

are to be faithfully prepared in the explanation of the principal formularies of the Church, and then *when they show that their hearts are changed*, or, in Apostolic phrase, that they are the subjects of Repentance towards God, and Faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, they are to come forward in their own person in the Rite of Confirmation."

PUBLIC WORSHIP.

ITS BENEFITS AND ITS OBLIGATION.

The Church of Christ, following the plainest intimations of God Will, has erected in every land, Holy Temples to His Name; has arranged Solemn Services with which to worship, and has taught her children the importance of offering Public Prayers and Praises to God.

The moral value of attention to this point cannot be over estimated. Every assembly in The Lord's House; every Thanksgiving to His Name; every Public Prayer; every Hymn of Praise, is a testimony to the Faith; is a confession of our belief in God; is an acknowledgment of our dependence upon His Providence; is proof that we value the blessings already given, and desire those that are promised.

It would seem most natural then, that every believer should most carefully attend to his duty. Love, gratitude, hope, reverence, should combine to keep him in remembrance of this obligation, and to urge upon him a faithful performance. But, in point of fact, we find in this matter very great indifference and neglect; any reason, even the most trivial, is accepted, which offers the slightest excuse for

absence from God's House. The heat, the cold, the dust, the rain, all are in turn employed as arguments for such neglect: they are set over against the positive commands of Almighty God and are too often allowed to influence conduct and regulate human action.

The effects of such a course are not sufficiently considered. Neglect of Public Worship indicates contempt for God and His Laws. It is a plain act of disobedience and tends directly to promote irreverence. It withdraws a man from contact with a most efficient means of grace. He fails to hear God's Law's rehearsed and goes again to his work without the warning which such declaration would have left upon his mind. He loses the benefit of the many striking examples brought to notice in Holy Scriptures and which were written for our learning. He places himself beyond the reach of the message of Pard as delivered by the ambassador of Christ; and so does not hear the summons to repent, the loving call of the Shepherd as He seek this lost sheep. No man can absent himself, even once, from the Public Worship of God without losing some lesson; some warning; some entreaty, which was intended to help him forward in his Christian course. Nor does the evil end here. His example is injurious to all with whom he comes in contact. It depresses the poor sinner struggling to be saved; it cheers the enemies of the Cross of Christ. Especially in the family circle are its injurious effects seen and felt. No man can expect his children to perform a duty which he himself habitually neglects. No arguments in the world will convince them that he