

be, the secret *why* our service appears dull and uninviting to so many is (beyond all doubt) because the service is so generally performed in defiance of those principles which nature and reason jointly inculcate, and which have been recognised in the most express terms by public authority. For where any thing is done in such a way as to contravene principles founded in nature and reason, it is not in man to take delight in it ; to his nature order, and beauty, and harmony recommend themselves ; whilst on the other hand deformity, confusion, and discord are an abomination to him. Now as in the public worship of God the sound of the voice is an essential element, what must be the effect if no regard is had to the laws which regulate sound ? If a number of persons attempt to speak together without regard to these, discord and confusion must ensue ; the effect of which cannot but be wearisome. The public worship of God therefore ought to be conducted so that the laws which regulate sound be not contravened. On this natural and reasonable proposition is founded the express injunction of Queen Elizabeth as to the way in which the service should be performed, viz., "*We will that there be a modest*