

Consecration of Church-Yards or Cemeteries.

1.—CONSECRATION OF A CHURCH-YARD, TOGETHER WITH A CHURCH.

Before or after Service in the Church, the Bishop, Clergy, and the people, shall walk round the portion of ground which is to be consecrated; and the Bishop standing in the place prepared for the performance of the Office, the Act or Sentence of Consecration shall be read by one of the Clergy, and signed by the Bishop.

After which the Bishop says the following Prayer:

○ GOD, who hast taught us in thy holy Word that there is a difference between the spirit of a beast, that goeth downward to the earth, and the spirit of a man, which ascendeth up to God who gave it: and likewise by the example of thy holy servants in all ages, hast taught us to assign peculiar places, where the bodies of thy saints may rest in peace, and be preserved from all indignities, whilst their souls are safely kept in the hands of their faithful Redeemer: accept, we beseech Thee, this charitable work of ours in separating this portion of ground to that good purpose; and give us grace, by the frequent instances of mortality which we behold, seriously to consider how frail and uncertain our own condition is, and so to number our days as to apply our hearts unto wisdom. That in the midst of life thinking upon death, and daily preparing ourselves for the judgment that is to follow, we may have our part in the resurrection to eternal life, with Him who died for our sins and rose again for our justification, and now liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. AMEN.

○ LORD Jesu Christ, who by thy death hast overcome death, and by thy rising to life again hast restored to us everlasting life; grant to all thy servants, who shall here be buried, that their bodies may rest in peace, and that through the grave and gate of death, they may pass to a joyful resurrection, through Thy merits, who livest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. AMEN.

○ ETERNAL God, who didst breathe into man's nostrils the breath of life, and by thy quickening spirit, hast sanctified the bodies of the faithful, to make them the temples of the Holy Ghost: Grant we beseech thee, that their dust may be precious in thy sight. Breathe upon their bones that they may live. And in the morning of the resurrection, may they be satisfied when they awake with thy likeness. AMEN.

A Hymn may be here sung, and an Address given.

Benediction.

2.—CONSECRATION OF A CHURCH-YARD—SINGLY.

The Bishop, Clergy, and Laity, in due order, shall walk round the portion of ground which is to be Consecrated, saying or singing Psalms xxiii. and xxxix. or Psalms xc. or either of them. Returning to the Church Porch or other convenient spot, the Bishop shall say,

THE Glorious Majesty of the Lord our God be upon us: prosper thou the work of our hands upon us. O prosper thou our handy-work.

Then shall the Bishop, or some Clergyman appointed by him, read one of the following lessons: Genesis xxiii. or St. John v. 21 to 30, or 1st Thessalonians iv. 13 to the end.

Then some Clergyman appointed by the Bishop, shall read the sentence of Consecration.

Then the Bishop shall say the Prayers before directed to be used in a Church-Yard consecrated together with a Church.

After which a Hymn may be sung, and the Benediction shall be given.