THE HISTORY OF AN AMERICAN POCKET PRAYER BOOK.* WRITTEN BY ITSELF.

A new acquaintance.—A candid inquirer after "the old paths."
The Prayer Book passes into other hands.—Prejudices
against the Church resulting from ignorance of her character
and claims.—Episcopal Theologians.—Eloquent tribute of
a Presbyterian Divine to Episcopacy.

ONE morning, when my master was reading in his study, and I was lying on the table before him, a young man of plain but pleasing appearance came in; and after apologizing for the interruption, said, "If Mr. P-was at leisure, he should be glad to have some religious conversation with him." My master immediately shut his book, and returned it to the shelf; saying, with a benevolent smile, that such visits could never be ill-timed to a clergyman, and he should now be very happy to listen to him,

The young man began, with great modesty and some slight embarrassment, by saying that he had been educated a Presbyterian by his parents, who were pious and exemplary members of that denomination; and that, until within a few months, he had never had any knowledge of the Episcopal Church. He had recently married and removed to this village, where he and his wife had attended the worship of the Church a few times; and having met with some small tracts explanatory of her doctrines and worship, he wished to become better acquainted with them; and had therefore called to request Mr. P--- to put him in a way of gaining more information on these

He said he had been baptized in his infancy, and had long felt it his duty to unite with some Church, by receiving the sacrament of the Lord's Supper; but he was not altogether satisfied with that system in which he had been brought up, and therefore, he never could bring his mind cordially to embrace it. He mentioned his parents with great respect, and said he aseribed all his seriousness and piety, under God, to their early parental instruction, and pious example. Of his mother, particularly, he spoke in the most affectionate terms, as having been his best earthly counsellor and friend, in his early days. Since he had been separated from her, he had often occasion to bless God for the pains she took to impress religious maxims on his young heart. He had no doubt, he said, that if the result of his inquiries should be a preference for the Church, and he should be led, from a sense of duty, to unite himself with her communion, it would be a source of grief to his beloved mother; for he had often heard her speak as if she thought there could be no piety among Episcopalians, and that their religion was altogether a religion of forms. He excused his parent for such erroneous opinions, which he admitted he himself had entertained until very lately, by observing that she had always lived in a remote part of the state, far from any congregation of the Episcopal Church, with no means of becoming acquainted with its doctrine or discipline. While he tenderness, and said it would be a matter of regret to him if he should ever be obliged to differ from her in religious sentiments, even in points of comparatively minor importance; but he felt it his duty to search all hazards; because HE who calls himself, emphatically, THE TRUTH, hath said-"He that loveth father or mother more than me, is not worthy of me," (Matt.

My master heard him with great attention; commended him for the course he was pursuing, and above all, for his filial respect and affection; which, he said, were the best evidence of "an honest and good heart," rightly disposed to investigate religious subjects, and suitably prepared for the reception of divine truth.-I myself was so delighted with the appearance and conversation of this young man, that I longed to become better acquainted with him; and it so turned ing such questions as he was pleased to propose, my master gave him several books of instruction, which he recommended to his careful perusal, and then taking me from the table, he presented me to him, begging him to read me attentively, and he would there learn, by the help of those other books, every thing he wished to know concerning the doctrine, the ministry, and the worship of the Church. "After you have studied it sufficiently yourself," said Mr. P-, "you can, if you please, send this Pocket Prayer Book to your good mother; it may be the means of removing some of her prejudices, and give her a more favourable opinion of our Church. Let me see you as often as you can make it convenient to call; and may 'the Spirit of Truth guide you into all

The young man took his leave, thanking the minister for his kindness, and saying he should like to converse with him again in a few days.

That evening, when my new master, Mr. Lreturned home from his labour, he sat down to read me with great attention; and every day, for some weeks, I occupied a great portion of his leisure hours. At night, when the business of the day was done, he always read aloud for an hour or two to his wife, either from my pages, or from some one of the books which Mr. P- had lent him; for, whatever religious opinions he himself might embrace, he felt it important that his family should agree with him.

