

Litany, the Communion Office and the Order for Morning and Evening Prayer. Each of those documents comes to us laden with the perfumes of nearly two thousand years of Christian thought and holy living. As if in sealed vessels they contain the odour of the days of implicit faith and of unquestioning obedience, which are, from the very nature of the case, the days of ripe spiritual understanding. It has been my experience a hundred times over that my instinctive impressions of certain difficult words of Christ or passages of Scripture, proved, on closer study, to be absolutely sound when I could trace the impression to some familiar line in the Prayer-Book. And therefore my conviction is strong on this point, that the best commentary and interpreter of Scripture is the Book of Common Prayer.

#### THE KEY.

Last but not least the key to the whole Bible is the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. "They testify of Me," John V : 39, is the Saviour's own comment. And though we should avoid all fanciful and far-fetched allusions, we are safe in looking for Christ everywhere from Genesis to Revelation—not a dwarfed and distorted figure of Christ, the creation of our own fancy or of our own predilections and prejudices ; not a *mere man*, however wise and perfect and fascinating He may be as an example of life ; not *only God*, however great and glorious and holy He may be but without concern for and sympathy with the petty concerns of men ; but the *God-Man* as He lives and moves, in His own inherent life, in the Gospels and then dies for our sins and rises again for our justification and ascends into Heaven to intercede for us ; and the *Man-God* as He, from His throne on High, by the power of the Holy Spirit, redeems and guides and sanctifies the Church as it lives and moves in the Acts of the Apostles, but never dies, yea, rather is assured of life to the end of the world.

#### CONCLUSION.

If any of you should think that I have raised too high a standard I pray you to bear in mind that a knowledge of our own unfitness, i. e., the spirit of humility, is not the worst preparation for the study of the Word of God. More especially if it lead us to more earnest prayer for the help of the Spirit and to a more diligent use of all the means of study at our disposal. No standard of preparation can be too high when we realize that we are treating the study of the Word of God, which is designed not only