

Thus we have traced, in all parts of the world, through all the ages, from the Apostolic times to our own days, the witness borne by the Saints and Doctors of the Church to her unwavering faith in the gracious gifts conferred in Confirmation upon those who rightly receive it. In no age has it been considered a formal ceremony, or a mere renewal of the baptismal promises; but a holy rite, a means of grace; if not *expressly* ordained by Christ, yet by implication, through the practice of the Apostles (who in the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost were doubtless carrying out those precepts which He imparted to them during the great forty days), to be traced to His teaching Who is the source of all truth, as well as the fountain of grace and life.

### III.—THE LITURGIES.

If time permitted, an equally strong testimony to the reality of Confirmation graces might be drawn from the Services of the Church Universal, the practical expression of her faith in words of supplication or of blessing. In this one all-important respect there is a perfect agreement among all the Churches. The ancient Latin Service Books speak emphatically the same language as our own. The Greek forms embody the faith of her members in the solemn words prescribed by the 2nd General