

LECTURE I.

EXPEDIENCY AND BENEFIT OF FORMS OF PRAYER.

Acts ii., 42.—“ And they continued steadfastly in the Apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in PRAYERS.”

IN all the appointments of Almighty God in reference to His visible Church, we find the greatest caution exercised against a common and dangerous infirmity of human nature,—I mean the passion for excitement and novelty, and the changes and confusions which that temper, if unrestrained, must necessarily lead to.

We readily perceive that the Hebrew ritual was framed and directed by some such precaution as this. God’s ancient people were surrounded with idolaters,—with nations who manifested, in their religious belief and worship, the grossest error and impurity; and to protect them against the danger of such pollutions, it was necessary to fence his Church, if we may say so, with the strictest and most inviolable safeguards. Their priesthood, therefore, was established and regulated by Divine