

**TOUCHSTONES; OR,
CHRISTIAN GRACES AND
CHARACTERS TESTED**

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Touchstones; Or, Christian Graces and Characters Tested by Ashton Oxenden

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ASHTON OXENDEN

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TOUCHSTONES.

TOUCHSTONES;

OR,

CHRISTIAN GRACES AND CHARACTERS
TESTED.

BY THE

RIGHT REV. BISHOP OXENDEN,

LATE BISHOP OF MONTREAL.

LONDON:

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1884.

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PREFACE.

A TOUCHSTONE is a flinty substance, used for ascertaining the purity of gold and silver, and leaving a certain mark upon the metal. Hence the name given to any criterion or test.

Under this heading I venture to publish a few thoughts on some of the leading points of character and conduct belonging to a true Christian. And surely it is very desirable, where our souls' interest is concerned, that our claim to that honoured title should stand the test of God's Word ; and *that we should not rest satisfied with*

anything short of what is genuine and real.

My desire is to speak in these Chapters with fidelity, as one who must soon render up his account ; and at the same time with great tenderness and love, knowing how many defective points there are in my own character, when brought to the test of God's discriminating Word.

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TOUCHSTONES;

OR,

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CHAPTER I.

Q THE TOUCHSTONE OF FAITH.

WITH this subject I begin; and truly there are few subjects which have a greater claim on our attention, and especially at the present time, when there is so much to weaken and overthrow it. There is in these days a vast amount of unbelief, showing itself not only in France, in Germany, and in Italy, but even nearer our homes—in the midst of our Country, and in the heart of our beloved Church.

To *believe* is spoken of in Scripture as essential to our salvation. It is the highest