

Vows Are Sacred.

Next the congregation is appealed to. Anyone is urged to come forward if he or she knows any impediment which ought to, or, in their judgment, ought to be a hindrance to the ordination. And then, in the presence of God, and in the face of the congregation, certain very solemn questions are put by the Bishop, which, being put and answered by the candidate, become **sacred vows binding him for life.** Now this exceeding care, this great precaution is taken by the Church because her own honor and the honor of her Divine Lord is being entrusted to the newly ordained, and before she commissions him she must be assured, so far as assurance is possible, that **he will do what she expects of him, preach her truth and exemplify it by his life and conversation.**

In the present day when very few Churchmen take the trouble to study their prayer books, and when only the offices of Morning and Evening Prayer are familiar to many of them; in the present day, when strange and erroneous views are heard even from the lips of ordained ministers as they stand in the pulpits of the Church, it seems well that on such an occasion as this your attention should be drawn to the solemn vows each and every man takes at his ordination, **vows which are the condition of his ordination, and in consequence of which alone is he permitted to officiate at our altars or preach in our pulpits.**

Belief in Church and Scriptures.

Time, of course, does not permit me to examine the ordination vows with you in detail. I commend them to your careful attention for study afterwards. All I have time to do this morning is to consider very briefly the vows taken with respect to Holy Scripture, and the doctrine of the Church.

1st—The Church, as the pillar and ground of the truth, and as the witness to and keeper of Holy Writ, suf-