

if you are old, and yourselves slight this Rite of Confirmation, oh, keep not back the young. Think of those blessed words: "*Suffer the little children to come into Me, and forbid them not.*" Hear the command of the Saviour, "*Feed my lambs,*" and S. Paul's exhortation to bring up children *in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*" Hear finally the explicit direction of your wise mother church: "*Ye are to take care that this child be brought to the Bishop to be confirmed by him.*" Oh, if you be true Christian parents and loyal churchmen who have sought in earnest prayer that you should be faithful stewards of the charge committed to you by God, you will not cherish discouraging counsels, but you will endeavour to make your children always feel that they are indeed privileged members of Christ's Holy Catholic Church. You will remind them constantly of their responsibilities as such, and thus keep their feet in that pure and undefiled faith to which they were solemnly pledged; day by day strengthening them with spiritual food by all private and public means of grace, so that they may be at last fit for the due reception of those holy Mysteries, the most affecting proof of a Saviour's precious love, ordained for our great and endless comfort.

Alas, too many parents expose their children to the influences of error both in doctrine and living,—leave them a prey to the subtle seductions of vice and infidelity, of heresy and schism,—teach them by example as well as by foolish counsel, to regard with indifference early habits of evil, so lasting, so terrible in their consequences, and to look on the glorious promises of Christ the Son of God to His Church and His children as empty delusions. But for all these things God will call them to judgment.

To you, my dear young friends; who have resolved to come forward, and nobly confess before men that you are, and intend