

THE CATHOLIC.

QUOD SEMPER, QUOD UBIQUE, QUOD AB OMNIBUS CREDITUM EST — WHAT ALWAYS, AND EVERY WHERE, AND BY ALL IS BELIEVED

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THE CATHOLIC

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Original.

THE VICIES. An Extract.

The yell is up; hark! far and wide resound
The charouffs rais'd the just one to confound:
He, like a rock, amid the roaring tide
Can all unmov'd the tempest's rage abide;
Till from its side, the baffled billows fall,
And all in murmurings hoarse their spray recall.
When o'er the fast subsiding deep it rears,
Its head sublime, and stacher hence appears;
So, when assailed, majestic and serene
Amid the railing foe the Lord is seen.

Ye vice-deluded worldlings! can you stay
The orient sun, fast hast'ning on his way!
Far less may you obstruct, now rising clear,
The sun of justice in his bright career.
Still in his mien and manner might you spy,
In human form, though hid, the deity.
Who, but th' eternal wisdom, thus disguis'd,
Could dash your plans, so artfully devised?
Your puzzles solve! your calumnies refute,
So with a word; and leave you wond'ring mute!
Yet should not this your minds convincing move;
With prodigies unmatch'd behold him prove
His mission all divine, himself that God
Whom nature owns, obedient at his nod?

See round him crowd, th' afflicted of our kind,
The sick, the lame, the deaf, the dumb, the blind,
He speaks, and lo! to each, straight at his word,
Health, strength and hearing, speech and sight's restor'd.
Life's author he, the dead to life returns.
And bids each kindred heart rejoice that mourns,
To barren solitudes whom forth he leads,
With bread, by miracle supplied he feeds;
And, sanctioning with an act of pow'r divine,
The nuptial rite; ev'n water turns to wine.
Up from their oozy beds the finny prey,
He calls; and straight his summons these obey.
He stills the tempest, lulls the raging deep;
Walks, like a spirit o'er his surgy sleep.
In Jordan's stream, and where on Thabor's height;
Was round him roll'd a cloud of glory bright.
The voice paternal issuing from on high,
Proclaims him loud, the filial deity.

Lo! now arraign'd, the highest, holiest one,
Like felon judg'd, condemned by sinful man!
Nature appal'd beheld life's author slain,
And shuddering shook through all her vast domain.
Sol from the guilty scene his light withdrew,
And o'er it night her veiling mantle threw.
'Twas horror all, and from its site this world
Seemed reeling back—to final ruin hurled

'Tis past—He nature bids her grief forgo;
Nor wear, for him assumed, the weeds of woe.
Bids Sol his torch extinguish'd re-allume;
And with his wonted light dispel the gloom;
Obedient nature drops her deep dismay,
Cheered with his smile, and blooms as usual gay.

THE CATHOLIC RITES AND CEREMONIES EXPLAINED.

CONFIRMATION.

Of this sacrament, a Bishop is the only ordinary minister; whose consecration imparts to him the plenitude of the priesthood; that is, all the pastoral powers given by Jesus Christ to his apostles; without any other reserve than that necessary for the good government of the Church; that of local or respectively subordinate jurisdiction.

We see in the Acts of the Apostles, how though Philip had converted and baptized the Samaritans: it was deemed necessary to send Peter and John from Jerusalem to confirm them. "Now when the Apostles, who were in Jerusalem, had heard that Samaria had received the word of God; they sent unto them Peter and John: who, when they were come prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost; for he was not yet come upon any of them, but they were only baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus, (that is in the Saviour's baptism.) Then they laid their hands upon them, and they received the Holy Ghost." Acts 8, 14, &c

Prayer then or the invocation of the Holy Ghost, and the laying on of hands by the Bishop, on those to be confirmed, are the ceremonies mentioned in this text to have been used by the Apostles in the administration of this Sacrament; and these are the ceremonies still observed in administering it by the Bishops in the Catholic Church. The laying on of hands, denotes that the individuals to be confirmed are specially chosen and accepted by Almighty God to be sanctified, and fortified by his Divine Spirit; whom the Saviour promised to send from his holy heaven, to comfort and confirm them, and guide them into all truth, to the end of the world.

