

HINTS FOR WORSHIPERS.

Public worship is not a matter of taste or choice; *it is a duty*. To omit it without good cause, is *sin*. When kept from *public* worship, increase your *private* devotions.

Be in church before the service begins; excepting unavoidable hindrances, it is as easy to do this as it is to be in time for the steamer, the cars, or business appointments.

When you come to the House of God, employ the time before service in serious meditation, devotional reading, with a brief silent prayer, as a preparation for the solemn duty of worship, in which you are about to engage. Talking or whispering before or during services is not *preparation*, is not *worship*, is not *reverence*, is an annoyance and a wrong to others, and sin against God.

If you are late, do not go up the aisle while the people are kneeling, wait quietly at the door till they rise.

Do not whisper your confessions, prayers, and responses—speak out. The service is yours, not the minister's. Deadness, or feebleness of devotion in the people, is just so much weight upon the minister.

Conform to the postures of standing and kneeling if physically able. *Half sitting* is not kneeling; what would you think of your minister if he should do this? Reverence of posture is due from you equally as much as from him.

At Holy Communion, engage in private devotions, both *before* and *after* partaking. You cannot too carefully prepare for this solemn duty, nor, after receiving, too earnestly plead for its benefits.

After the Benediction—to be re-

ceived kneeling—pause a few moments to thank God for the privileges you have enjoyed and ask for grace that you may improve them to your soul's welfare.

Do not suddenly turn the quietness and sacredness of public worship into a confusion of tongues and merriment, but retire quietly, from the sacred precincts of the Lord's house.

If you are tempted to criticise the services, the sermon, the singing, or any of your fellow-worshippers, first turn your thoughts inward and criticise *yourself*.

About four miles from Canterbury is seen the following notice: "Traction engines and other persons taking water from this pond will be prosecuted." This is as good as the notice once seen in a barber's window: "Hair cut while you wait." At Tynemouth appeared, some thirty or more years ago, the alarming announcement: "Visitors are cautioned against bathing within a hundred yards of this spot, several persons having been drowned here lately by order of the authorities."

A prominent clergyman gives this description of the life of a minister. "My experiences with churches make me think that ministers are like cats. When you go to a new place first, everybody says: "Come pussy! Come pussy! nice pussy!" and you come. Then they begin to rub your fur and say: "Poor pussy! Poor pussy!" and then they say "*Scat!*"

The Rev. Dr. Thomas, lately a Congregationalist minister in Brooklyn, N. Y., has applied for orders in the Church.