

marks all acts of her private and public life by a prayerful appeal, and has brought up her children in the love and fear of God.

Sunday is with Her Majesty, in the best sense of the phrase, a day of rest. On Sunday she never transacts business of any kind, nor allows her servants, whether they be ministers or maids, to execute other than the most necessary duties.

The Queen's own form of worship is Church of England, with a strong leaning towards Presbyterianism, which latter inclination may be accounted for partly by Scotch influence, partly by the Prince Consort's Lutheran training, and partly by her own love of simplicity in all things that surround and appertain to herself, whether it be manners, speech, or even the patterns of her curtains.

The Queen has never attended any High Church public service, nor permitted the private services she attends to be conducted with the aid of vestments, candles, processions, or other ornamental accessories. Indeed, her greatest delight was to attend the poor little church at Crathie, and to communicate after the Presbyterian manner in her turn with the rest of the simple Highland congregation. And it was only her horror at finding that her presence turned the service into a show and an attraction to staring tourists that made her abandon Whippingham Church and set up a private Prayer-room at Osborne House.

The Queen has no sympathy with the modern style of introducing aesthetics, economics, or politics into the pulpit. She much prefers a plain exposition of practical truths arising out of some subject of the day, and is known to favour unwritten sermons. She has always shown a strong partiality for the clergy. She loves to talk of the many great church-

men who assisted in the moulding of her character and in her education.

It would be impossible to enumerate all Her Majesty's favourite hymns, but among those which are especially asked for are Toplady's "Rock of Ages," "To Thee, O Lord," "I shall not in the grave remain," "Thy will be done," "Happy Soul, thy days are ended," which has been so beautifully set by H.R.H. Prince Consort, and Mendelssohn's "Hear my Prayer," which was an especial favourite of the late Duke of Albany.

The simple little service in the Queen's Private Chapel is a very solemn and impressive experience, never to be forgotten by those who have had the privilege of attending it, while to those who can recall the more imposing appearance of the Queen when, with her husband and children, and surrounded by her Court, she worshipped at the Chapel Royal, or at the Private Chapel at Buckingham Palace, the quiet modesty of her present surroundings is infinitely touching. In face of such staunch Protestantism as the Queen professes, it is almost grotesque to go back to the early years of her reign, when men, both in England and Ireland, were base enough to accuse Her Majesty of the intention of re-establishing the Papacy as the National religion.

One very terrible trial came to the Queen through her strong and fervent religion. Some time after her marriage to the Grand Duke of Hesse, Princess Alice, the Queen's dearest daughter, showed strong signs of wavering from the faith in which she had been so carefully brought up. The Princess was naturally deeply religious but her own serious and thoughtful nature, coupled with the circumstances of her life, led her first to question and then to falter.