

Western churches, at the present day, illustrates our remoteness from the time and country of the Nicene fathers. To pray standing was, in public worship, believed to have been an apostolical usage. It is still the universal practice in the Eastern Church, not only on Sunday, but on week days. But in the West, kneeling has gradually taken its place; and the Presbyterians of Scotland, and at times the Lutherans of Germany, are probably the only Occidental Christians who now observe the one only rubric laid down for Christian worship by the first Ecumenical Council."

What will our modern innovators say to this? Though the posture in worship be in itself a matter of indifference, yet it is not a matter of indifference for a minister or a congregation to introduce changes without the authority of the Church, and in opposition to prevailing feeling, or, if they will, prejudice. There are, it is believed, some of our Free Church congregations who greatly need to be taught a lesson on this subject; and it may help to enlighten them to be told that their innovations are a departure from the primitive and apostolic usages of the Church. It is a melancholy symptom of the state of the Church when a great stir is made about such things as organs, hymns, and postures in prayer.—*Correspondence of Guardian.*

### WORLDLY CHRISTIANS.

Under the mistake that religion has little to do with his ordinary life, many a man appears, at different times of the day, in two separate characters. In the morning he enters his closet, prays to the Father in secret, and feels there his soul full of divine affections and hopes. But he leaves this hallowed retirement for his labor or business through the day. He works, he bargains, he acts as if his religion had nothing to do with his life now, or his life with God; and his soul is barren of heavenly joys. He returns to his closet again at evening time; but his chafed, weary spirit, that has been so long kept away from the fountain of its life, finds not its early peace, and he wonders why the Lord has forsaken him. He need not wonder. The marvel would be, if the Holy One would sanction this attempt to put asunder what He has joined together—to lower religion from a life to an occasional prayer.—*Life for God.*

### LIVE FOR SOMETHING.

Thousands of men breathe, and live; pass off the stage of life, and are heard of no more. Why? They did not do a particle of good in the world; and none were blest by them, none could point to them as the instruments of their redemption; not a life they wrote, not a word they spoke, could be recalled, and so they perished—their light went out in darkness, and they were not remembered more than the insects of yesterday. Will you thus live and die, O man immortal!—Live for something. Do good, and leave behind you a monument of virtue that the storms of time can never destroy. Write your name by kindness, love, and mercy, on the hearts of the thousands you come in contact with year by year, and you will never be forgotten. No, your name, your deeds, will be as legible on the hearts you leave behind, as the stars on the brow of evening. Good deeds will shine as brightly on the earth as the stars of heaven.—*Dr Chalmers.*

### Shall a Periodical be Prayed for?

The church which does not habitually pray for its minister cannot expect any decided blessing upon his labours. It is true that such blessings may descend in answer to his own prayers, and in spite of the indifference of his people; but that church has no business to expect it, and ought to mingle its rejoicings for the blessing with repentance for its own indifference. It is a settled point, that the ministry cannot perform its work unsustained by the prayers of God's people.

Ought it then to be expected that the religious periodical shall perform its work without the same support? That work is, in many respects, the same kind with that of the minister of Jesus Christ, while the range of its influence is immensely wider. The minister can only speak to a few hundreds; often less than a single hundred.—The periodical audience is with the thousands. Probably the sheet which conveys this article will be read by some thousand persons. What an audience is this!—Ought not then the periodical be prayed for, that its conductors may have the spirit of wisdom, of a sound mind, and of their Lord and Master? Its conduct is a great and difficult work, weighed down with responsibility, suspending interests vast as the years of eternity.