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Confirmation

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Are you ready to serve Christ



Bishop Drenden

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For Confirmation and the Holy Communion.

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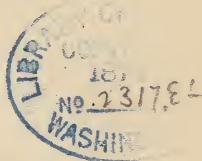
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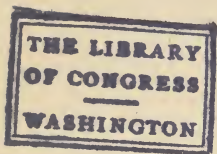
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PART THE FIRST.
Before Confirmation.

CHAPTER I.

THE YOUNG SOLDIER OF CHRIST.

I WAS once in company with a person, who told me that she had a son whom she loved very dearly. He was her only child. From the time that he was quite a little boy, he had always longed to be a soldier. He was a quiet, steady lad; but she could not get him to take an interest in any other calling than this. He was bent on being a soldier.

His mother told him of the many difficulties in the way. She talked to him about the hardships of a soldier's life. And what grieved her most, perhaps, was the danger that he would be exposed to, far away from his own home. But she tried in vain. *He was bent on being a soldier.*

Now, my dear young friend, is this *your*

wish? Are *you* bent on being a soldier? I do not mean such a soldier as this young man wished to become: I mean, a SOLDIER OF CHRIST.

It certainly is not an easy thing to be one of His soldiers. If we are in His army, we must be in earnest. We must fight boldly. We must "quit ourselves like men." We must "endure hardships." Our enemies are strong and many. There are difficulties and trials and dangers before us. But we must not mind them. We must cheerfully and manfully face them all.

But, though it is not an easy thing to be a good soldier of Jesus Christ, yet it is a very blessed and happy service.

Christ furnishes us with the best of *weapons*. He puts on us "the shield of faith," "the helmet of salvation," and "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." (Eph. vi.) He gives us *good wages*, too. His soldiers have a hard life, but a happy one. They want for nothing. (Ps. xxiii. 1.) He Himself fights with them. He is their Captain. He comforts them when they are troubled. He cheers them when they are low, and supplies them abundantly with His grace. (2 Cor. xii. 9; 2 Tim. iv. 17.)

And then, the battle is sure to *end* well. The Lord's people are certain of victory. He can make them "more than conquerors." And after they have toiled a little while here below He takes them to His happy kingdom above, where they shall be with Him forever. "Be thou faithful unto death," He says, "and I will give thee a crown of life." "To him that overcometh, will I grant to sit with me in my throne; even as I overcame, and am set down with my Father, in his throne." (Rev. ii. 10; iii. 21.)

My dear friend, do you wish to be such a soldier as this? But stop. You *are* a soldier in one sense. You have been *already enlisted* in Christ's army. But you will ask, "How is this?" I will tell you.

You know, that when you were quite a little child your parents took you to church, and you were then baptized, or christened. That is what I mean, when I say you have been *already entered* into Christ's army. What more, then, is now wanting? Why, there is *another* Ordinance besides Baptism; and you are invited in that Ordinance to come forward, and declare with your own mouth, and before all men, that you are heartily willing to serve Christ and to become really and truly His soldier. The Or-

dinance I am speaking of is Confirmation. In the next chapter I shall try and explain to you what this Confirmation is. But before you go any farther, I wish you to think seriously of what I have now said. Consider in your mind what it is to be "a *good* soldier of Jesus Christ." (2 Tim. ii. 3.)

CHAPTER II.

CONFIRMATION — WHAT DOES IT MEAN ?

AT the end of the last chapter, I spoke of your having been baptized. That was some time ago. You were then a very little infant ; and you were not able to think, or speak, for yourself. Still, you were baptized ; because your father and mother wished to obey the command of Christ, and looked for His blessing. They wished that you might, from your very childhood, be numbered as one of the lambs of His flock.

When your parents carried you to the church, they took with them three persons, who are called your Godfathers and Godmothers. And why was this, do you think ? It was, because you could not make a single promise for your-

self. You were much too young. So these kind friends promised for you. They promised, in your name, that you would renounce (or forsake) the devil, the world, and the flesh, and that you would faithfully serve Christ.

This was a solemn promise. They made it, because they *hoped* you would keep it. They prayed that you might keep it. And they asked God to give you His Holy Spirit and to make you His child.

And now, my dear friend, you are quite old enough to declare plainly *for yourself*, and *with your own mouth*, whether you will abide by these promises or not.

