

**CONFIRMATION; OR, CALLED
AND CHOSEN AND FAITHFUL, BY
THE AUTHOR OF 'THE GOSPEL IN
THE CHURCH'S SEASONS' SERIES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649334100

Confirmation; or, Called and chosen and faithful, by the author of 'The gospel in the Church's Seasons' Series by Various

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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VARIOUS

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CONFIRMATION.

MORRISON AND GIBB, EDINBURGH,
PRINTERS TO HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

CONFIRMATION

OR

Called and Chosen and Faithful.

BY THE AUTHOR OF
'THE GOSPEL IN THE CHURCH'S SEASONS'
SERIES.

*WITH A PREFACE BY THE VERY REVEREND THE
DEAN OF CHESTER.*



GRIFFITH AND FARRAN,
WEST CORNER OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD, LONDON.

MDCCCLXXIX.

138. i. 558

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P R E F A C E.

THE season of preparing for Confirmation, as it is a time of grave responsibility, is known also by experience to be frequently a time of much spiritual blessing. Alike in parishes and in schools, the clergy who have given the most affectionate and most prolonged attention to the subject use the same encouraging and thankful language of this great opportunity.

Hence any book is to be welcomed, which has a tendency to invest this period in the life of the young with a more solemn interest, to foster at the same time the spirit of cheerful hope in

regard to it, and to provide the mind with thoughts that under God's blessing may be productive of solid benefit afterwards.

The present volume seems to me to be well worthy of this description; and it strikes me as being of the greater value, because it comes to us from a woman's hand. It is written by a Deaconess of the Church of England. One of the most useful duties of those who bear that title is to give help in preparing girls for Confirmation.

After careful reading of the book I have been led to fix my attention, and I seek to fix the attention of others, upon four points in particular which it suggests.

Stress is strongly laid here, but not at all too strongly, on the importance of entire self-devotion, on the absence of all reserve in dealing with Almighty God at the time of Confirmation. Such

reserve, indeed, is quite useless ; for He 'knows our thoughts long before,' to Him 'all hearts are open.' But an absolute surrender is likewise the secret of true happiness ; and the administration of this sacred ordinance is an opportunity, when such a surrender is definitely contemplated, with every help to make it a reality.

The weightiest motive for this devotion of the heart is to be found in the sense of Christ's redeeming love. Many questions arise in the minds of the young at such a time, on the contemplation of their responsible position in this mysterious world ; and such questions cannot be avoided. But wherever true self-knowledge is found, there is also the consciousness of sin. The heart is thus drawn to the Redeemer in thankful acknowledgment of God's free mercy ; and this result answers many questions ; and if it does not dispose of all, it