

be marked for the great day? Who would venture to go without that laying on of hands, by which, once for all, the blessed Spirit may be conveyed to us as surely as when He sat on the Apostles in fiery tongues?

At our Baptism we were indeed born into Christ's Church. Our new life began then, our spirits became alive to the influences of God; but the work is imperfect till the Seal is given. It was to the hands of the Apostles that our Lord committed the power of conveying the presence of God the Holy Ghost; and as their successors, the Bishops, cannot be present at every Baptism, Confirmation—that is, sealing—or laying on of hands, is made to wait till a suitable time afterwards; but many persons have been confirmed immediately after their Baptism, even in their infancy. For Confirmation is, like Baptism, a thing that is done to us by God once for all, not one that we do for ourselves. A babe has no unbelief, therefore it can be baptized; and for the same reason it can be sealed, or confirmed. If an older person were wicked enough to come to holy Baptism without repentance or faith, he would not be fulfilling the condition; and so, too, we must bring faith when we come to be confirmed, really knowing what we are about.

Thus it is a very holy and solemn occasion to