

loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

The Holy Spirit is also the Pledge. By the word in the original is meant the "earnest" of what we are hereafter to receive. St. Paul says: "Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts" (2 Cor. i. 22). In Ephesians, after saying that we were *sealed* by the Holy Spirit of promise, he adds: "which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession." By which he means that the Holy Spirit is in us as a foretaste of what we are hereafter to receive in the fulness of glory. So also the same idea is found in Romans: "Not only they, but ourselves also, which have the *first fruits* of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body" (Chap. viii. 23). I might indeed speak of the Holy Spirit in many of His other offices, but I only mention these in order to show the reader how mighty is the work of the Holy Spirit in the growth of the believer.

Finally, I only wish to add that progress is the great law in God's kingdom of grace.