

**A PASTOR'S LEGACY,
OR INSTRUCTIONS
FOR CONFIRMATION**

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A Pastor's Legacy, or Instructions for Confirmation by H. H. Norris

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H. H. NORRIS

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OR

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONFIRMATION.

BY THE

REV. H. H. NORRIS, M.A.

RECTOR OF SOUTH HACKNEY,

Prebendary of St. Paul's and Llandaff.



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This little Manual has been prepared from papers written or dictated by the Rev. H. H. Norris, during the last twelvemonths of his life, with the exception of the fifth section, which has been supplied from the recollections of one of his earlier Catechumens. It is hoped that many of those whose privilege it was to have been instructed by him for Confirmation, may recognise in it a true, though imperfect, record of his teaching, and that it may prove valuable also to enquirers after the good way who may be rising up in another generation.

GROVE STREET,

February 1851.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONFIRMATION.

Section the First.

How many names have you?

Ans. Two; my Christian name, and my surname.

From whom do you derive your surname?

Ans. From my parents.

From whom do you derive your Christian name?

Ans. From my Godfathers and Godmothers.

Why do you call those persons who give you your Christian name your Godfathers and Godmothers?

Ans. Because they were the instruments by whom I was born again.

What authority have you for saying that you were born again?

Ans. Our Saviour's words to Nicodemus, when he came to Him by night.

What were those words?

*Ans. Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.**

These words were uttered by our Lord, as the laying down of a fundamental principle, and just after Nicodemus had formally recognized His Divine Mission: *We know that Thou art a teacher come from God.†*

He afterwards proceeds to enlarge upon the doctrine: *That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.‡* Like that other passage in St. John: *Which were born, not of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.§*

The whole doctrine is summed up in those words: *The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. As we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the Heavenly.||*

* St. John, iii. 5.
† St. John, iii. 8.
‡ 1 Cor. xv. 47, 48.

† St. John, iii. 2.
§ St. John, i. 13.

What scriptural authority have you for the giving of a name in Baptism?

Ans. The example of our Lord, and of St. John the Baptist, who received their names at their Circumcision; and of Abraham, Sarah, and Israel, who had new names given them, together with new and spiritual blessings.

What connection is there between Circumcision and Baptism?

Ans. What Baptism is under the Christian dispensation, Circumcision was under the Jewish, viz. the rite by which persons were admitted into the respective covenants.

What are the benefits you derive from Baptism?

Ans. The being "made a member of Christ,
" the child of God, and an inheritor of
" the kingdom of Heaven."

What is the meaning of the word member, in the ordinary use of the term?

Ans. It is a figure taken from our own bodies by St. Paul, in order to illustrate what is invisible to us.