

Ambassadors with Credentials.

They were the *alone Ambassadors of the Prince of Life* from the Court of Heaven to our World. The works which they did bore witness that they were the *accredited* messengers of God, to proclaim the glad tidings of mercy and reconciliation to this revolted province of his Empire. To resist their word therefore was declared to be the same as to resist the word of God. "We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us" (I. John IV. 6.) I. Cor XIV. 37. II. Cor. V. 20.

"He that heareth you heareth me" Luke X, 16.

"Ambassadors" without Credentials.

The "Successors" (and many others who repudiate their absurdities) claim to be *Ambassadors of Christ*, but they have never exhibited their credentials for a plain reason, because they have none!! Would an earthly ambassador be acknowledged as accredited without his credentials? Certainly he would not:—he would be treated as an impostor or a fool. Yet men are so insane with respect to things of infinite importance as to receive and acknowledge those Pretenders without the shadow of evidence as to their authority!—"Believe not every spirit but try the spirits because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (I. John IV. 1.)

2nd. There is a Succession as to Character.

Who are Successors of The APOSTLES.

The Head of the Church prayed for his Apostles, [John XVII, 18.] and then *in verse 20* for their *only* Successors. There is then a sense in which the Apostles have "a glorious company of Successors and that is, as to *moral character*, privileges and hopes. For all who hear and obey their word are with them adopted into the family of God, become possessed of the privileges of Sons, and are made partakers of the Divine nature. They also become heirs to a heavenly inheritance, and look for "a crown of righteousness" which as an Apostle says "the Lord shall give me at that day and not to me only but to all them also who love his appearing" (2 Tim. IV. 8)

This SUCCESSION is "Heavenly, Spiritual, Divine."

Who may be the Successors of JUDAS the Traitor.

There is also a sense in which it is possible, the pretended Succession have an apostolic progenitor, and whose character, with all charity it must be allowed many of them seem remarkably to bear, and that is *Judas the Traitor*. His love for "filthy lucre" led him to betray his Divine Master while he feigned to be his friend; and how many of *his Successors* have thus followed his example, and "through covetousness with feigned words, have made merchandize of (the people)" and betrayed the cause of Christ before men will only be known at the Great Day of account.

This SUCCESSION is "Earthly, Sensual, Devilish."

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