

TURNING TO THE EAST.

A correspondent asks, "Why do the clergy and people turn to the East when reciting the Creed?" We give the answer from Blunt's Prayer Book. "Turning to the East has only ceased to be universal in very modern times. Clergy and people used formerly to look one way throughout the Prayers and Creeds, that is towards the altar. As the Jews in their prayers looked towards the Mercy-seat, or principal part of the temple (Ps. xxviii., 2), so Christians looked towards the altar, or chief part of the church, whereof their Mercy-seat was but a type. Christ, in His prayer, directs us to Heaven, though God be everywhere; for Heaven is His throne, and we look towards that part of the church which most resembles it."

Before reading-desks were erected in the naves of churches, the prayers were said in front of the altar, while the Psalms were sung in the choir stalls, the ancient practice being for the clergyman to stand or kneel in the former place to say Creeds and prayers. When pews were erected in churches, both congregation and clergy were placed in positions that suited the convenience of carpenters; but reverence still compelled all to turn to the altar during the solemn confession of their Faith. Hence this habit of turning to the East became exceptional instead of habitual; and exceptional reasons were alleged in support of it, when in fact they applied with more or less force to the general position of worshippers in God's house, as expressed above. Apart from the symbolic explanations of this custom, it appeals to both the reason

and the feelings, by forming the congregation into a body of which the clergyman is the leader, as when a regiment marches into battle, or parades with its officers in the front; and there is no part of divine service where this relation of priest and people is more appropriate than in the open confession of Christian Faith before God and man. To this we may add that the turning of the clergy, the choir and the people to one point, calls their attention to, and fixes it very pointedly upon the united confession of their common Faith as expressed in the Creed. The most careless worshipper by this act is aroused to reverence and stirred up in joining in the Creed.—*Dominion Churchman.*

The secular papers have a way of looking at religious matters, and of expressing themselves, sometimes, that shows how much latent or active Christian thought there is often back of what appears on the surface. Here is an item clipped from the *Fresno Republican* that hits the nail on the head exactly:

"The objection a good many people have to Christ is that they did not have a hand in preparing his doctrine."

A remarkable career has been that of Mr. Cecil Majaliwis, who has just entered upon a course of training at St. Augustine's College, Canterbury. An African by birth, he was enslaved about fifteen years ago, being then a little boy. In 1870, however, when being shipped for sale with a cargo of his fellow-countrymen, the dhow was captured by her Majesty's ship *Dryad*, and the present student handed over to the Universities' Mission at Zanzibar.