

thems of praise, our unanimous profession of our faith in the Creeds, our hearing of the appointed portions of the word, our recognition of the Law which we seek mercy for having violated,—truly echo the sentiments and principles which are seated in our hearts. While, therefore, we call, with our lips, upon the name of the Lord, let us remember the charge of the Apostle, *I beseech you brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service*; i. e. that you cheerfully surrender your whole persons, your whole man, to serve the God who made and the Saviour who bought you.

The same test must be applied to all those special acts in which we *pay our vows to God in the presence of all his people*. The vow of baptism declared by the Sponsors : the assumption of that vow upon ourselves in Confirmation : the vows interchanged before God, with solemn prayer and benediction, in the celebration of marriage : the vows of the woman who has been brought safely through the trial appointed, from the date of the Fall, for her sex,—all these will be utterly repudiated before God, if once they are suffered to degenerate into formalities, and nothing more. And here we are irresistibly brought *back* for a moment, to the subject of taking into our hands the *cup of salvation* in the supper of the Lord—for in that act we assuredly *pay our VOWS in the presence of the people of God* : Vows which, if they are rightly understood, are happy as well as holy vows—but they do not comport with the lax and easy notions of the world : they are expressed by the Church in words which are borrowed from a passage of Scripture just above cited, and which her members make their own by the responsive *Amen*, at the close of the prayer : “ And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, “ ourselves, our souls and bodies to be a reasonable, “ holy and lively sacrifice unto thee : humbly beseeching thee that all we who are,” at any time, “ partakers “ of this holy Communion, may be fulfilled with thy “ Grace and heavenly benediction.” Let our hearts prompt us to say *Amen* to them now : AMEN and AMEN!