

solemnity and dignity our public devotions would assume if minister and people would resolutely determine upon being guided thereby ; our services would bear on the very face of them order and majesty, the sound would be suited to the words, and would conduce to summon up and to sustain those feelings with which a spiritual worshipper ought to be actuated in all parts of the Common Prayer ; nay, when the service is thus performed, it is next to impossible for a devout worshipper to grow weary or dull.

We must now recall attention to the ordinary way in which our public devotions are celebrated. Can any thing be more alien from the principles above laid down ? the principles which nature, reason, and the compilers of our services unite in recommending. For what is the fact ? In the first place, those parts of the service wherein the whole congregation is expected *audibly* to join, are in many places neglected by the congregation altogether, and left to the hurried and spiritless utterance of the clerk or a few of the congregation, and it is rare to enter *any* church where the responses are made with that due regard to regularity and order and the laws of