

The very strength of our national character tends to make us ignore a true conception of the Church. We have on the whole very little idea of obeying what the Church says. The good side in our position is a strong sense of duty and of personal responsibility. The danger is the coming to think that religion is simply a matter between ourselves and God, and not also a matter between ourselves, our neighbours, and our God.

The study of Church History widens our whole outlook. We realize the vast extent of the Church of England in Canada, Africa, America, and Australia, and in fact nearly everywhere. Beautifully does Bishop Lightfoot express the thought "What after all is the individual life in the life of the Church? Men may come and men may go. Individual lives float down like straws on the surface of the waters till they are lost in the ocean of eternity: but the broad, mighty, rolling stream of the Church itself, the cleansing, purifying, fertilizing tide of the river of God, flows on for ever and ever."

## Homely Chats with Churchwomen.

By One of Them.

### THE PRAYER BOOK ON THE PRAIRIE.

I expect many among us only associate the Prayer Book with service in church, where the grand Liturgy with its solemn and varied Collects is uttered by the surpliced minister, and all sounds very familiar to us, for, Sunday after Sunday,

have we not heard the same familiar words?

But to many of us out here in this great New Land, where, often, many and many a mile of wild rough trail lies between us and the nearest place of worship, week after week passes and there is very little difference between Sunday and week-day, except perhaps that we don't get up quite so early, and the men and horses take a needed rest.

And now comes the question: How are we, in this enforced seclusion, to keep up spiritual life and be in touch with the Church? Here it is that the Prayer Book fills a void in our life and acts as a guide. The Collects are after all very homely, matter-of fact, every day prayers. There are no circumstances of our daily ordinary lives for which (if we take the trouble to search for them) we will not find a suitable form of petition or thanksgiving in the prayers of the Church, and it will keep God and His Christ and Heaven still before us if daily we use both in private and in the family circle one or more of these reverential, devout, and beautiful old familiar prayers. If any of you have never tried it before, take your Prayer Book and think of your needs, and sins, and mercies, and it will be very surprising, indeed, if you don't find words to express your wants, your sorrows, and your joys. It is the being such a simple practical guide and aid to everyday life which makes our Prayer Book as well adapted to the prairie home as to the most solemn and stately cathedral.

And when we all gather round the stove in the evening, the fuss and worry