It may be, if you look back on the past, your conscience will whisper to you, that you have *not* lived as a child of God ought. Oh, how often have you offended your kind and loving Father! You are young; but yet, young as you are, you have perhaps broken many of His laws. How much have you loved the things of the world; and how little, how very little, have you loved Him!

May the Holy Spirit touch your heart, and make you feel what an awful thing it is to be a Christian *in name*, and yet all the while a *stranger to Christ!* Go to God, and ask Him to soften your hard heart. Go to your Saviour,

and entreat His forgiveness; and pray that His blood may wash away your past sin.

But now God seems specially to call upon you to consider whose you are, and whom you will serve. There is shortly to be a Confirmation in your neighborhood, and I am supposing that you are of a fit age to take part in it. If you are allowed to be confirmed, you will go and declare openly, before all your brethren, that you are not ashamed of Christ, but that you are determined, by God's help, to be His true soldier and servant.

Your *Clergyman* cannot confirm you. It is only the *Bishop* who can perform this solemn office. He will therefore be at the Confirmation. He will solemnly ask you if it is your earnest desire to act, as your friends promised for you. And if you declare that such is your desire, then he will pray for you, and he will put his hands upon you, and bless you in the Lord's name.

So then, you see, Confirmation is a very serious and important matter. It is indeed one of the most solemn acts of your life. I advise you then to be very thoughtful. Pray earnestly to God, that He will prepare your heart. Try to understand what you are going to do, — you are

going to *confirm*, with your own words, the promises which were made for you at your baptism. And may you become, from that day, a true, decided, and *confirmed* follower of your blessed Saviour!

CHAPTER III.

THE BLESSING WHICH GOD HAS GIVEN US, AND THE PROMISES WHICH WE HAVE MADE.

WHAT was the good of being baptized, do you think? I have already told you that you were then offered to Christ, and entered into His army. But I think you will see this more clearly, if you look at the beginning of your Catechism.

You are there told, that at your Baptism you were made "*a Member of Christ, a Child of God, and an Inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven.*" Let us try and understand this.

1. You were then made "*a Member of Christ.*" Now, this means that you were from that time looked upon as a Christian, or a member of Christ's Church. You were by nature "born in sin," and "a child of wrath;" but when you were offered to Christ in your Bap-

tism, He took you under His special care, and you became one of the little ones of His flock.

2. You were then made "*a child of God.*" God was pleased, from that time, to call Himself your Father; and you were numbered among His family. Oh, then, how doubly sinful have you been, if you have not lived as His child ought to live!

3. You were then made "*an Inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven.*" A person, who has a certain property or inheritance left him, is called an "*Inheritor.*" Heaven is the Christian's inheritance. (1 Peter, i. 3.) Your Saviour has purchased it for you; and He freely offers it to those who heartily love and serve Him.

These then were the BLESSINGS made over to you at your baptism. And now, I hope, you understand the good of being baptized. It is a great honor to be a member of Christ, a child of God, and an heir of heaven! God grant that you may be so in the truest and highest sense! (Rom. xii. 5; John, i. 12; and Rom. vii. 14, 17.)

But I said that certain PROMISES were also made for you at the time when you were baptized. Now, if a person promises anything for me, I ought to be very anxious to find out *what it is* that he has promised.

Let us see then what were the *Promises* that were made for you by your godfathers and godmothers. We shall find them in the first part of the Catechism. They are *three* in number.

First. — They promised that you would “*renounce (or forsake) the Devil and all his works.*” This means, that you would give up everything sinful. They promised, also, that you would renounce “*the pomps and vanity of this wicked world.*” There are many who love the world, though it is a wicked world; and they are living entirely for this world. But all this you have promised to renounce: and you are not a Christian, unless you *have* renounced it. (1 John, ii. 15, 16.) Again, they promised that you would renounce “*the sinful lusts of the flesh.*” And what does that mean? Look at Gal. v. 19, 20, 21. There you will plainly see what the lusts of the flesh are. You know our hearts are sinful, and we have a great many evil desires and inclinations. These are called “the lusts of the flesh;” and these we have promised to give up.

Look at that careless and godless man, who is foremost in everything that is bad, and whom no one respects. He can hardly speak without an oath. He thinks very lightly of sin. Do not suppose that *he* has “renounced the devil

and all his works." No ; he is *following* them, instead of *forsaking* them as he promised.

