

of the task laid upon us; and we have tried faithfully to perform it in a way which shall be true at all points to the faith which is sincerely held by the disciples of Christ in the Presbyterian Church.

(3) We are further instructed to keep ever in mind in all our deliberations and decisions, "the end of Presbyterian worship, which is that all the people should join in the service of God as He is revealed in Jesus Christ."

The needs, the convenience, the natural and reasonable preferences of the people, in matters where there is room for choice in method and arrangement—these are the things to be remembered, if an order of service is to be prepared for worship which is designed to be popular, in the right sense of the word. A service, however bare, which is adapted to the use of the minister and choir only, answering one to the other in antiphonal grandeur, though it may have prevailed for a season in many of our churches, does not in our judgment promote the end of Presbyterian worship.

In regard to the forms for the Sacraments and for marriages and funerals, there will be little opportunity for variations. But in the longer forms, especially those for morning and evening service on the Lord's Day, it is most desirable that the people should have, first, a more general agreement in regard to the parts of the service, and their order; and, second, as much freedom of choice as possible in regard to the material of the different parts. Of course, the whole matter is optional; there is no compulsion or restriction; on the title-page of any book to be prepared there must stand (in our judgment) the words "For Voluntary Use in Presbyterian Churches." But over and above this general rubric we feel that there is need of considerable opportunity for variations, in different congregations and on particular occasions, in any form of service which is to be generally acceptable; and this liberty should be expressed, where it is possible, within the service itself.

Unity in the broad outline of the common worship; agreement upon certain simple and universal elements of the service, like the Psalter and the Lord's Prayer and the Creed, which are already part of the standards of our Church; liberty within the