The MINISTRATION of
BAPTISM to such as are of riper years,
and able to answer for themselves.

When any such Persons as are of riper years are to be baptized, timely notice shall be given to the Bishop, or whom he shall appoint for that purpose, a week before at the least, by the Parents, or some other discreet Persons; so due care may be taken for their Examination, whether they be sufficiently instructed in the Principles of the Christian Religion; and that they may be exhorted to prepare themselves with Prayers and Fasting for the receiving of this holy Sacrament.

And if they shall be found fit, then the Godfathers and Godmothers (the People being assembled upon the Sunday or Holy-day appointed) shall be ready to present them at the Font immediately after the second Lesson, either at Morning or Evening Prayer; as the Curate in his discretion shall think fit.

And standing there, the Priest shall ask whether any of the Persons here presented be baptized, or no: If they shall answer, No; then shall the Priest say thus:

Then shall the Priest say,
Let us pray.

A Almighty and everlasting God, who of thy great mercy didst save Noah and his family in the ark from perishing by water; and also didst safely lead the children of Israel thy people through the Red Sea, figuring thereby thy holy Baptism; and by the Baptism of thy well-beloved Son Jesus Christ in the river Jordan, didst sanctify the element of water to the mystical washing away of sin; We beseech thee for thine infinite mercies, that thou wilt mercifully look upon these thy servants; wash them, and sanctify them with the Holy Ghost, that they being delivered from thy wrath, may be received into the ark of Christ's Church; and being steadfast in faith, joyful through hope, and rooted in charity, may so pass the waves of this troublesome world, that finally they may come to the land of everlasting life; there to reign with thee world without end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Almighty and immortal God, the aid of all that need, the helper of all that flee to thee for succour, the life of them that believe, and the resurrection of the dead; We call upon thee for these Persons, that they coming to thy holy Baptism, may receive remission of their sins by spiritual regeneration. Receive them, O Lord, as thou hast promised by thy well beloved Son, saying, All, and ye shall receive; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: so give now unto us that ask; let us that seek, find; open the gate unto us that knock; that these Persons may enjoy the everlasting benediction of thy heavenly washing, and may come to the eternal kingdom which thou hast promised by Christ our Lord. Amen.

After which he shall say this Exhortation following:

B Blessed art thou, O Lord God, the God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, for thou hast kept us alive, and hast not delivered our souls to hell; and hast restored us to our own land:

Then shall the People stand up,
and the Priest shall say,

Hear the words of the Gospel, written by Saint John, in the third Chapter, beginning at the first Verse.

THERE was a man of the Pharisees, named Nico-