

failed. Seek the assurance of complete forgiveness in Christ. Wait upon God for the great gift of the Holy Ghost to teach, strengthen, and sanctify you. You will find the prayer in the Confirmation service, which is offered for you by the Bishop, one you may well employ for yourself:

"Defend, O Lord, me Thy child with Thy heavenly grace, that I may continue Thine for ever, and daily increase in Thy Holy Spirit more and more until I come to Thine everlasting kingdom."

Especially be very real and true in the solemn "I do," which each candidate gives as an answer to the question which the Bishop puts to them. What does it mean? Is it not your acceptance of His grace and your public testimony to desire to live for Him?

Let it be the language of your heart, and you will find in days to come that it helps you to abide faithful to His service.

FOR JESUS' SAKE.

A little gift for Jesus' sake,
Unknown to ear or eye;
A little breath of kindness left
Adrift in passing by;
A smile reflected in some face,
A little worthy praise;
A touch upon some lonely hand
To sweeten many days;
Remembrance shown in little things,
Small favours scarcely seen;
A written word, a spoken word,
A flower heart 'midst some green;
A breath of incense daily given
In simple homely ways;
Because in man we see the Christ,
And noblest forms of praise.

—Selected.

OUR BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER.

The Litany.—The Litany has been called, "That astonishing remembrancer of human wants." Every conceivable case of distress appears to have been anticipated; not a person has been passed over; not a need has been forgotten. For three hundred years, tens of thousands of the holiest and best of men, next to their Bible, have loved and valued their Book of Common Prayer.—*Canon Burbidge.*

The Missionary Spirit.—The Reformers, it is true, lived in an age

when the world was almost unknown. But still they took care to teach us that no public service should be held in which "all sorts and conditions of men" were not remembered in prayer; and that the waiting desire of expectant faith should ever be this, "that God would be pleased to make His ways known unto men, His saving health unto all nations."—*C.B.*

The True Communion.—The preparation for Communion which is most important of all, and which must be always going on, is the preparation of a daily life lived close to the Lord Jesus Christ, in repentance, faith, gratitude, unselfishness, and love—that close walk to which every Christian is *always* called, and without which it cannot be well with the soul. Remember, Repentance is the soul's *turning from self to God*: and faith is *trusting God, taking God at His word, and then acting on this trust.*—*The Rev. Handley C. G. Moule, D.D.*

The Te Deum.—This wonderful hymn is by an unknown author. It was probably composed (in Latin) some time between 350 and 450. It addresses the Heavenly Father, the Holy Trinity, and the Lord Christ, in close connection.

Note the following points: *Te Deum laudamus* means, literally, "We praise Thee as God." Sabbath is the Hebrew word for "Hosts." "Noble army" is, in Latin, "*white-robed army*" (Rev. vii. 9). "When Thou tookest, etc." is, in the Latin, "when Thou tookest Man upon Thee, to deliver him." "Sharpness" is, in the Latin, "*sting*." "To be numbered" was, in the Latin, originally, "to be rewarded"; *munerari*, not *numerari*. "To lighten" means "to shine," not "to alight."—*Idem, Home Words.*

'AVOID IT.'

The evils arising from jesting upon Scripture are greater than appear at first. It leads, in general, to irreverence for Scripture. When we have heard a comic or vulgar tale connected with a text of Scripture, such is the power of association, that we never hear the text afterwards without thinking of the

jeer. The effect of this is obvious. He who is much engaged in this kind of false wit will come at length to have a large portion of Holy Scripture spotted over by this unholy fancy.—*Christian at Work.*

THE SOUL A PICTURE GALLERY.

Your souls are a picture gallery. Cover the walls of them with things serene, noble, beautiful, and the foul and fleshly will only seem revolting.

"Hang this upon the wall of your room," said a wise picture-dealer to an Oxford under-graduate, as he handed to him the engraving of a Madonna of Raphael, "and then all the pictures of jockeys and ballet girls will disappear."

Try the same experiment with your souls. Let their walls be hung with all things sweet and perfect—the thought of God, the image of Christ, the lives of God's saints, the aspirations of good and great men, the memories of golden deeds, noble passages of poetic thought, scenes of mountain, and sunset, and ocean.

O, do this, and there shall be no room for the thoughts of carnal ugliness, which deprave corrupted souls!—*Farrar's Sermons.*

ANOTHER COMFORTER.

"I will give you another Comforter, and he shall abide with you forever."

Who in this life of ours does not often need a comforter? But how few among human beings know enough of the heart to be always a comforter! How many with the best intentions hurt instead of healing? There are sorrows on which the most intimate friend does not lay a hand. But the religion of Jesus promises to each one particular soul a Comforter, a Comforter whose knowledge is perfect, who can make no mistake, who can dwell in the soul, never indifferent or forgetful. Bolts and bars and prison walls cannot shut Him out—the soul that has received Him is nevermore alone. Neither height nor depth, nor things present, nor things to come, can separate that soul from the love of Christ.