

xvi. 7-14) ; teaches (xiv. 26) ; gives power (Acts i. 4-8) ; intercedes (Romans viii. 26-27) ; beautifies character (Gal. v. 22.) He comes first visibly into the Church—(Acts ii. 1-4) ; is given afterwards in confirmation (Acts viii. 19.)

See our Lord's promise, (Lk. xi. 13) "shall give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him." At Confirmation, in addition to the prayer of the Divinely appointed officer, the prayers of the whole congregation are concentrated upon us. Then, surely, must we receive the promised Gift. Our Father, who knows and loves us, offers us this Divine help in Confirmation, coming down to support, guide and cheer us. Is it not a responsibility to reject this Heavenly Visitor, as if we did not want God's companionship, and could do without His help ?

THE RATIFICATION

The second part of Confirmation (coming first in the service) is the ratification of our Baptismal vows. See Bishop's question "Do ye here.....ratify, etc." This feature was added at the end of the Reformation period (1662) to Confirmation, which (as in the Bible narratives) would be complete without it. Still, it is a serious question, and requires thoughtful consideration.

Baptism involved a Covenant between God and us with promises on both sides. Our promises were made provisionally on our behalf. Now it is for us to ratify these—to 'put our own signature' to the covenant. Examine these promises :—

(a) Renunciation of the World, Flesh and Devil. The point at issue is this—are we content to drift along through life, driven hither and thither by different impulses of these evil powers, or are we resolved to make a determined resistance