

name of "ritual." May I illustrate? In my student days I was sent out from college to conduct a service in a town parish. One of the Churchwardens warned me beforehand that there were some in that congregation who would watch me very suspiciously, because their former parson had been "a terrible ritualist." The service went ordinarily enough until it came time for the sermon. The pulpit was a high, box-like affair with narrow steps leading into it. Just above these steps there was an oil lamp, and fearing to strike it with my head, I stooped slightly in ascending. This caused me to step on the skirt of my cassock and I took a wild "header" into the pulpit, barking my shins and considerably upsetting my piety. After the service the Churchwarden came into the vestry, laughing immoderately. He said, "You have effectually cooked your hash in this parish." "How so?" I asked. "Well, an old lady in the congregation came to me just now and said, 'I want you to write to the college authorities who sent that young man here and tell them never to send him again, for he is a ritualist of the worst kind. Did you see him actually bow to the pulpit?'"

What is "ritual" after all but the attempt to teach underlying doctrine by outward form and symbol? The ever-recurring seasons of the year, with the varying dress worn by the great "out-of-doors," are a part of the magnificent ritual by which a God of order teaches His animate creatures.