

row the comprehensive character of the Church of England, whether such attempts proceed from partisans of High, Low or Broad Church tendencies, are so many attempts to turn the Anglican Church into a sect, and should be strenuously resisted. But it is obvious that such comprehensiveness must be confined within reasonable limits, and especially in its form of expression during the times of Divine Worship when we meet together as the children of one Father for Common Prayer and celebration of His holy Sacraments. Loyalty to the Prayer Book therefore is binding upon every Parish Priest, who represents not himself, but the whole flock of Christ committed to his care and cure.

Every Priest has been ordained, and has been appointed to his pastoral charge, only after having made a most solemn declaration "That in public prayer and administration of the Sacraments" he "will use the form in the book prescribed, and none other, except so far as shall be ordered by lawful authority."

Now I find that in this Diocese great liberties have been taken, and are being taken, with the Prayer Book; and that often the services are so altered and changed that the people are never able to tell what parts of any service on a given day may be selected by their Parish Priest.

Most emphatically, therefore, do I wish to impress upon the Clergy that the welfare of the Church and their own most solemn declaration oblige them to use the services exactly as they are ordered by the Prayer Book, and not otherwise "except so far as shall be ordered by lawful authority."

This contemplated exception reveals the fact that it was foreseen that circumstances might arise when some departure from the normal order of worship, as directed in the Prayer Book, might be necessary and expedient.

The ordinary, or person vested with lawful authority to sanction any change in the services, is not however the individual Parish Priest, but the Bishop of each Diocese, and without his authority no change should be made. In this Diocese it may well be that circumstances are such as to warrant departures from the rules and rubrics of the Church, but in order to safeguard the interests of the laity, as well as to prevent every Parish Priest becoming a law unto himself, I must ask the Clergy to consult me before making, or continuing, any change in their mode of conducting the services which is a departure from the express orders of the Book of Common Prayer.

It should be borne in mind that the English Shortened Services Act, the Canons of the Provincial Synods of Eastern Canada and Rupert's Land, and the authorized changes put forth some few years ago by the Bishops of