

a two-fold aspect, on the one hand the acts of his brethren, through him, become acceptable to God ; and through him, on the other hand, the acts of God reach unto them.

The grace of the Holy Spirit is communicated from these custodians of it mainly by means of the sacraments. " It is the Divine will that the use of elemental water with the sacred words suffice to bring into the fold and flock of God any soul of man—at least to such an extent that the germ of spiritual life, though not the fulness of Christian living, should be given thereby." " Baptism is the assured beginning of the divine life in each individual man, the seal of the covenant of grace to his soul, the assurance that he is made to be a son of the covenant love of God, and heir of the kingdom of heaven, being made a member of the body of Christ, a branch of the living vine which is Christ, a spiritual stone of the sacred temple of the Holy Ghost wherein Christ dwelleth."

These are the words of a former Bishop of Wakefield. He goes on to explain himself as follows : " The regenerating Spirit may no doubt seize, if He will, upon a hitherto unregenerate spirit and give him without human aid or intervention the sacred new birth which brings salvation, yet unless he has risen and been baptized and washed away his sins in the consecrated elemental water, he may not presume that the mysterious change has passed upon his soul, even as he must not doubt that it has done so when the outward rite has been duly received."

The fact that a soul is regenerated in baptism does not necessarily imply that it will be saved. It is put in the way of salvation by this, but whether it will be saved or not depends on its own faithfulness. In other words, the grace of baptism may be forfeited by sin, and there is needed some means to restore what is lost. This is found in absolution, which remits actual sin as baptism remits original sin in infants, and original and actual sin in adults. It is the instrument of restoration and peace as baptism is of initiatory life and union with God. Baptism is the regener-