

voice, but inwardly with your heart. Make it a time of earnest heart supplication. "Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you."

And, alluding to this point, dear brethren, I must, in the solemn act of parting with you, reiterate a word of counsel with respect to your connexion with our Church. Speaking of public prayer as a means of grace,—we all know that there are not a few around us, who dislike our Church, more particularly our Liturgy, our Forms of Prayer; who will perhaps go so far as to taunt you by saying that the Church prayers are "dead men's prayers," that they are a form, and therefore do not, and cannot come from the heart! As a consequent of this, the next step that is generally taken, (or at any rate, left for you to infer,) is, that you should leave and come out of the cold and dead and heartless Church, and go where you will get more spiritual help, a warmer and more brotherly welcome, and more nourishing pasturage for your soul.

Now, as commissioned by God, and His ambassador to you, I would once more solemnly warn and guard you against this most mistaken notion. Surely—even apart from any consideration drawn from the authority of Scripture or the custom of the primitive Church (a simple matter of history from the Apostles' times)—is it not (to say the least of it) a gross mistake to suppose that, because the words of prayer are written down, therefore they must have less to do with the heart? When the pastor who differs from us prays, is it not just as much a form to those who worship with him? Must they not put their desires into his words? Besides, to pray rightly in the public congregation it must be a form—a form in the matter of it, if not in the words. Each Lord's Day our public wants (our wants in common) are nearly, if not quite, the same. The Apostle, *e. g.*, alludes to it when