

Other similar testimony might be given to almost any extent.

Such, my brethren, is the authority of *Holy Scripture* in regard to Confirmation. Such is the testimony of *the Church* in every age, and such are the opinions of the best-informed men of *her opponents* in modern days. How reasonable and how proper it is for those baptized in infancy to recognize the Vow made on their behalf openly before the Church. I deem it unnecessary to prove. But this I may just observe, that if any person be admitted to a Society, proposed as it were by two or more existing members who guarantee his respectability, and from uncontrollable circumstances at the time, he be unable to sign the rules or take the obligation of membership, but yet receive, for several years, all the privileges and benefits possible from his admission, it is his plain duty as a man of honor and gratitude, to come forward at the first opportunity, avow his obligation and satisfy the other members that he is one with themselves in feeling and principle.

It may be said that the Rite has been perverted by the Church of Rome. Alas, that it should be so! But while *we* have retained the Rite, we have left the perversion to Rome. We believe that Church has perverted also Baptism, the Holy Scriptures, the Lord's Supper, yet surely the perversion does not destroy the necessity for these things? No, my brethren, and we may be well assured that because others have been guilty of corrupting and abusing them, we shall not be held innocent for abandoning or neglecting them, now that the mediæval adulteration has been thrust out, and the verities themselves are presented in their primitive purity. No, to argue against the use of anything from the abuse of it, would lead us to discard what is undeniably excellent, indeed almost every blessing on earth, temporal and spiritual. But I am sorry to say, that many persons among ourselves who should know better, do not see