

Thus, it is the Church of England that gave us the English version of the Bible, and she gave us the Prayer Book: two books which have done more to mould the character and enlighten the minds of the English people than all other books combined. And she provided that the Bible should be read systematically to the people. So it comes to pass that more of the Bible is read in the services of the Church than in the services of any other communion, and Churchmen, therefore, ought to be more familiar than others with the Bible. This prominence of the Scriptures in the Church's life and worship, and the habits of direct personal communion with God, taught to her members, have resulted on the one hand in a manly, sober and reverent type of piety, and on the other in creating the very richest devotional literature, chaste and refined, saturated with the spirit of the Bible, and breathing the very atmosphere of the heavenly sanctuary. The hymns and spiritual songs of the Church are indeed unequalled in the English language — possibly in any other language — and form a golden treasury from which all other communions largely compile their hymn books. Moreover, the Church is a teaching Church, and therefore the enemy of darkness and super-