

time and the place when and where she adopted them. Thus our great advantages in the controversy with Rome, must be manifest to all, who understand what that controversy is.

M. (Page 82.)

By Confirmation, we mean the rite of laying on of hands upon the heads of those who have been baptized, and which is represented by St. Paul as "a principle of the doctrine of Christ." — *Heb. vi. 2.*

When Philip went down to Samaria and preached, many believed, and were baptized by him. As soon as the Apostles at Jerusalem heard of this event, Peter and John went to Samaria, and laid their hands upon these baptized persons. — *Acts viii. 15-17.* So also at Ephesus, St. Paul laid his hands on those who had been baptized. — *Acts xix. 6.*

In the Apostolic age the rite was usually denominated "the laying on of hands;" it is now commonly termed "confirmation," inasmuch as the person who receives this laying on of hands, thereby ratifies and confirms his baptismal vows. It is a profession of his faith before the world. The propriety of such a ceremony must be apparent. That it is Apostolic, there is no dispute. Of its fitness and profit, there are multitudes of witnesses. As none but Apostles performed this rite, so its administration is restricted to their successors, the Bishops of the church. Calvin himself acknowledged that it was practised by the Apostles. In his fourth book of Institutes, he says: "It was an ancient custom, that the children of Christian parents, when they were grown up, should be presented to the Bishop to do that office, which was required of persons who were baptized at adult age." . . . . "Such an imposition of hands as this, which is used purely as a blessing, I very much approve of, and wish it were now restored to its pure and primitive uses."

The following testimony is an extract from the "Report of a Committee of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church." "It appears," say they, "that a rite called Confirmation was administered by the imposition of the hands of the minister, or bishop, or elder, together with