

teries which He—the God-man—left in that Church's keeping for the renewing of sinful men until He came again. When a man builds upon these historical facts, he builds upon a rock. He who builds upon an interpretation of the Gospel according to this preacher or that, according to Calvin, Wesley or Luther, or upon his own opinion of what is necessary to the soul's health, is at the mercy of every shrewd reasoner and of every able skeptic whom he may meet.

No man should presume to judge another; to his own master each man standeth or falleth; but it certainly seems to Churchmen that they do well, without any breach of charity and without supercilious judgment, to hold to the historical position, "to contend earnestly for the Faith once for all delivered to the saints," and to hand down the traditions which they have received from apostolic days. Their position seems the most complete defence of Christianity itself, and being conscientious, they must hold to it, even if firmness be taken for arrogance; faith for the pride of opinion; humility in accepting the words of the Lord Jesus and His disciples for the harsh condemnation of brethren; even if loyalty to the Church of Christ be called narrowness and obstinacy.—*The Epiphany.*

THE first lesson which the Church teaches us is *reverence*. Reverence, or the "fear of the Lord," is the very beginning of wisdom. Without it, love itself may become almost profane. How beautifully are the two—love and fear—united in the opening words of our Lord's Prayer. The Fatherhood of God is the dearest and sweetest of

thoughts; but while we appeal to Him by that benignant title, we must never let go the awful thought that He is in Heaven and we upon earth.

### WHAT COULD BE DONE.

FIFTY thousand men in ten years could carry the Gospel to every corner of the globe. The cost would be, say, fifteen millions of pounds a year, or a total of £150,000,000. Great Britain alone would easily send forth an army of 50,000 men, and expend in one or two campaigns £150,000,000. What is thus done sometimes under a sadly mistaken idea of duty, by one nation, might surely be done by all Christendom under the highest stimulus of duty and privilege. Theoretically the thing might be done; yet, looking at it practically, and with our eye upon the experience of eighteen hundred years, the conclusion is inevitable that it can not and will not be done. Slowly, painfully, faithfully, the toilers must toil on,—often very lonely and desolate, often confronting perils of many kinds, and death itself. Still, since God is on our side, it cannot be but victory shall crown our efforts sooner or later. Hasten, O Lord, the coming of Thy kingdom!—*Selected.*

### NOTES ON THE OCCASIONAL SERVICES.

#### NO. 3.—SOLEMNIZATION OF MATRIMONY.

THE holy estate of Marriage was instituted by God Himself (Gen. i. 23 and xviii. 24), and among all the descendants of our first parents there has been some religious way