Look at that silly, thoughtless girl, who thinks so much about her dress. She is always longing to go to this or that place of amusement. She is so taken up with things here below, that she has but very little concern about her precious, never-dying soul. Has *she* "renounced the pomps and vanity of this wicked world?" No ; she has broken her promise, and is sinning against God.

Look at a third. We seldom see him in God's house, but we often hear of his being in evil company. He often gives way to his evil temper, and does not try to get the better of it. Whatever he feels a desire to do, whether it be right or wrong, he does it. Do you think we can say, that *he* is "renouncing the sinful lusts of the flesh?" No : he is giving way to them, and he is destroying his own soul.

Secondly. — They promised that you would "believe all the articles of the Christian faith. This means all that a Christian ought to believe. And all this we find drawn up for us in the Belief. But remember we must believe *with our hearts* ; for it is written, "With the heart man believeth unto righteousness."

Thirdly. — They promised that you would

“keep God’s holy will and commandments, and walk in the same (or continue to keep them) all the days of your life.” There is no difficulty in finding out what is God’s will and what are God’s commands. We see them in every page of the Bible ; and oh, that we were more ready to obey them !

Now, these are the things, my dear young friend, which have already been *promised for you*. And these are the very promises which you are going to stand to, at your Confirmation. You are now going *to make them for yourself, with your own lips*.

You feel perhaps that you are a poor, weak creature ; and how *can* you keep these promises ? You have indeed no power of your own ; and if you trust to your own strength, you will be quite sure to break them. But lift up your heart to God : He can give you His grace and strength. Pray to Him, and ask Him to be your Helper. Then you will be strong indeed. Then you will get the better of all your enemies and of your own evil heart ; and then you will be able to say, as St. Paul did, “I can do all things *through Christ, which strengtheneth me.*” (Phil. iv. 13.)

CHAPTER IV.

SOME WRONG NOTIONS ABOUT CONFIRMATION.

THE chapters which you have already read, I hope, have done you some good. I pray to God that they may. Perhaps you begin to understand the subject a little better; and to feel more properly about it. But yet, I think, it will be well to mention some of the *Wrong Notions* which people have about Confirmation.

First Mistake. — Some wish to be confirmed, because they have arrived at the age of fifteen or sixteen years. They think they must be *quite old enough*. Or, again, they wish it, because their companions, or their brothers and sisters, have been confirmed; and why should not they also? They know nothing about Confirmation; but, somehow or other, they think it is a right thing to be confirmed. So they go to their Minister, and have their names put down.

Certainly, it is right for every Christian to be confirmed; and you may be quite old enough. But this alone would be but a poor reason for going. The question is, Are you in *a right state of mind*? Are you willing to give yourself to the Lord?

Second Mistake. — Many look upon it as a

mere outward form. They think that if they go to church, and get the Bishop's blessing, all will be well. But they take no pains to understand what they are going to do. And they never offer up one single prayer to God, that He would make them feel rightly about it. I am afraid this is very commonly the case. Numbers just go through the outward form ; but get no blessing on their souls.

Third Mistake. — I have often asked a person what Confirmation is? And the answer has been given, "*It is taking our sins upon ourselves.*" Yes, some are so ignorant as to suppose that a child's godfather and godmother are *answerable for his sins*, till he has been to the Bishop ; and that afterwards he is bound to answer for them himself. This is a very common mistake ; and it is a very dangerous one.

But surely no fellow-creature can answer for another's sins. Each one must answer for his own. And the moment a child begins to know the difference between right and wrong, he is accountable to God for all that he does.

Have you ever thought seriously of this? Oh, it is a solemn truth that for *all* the sins of your childhood, and your youth, you will be judged ! There is only One who can *bear your sins for you* : this is the Lord Jesus Christ. Go

and cast yourself on Him, and ask Him to take away all your guilt. (Isaiah, liii. 6 ; 1 Peter, ii. 24.)

Fourth Mistake. — Some think that *mere knowledge is enough*, that if you understand what Confirmation is, if you can say the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments, and the Belief, and can answer a few questions, nothing more is required. But no, it is not enough for you to *know* these things: you must also *feel* them, and *act* upon them. You must not only have knowledge in your head, but the love of God in your heart.

