

progress, and in 1560 Protestantism received its parliamentary establishment. In the same year the first General Assembly of the Church was held, and a Book of Policy was drawn up. The latter is known as *The First Book of Discipline*, and what we have here to note regarding it is that it recognizes the *Forme of Prayers* as "owre Book of Common Ordour" and "the Ordour of Geneva, which is now used in some of oure Kirks." Sometimes the work is referred to as the Psalm Book, but the psalms with the liturgy attached is always meant, not only at this period, but for long afterwards. Thus was sanctioned the first, and as yet the only, liturgy of the Church of Scotland; before pursuing its history further, let us see what was its nature and what were its contents.

First in importance is, of course, the form for the ordinary Church service. This, the rubric informs us, began with a prayer containing a confession of sin; then followed the reading of the Scriptures; "this done," the rubric continues, "the people sing a psalm all together in a plain tune; which ended, the minister prayeth for the assistance of God's Holy Spirit, as the same shall move his heart, and so proceedeth to the sermon." Following the sermon come a long "Prayer for the whole estate of Christ's Church;" then a psalm, after that the benediction, "and so the congregation departeth." The officiating minister had permission to deviate, if he so desired, from the forms of prayer prescribed:—

"It shall not be necessary," says the rubric, "for the minister daily to repeat all these things before mentioned, but, beginning with some manner of confession, to proceed to the sermon; which being ended, he either useth the prayer for all estates before mentioned, or else prayeth as the Spirit of God shall move his heart, framing the same according to the time and matter which he hath intreated of. And if there shall be at any time any present plague, famine, pestilence, war, or such like, which be evident tokens of God's wrath, as it is our part to acknowledge our sins to be the occasion thereof, so are we appointed by the Scriptures to give ourselves to mourning, fasting, and prayer, as the means to turn away God's heavy displeasure. Therefore it shall be convenient that the minister at such time do not only admonish the people thereof, but also use