In a few days he repeated his visit to the worthy Rector, and I fortunately happened to be with him. We found him busy in writing, but he immediately laid aside his pen, and expressed his pleasure at seeing my young master again. Mr. L said he had come to return such of the books as he had read, and to ask the loan of others. "From these," he continued, "I have derived much profitable instruction They have indeed poured in a flood of light upon my darkened understanding. I am utterly astonished at my own ignorance of the Church, and am almost ashamed to confess it. Would you believe it possible, I had thought, until I read those books, that the number of Episcopalians was small, compared with other religious denominations; and I could hardly credit the fact, even when it was demonstrated to me, that they constituted by far the greater part of the whole Christian world; and that all the sects together are but a mere handful, in comparison with those churches which are strictly Episcopal. I also thought that your Church had never produced many men distinguished for learning or piety; but now I see and lament my gross ignorance on this subject; for I find that in the long catalogue of great names of modern times, of those whose works are imperishable monuments of wisdom and piety, by much the greater portion were Episcopal divines; and the English Church, I see, can boast a constellation of theologians, far outshining all their contemporaries. And as to the theological writers in the first fifteen hundred years of the Christian era, there can be no question: if it can be proved, as I think it can, that the universal Church was Episcopal, until the Reformation."

* Reprinted, with a few alterations and adaptations, from an American work.

"You are right," said the good Rector, his countenance brightening up with unusual animation, as he had never been inside of an Episcopal Church-I father's roof-at college the subject was never introfor I knew no other.

"What you say concerning the writings of Episcomost approved theological works-those, I mean, which are in highest estimation among all denominations of Protestant Christians-are generally written None of us, alas! are as devoted in our Master's cause your service is the same thing over and over again; by Episcopalians. See that long range of folios," the productions of Church-of-England men, who applied their mighty intellects to the study and elucidation of the Scriptures; and from their abundant stores lary, like ours, is to bring the primary and essential most modern divines draw their richest supplies, either for the press or the pulpit. Look through the libraries of any of the ministers in this country-no its pages, to be convinced with what admirable beauty matter of what denomination—and take from them all and propriety the compilers of our Liturgy have arthat has been written by Episcopal clergymen and ranged the services for every day in the year. A little laymen, and a meagre catalogue would remain. I do attention to the Lessons, Gospels, and Epstles, for not mean to say that other denominations cannot each day, will show with what judgment they are boast of eminently pious and learned men: for I have selected and suited to the occasion. You vill genemany commentaries, written by their greatest divines, rally find the second Lesson illustrating the irst, and which I value highly, and which I seldom consult the Epistle and Gospel explaining each other; thereby without deriving pleasure and instruction from them. making Scripture its own interpreter. Beginning with The commentaries of Doddridge are among my favou- the Advent of the Messiah, the Church follows our rite works; and so are those of Macknight, and blessed Saviour, step by step, from the cralle to the Campbell, and Dwight; with many others which might | Cross; making 'Jesus Christ, and him crucified,' the be named. But I do say, that all these writers are, corner-stone, the very foundation of the Gospel scheme in comparison to Episcopal theologians, as a single of salvation. First reciting the prophecies which anstar to 'the sun shining in his strength.' This is no nounce his coming, she goes on to show their illfilment vain boasting. It is an indisputable fact, that all the in his birth, miracles, sufferings, death, resurrection, lamented her prejudices, he spoke of them with great clergymen in these United States are indebted, more and ascension; then she proceeds to commemorate the the ear, while the heart remains unaffected. They do or less, to the divines of the English Church. Ought wonderful effusion of the Holy Ghost, on the day of they not, therefore, to disabuse the minds of their Pentecost; and closes her most important festivals by public wants, are daily the same; and that our prayers people, when they hear this Church derided and celebrating the mystery of the adorable Trinity, and and praises should be so too. But you will excuse me for the truth, and, having found it, to embrace it at gations to her burning and shining lights, for much of and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.' that reflected brightness which they themselves are "Another distinguished excellence of our Prayer to see you on some other day." able to display? While they are recommending to Book is, that it excludes from the Church 'all errothe people of their charge the practical works of Law, neous and strange doctrines;' and it preserves those and Beveridge, and Sherlock, and Horne, and Porteus, who use it, from falling into heresy and error. An and Scott, and Newton, and Richmond, and Melville, honest person cannot possibly unite in our services, and Wilberforce, and Hannah More-while they are and yet retain very dangerous opinions; he must either extolling the missionary zeal of a Heber and a Martyn renounce his errors, or lay aside the Liturgy. Here -can they listen patiently and without a word of he learns to pay divine honours to that Saviour, Christ, reproof, to the calumnies which are so plenteously who is 'God over all, blessed for ever.' Here he is lavished on the Episcopal Church? Would it not be continually reminded of man's fallen and helpless state well for them to stop the mouths of these railing | -of his absolute need of a Saviour-the extent and accusers, by reminding them, that their sweeping efficacy of Christ's atonement-the necessity of reslander touches some of the purest spirits that have newing and sanctifying grace—the eternity of future out that my wish was fully gratified. After answer- ever enlightened and blessed the world by their rewards and punishments—the necessity of repentance, labours? Why will they not all say, as one of their of faith, and all holy obedience, to qualify him for that most accomplished scholars and favourite divines has happiness which the Redeemer purchased with his head and heart?—'We remember that it was under him. Here, in short, he is continually reminded of all the Episcopacy that the Church in England took its those truths, 'which a Christian ought to know and firm stand against the Papacy; and that this was its believe to his soul's health.' I could relate many form when Zion rose to light and splendour from the interesting facts, to prove to you the conservative dark night of ages. We remember Cranmer,-Cran- influence of the Prayer Book; but I will mention only mer first, in many respects, among the reformers; that one, which came under my own observation, and which, it was by his steady and unerring hand, that, under I think, will display to you, in a very striking manner, God, the pure Church of the Saviour was conducted the tendency of the Liturgy to preserve, unimpaired, through the agitating and distressing times of Henry | the great doctrines of the Gospel. Two divines, one VIII. We remember that God watched over that a Presbyterian minister, the other an Episcopal clerwonderful man; that he gave this distinguished pre- gyman, having the pastoral care of large congregations, late access to the heart of one of the most capricious, fell about the same time into error, respecting that cruel, inexorable, blood-thirsty, and licentious mo- cardinal doctrine of Christianity, the Divinity of Christ. narchs, that has disgraced the world; that God, for The former continued his ministrations as before, omit-