Fifth Mistake. — Others again, I fear, are even worse. They *make light of the whole matter*. They only think of the holiday they will have, and of meeting a great number of boys and girls of their own age, and of seeing a great crowd of people. But this is making a trifle of religion. This is tempting God to pour down His curse upon you, instead of a blessing. "Be not deceived. God is not mocked." May you be kept from so great, so awful a sin!

Sixth Mistake. — Some say they find nothing about Confirmation in the Bible. But, if we look into the Acts of the Apostles, we shall see that a kind of Confirmation was certainly practiced by the Apostles. In the eighth and nine-

teenth chapters, we are told that they *laid their hands* on those who *had been baptized*. This was in order that they might receive some *further* gifts of God's grace, and be more fully strengthened by the Holy Spirit.

Here then was a practice very like our Confirmation, though not quite the same thing. And then, after the death of the Apostles, we learn that this custom was kept up, and all those who were baptized were afterwards confirmed.

It is indeed a most useful and important ordinance; and many a serious person has looked back upon it, as the season when he first heartily entered upon the service of God. May it prove so to *you*, my dear friend! May *your* heart be touched by the grace of God! Take Christ for your Saviour, His people for your companions, and heaven for your home. "Ask the way to Zion, with your face thitherward, saying, Come and let us join ourselves to the Lord in a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten." (Jer. l. 5.)

CHAPTER V.

THE CONFIRMATION SERVICE.

YOU know that on the day of Confirmation there will be a gathering of people in the church. You know that prayer will be offered to God, and that the Bishop will lay his hands upon you, and repeat some solemn words. Now, is all this a mere outward ceremony? I trust that you, my dear reader, do not think so. Whatever others may think, I hope *you* feel a desire to enter upon this service with all your heart.

You will like then to know beforehand exactly what prayers will be used, and what part *you* will take in the service.

Now, get your Prayer-book and find it out.

You will see that the first part is a kind of address or exhortation. It begins with these words, "To the end that Confirmation," etc. You are there told *the use* of Confirmation. It is "that children, being now come to years of discretion, and having learned what their god-fathers and godmothers promised for them in baptism, may themselves, *with their own mouth and consent*, openly before the Church, ratify and *confirm* the same."

Then the Bishop will ask you this very solemn question: "Do you here, in the presence of God and of this congregation, renew the solemn promise and vow that was made for you at your baptism; ratifying and *confirming* the same in your own persons, and acknowledging yourselves bound to believe and to do all those things which your godfathers and godmothers then undertook for you?"

Now, I advise you to read this over two or three times, till you quite understand it. The meaning of the question is this: "Do you publicly, before God and man, declare that you will, by God's help, keep to the promises made for you when you were baptized; and that you will believe and do all that a Christian ought to believe and do?"

You will see, that to this question you are expected to give a very short, but a very decided, answer, — "I DO." These two little words are very soon said. But oh, how important they are! I shall say more about them presently.

When you have all given this answer, the Service will go on. A few short petitions will be offered up by the Bishop and the congregation. Then the Bishop alone will pray. He will ask God to strengthen you with the Holy

Ghost, and to give you more and more of His grace.

After this you will all go up to the Communion rails. Whilst you are kneeling there, the Bishop will lay his hands upon you and ask a blessing. This is a very solemn moment, and I trust you will feel it to be so.

You will then go back to your places; and some more prayers will be offered up for you. Endeavor to join in them with all your heart. And, when the service is ended, instead of looking thoughtlessly about you, try and feel what a very important act you have been engaged in.

Now I have told you a very little about the Confirmation Service; but enough, I hope, to help you to understand it.

But let us go back for a moment to that short but very important answer, which you will have to make. If you are *really bent on being a good soldier* of Christ; if you are desirous to take Him for your Master, and to give up all sin; then you may indeed answer, "I DO." And you will be saying what is true. But if not, then you will be speaking what is false. And oh, how shocking it is to tell a *deliberate falsehood*, especially at such a moment as this! Would it not be a very wrong thing to pledge yourself to one of your fellow-creatures, and

then to break your pledge? But how much more wrong it is to promise unto the Lord what you do not mean to perform!

Pause then, my dear young friend, and ask yourself, When that very solemn question is put to me by God's minister, can I *honestly* answer, "I DO?" I entreat you to give this your most serious thought. Remember, it is written in the Bible, "When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay." (Eccles. v. 4, 5.)

CHAPTER VI.

A FEW WORDS OF ADVICE.