The Bishop then, vested in his pontificals to show that he acts in the character of Christ's apostolic minister, after washing his hands, thereby indicating how pure these hands ought to be, which are consecrated, and destined to consecrate whatever or whomsoever they touch or bless: turns round towards those, whom he is going to confirm, and who are kneeling before him, and begins his invocation of the Holy Ghost in these words.

"May the Holy Ghost come upon you. And the virtue of the most high, guard you from all sins." Ans. Amen.

Then signing himself with the sign of the cross, he says, "Our help is in the name of the Lord."—Ans. "Who made heaven and earth." "O Lord, hear my prayer."—Ans. "And let my cry come unto Thee." "The Lord be with thee."—Ans. "And with thy Spirit." Let us pray.

"O Almighty and eternal God, who hast deigned to regenerate these thy servants of water and the Holy Ghost; and who hast given them the remission of all their sins; send forth upon them from heaven thy seven-fold spirit, the Paraclete."—Ans. Amen.

The Spirit of wisdom and of understanding. Amen.
The Spirit of counsel and of fortitude. Amen.
The Spirit of knowledge and of piety. Amen.
Fill then, with the Spirit of thy fear; and sign them with the sign of the cross of Christ propitious unto life everlasting.—Ans. Amen.

The Bishop then standing with his mitre on, signs them with the sign of the cross; anointing them at the same time on the forehead with the crism, and saying: "I sign thee with the sign of the cross; I confirm thee with the chrism of salvation; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."—Ans. Amen. After which he gives each a slight tap on the cheek, saying, "peace be with thee."

The chrism is oil mixed with balm, blessed by a Bishop; the oil represents the grace and the sweet smelling balm mixed with it, the odor of sanctity proceeding from the grace of the Holy Ghost. This is the ornament of the priesthood, and of royalty, for, as the Apostle testifies of the courageous followers of Christ; they are "a chosen generation; a kingly priesthood." 1 Peter, 2, 9.

This sacrament, with its holy unction and effects, is that alluded to by Saint Paul: "now, he that confirmeth us with you, in Christ; and he that hath anointed us, is God; who hath also sealed us, and given the pledge of the spirit in our hearts." 2 Cor. 1, 21, 22.

The tap given on the cheek by the Bishop, with these words; "Peace be with thee;" indicates, the christian patience with which we are bound to sustain in our spiritual warfare (for the confirmed are the enrolled soldiers of Jesus Christ) the trials sent us by God, and the injuries and insults offered to us by our fellow creatures; in so much that, as our Lord exhorts us (and he himself set us the example of such heroic fortitude at his passion), should our enemy even smite us on the one cheek, we should patiently turn to him the other also (Luke 6, 29). For the christian is sure to conquer by forbearance and patience; and to preserve that peace of the Saviour, "which surpasses all understanding." Philip 4, 9.

While the Bishop washes his hands, the attendants sing or rehearse the words of the Psalmist: "Confirm O God, what thou hast wrought in us from thy temple of Jerusalem! Psalm 67, 29. "Glory be to the father, and to the son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and evermore shall be; world without end" Amen. "Confirm, O God," is repeated: after which, the Bishop, putting off his mitre, when about to address the deity, with his face towards the altar, prays thus:—

Shew unto us, O Lord, thy mercy!

Ans. And grant unto us thy salvation!

O Lord, hear my prayer.

Ans. And let my cry come unto thee!

Then he says, "Let us pray;" (with these words every prayer, or series of prayers in the Catholic church is ushered in, inviting thus all present to join in the supplication addressed to the common Father of all.)

"O God, who hast given thy holy spirit to thy Apostles; and wert pleased that, through them and their successors, he should be given to the rest of the faithful; look down propitious on the service of our lowliness and grant that the same holy spirit descend upon the hearts of those, whose forehead we have anointed with the sacred chrism and signed with the sign of the holy