

THE PREFACE

OF THE CANADIAN REVISION OF 1914

THE Book of Common Prayer is a priceless possession of our Church. By its intrinsic merits, as a book designed for the reverent and seemly worship of Almighty God, as well as by its historic associations, it has endeared itself to generation after generation of devout Christians throughout the world. None would desire or advocate any change therein which would impair or lessen this deep-seated affection.

But through the lapse of some three hundred years many changes have taken place in the life of the Church and in its outlook upon the world. The present life and larger outlook of the Church are seeking more adequate expression than the Book of Common Prayer has hitherto afforded, and seem to require judicious adaptation and enrichment of the Book in order that it may more fully meet the needs of the Church in this age and in this Dominion.

Therefore the General Synod of the Church of England in Canada determined to make such adaptations and enrichments in the body of the Book as would serve this purpose. But to avoid the risk of changes that might impair the character of the Book, the General Synod clearly ordained the limits within which such adaptation and enrichment might be made, forbidding any change in text or rubric which would involve or imply a change of doctrine or principle of the Church of England as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer, or any other change not in accordance with the 27th Resolution of the Lambeth Conference of 1908.

The chief results of the present Revision will be found to be: the adaptation of rubrics to customs generally accepted at the present time; the provision of directions for the combined use of the different Services; the adaptation and enrichment of the Occasional Offices; the supplying of Forms for Additional Services in use throughout the Church though not provided for in the Book of Common Prayer heretofore; the addition of many new Prayers for Special Occasions; the revision of the Calendar, the Lectionary, and the Psalter.