MY object in writing this book is to do you good. What I want is, that this Confirmation may be a blessing to you. Let me, then, give you a very little friendly advice.

1. *Be very attentive to the instructions of your Minister.* Some foolish persons may think that their clergyman gives them a great deal of trouble, when he sends for them to talk to them. They forget all the time that they are giving

him a great deal of trouble. But he willingly undertakes it, because he is your real friend, and wishes to save your soul. But remember, the half-hours that you are with him will be of little use to you unless you seriously attend to all he says. Try, then, to lay up his words in your heart, and to profit by them.

2. Next, I advise *you to pray for God's grace*. What you most need is to be taught by Him; and to have His Holy Spirit in your heart. We read (Acts, xvi.) that the Lord *opened Lydia's heart*. Pray to Him to open *yours*. Ask Him to take away your "heart of stone," your cold, hard heart; and to give you a new heart. And, though some may be careless and thoughtless about their Confirmation, beg of Him to make *you* very serious and earnest.

3. When the day of Confirmation arrives, try to be a good deal *alone*; and kneel down and pray to God often during the day. Then go to the church in a quiet, thoughtful manner. Say to yourself, "I am going to do a very solemn act. I am going to give myself to the Lord."

4. When you are in church, endeavor to feel that God's eye is upon you, and that He is very near you. Join heartily in the service. And, when you go up to the Bishop, pray from your very soul that the Holy Spirit may be given to

you. Remember, too, when you *make* your promise, that God must help you to *keep* it.

And now, I trust, you see plainly that Confirmation is a very solemn thing. If you feel as you ought to feel, then this will be a blessed means of grace to you ; your soul will be *strengthened and confirmed* ; and you will be helped forward on your way to heaven.

CHAPTER VII.

PRAYERS.

1. *For one who is preparing for Confirmation.*

O LORD, Thou art my Father and my Friend. Thou hast been very good to me during my past life. I thank Thee that, when I was but a little child, Thou didst take me into Thy fold. I was once a poor outcast ; but Thou didst receive me into Thy family, and number me among Thy flock. But, Lord, I have never loved Thee as I ought. Though I have been a Christian in name, I have not been a Christian in my conduct. Father, I have sinned. Oh ! pardon me for Thy dear Son's sake. Blot out my sins as a cloud, and wash away my guilt.

May I now become a faithful soldier of Christ. May I give my whole heart to Him. O my God, prepare me for this Confirmation. Oh! let me not undertake it lightly; but make it a very solemn season to my soul. May I listen to the instructions of my minister, and profit by them. Thou knowest my weakness; give me strength from above. Let Thy Holy Spirit dwell with me. Keep me under Thy fatherly protection; and may I never wander from Thee. Make me Thine for ever, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

2. *A Prayer just before Confirmation.*

O my God, I come to Thee, because I want Thy grace and help. I am going to declare myself Thy servant, and to give myself, heart and soul, to Thee. Oh! let me not deceive myself, or come before Thee with a lie in my mouth. Keep me, O Lord, from so great a sin as this. Make me a decided Christian; and enable me to keep the promises which were made for me in my baptism.

When I go to Thy house to be confirmed, may I remember that I am in Thy presence. Oh! give me solemn feelings. Keep me from all wandering thoughts, and let my heart be fixed

on Thee alone. O Lord, strengthen and confirm my poor, weak soul. Let Thy Spirit rest upon me. Warm my heart, and fill it with Thy love. Hear me, O my God, for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

PART THE SECOND.

After Confirmation.

CHAPTER I.

ADVICE TO ONE WHO HAS JUST BEEN CONFIRMED.

THE Confirmation is now over. But I hope you will not feel that you need concern yourself no more about it. No, dear reader, you must not think this. Consider what you have been doing. You have declared that God shall be *your* God; that Christ shall be *your* Master; and that sin shall be *your* enemy. Now then ask God to give you strength, to enable you to carry these good desires into effect.

Bear in mind that you have many dangers before you. Satan will always be trying to

draw you away from God. What he wishes is to ruin you. Your own heart too is very sinful : it is much more inclined to go wrong than to go right. And the world around you is a tempting, enticing world. But you have promised to resist all these. And God will most surely give you His grace to do so, if you will only seek it from Him.

