

Prayer Book in accordance with their particular views.

Their influence at court being very great, a commissioner was at last issued to Cranmer, and others associated with him, to prepare a new edition of the Prayer Book, which was issued in 1552.

There were two celebrated men, refugees from the Continent and possessed of great influence owing to their learning and position, whose opinions and views on the reformation were followed to some extent in this revision. These were Bucer and Martyr, the Divinity Professors at Oxford and Cambridge, to whom Cranmer submitted the existing service book for corrections, and who, to some degree, influenced his decisions.

They do not appear to have aimed at condemning the first Prayer Book, but wished to render it more perfect and "fit for the stirring up of all Christian people to the true honouring of Almighty God."

It is to this revision we owe the introductory sentences, exhortations, confession and absolution at morning and evening prayer. In this work, too, the ten commandments and responses were added in the Communion office, and a few other slight and comparatively unimportant were made. In the Burial service the commendatory prayers for the dead were changed into thanksgivings, and the office for the Holy Eucharist was omitted. A declaration concerning kneeling was inserted after the Communion office, and a special rubric forbade the wearing of albe, vestment and cope, the distinctive dress of the officiating priest up to this time.

These were the main changes, some of them undoubtedly adding greatly to the enrichment of the Prayer Book and

valuable in themselves. In our next article we shall refer to the changes made in Queen Elizabeth's reign.

CHURCH HISTORY.

REIGN OF JAMES II.

Q. WHEN did King James II. ascend the throne?

A. In 1685. He was an avowed Romanist, brother of the late King, a crafty and impolitic man. He promised to protect the Church as the bulwark of monarchy and the champion of royal principles, but he broke his solemn promise on every opportunity.

Q. How did he begin his reign?

A. By releasing all who had been imprisoned on account of their refusal to take the oath of supremacy. Owing to this, 1500 Quakers and a large number of Romanists were set at liberty.

Q. What was the real condition of the Dissenters at this time?

A. They disliked the English Church, but they hated Romanism more; so when James II. endeavoured to win them by crafty measures to his standard, many of them accepted the lesser of two evils and joined hands against the King and the Papacy. Bunyan and Baxter were both outspoken in urging a common alliance with the English Church against Papal views.

Q. What had the King done against the law?

A. He ignored the Test Act altogether, and admitted Romanists to civil, military and ecclesiastical offices.

Q. What further high-handed measures were taken?

A. Samuel Parker, an avowed Romanist, was appointed Bishop of Oxford, and others were allowed to retain