> else. The world will not soon forget the names of like himself, Socinian in their belief; and still retain Latimer, and Ridley, and Rogers, and Bradford; him as their minister. The Episcopal clergyman purnames associated in the feelings of Christians, with sued the same course, in his sermons from the pulpit; the long list of eminent confessors, of whom the world but the full recognition of this great truth, which he was not worthy; and who did honour to the entire was obliged to make in the services at the desk and ages of mankind, by sealing their attachment to the altar, was such as an ingenuous mind could not endure; Son of God, on the rack, or amid the flames. Nor and he soon felt compelled to resign his charge. He can we forget that we owe to Episcopacy, that which was shortly after displaced from the ministry. Alfills our minds with gratitude and praise, when we though he possessed, in a remarkable degree, the look for examples of consecrated talent, and elegant esteem and affection of his parishioners, for he was a literature, and humble devoted piety. While men man of great purity of character, and goodness of heart, profound reasoning; they will not forget the names of pious, faithful, and sound clergyman, who is now their Barrow, and Taylor, of Tillotson, and Hooker, and pastor; and the congregation is one of the most flou-Butler; -and when they think of humble, pure, sweet, rishing in our country. As respects their first minister, heavenly piety, their minds will recur instinctively to there can be no doubt that he was never a firm bethe name of Leighton. Such names, with a host of liever in the Trinity; for soon after his ordination, he others, do honour to the world. When we think of said to a friend, that his mind was unsettled on that them, we have it not in our hearts to utter one word subject, and that he intended giving it a full investiagainst a Church which has thus done honour to our gation. His friend replied, that he ought to have race, and to our common Christianity.' This is the examined the subject, and fully satisfied his mind, warm, honest, honourable expression, of one of the before he ventured to take upon himself the ordination most distinguished and exemplary divines of the Pres- vows. byterian denomination, that the present age can boast of. Would that these sentiments found a cordial response in the bosoms of all his brethren! But I ought to apologize, perhaps, for detaining you thus long with these views; -I am now ready to listen to

CHAPTER XI.

Doctrines of the Church.—Necessity of a change of heart.— Comprehensiveness of the Prayer Book.—Advantages of Public Formularies .- Calvin's Opinion on this subject .-

Length of the Daily Service. "IT is sometimes confidently asserted," my young master observed, "that Churchmen do not believe in the necessity of a change of heart; and I will thank stop may be put to the giddiness of those who affect you to inform me whether such is the fact respecting novelties.' Now, whatever may be the 'weakness' or any of them; for your sermon last Sunday, on those the 'ignorance' of the minister, in our Church, he has words of David- Create in me a clean heart, O Gon; a pure and rational formulary for his guide; nor do I and renew a right spirit within me,' (Ps. li. 10,) sa- feel at liberty to add to, or abridge, this form. If any tisfied my mind, that your own views of conversion thing must be omitted. I consider it my duty to shorten were truly scriptural.'

