

Pennsylvania and New York have been tabulated, because from them we can easily understand the state of affairs in the whole Church.

The Report includes 150 churches in Illinois, 427 in Pennsylvania, and 450 in New York—about 1000 churches in all.

873 open the service with the singing of "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow." 947 use an invocation. 722 use the Psalter responsively, 494 use the Lord's Prayer, 51 use the Ten Commandments, 908 regularly have an offering, 683 sing an anthem, 985 close with the Benediction.

A bewildering variety prevails in the arrangement of the different parts of the service. It is evidently difficult for the stranger within the gates of one of these Presbyterian churches to know when to rise up and when to sit down. To meet this difficulty the orders of service are usually printed from week to week, in the form of a time-table, and distributed in the pews on Sunday. The expense of this printing, the rustling of these papers, and the confusing variations of these services might be avoided (at least for a considerable number of churches,) if a book could be prepared that would embody the different parts of worship in common use, arranging them in a logical order which would be generally acceptable, and leaving a reasonable freedom of choice in regard to certain elements of the service. At the same time the book would not in any way interfere with those churches which still preferred to print a separate order of service. It seems perfectly clear to your Committee that such a book is greatly needed at the present time. In our judgment there is no reason why it should not be prepared and offered to the Church. We have therefore felt encouraged to go forward with the second part of the task which you have committed to us.

II. The preparation of "a Book of Simple Forms and Services, which shall be proper and helpful for voluntary use in Presbyterian Churches in the celebration of the Sacraments, in marriages and funerals, and in the conduct of public worship."

In entering upon this task we were careful to follow the guidance of the Assembly's resolution in regard to the method and purpose of our work. The positive instructions given to us embrace three points: