

## Suggestions as to Worship.

The following Suggestions for Reverent Behaviour in Church have been commended to the Congregations in his Diocese by the Bishop of Vermont. They are so excellent that we print them for the benefit of our people everywhere.

Unnecessary conversation and all loud talking should be avoided in the Church at all times. A buzz of conversation, or a clatter of tongues, as soon as the clergyman has retired to the vestry is most unseemly. Some persons may wish to remain and pray over the words they have heard, or the gift they have received, and their devotion should not be disturbed; and all should depart as quietly as possible. Before Service, to be quiet is the best preparation for taking part in the worship.

It is a good custom for the congregation to rise when the clergyman enters the Church, and then to kneel with him for a silent prayer before the Service begins. (*See prayers at the end.*)

Kneeling on the knees, not sitting and bending forward, is the proper attitude for prayer. Benches must be made and arranged so as to render this possible.

The people should stand for the presentation of the Alms, and also while the Bread and Wine are prepared and offered.

At Holy Communion all should remain kneeling, if possible, while others are receiving.

Gloves should be removed before going forward to the rail.

The Sacramental Bread should be received into the palm of the right hand, and then reverently raised to the mouth.

The Cup should be taken into the hands of the communicant, or at least guided to the lips, though the minister may retain hold to steady it.

At a Burial the congregation, including the mourners, should take part in the Service as at other times, responding in the psalm and saying Amen at the end of the prayers.

So also at a Marriage when all care must be taken to impress upon everyone that is present the dignity of the rite.—“*The Solemnization of Matrimony.*”

At a Marriage the congregation should stand throughout the Service, the prayers being said over the bride and bridegroom.

Nothing should at any time be placed upon the Holy Table but what is actually used in the Celebration of the Holy Communion. Any ornaments or decorations should be upon a shelf behind.

### *A Prayer on Entering Church.*

Lord, I am in Thy Holy House. Grant me a spirit of reverence and devotion. Drive from me all vain and evil thoughts. Hear my prayers for myself and for all for whom I am bound to pray. And grant me a share in the prayers of all Thy faithful people. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### *A prayer that may be said silently with the Clergyman before the Service begins.*

O Lord, graciously accept us drawing near to Thee in this Service. Bless Thy servant who leads our Worship. Help us to worship Thee in spirit and in truth. And pour upon us the abundance of Thy blessing. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### *A Prayer after Service.*

Pardon, O Lord, I beseech Thee, all the imperfections of our Service. Grant that what we say with our lips we may believe in our hearts, and show forth in our lives. Train us by our worship in Thy Church on earth for Thy perfect service hereafter. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## A Beautiful Hymn,

*By the late Reverend Dr. Hatch, sometime Rector of the High School, Quebec.*

I dared not hope that Thou wouldst deign to come  
And make this lowly heart of mine thy home;  
That Thou wouldst deign  
O King of Kings to be  
E'en for one hour a sojourner in me:  
Yet art Thou always here to help and bless,  
And lift the load of my great sinfulness.  
I dared not ever hope for such a Guide  
To walk with me my faltering steps beside,  
To help me when I fall and when I stray  
Constrain me gently to the better way;