

CHURCH SERVICES, &c., &c.

The subject of abbreviating our Services, and how to conduct them with a view of securing, as far as possible, harmony of practice, and making them more suitable to the several wants of our larger Parishes, and more especially in regard to our extensive and widely-separated Mission-Stations, has often been brought before our Synods, and the Bishops are not unfrequently appealed to for counsel and authority on these matters. Anxious to meet the wishes of the Clergy, I would affectionately recommend—until the Synod of this Diocese, or the Provincial Synod has authoritatively passed a Canon on this subject—the following for your guidance:—

1. The Public Services in Churches or Chapels, to begin always with one or two of the Scripture sentences, as provided by the Rubric, viz.: "*The Minister shall READ with a loud voice, some one or more of these sentences of Scripture.*" &c., &c.
2. In Parish Churches, the Morning Prayer; the Litany and the Communion Office, may be used as separate services, provided that the former and the latter be both used during the Forenoon of Every Sunday; and that the Litany may be used either in the Forenoon or Afternoon.
3. That in Missionary Churches where the Clergyman ministers to more than one congregation on the same day, he may curtail the customary Morning Service, so long as one or more of the three Offices be used in its entirety, and so long also as the several congregations shall have each one of the Offices brought before them at least once a month.
4. That when the Holy Communion is administered, there shall be a pause after the Prayer for the Church Militant, to afford opportunity for Non-Communicants to withdraw. And when there is no Communion, the Service conclude with the Prayer for the Church Militant, Collect, and Benediction, as ordered by the Rubric.
5. Before the Sermon, the Lord's Prayer may be omitted, and a Collect used only.

IN REFERENCE TO VESTURE AND POSTURE, &c., &c.,
I would recommend the following for adoption, which I have taken from the Canons of the "Church of Ireland:—"

- (a). "Every Presbyter and Deacon at all times of his public ministration of the Services of the Church, shall wear a plain white Surplice with sleeves, and such minister may wear Bands, and upon the Surplice the customary Scarf or Stole of plain silk, and being a Graduate he may wear the Hood pertaining to his Degree. And no minister shall wear any other ecclesiastical Vestment or Ornament, provided that any minister shall be at liberty to wear a plain Black Gown when preaching."