

because he had latterly given away *one-fourth* of a great income ! I knew a woman, living on £20 a year ; and when those *pounds* grew fewer, could only give a half-penny in every collection, instead of a former constant *penny* ; and grieved over it to tears. If all the churches represented Christ more perfectly, what a power they would exercise over the world ! till all flesh should see the salvation of our God.

A MANUAL OF DOCTRINE AND CHURCH POLITY.

BY REV. WILLIAM WYE SMITH.

XXXVI. THE ORDINANCES.

1. "Ordinances" are those things which are "ordained," or given by Christ to the Church, to be observed and practised.

2. One of these is public preaching. This has been a chosen means of God, in converting the world, and strengthening the Church.

3. Another ordinance is the public reading of the Word. Christ himself read the Word in the Synagogue.

4. Public Prayer is another ordinance. It needs :—

Thought beforehand.

Knowledge of special wants.

Communion with God.

Good sense as to its fitting length or shortness.

5. Hearing is another ordinance. In all meetings for preaching, reading and prayer, there must be devout hearing. This ordinance is often neglected by—

Absence from church.

Want of attention and lack of reverence.

6. Public Praise is an ordinance of the Church. It belongs to the whole Church.

It should be joined in by the whole Church.

It must never run down into a mere musical performance.

7. Baptism is a solemn ordinance of the Church. It is a public dedication to Christ.

It has Christ's example.

It is commanded by Him.

8. The Lord's Supper is a commemorative ordinance, whereby the believer does, through an outward symbol, spiritually feast with Christ.

It is having fellowship with Christ.

It is fellowship with other Christians.

It is remembering Christ's broken body and shed blood, for us.

It is a likeness and foretaste of heaven.

9. Much harm has been done by accounting that ordinances secure salvation. Nothing saves but faith.

XXXVII. THE POWER OF THE CHURCH.

1. Christ, the Great Head of the Church, left certain powers, privileges and responsibilities with His Church on earth. Whatever the extent of these may be, they all reside in, and belong to, the particular or individual Church.

2. The Church cannot make laws, or settle by its own authority what men are to hold. The laws are in the New Testament ; and the ultimate appeal is to The Word.

3 The Church may make, follow, and amend, all matters of usage and convenience ; always distinguishing between *principles* and *usages*.

4. The same rule exists between two Churches as two private Christians ; one must not rule over or interfere with the other, but each is bound to entreat, advise, exhort and reprove the other in any wrongdoing.

5. The Church, in its assembled membership, has the right to receive, advise, set to work, warn, suspend or expel members.

6. In the same way the Church has the right to choose and ordain its own officers.

7. Every official act of the Church should be done with the consciousness of Christ being present, and with humble waiting upon the Spirit for guidance.

8. Churches should co-operate with each other in all those matters where numbers, financial strength, and deliberate wisdom are needed. Such are often aggressive Christian Work at home, Foreign Missions, Education.

9. Just as in the ancient Church, it could always appeal to the living Apostles ; so by an exact analogy, we can now appeal to the inspired *Apostolic writings*. And beyond these (as beyond the Apostles when alive), there is no appeal.

XXXVIII. MEMBERS.

1. There is no scriptural authority for admitting any persons into membership in the Church, who are not born again. And there is no scrip-