

A LITTLE LONGER.

*"There are, who love upon their knees
To linger, when their prayers are
said,
And lengthen out their Litanies."*—

A little longer ! I mean upon your knees at the close of every service of public worship. That beautiful reverent custom of the Church must not be allowed to degenerate into a cold formality. It is not because it is a custom, but because it is reverent and dutiful, that as soon as we reach our places in Church we kneel for a silent prayer. Do not let it be too short. Make it real and earnest. And to help you in that, follow Scriptural advice, and "take with you words," (Hosea xiv, 2). Know beforehand just what you are going to ask. For example :

"Lord, I have loved the habitation of Thy House, and the place where Thine honor dwelleth. Be with me, I beseech Thee, in this service of praise and Prayer. Hear, graciously, the Prayers of Thy people. Confirm with Thy power the acts and words of Thy Ministers. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be always acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer."

If you cannot at first commit the words to memory, copy them, or some like them, in the front of your Prayer Book, and be not afraid to use them so. And when the service is all ended, do not make haste to go away. That half-minute of stillness, long enough to be noticed, but not long enough for a real, hearty Prayer, is not all that is needed. Again, "take with you words." Have something ready. Add, if you will, words and thoughts of Prayer, prompted by the Service just used, its chief lesson, the sermon, or devout wishes for blessing on some dear friend. Do not leave it all to chance. Begin with some such words as these :

"Thanks be to God for all His mercies and blessings through His Church. God the Father, bless me. God the Son, ever seek to save me. God the

Holy Ghost, strengthen and cleanse me. The Holy Trinity, be with me and abide with me now and evermore, Amen."

At the close of the Holy Communion, especially, it might be expected that all souls would feel deeper fervor of Prayer, and wish time for more words of thankfulness. It would be wise use of time, as well as decent and desirable reverence, to remain thus in prayer until all that remains of the consecrated elements have been, as the Prayer Book bids, "reverently consumed."

ONLY HALF A POINT.

A gentleman crossing the English channel stood near to the helmsman. It was a calm and pleasant evening, and no one dreamed of a possible danger to their good ship, but a sudden flapping of a sail, as if the wind had shifted, caught the ear of the officer on watch, and he sprang at once to the wheel, examining closer the compass.

"You are half a point off the course" he said sharply to the man at the wheel. The deviation was corrected, and the officer returned to his post.

"You must steer very accurately," said the looker-on, "when only half a point is so much thought of."

"Ah ! half a point in many places might bring us directly on the rocks," he said.

So it is in life. Half a point from strict truthfulness strands us upon the rocks of falsehood. Half a point from perfect honesty, and we are steering for the rocks of crime. And so of all kindred vices. The beginnings are always small. No one climbs to the summit at one bound, but goes the one little step at a time. Children think lightly of what they call small sins. These rocks do not look so fearful to them.—*Sailors' Magazine.*