

which was ever for your welfare, when these same enemies were seeking your destruction. And now, when there is more than extreme necessity for the continuance of that duty, will you hinder and dishearten Christ's servants and your most faithful subjects, quarreling with them for convening, when you should rather commend and countenance them, as the godly kings and emperors did?"

It is related that during the delivery of this honest and striking expostulation, his Majesty's passion, which was very high at its commencement, gradually subsided; and the ministers were dismissed with fair promises.

THE DUKE OF ARGYLL ON CHURCH MUSIC.

On the subject of Church music I shall only say that I am old fashioned enough to prefer greatly the use of the human voice alone, and that I look with some regret on the notion that seems to be growing that when an organ has been introduced the best has been done that need be done to give greater life and variety to our public worship. It has been pointed out by a great authority that there is high traditional witness to an exclusive use of the human voice in the worship of the early Church, and I regard as a misfortune the employment of powerful instruments wherever these are suffered to drown and to supersede the singing of congregations. The strong objection which has prevailed in Scotland against the use in worship of any compositions which are not strictly Biblical, is an objection which deserves, in my opinion, more sympathy and respect than is sometimes accorded it. But this objection, even in its extremest form, cannot apply to such practices, for example, as the reading of the Psalms in alternate and responsive verses by the minister and the congregation. This is a method of using the Psalms which has the double advantage of giving the people a more individual and a more active part in the church service, and of being in special harmony with the form and with the genius of those divine songs. Whether for prayer or for praise, whether for language addressed directly to God or for words yielding comfort and instruction to them who stand by and hear, there is no liturgy comparable with the Psalms. These are the common heritage of the Christian Church, and the more systematic reading of them would alone be a great reform.

THE VALUE OF OPPORTUNITY.

Opportunity is the flower of time, and as the stalk may remain when the flower is cut off, so *time* may remain with us when opportunity is gone.—Opportunity is the golden spot of time. "Work," therefore, "while it is called to-day," for "now is the accepted time, and now is the day of salvation." Sinners know not the value of those precious, never returning hours, which they revel and tifle away with the most heedless indifference; but the recovery of one hour is not to be purchased with all the Persian treasures, or the mines of both the Indies. Time, once lost, is lost for ever.