

Concerning the Church

50. What is the Third Reason ?

We should love our Church because *it is so truly the Church of the people*. The Church of England stands for the people's part in Divine worship. Our Prayer Book is the Book of Common Prayer ; that is, of united prayer. The people—that is, the congregation of men and women and children—are all expected to join in, and take their part with an audible voice. The first direction of our Prayer Book is that the whole congregation (not a part of the congregation, such as the choir, or the adults) are to say the General Confession. The second direction is that the people of our Church are to answer at the end of every prayer Amen, as they did in the Apostolic Church.—I. Cor. 14 : 16. The third direction is that the people are to kneel (as Jesus did when He prayed, and as St. Paul.—Luke 22, 41 ; Acts 20, 36 ; 21, 5) and repeat it with him. We should thank God for the provision made for the people in the worship of the Church of England.

51. What is the Fourth Reason ?

We should love our Church because *it is the best Church for the needs of the age*. It is a practical Church. It teaches the plain, simple duties of Christian living, of humility and obedience and honesty, of respect of law, regard for age, and of reverence for things Divine. Our Church is not a narrow Church. It prays daily for all who profess and call themselves Christians. It provides for every age, and every want. The Church of England is a democratic Church. It has no respect of persons. Its services are the same for all. The child of the prince and the pauper, the poor and the rich, is baptized, and married, and buried, with the same beautiful words. Our Church is a missionary Church. It leads in the missionary work of the world, and all the people of the Church of England are daily