"That is an old and oft-refuted calumny," Mr. your former ignorance at all surprise me. Until I was never would be uttered by any person at all acquainted that your opinion?" twenty years of age, I knew as little of the Church as with our standards. The remarks just made to you, you did. I was born of pious Congregational parents, respecting that glorious constellation of divines, who plied, "the shortest prayers would seem too long; but in New England, and was sent, when young, to a for centuries, have been the light and defence, under I should hardly think this objection would be urged Calvinistic college, where I remained utterly ignorant Gon, of the Protestant faith, prove how groundless against our services, by any one who has rightly conof the simplest features of Episcopacy. Indeed, I the charge is with respect to them. But I will go sidered the subject. You have no doubt observed that knew nothing of them until I was graduated, and went | further, and say, that I never knew an Episcopal Cler- | I read very deliberately; and yet the morning service to reside in a town where I had frequent opportunities gyman, and I never heard of one, who did not believe never occupies more than an hour and a quarter, and of attending the services of the Church. Nor can I that man is by nature fallen and corrupt; that his the evening service seldom an hour; including the help looking back with astonishment at my own igno- sinful heart must be changed; that he must be singing, chanting, psalms, and lessons. I say nothing rance; for my opportunities of reading and informa- renewed in the spirit of his mind, and become a new about the sermon, because that is left to the discretion tion were much greater than yours have been. What creature in Christ Jesus, by the operations of divine of the minister; and he may make it longer or shorter, most surprises me is, that I could have studied, while grace, before he can be fitted for the bliss and glories as he sees fit. Here, then, are only two hours and a in college, the great works of Butler and Paley, with- of heaven. Whoever believes in the corruption of hu- quarter employed, in both parts of the day, for offering out once thinking that the 'Analogy of Religion,' man nature—whoever believes, as our ninth Article up our prayers and praises to Almighty God, and for the 'Evidences of Christianity,' the 'Moral Philo- expresses it, that 'man is very far gone from original reading and hearing his Holy Word. And can this sophy,' and 'Natural Theology,' which were the righteousness'-must consequently believe in the ab- be considered too large a portion of that seventh day, text books there, were all written by divines of the solute necessity of a change of heart; because, 'with- which he has set apart and sanctified for that very end? English Church. You may, perhaps, think I must out holiness no man shall see the Lord; and he must It must be borne in mind, that the great object of all have been uncommonly stupid; but the fact was, I be faithless to his ordination vows, who neglects to religious assemblies on the Lord's day, is to worship press this great, this fundamental truth, frequently and GoD; which can be done only by prayer and praise. never heard any thing said about it while under my earnestly upon his hearers,-Ye must be born again.' Hence Gon's house is emphatically styled a 'House of duced-and I knew no more about it than I did about only proper standard of what Churchmen do, or do vices of the Church be justly considered too long and

the Koran. My mind was strongly turned to the mi- not, believe. Without stopping to consider your sin- tedious, to engage our hearts only one day in seven, nistry, while in college; but had I commenced my gle objection, I will confidently ask, what doctrine and that a day, the whole of which was appointed for theological studies then, it would have been with a does the Bible contain, as 'necessary to salvation,' this special purpose?" view of officiating in the Congregational denomination, that is not again and again, clearly and distinctly set "There is much force in what you say," my master forth in our Liturgy? Indeed, I will go further, and observed, "and although, since I began to like your ask, Where is the orthodox Church in Christendom, Liturgy, I have never been wearied with its length, pal divines," he continued, glancing his eye around that gives such prominence to the fundamental doc- yet your remarks will better enable me to answer the his well-furnished library, "is all very just. Our trines of Christianity, as our own? And where will objections of others. But do you not think that a you find a body of clergy more zealous and faithful than constant repetition of the same forms, will in time ours, in explaining and enforcing those doctrines? become irksome? I have heard it complained of, that as we ought to be; but, for fidelity and zeal, we think and it has also been said, that it would be less tedious pointing to the lowest shelf of his library; "those are we shall not suffer in the comparison with ministers of any other denomination.

"One of the greatest advantages of a public formutruths of the Gospel before the people in a regular and connected order. You have only to run your eye over

said, with a frankness which does equal credit to his blood, and to which the Holy Ghost is sent to lead the sake of Cranmer and his Church, conducted Henry, ting, however, both in his prayers and sermons, all as 'by a hook in the nose,' and made him faithful to reference to this subject; and his congregation, accusthe Archbishop of Canterbury, when faithful to none tomed by degrees to the omission, ultimately became, onour elevated Christian feeling; while they revere yet not one of them imitated his defection. Immediound learning; while they render tribute to clear and ately after his resignation, Providence sent them a

"I ought also to mention, as another of the many excellencies of our Liturgy, that it makes the devotions of the congregation entirely independent of the talents. or opinions, or feelings, of their officiating minister.-The great reformer, Calvin, himself saw what an immense advantage this must be; and his words are worthy the consideration of all his admirers: 'As to a form of prayer, and ecclesiastical rites,' he says, 'I highly approve that it should be certain, from which it may not be lawful for any minister to depart; as well in consideration of the weakness and ignorance of some, as that it may more plainly appear how our Churches agree among themselves; and lastly, that a the sermon, not the Liturgy."

