

over, where we may obtain the assistance which we require to enable us to live as becomes the children of God. This catechism should be enlarged upon, and its different points should be deeply impressed on the minds and hearts of your people. The Constitution of the Church of Christ, of which they are all members, should also be clearly explained to them. They should be made to realize that the Church is a *Divine Institution*, and not one to be constructed by the holiest and ablest of fallen Adam's race. It may be profitable for us on this occasion to go back, in imagination, to the time when Christ established His Church on earth. He had suffered on the accursed cross a ransom for the sins of the world, He had arisen triumphant from the grave and appeared to His disciples again. We are informed by St. John, (whose Gospel supplies us with many things that had been unmentioned by the other Evangelists) "that on one occasion soon after His resurrection, Jesus came to His disciples, unexpectedly, and said to them: 'Peace be unto you, as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you, and when he had said this He breathed on them and said unto them, 'Receive the Holy Ghost, whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted; whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained.' " Before His ascension into Heaven the blessed Saviour met His disciples by appointment in Galilee. He spent sometime with them there, and conversed with them regarding the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God; that is (according to a Presbyterian commentator) "He gave them instructions about the organization, spread and edification of His Church," and closed his intercourse with them by asserting the possession of "all power in heaven and on earth" and by giving them their commission to establish His Church on earth, with the assurance that He would be with them to the end of the world: "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and on earth, go ye therefore and teach (or make disciples of) all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. Lo I am with you always, to the end of the world." Here we have several very remarkable particulars—1st, the breathing on His chosen Apostles, on those who had been His friends and companions for three years; 2nd, His declaration, "As my father hath sent me, so send I you;" 3rd, His long intercourse with the eleven in Galilee, where He gives them, (as is acknowledged by all) instructions regarding His Church; 4th, His claim to "all power in heaven and on earth;" 5th, His commission to establish His Church; 6th, His promise to be with that Church to the end of the world. Here are a very great many important events in our blessed Lord's life, too great for anything less than the establishment of His Church on earth. Why else did he breathe on His disciples? Why else did He say to them? "As my father hath sent Me,