

But by that time we arrive at a period where absolute certainty is attainable ; for the Book of Common Prayer, and the Articles of religion were then agreed upon and published, and have remained with a few amendments duly incorporated in the Book itself, and respecting which there never has been or can be dispute, unchanged to the present time.

It is noteworthy that this Book, the only one that all her Ministers swear to, without exception, and which contains the whole of her doctrine and practice, is put into the hands of all her baptized children, and of all who attend her ministrations. So that it is in the power of all to read and learn what things the Church holds to be true, and what things they are which she sets forth to be observed and believed by all.

In this practice, the Church of England stands alone. No Church now existing, and no Christian Communion, has put into a book which all must use, a full statement of her Doctrines, together with a Directory for public worship, Observance of Sacraments, Catechism for the young, and Offices of Ministerial Institution and other Ecclesiastical Observances.

It is with the hope that this Treatise may be the means of clearly stating what is certainly true, and of putting aside what is dubious or false, that it is now commended to the consideration both of clergy and laity of the English Church, and not of them only, but of thoughtful and godly people of other communions—so being a help towards the realizing, of that unity which is earnestly desired by so many faithful souls, but which can never be accomplished without a clear understanding of what the component parts are of the re-union which it is proposed to bring about.