THE ACTS. 703   
 12—15.   
   
 God, they sent unto them Peter and John: 15 who, when   
   
 on this point the remarks of Calvin are too thing peeuliar to the case before us must   
 important to be omitted: “ Here a ques- have prompted this journey. And here   
 tiou arises. He says that they were only again we have a question : Was that moving   
 baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus, cause in the Samaritans, or in Philip?   
 and consequently were not yet partakers of I believe the true answer to the question   
 the Spirit. But either Baptism has no will be found by combining both. Our   
 virtue and grace at all; or it whatever Lord’s command (ch. i, 8) removed all   
 efficaey it possesses from the Holy Spirit. doubt as to Samaria being a legitimate ticld   
 In Baptism we are washed from sins: but for preaching, and Samaritan converts being   
 Pau] shews that this ing is the work admissible. (So also with regard to Gen-   
 of the Holy Ghost: (Tit. iii. The water tile converts,—see ch. x., notes: but, ns   
 of Baptism is the symbol of hrist’s : the ehureh at this time believed, they   
 but Peter says that it is the Spirit by inust be cirewmeised, which the Samaritan   
 whom we are washed in the blood of already were,—and keep the law, which   
 Christ. In Baptism our old man is eruci- after their manner the Samaritans did.)   
 fied that we De raised into newness of The sudden appearance, however, of a body   
 life (Rom. vi. 6) : is all but by of baptized believers in Samaria, by the   
 sanctification of the So that Bap- ageney of one who was not one of the   
 tism will have nothing left, it be dis- Apostles,—while it would exeite in them   
 sociated from the Spirit. Therefore it every fecling of thaukfulness and joy,   
 must not be denied, that the Samaritans, would require their presence and power, as   
 who had duly put on Christ in Baptism, Apostles, to perform their especial part   
 had been also invested with the Spirit as the divinely appointed Founders of the   
 (Gal. iii, 27), And judeed Luke here Chureh. Add to this, that the Samaritans   
 speaks, not of the ordinary grace of the appear to have been credulous, and easily   
 Spirit by whieh God regenerates us as moved to attach themselves to individuals,   
 sons to Himself, but of those special gifts whether it were Simon, or Philip; whieh   
 with which it was the Lord’s will to endow might make the Apostles desirous to be   
 some persons in the beginning of the Gos- present in person, and examine, and   
 pel for the furnishing of the Kingdom strengthen their faith, Another reason   
 of Christ.’ And a little after: “The may have been not without its influence :   
 Papists, in their wish to extol their the Jewish church at Jerusalem would   
 fictitious Confirmation, do not hesitate to naturally for the most part be alienated   
 go even so far as to utter this saerilegions in mind from this new body of believers.   
 diction, that those are only half Christians, The hatred between Jews and Samaritans   
 on whom hands have not yet been laid. was excessive and unrelenting. It would   
 It is intolerable that tbey should have therefore be in the highest degree impor-   
 fixed on the Chureh as a perpetual law, taut that it should be shewn to the church   
 what was a mere temporal symbol . . for at Jerusalem, that these Samaritans, by   
 even they themselves are obliged to con- the ageney of the same Apostles, were par-   
 fess, that the Church was only for a time takers of the same visibly testified of   
 adorned with those gifts. Whence it fol- the one Spirit. The use of this argument,   
 lows that the imposition of hands which which was afterwards applied by Peter in   
 the Apostles here performed, came to an the case of the Gentiles, unexpected even   
 end when its effet ceased.” The English by himself, eh. xi. 17,—was probably no   
 ehureh, in retaining the rite of Confirma- small part of the purpose of this journey   
 tion, kas not grounded it onany institution to Samaria. 14. Peter and John]   
 by the Apostles, but merely deelared the Perhaps #20, in accordance with their   
 laying on of hands on the candidates, to having been sent out ¢wo aud two on their   
 certify them (by this sign) of favour first inissionary journey (Mark vi. 7): so .   
 and goodness towards them, to be ‘after Paul and Barnabas afterwards (eh. xiii. :   
 the example of the holy Apostles.” Nor is and the same prineiple seems to have been   
 there any trace in\_ the office, of the adhered to even when these last separated +   
 conferring of the Holy Ghost by eon- Paul chose Silas, Barnabas took Mark.—   
 -firmation; but a distinet recognition of Prrer,—beeanse to him belonged, in this   
 the former reception of the Holy Spirit carly part of the gospel, in a remarkable   
 (at Baptism), and a prayer for the increase manner, the first of the ehureh ;   
 of His influence, proportioned to the ma- jt was the fulfilment of the promise “upon   
 turer life now opening on the newly con- this rock I will build my church.” It was