

**COUNSELS TO CANDIDATES FOR
CONFIRMATION. FOUNDED UPON
"THE ORDER OF CONFIRMATION"
ACCORDING TO THE USE OF THE
CHURCH OF ENGLAND**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649421411

Counsels to Candidates for Confirmation. Founded upon "The Order of Confirmation" According to the Use of the Church of England by John W. Bardsley

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JOHN W. BARDSLEY

**COUNSELS TO CANDIDATES FOR
CONFIRMATION. FOUNDED UPON
"THE ORDER OF CONFIRMATION"
ACCORDING TO THE USE OF THE
CHURCH OF ENGLAND**

Counsels to Candidates for Confirmation.

FOUNDED UPON

"The Order of Confirmation"

ACCORDING TO THE USE OF

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

BY

JOHN W. BARDSLEY, M.A.

*Archdeacon of Warrington; Incumbent of St. Saviour's,
Liverpool; and Chaplain to the Lord Bishop of
Liverpool.*

London:

ELLIOT STOCK, 62, PATERNOSTER ROW.

MDCCLXXXII

141. n. 297.





CONTENTS.

	PAGE
INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER	5
PART I.—THE PLACE OF CONFIRMATION.	
CHAP.	
I. Confirmation—Its Position in the Church of England	7
II. Confirmation—a Point from which to look back	11
III. Confirmation—a Point from which to look forward	17
IV. Confirmation—a Point from which to look forward (<i>continued</i>)	23
PART II.—THE ORDER OF CONFIRMATION.	
SECTION I. THE PREFACE.	
V. Conditions before the Ordinance	30
VI. Conditions during the Ordinance	35

SECTION II. THE SOLEMN PROMISE.

VII. The Baptismal Vow personally confirmed ..	40
VIII. Help Suggested	45
IX. The Sevenfold Gifts	51

SECTION III. THE SOLEMN BLESSING.

X. The Laying on of Hands	56
XI. The Rubrical Directions	61
XII. The Words of Blessing	64
XIII. Closing Prayers	70
XIV. Concluding Counsels	75



INTRODUCTORY.

"No bishop is ever heard to complain of the weariness of Confirmations. Often as I have spoken with my brethren in all Christian confidence, I have never heard in my life any expressions on that subject save the consciousness, as life goes on, of a deepening interest in Confirmations. And this arises, in a great measure, from a feeling of the greatness of the opportunity."

IT is not easy to realize the contrast which this statement, recently made by the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, presents to the infrequency and irreverence of the administration of Confirmation during the last century.

One of the most cheering features of our own day is this more frequent and reverent administration, and in no respect is this improvement more marked than in the patient, prayerful preparation of the candidates by the parochial clergy. It is no small help in this more effectual preparation that well nigh all our young people can read, thanks to the spread of education, and that thus the instruction orally imparted by the clergyman can be largely supplemented and

strengthened by the private study of some of the numerous publications which the clergy at such seasons are accustomed to circulate.

Among these publications this little manual hopes to find a place. If it possess, as the writer believes, distinctive features, they will be found in the fact that it is a simple explanation of the service itself, and in the additional fact that the ordinance is presented in a brighter light than is sometimes thought desirable. Whilst the writer fully recognizes the importance of insisting with candidates upon sin as not only rebellion against God, but as a soul-destroying disease in its effects, he cannot but express his own conviction that too little prominence is given at such times to God's infinite and unspeakable love, and to the Saviour's intense and yearning compassion for the young. Though deeply solemn in its responsibilities, yet the nature of that act ought to be truly joyous whereby the young, when led by the Holy Spirit, intelligently renew their baptismal vows and consecrate themselves afresh to His service who so loved them as to give His life for them. The author has endeavoured to set before himself the rule which good Philip Henry laid down, namely, "So to manage it that the weak may not be discouraged and yet that the ordinance may not be profaned."



CHAPTER I.

CONFIRMATION : ITS AUTHORITY IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

THE widest divergence of opinion exists as to the precise authority which the rite of Confirmation holds in the Church of England. Those who claim for it the highest authority, when they read such passages as those in the Acts of the Apostles (viii. 14-18 ; xiv. 22 ; xv. 41 ; xix. 6), which speak of a laying on of hands in association with the gift of the Holy Ghost and a confirmation of the disciples, and also the passage (Hebrews vi. 2) which couples "laying on of hands" with baptism in the list of the six fundamental principles of the doctrine of Christ, assume that the rite of Confirmation as now practised by the Church is a continuation of the apostolic practice there described. In some cases they go so far as to affirm that God has made its performance obligatory on Christians, and that we have no right to expect to receive this gift from Him unless we use the means thus