

we must remember into whose presence we are going to appear. We are going to offer up our homage to the great Lord of earth and heaven; who witnesses every action we perform, and reads the very secrets of our hearts. We must therefore hearken to the counsel of Solomon, the wisest of men. "Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools; for they consider not that they do evil." It is a solemn and a serious thing, to appear in the more immediate presence of Jehovah. We should therefore prepare ourselves beforehand, by suitable meditations. We should reflect upon his awful Majesty, his infinite power, and the innumerable retinue of the heavenly host, which continually surround his throne. We should then consider our own insignificance, that we are but dust and ashes, the creatures of a day's existence, polluted with sin, and rebels against that Almighty Being from whom we have received, every thing we possess. These reflections with the Divine blessing, would have a tendency to bring our minds to a proper frame; and we would be ready to say with the prophet, "the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him." With such a preparation as this, the sublime service of our Church, when entered upon, will have a blessed effect. When we pray "with the spirit, and with the understanding also," our noble liturgy seems no longer to us, to be a dull unmeaning repetition; but admirably comprehensive, and calculated to express every thing, which a penitent weary and heavy laden with his sins could desire. The form of praise and thanksgiving to the Deity, is also delightful. For the most part, we celebrate the goodness of Jehovah in the language of inspiration; in words which were indited three thousand years since; which were used by prophets and apostles, evangelists and martyrs, who are now singing the praises of their God, in the realms of glory. We hear also in the lessons, the word of revelation proclaimed to us, and afterwards expounded by the messenger of the Lord of Hosts. These are some of the privileges attendant upon the public