

importance—the Founders, or planters, of the Church of England, both Britons and Saxons, were bishops ordained by other bishops, precisely as is the case at the present time; the catalogue has been carefully and providentially preserved from the beginning. And the bishops who ordained them had been ordained by other bishops, and so back to the Apostles, who ordained the first bishops, being themselves ordained by Christ. This is what is called the doctrine of the Apostolical Succession; which is a doctrine of considerable importance. For unless the ministers of the Gospel are sent by Christ, what right have they to act in His name? If we were passing through a foreign land, we might be perfectly competent to act as ambassador for the Queen of England; but would any foreign potentate receive us as such, unless we could produce our credentials? Many a man may be as well *qualified* to perform the duties of the Lord Chancellor as the Chancellor himself, but is he able to *act* as Chancellor? No, certainly; not unless he has first received a commission from his sovereign! And so with respect to religion. What right has a man to take upon himself to act as God's ambassador, unless God has commissioned him so to act? An eloquent man he may be, and one mighty in the Scriptures, but he has no authority to speak in God's name, until God has given him that authority. How, asks St. Paul, shall they preach, *i. e.* preach lawfully, except they be sent, *i. e.* sent by God? No man, says Scripture, taketh this honour to himself, but he that is called of God. Nay, even Christ, says the Apostle, glorified not Himself to be made an high-priest, but He that said unto Him, "thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee," even *He* entered not on his ministerial office until He was externally appointed thereto.

As the Lord Jesus Christ was sent by the Father, so were the Apostles sent by Him. "As my Father hath sent me," He says, soon after his resurrection, "even so send I you." Now how had the Father sent Him? He had sent Him to act as his supreme minister on earth; as such to appoint under Him subordinate ministers, and to do what He then did, when his work on