

Sponsors, but rather of some Friend, chosen immediately before the Confirmation, either by the Clergyman, or by the Candidate's Parents or Guardians, or by the Candidate himself or herself, to be a witness of the event and an adviser and guide for the time to come.

From a vast mass of proof, that might be adduced, the following, we take it, will be deemed sufficient:

(1.) Francis Toletus (died 1597), speaking of Confirmation God parents, says:—"They must not be the Baptismal Sponsors, except in a case of necessity."

(2.) Francis Suarez (died 1615), says:—"The Person who presents a Candidate for Confirmation is named a Godfather. The traditionary usage of having such a Godparent is very ancient in the Church. It is not the custom to have as Godfather or surety, at Confirmation, a person who formerly acted in that capacity at Baptism, although on account of necessity it may be allowed."

(3.) Edward Hall, Fellow of King's College, Cambridge in a work published in 1542, tells us that Queen Elizabeth was born on Sunday, September 7th, 1534, and that on the following Wednesday she was baptized by the Bishop of London, and on the same occasion Confirmed by the Archbishop of Canterbury (Cranmer). And he further tells us that the child had for her Baptismal Sponsors the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Duchess of Norfolk and the Marchioness of Dorset; and further that her Confirmation Godparent was the Marchioness of Exeter.

(4.) The same Author also gives us an account of the Baptism and Confirmation of King Edward VI, in the following words:—"In Octobre (A. D. 1537), on Saynct Edwardes Even was borne at Hampton Court the noble Impe (boy) Prince Edward, whose Godfathers at ye Christening were the Archebishop of Cantorburie and the

Duke of Norffolke and hys Godmother, the Ladye Mary, the Kynges Doughter, and at the Byshopying (Confirmation) was Godfather the Duke of Suffolke."

(5.) Bishop Cosin, who took the lead in the last Revision of our Prayer Book after the Restoration of King Charles II, gives as the reason for requiring a God-parent at Confirmation the following:—"The former Godfathers and Godmothers being released."

(6.) Bishop Sparrow who assisted in the same final Revision, says:—"The Children that are to be Confirmed are to be brought to the Bishop by one that shall be their Godfather, who may witness their Confirmation. The Godfather may be the same that was at Baptism, but in most places the custom is to have another."

Now, all this is surely sufficient to show that it is the duty of the Clergy, before they present to the Bishop their Candidates for Confirmation, first of all to choose from among their more earnest Communicants those who will agree to come and act as witness to the Confirmation of one or more of such Candidates, with the understanding that these godly people will take a real interest in those for whom they act as witnesses, bringing them with them to the Holy Communion, and generally advising and helping them for their good.

Here, then, we have a plan devised and arranged by the Church herself, whereby we may retain and help forward those who are from time to time confirmed. For, often and often, we hear Clergymen and others ask what can best be done in order that those who are confirmed shall not, after their Confirmation, be lost sight of, but shall be continually assisted, until they have fully formed all the necessary habits of a holy and religious life. And here we have a distinct answer to that question, viz: that this will best