

further, that the baptismal promises of repentance, faith, and obedience should be made either privately or publicly by those who, having been baptized without those promises, are brought by our Clergy to Confirmation by the Bishop. Difficulties having arisen in some quarters with regard to the administration of Holy Communion to the sick, we recommend that such difficulties should be left to be dealt with by the Bishop of each diocese in accordance with the direction contained in the preface to the Book of Common Prayer. "Concerning the Service of the Church."

#### READERS USED IN SCHOOLS.

We think it necessary to call attention to the misleading character of many of the statements to be found in those school "Readers" which touch on the history of the Church, and we recommend those on whom responsibility rests to take such steps as they can to secure a truer handling of this important subject.

#### ENCOURAGEMENT OF THEOLOGICAL STUDY.

There is a general complaint that the facilities provided for theological study in many of the colonies and dependencies of Great Britain are not sufficient, and that there is very little recognition of proficiency in theological knowledge. It is a serious defect in the working of the Church if it fails to produce men who can deal rightly with theological questions. The wrong handling of such questions may easily lead and has often led to serious errors both in doctrine and practice, and ignorance of the subject leaves the Church defenceless against many attacks. The Church cannot fulfil all her duties without having men of learning among her divines, and this especially applies to such a Church as ours, which founds all her teaching on Scripture and antiquity. The great means provided by God for instructing the conscience of the human race is

the Bible, and for interpreting the Bible, next after the Bible itself, the study of the writings and practices of the primitive Church is of paramount importance. We cannot use these instruments with effect unless we have a thorough knowledge of both. We, therefore, earnestly commend to all Christian people, and especially to those who are connected by commercial or other relations with the colonies, the duty of aiding and establishing colleges and scholarships for the instruction of colonial students in theology, and we commend to the careful consideration of the Church the question how best to encourage men to give themselves to that study, by arranging that some accredited authority shall grant degrees to those who have attained a high standard of proficiency.

#### THE DUTY OF THE CHURCH TO THE COLONIES.

We have just spoken of one of the duties which the Church owes to the colonies, but there are others of no small importance. It is a duty to the colonies to encourage the freest and fullest communion of spiritual life between the Churchmen at home and the Churchmen abroad, and especially between the Clergy. Clergymen well fitted for colonial service are not always well fitted for home service, and Clergymen well fitted for home service are not always well fitted for colonial. And this must to a certain extent, put a restraint on free exchange of Clergy between the two services. But subject to this necessary caution it is good for the Church that men should go from the one service to the other, and under proper regulations this ought not to be difficult.

To this claim of the colonies must be added the claim on behalf of some of them for continued and, if possible, increased pecuniary aid. Many of the colonial Churches cannot yet stand alone. The provision of colleges and