

some form of prayer according as the present necessity requireth ; to the which he may appoint, by a common consent, some several day after the sermon weekly to be observed."

In addition to the form for the usual Church service, as outlined above, the liturgy contained morning and evening prayers, an order of baptism, an order for the administration of the Lord's Supper, a form of marriage, a visitation of the sick ; and there were afterwards added to it a form for the election of superintendents and ministers, and an order for excommunication and public repentance.

The entire work was mainly the composition of Knox ; and as we would naturally expect from this, much of it is prolix and involved ; sentences occupying whole pages are by no means rare. Some of the prayers are no prayers at all, but mere sermonizings ; and there is throughout too much of the doctrinal element, too little of the devotional. With the possession of many noble qualities, there were some points in the Scottish Reformer's character wanting to a perfect adaptedness for the work of devotional writing. As Mr. Baird has said in his work on Liturgies, "The delicacy, the tenderness, that should deal with certain phases of religious experience, that should express certain emotions of the soul ; of these, though not destitute, neither was he remarkably possessed." When Dr. Cumming republished the *Book of Common Order* in 1840, he wrote (p. xxiii. of Preface), "I have no hesitation in observing that we have a liturgy little less beautiful and impressive than that of England." But this description, as the late Dr. Lee was careful to point out, is very nearly the reverse of the truth.¹ Of "beauty and impressiveness" the Scottish Liturgy is indeed almost totally devoid. As Dr. Lee has said, the prayers are destitute of nearly every one of the requisite qualities—"of pathos, tenderness, and unction ; of beauty and sublimity ; of the meekness, gentleness, mercifulness, and sweet charity which are the true characteristics and living power of Christ's religion." Nevertheless,

¹ The Crown Court divine, it may be noted, had a Psalm Book printed for the special use of the Scottish Church, in London, in which a portion of Knox's Liturgy appeared.