entrusted to us, the souls of men, “whom Christ bought  
 with his death and for whom he shed his blood”‡  
 Can we fail to remember that if we depend merely on  
 the authority of our office however great, and howev-  
 er acknowledged, we grossly deceive ourselves? Men  
 will despise us, unless they perceive that we are anx-  
 ious to be ourselves, “examples of believers, in word,  
 in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity,”  
 “giving attention to reading, to exhortation, to doc-

\* Thus Mark was left at Alexandria by St. Peter; Polycarp at Smyrna by St. John.

† See the preface of Jeremy Taylor's “*Episcopacy Asserted*,” also, sec-  
 tions 14, 15, 16, 18, 35, 37, 51, &c.

‡ Ordination Service.