

a soldier saluted he nudged me, "See," said he, "how they respect me." He was the soldiers' bishop and indeed was a great favorite with them: a bishop who preached a sermon once a year was a source of pride to them. The evening began with music and singing, the bishop's daughters presiding at the piano. The officers proposed a carpet dance. To this I saw that His Eminence gave a hesitating assent and glanced frequently at the door as though he was in trepidation and there was cause: the door opened and a ghost-like figure of cadaverous face in black garb stood there, his right hand upheld. The dance was stopped. It was the monk from the garret who forbade these worldly proceedings. "That's how it always is," said the bishop, "whenever I get together a few friends for my daughters' sake. He has had his day and won't let us have ours."

A gruesome sight met our eyes as we turned homeward across the bridge, a body hung from a gallows. This was the last man hung in Tiflis for murder, who, ere he swung, boasted that he had slain sixteen others. He was a Kurd, one of the same people lately active in the Armenian massacres.

C. H. ANDRAS.

Prayer Book Notes.

V.

A regular form of service of Public Worship, administration of the Sacrament and other rites and ceremonies is intelligible and reasonable. The Church has found it so from very early times, although at first she was satisfied with that form mainly taught by word of mouth. In those days it cost something to be a Christian, and secretly in caves and hidden places, the faithful gathered

together to commemorate the most sacred memorial of "Christ dying for us." In these days of widely divergent notions of what constitutes a Christian, there lacks to a great extent that spirit which speaks of, and acts as if, sacrifice constituted an element of Worship. We have a few distinct references to a form of worship instituted by Christ Himself, which have been embodied in our forms and upon which as upon a rock all other forms have been built.

PRAYER is an element of Worship. — "After this manner pray ye: 'Our Father which art in Heaven, etc.'"

ALMSGIVING is another, even if it seem to be neglected. Witness Our Lord's words concerning the Widow's offering of "two mites." See also His Sermon on the Mount. Matt. vi. 1-5.

READING AND EXPOUNDING SCRIPTURE: Witness His own attitude: "Daily in the Temple." Luke xxii-53. Jno. xviii-20.

PRAISE: Christ's example, also, "And when they had sung an Hymn, they went out into the Mount of Olives." Mark xiv-26.

These essentials are found in our present form, though through strange and awful vicissitudes they have been retained. There can be no reasonable objection to "Forms of Prayer," particularly when they have received such authority, and bear also the recognition and practice of the Church B. C., and in a greater degree and more comprehensive kind, of the Church A. D. The two Sacraments "generally necessary to Salvation" are of Christ's own institution, the form used in each case being exactly that in which Christ gave it. The Prayer Book is not the book of a party, but the Book of Common Prayer for the whole Church. Next month we will speak of some of the earlier Service Books.

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