

it we can likewise mutually communicate our thoughts when separated by space however wide, even with our Antipodes.

The Deity himself, also, condescends to convey spiritual benefits to his people by means of the *hands* of authorized persons, as in Confirmation and Ordination; and the Blessed Friend, and Patron, and Advocate, and Deliverer of our race, when he was upon earth, appears to have wrought most of his miracles of healing by laying on his hands;* in benediction also, when children were brought unto him he laid his hands on them; and at his ascension he lifted up his hands to bless his disciples.†

To enumerate all the modes by which the internal affection of the soul is indicated by the hand, would be an endless task. I shall therefore only further observe, that the greater part of the instances I have adduced are natural, and not conventional or casual modes of expressing feeling, as is evident from their being employed, with little variation, in all ages, nations, and states of society.

How grateful then ought we to be to our Creator for enriching us with these admirable organs, which, more than any outward one that we possess, are the immediate instruments that enable us to master the whole globe that we inhabit, not merely the visible and tangible matter that we tread upon, and its furniture and population, but even often to take hold as it were of the invisible substances that float around it, and to bottle up the lightning and the wind, as well as the waters. Thus by their means do we add daily increments to our knowledge and science, and consequently power; to our skill in arts and every allied manufacture and manipulation; to our comforts, pleasures, and every thing desirable in life.

If now—having arrived at the most perfect instrument, as to its uses, and the most important to the happiness and

* Mark viii. 23—25.

† Mark x. 16. Luke xxiv. 50.