I dare say, some of your companions will try to persuade you not to be religious. They will talk to you about loving the world a little longer, and serving God by-and-bye. If they see you thoughtful, they will do their best to laugh you out of your right feelings. And if you will not do as they do, they will perhaps say hard things of you. But be firm, and let nothing move you from your purpose. "Fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be afraid of their revilings." Your Master was spoken against, and so will His servants be. Be decided, and determined by God's help to serve Him faithfully. It will cost you something. But is it not worth while to bear a little for the sake of such a Master? A few sneers and hard names will not really hurt you. They will soon be over. And, if you are not ashamed of Christ now, He will not be ashamed of you hereafter.

You have been confirmed. Yes, you are now

a *Confirmed* member of the Church. You have now many advantages. And it is your high privilege to go now and receive the Lord's Supper, with the rest of God's people. I shall speak to you on this subject in the next chapter.

And now I commend you to God, and pray that He may bless you. Once more, I say to you, BE IN EARNEST, AND GIVE YOUR WHOLE HEART TO CHRIST. This is the surest way to be happy now, and to be happy for ever!

CHAPTER II.

A FEW PLAIN WORDS ON THE LORD'S SUPPER.

YOU have often heard people speak about the Lord's Supper. Many of your friends perhaps are in the habit of receiving it; but hitherto you have not been invited. But now the invitation is given to *you* also. Yes, you are now a *full member* of the Church; and, if your Minister thinks that you are in a right state of mind, you may come to the Lord's Table. I hope you feel a hearty longing to come!

But what is the Lord's Supper? I will try to make it as plain to you as I can. You know

that our Lord died upon the cross for us sinners. Just before He suffered, He charged His followers to do something, in order to bring His death constantly before their minds. And what was this? It was to meet together, and eat bread and drink wine, *in remembrance of Him*. The broken bread was to remind them of His bruised body; and the wine was to remind them of His blood which was shed for them. I advise you to look at the following portions of Scripture: Matt. xxvi. 26, 27, 28; 1 Cor. x. 16; xi. 23, etc.

Thus, you see, Christ teaches His people to remember Him. And more than this, He actually feeds and nourishes their souls, and He refreshes and comforts their hearts.

And can you, my dear young Christian, be happy if you disobey this loving command of your Saviour? Can you hope that the Lord will bless you, and that He will keep your soul in health? Your body would soon die without food; and so will your soul without this heavenly nourishment.

Some people are *afraid* of receiving the Lord's Supper. I do not wonder at it; for they do not in their hearts serve Christ. They have no sorrow for sin, no faith in the Saviour. and no love for Him. The Lord's Supper is not for such as these.

But I hope better things of *you*. I trust that you feel deeply grieved at your past sins ; that you are now looking to Christ for pardon ; and that it is your earnest desire faithfully and truly to follow Him. Then come to the Lord's table. When you take the bread and wine, think of that precious Body and Blood, which was so freely given for you. Try to feed upon Christ by faith. And when you see your dear Christian brethren kneeling around you, let your heart be warmed with love to them.

Oh, what a great privilege and blessing you are invited to partake of ! I hope you will not turn away from it. Do not say in your heart, "I *ought* to go ;" but rather say "Blessed be God, *I am now permitted* to join my Christian brethren at this blessed feast."

Some will say, You are *too young*. But surely if you were old enough to be confirmed, you are old enough to appear at the Lord's Table.

Some will say, You had better *wait*. Alas ! how many will have waited till too late ! Oh, will you *wait* till Satan gets more power over you ? Will you keep away from Christ till your heart grows cold, and your good resolutions die away ? No, *now* is the accepted time. Do you love your Saviour ? Is He really precious to you ? Then "do this in remembrance of Him."

You recollect what was said, in the first chapter of this book, about the young man who was so bent on being a soldier. May your mind be as earnestly set on being a bold, faithful, and true SOLDIER OF JESUS CHRIST! May you fight manfully under His banner, and may you trust to His cross for salvation! And then, at last, you will be able to say with St. Paul, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith; henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness!" (2 Tim. iv. 7, 8.)

Soldiers of Christ, arise,
 And put your armor on;
 Strong in the strength which God supplies,
 Through His eternal Son:

That, having all things done,
 And all your conflicts past,
 You may behold your victory won,
 And stand complete at last.

CHAPTER III.

PRAYERS.