"Your remark," said Mr. L-, "about shorten-- replied, "which, so far as my observation ing the Liturgy, reminds me that I have sometimes FIRE AND LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, spoke; "you are right my young friend; nor does goes, has no foundation whatever in truth; and which heard the morning service objected to, as too long; is

"To some persons, undoubtedly," Mr. P-re-"But let me refer you to the Prayer Book; the Prayer.' Keeping this design in view, can the ser-

were there more variety."

"I know this is sometimes said," replied Mr. P-"but only by those who seek novelties. For myself I can say, that so far from the services becoming irksome by frequent repetition, they are continually rendered more and more interesting. Hardly a day passes but I discover some new beauties, which commend them more strongly to my understanding and my heart. Where the imagination only is consulted, I grant you that novelty is desirable; but not so with the affections. That which we most love, we never desire should change: it never becomes wearisome. Can any thing be sweeter to a child's ear than the voice of a mother? Is any object more agreeable to the eye than the countenance of an old friend? Do we not wish to see our parents and friends, whom we dearly love, always the same? And why? Because the heart is interested; these are objects which seize upon the affections. But to gratify the imagination, scenes must be continually changing; and this, I conceive, is the true cause of the objection sometimes brought against the Liturgy, that it is always the same. The objectors seek to gratify not, perhaps, consider that our public mercies, and our scoffed at? Ought they not freely to own their obli- ascribing equal and undivided 'glory to the FATHER, from entering further into this discussion; I have an engagement to fulfil at this hour, and I shall be happy

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THE Subscriber tenders his grateful acknowledgments to his friends and the public for past favours, and would respectfully inform them that in addition to his former Works, he has purchased the above Establishment, formerly owned by the late HANKEY SUBSPARD, and recently by CHAMPION, BROTHERS & Co., where he is now manufactured to the state of the state eventy by CHAMPION, BROTHERS & Co., where he is now manufacturing CAST STEEL AXES of a superior quality. Order to the Factory, or to his Store, 122 King Street, will be thankfully received and promptly executed.

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Toronto, October 6, 1841. OWEN, MILLER & MILLS, Coach Builders, King Street, To ronto, and Store Street, Kingston. All Carriages built to order warranted twelve months. Old Carriages taken in exchange

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OPPOSITE LADY CAMPBELL'S, DUKE STREET.
Toronto, 7th August, 1841. Mr. S. WOOD, SURGEON DENTIST,

CHEWETT'S BUILDINGS, KING STREET. Toronto, February 5, 1842. A. V. BROWN, M.D. SURGEON DENTIST,

KING STREET. ONE DOOR EAST COMMERCIAL BANK. Toronto, December 31, 1841. WANTED. A STUDENT in the profession of Dental Surgery, by
A. V. BROWN, M.D.

Toronto, December 31, 1841. MR. SAXON, Attorney, &c. 179, KING STREET, TORONTO.

March 3, 1842. Mr. HOPPNER MEYER, Miniature Painter and Draughtsman,

LATE STUDENT OF THE British Museum and National Gallery, LONDON. Office at the Corner of Temperance and Yonge Streets, Toronto

HOME DISTRICT GRAMMAR SCHOOL THIS Institution will be re-opened, after the Christmas recession on Monday, the 3rd of January, 1842.

The business of Mrs. Crombie's Seminary will also be resumed of

M. C. CROMBIE, Principal, H. D. G. S. Toronto, 24th December, 1841. ORDERS IN CHANCERY,

REGULATING the Practice in the Court of Chancery H. & W. ROWSELL, Toronto. February 16th, 1842. STATUTES OF CANADA.

COPIES of the Statutes passed in the late Session of the Provincial Parliament, for sale by H. & W. ROWSELL, Toronto.

February 16th, 1842. THE CANADA GAZETTE,

PUBLISHED by Authority at Kingston. Subscription-received by H. & W. ROWSELL, Toronto February 16th, 1842.

The Church Is published for the Managing Commertee, by H. & W. ROW.

No subscription received for less than six months; nor the aper discontinued to any subscriber until arrears are paid, unless at a option of the Publisher. TERMS: -Fifteen Shillings, Currency; or Thirteen Shillings and Six-pence, Sterling, per annum.

ent. AGENTS—THE CLERGY in Canada, and SAMUEL ROWSELL, Esq'7.
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