

God, as it were, takes possession of you as His own peculiar creature." Again, Archbishop Wake, of Canterbury, speaks with no faltering voice: "The Apostles laid on their hands and God gave the Holy Spirit to those on whom they laid them. And we piously presume that by the fervent prayers of the Bishop and the Church those on whom he now lays his hands shall also receive the Holy Ghost, if they do but worthily prepare themselves for it."

To sum up this catena of fathers through all the centuries one must be chosen from the **XIXth Century**, and none will serve our purpose so well as the following passage from the pen of the present Archbishop of Canterbury, Edward Benson: "No thread of language and history is more distinct than that which connects Christ's promise of the coming of the Paraclete to be an *indwelling Power* in all His chosen ones with the institute of the laying on of hands by the Apostles. Upon the twelve He came with a visible Epiphany, as every analogy would expect. On Christians at large He came in the plainest simplicity. 'I will send Him unto you . . . They laid their hands on them . . . He fell on them.' And ever after in the letters of the Apostles such is the frequency of the verbal and phraseological allusion to the custom that, as a scholar once remarked to me, 'Confirmation seems more present to the earliest Christian habits of thought than Baptism itself.'"