

conformity to the world ought not to be the rule of Ministerial life ; and that we shall lose more than we shall gain, by assimilating our literary pursuits to those of the age. As it is our business to live above the world, to cultivate loftier desires, and to see objects as they appear in the light of Divine truth, so should our studies be distinctive also. They should familiarize us with a purer atmosphere of thought ; furnish us with better motives ; acquaint us with higher aims."

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What did the Church specially mean when she asked if, besides the reading of Holy Scripture, we would be diligent "*in such studies as help to the knowledge of the same*?"

"What those studies were meant to be" (says Professor Blunt), "is sufficiently manifest from the Canon entitled, 'Concionatores,' in the Canons of 1571 (the very year when our articles were ratified), and which enjoins the preacher to propound nothing from the pulpit which is not agreeable to the doctrine of the Old and New Testament, or which *the Catholic Fathers and ancient Bishops* have not gathered out of that doctrine. The Canons themselves (not to say the Prayer Book, in many places), repeatedly appeal to 'the judgment of *the ancient Fathers*, and the practice of *the primitive Church*,' as well as to the 'decrees of the ancient Fathers ;' which, to see how *the Homilies* are indebted to the same sources, it is only necessary to refer to the words, 'Ambrose,' 'Augustine,' 'Chrysostom,' 'Cyprian,' 'Gregory,' 'Jerome,' in the index at the end. *Primitive Catholic Antiquity*, then is the witness to which the Church of England habitually appeals and refers."

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"On finding oneself in a theological library, instead of that desultory survey of the shelves which results in nothing ; it is an excellent practice to fasten on the works of some great Divine with whom one is unacquainted, and carefully to survey the nature of his writings :—Sermons, so many, and on such and such topics. Controversial works and treatises, so many, the subjects such and such. A man may soon acquire the art of handling books of Divinity with profit. A hint may be gathered from the very inspection of the collected works of an author who was esteemed in his generation. Above all, it is discovered with astonishment what laborious achievements have been made in every department of theology, the very existence of which were not so much as suspected ; how abundantly the armoury of the Church has been furnished with approved weapons for almost every danger with which the Faith may at any time be threatened."

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"Costly, bulky and scarce—by most men, the works of the Fathers are unattainable. But there is nothing to hinder the most unpretending