

### *THINGS WE OUGHT TO KNOW ABOUT THE CHURCH.*

#### HOW THE LITURGY GREW UP.

The Liturgy is the name for the service for Holy Communion.

Perhaps there is nothing outward that links us Christians of 1890 so closely to our Lord and the Apostles as the Liturgy.

Why? Because there is much in it that has come down to us direct from those times.

Are not the very words spoken by Jesus Christ repeated by the priest as he offers the solemn prayer of consecration? And again, that part of the service beginning, "Lift up your hearts," and also the "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts," are so ancient that it is very likely indeed that they were used by the Apostles.

How did the Liturgy grow up? that is our question. Very much as a tree grows up from a seed.

Our Lord's word, of which we have just spoken, made the seed. Students who know most about liturgies tell us that just after the death of Jesus, the Apostles used a short and simple form suited to times when they often celebrated with their lives in their hands. Then by degrees, as years passed away, additions were made to this form; first, the Epistles and Gospels were read, then a hymn would be put in, and then, perhaps, a prayer added, according to need; and so the Liturgy grew into a stately and majestic service, just as a sapling becomes a great tree. Now, we know our Lord had bidden the Apostles to go everywhere carrying the "good news," or Gospel; and so they separated, and

in those days of few roads and no railways, once separated they would rarely meet again. Each one would suit the Liturgy to the needs of the nation to which he took it; and so we find that, after a time, there was a Liturgy of Jerusalem, one of Alexandria, another of Rome, another of Ephesus, and these were called after the Apostles who had the care of the four cities—S. James, S. Mark, S. Peter, S. John.

The next step in bringing the Liturgy to ourselves is this.

It happened that missionaries were sent from Ephesus to France; and presently, the Liturgy they brought with them crossed the Channel to England. We have no clear history of those times, but, at any rate, when S. Augustine came to convert England in 595, he found, to his surprise, a Church with his own Liturgy. If you look at England a few centuries later you find the very same process repeated. Instead of one Liturgy you find different forms used in different parts of the country. People call them "Uses." There was a Salisbury (or Sarum) Use, a York Use, a Lincoln Use, and so on.

Now we come to the Reformation. By this time the "Uses" had become so many and so puzzling that Convocation (or the Church's parliament) put forth an "Order of Communion," which was to be used all over the country.

This service was chiefly drawn from the old liturgies, and great care was used that nothing essential should be missed out; also it was to be said in English instead of Latin as before.

This is the Liturgy we have now.

Some smaller changes were made in the reigns of James I. and