1. *A Prayer to be used after Confirmation.*

O HEAVENLY FATHER, grant that the solemn day of my Confirmation may never be forgotten

by me. Let me never forget that I have given myself afresh to Thee. Pardon whatever was wrong in me during the service. Forgive the coldness of my heart, and all my wandering thoughts. Give me more of Thy grace. Grant that I may now show that I am truly Thy servant. Make me happy in Thy service; and may I find that Thy yoke is easy, and Thy burden light.

When Satan tempts me, or the world entices me, give me grace to resist them. May I follow Christ with all my heart. Let me never be ashamed to call Him my Master; but may I fight manfully under His banner against sin, the world, and the devil. O Lord, enable me to serve Thee faithfully in this life; and then receive me into Thy heavenly kingdom, for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

2. *A Prayer for one who is going to receive the Lord's Supper for the first time.*

O MY GOD, I heartily thank Thee that I am now invited to draw nearer to my Saviour, and to join my fellow-Christians at His table. Pardon my unfitness, and prepare me for that blessed ordinance. Thou knowest how often my thoughtless heart has strayed from Thee; Lord, bring me back.

O blessed Spirit, teach me to grieve and mourn for sin. Give me grace to believe in Christ. Be pleased in mercy to take away this hard, stony heart of mine; and give me a tender, loving heart. Enable me now to feed upon Christ in this holy sacrament. Let me enjoy His presence, and taste that He is gracious. When I am at Thy table, put away from me all worldly thoughts. Warm my heart; and teach me to love Thee. Oh, may this sacrament be a rich blessing to me!

Heavenly Father, I now solemnly commit myself to Thee. Keep me by Thy power from all the dangers that surround me. Let me never be ashamed of my Saviour; and never fall back into the ways of this sinful world. And when at length my days here are ended, take me to dwell with Thee forever, for Jesus Christ's sake.
Amen.

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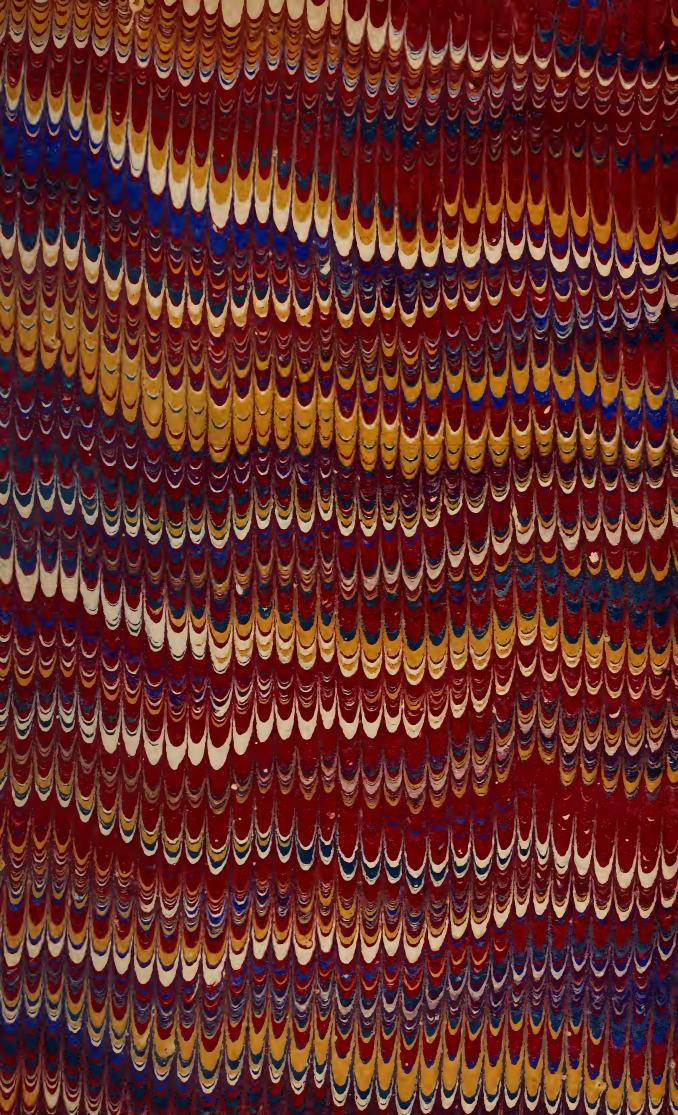
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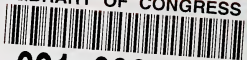
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