

If the attempt to force Episcopacy upon Scotsmen caused a reaction, resulting in adherence to bare walls in church buildings, and, for some generations, an uncompromising hostility to the introduction of any "kist o' whistles" or other instrumental music in divine worship, surely independent common sense has long since taught all non-conformists that if there is any building on earth which merits beauty internally as well as externally it is "the House of God."

Similarly, though "extemporaneous" prayers (which wise ministers usually prepare in thought if not in written word) may provide large scope for devotional exercise of mind and heart, an intelligent interest in the English language would itself lead men to recognize the beauty of many of the prayers in the liturgy of the Church of England.

The regrettable thing about prepared prayers, however, is that the minister's conduct or capacity in preaching and otherwise may suggest that the intellect mainly, if not alone, has been exercised in the composition.

If "the heart's aye the part aye that mak's us richt or wrang," it certainly is true that without the heart being exercised, prayer becomes little better than "sounding brass or tinkling cymbal". Prayer, whether from a pulpit or elsewhere, if without the heart of the speaker inspiring it, is only a form of words, and, as Macbeth said in his pitiable plight:

—"words fly upward, thoughts remain below;

Words without thoughts never to heaven go."

Yes, by all means, speed the day when Christendom shall more and more unite its forces and so help towards "the Parliament of man, the Federation of the World."

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VACATION "SUPPLY" AND THE MID-WEEK MEETING

St. John's Presbyterian Church, Vancouver, was specially fortunate in its "Supply" during the vacation of Rev. Dr. W. H. Smith, when Rev. Leonard McCain, of Boston, officiated. Mr. McCain is a Canadian, an able and scholarly preacher, with a clear and pleasing delivery. At the mid-week meeting he combined expository teaching with a conversational conference on the subject under review. This method, involving questions and answers, has much to commend it. Anything that will in more ways than one draw out Church people, especially staid Presbyterians, is worthy of note, but perhaps some people in all the Churches need to be reminded that a healthy interest in Christianity, involving attendance during the week at a meeting for discussion or prayer, does not, any more than the Sunday services, necessitate the putting on of solemn looks or long faces. It should be as natural for the traveller on Life's highway to give an hour's thought to themes bearing on the main purpose of the pilgrimage and its end, or the life beyond it, as it is for an ocean traveller to be interested in the voyage or to think of the country to which he is destined.

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WILL ST. ANDREW'S FOLK CALL A MINISTER THEY "HEAR"?

Among the ministers officiating at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church was Rev. J. McCartney Wilson, now of Calgary. When Mr. Wilson came to Canada six years ago, he visited Vancouver, and, if we remember aright,