

# **THOUGHTS ON PUBLIC PRAYER**

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Thoughts on Public Prayer by Samuel Miller

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**SAMUEL MILLER**

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THOUGHTS

ON

PUBLIC PRAYER.

BY

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## DEDICATION.

TO THE YOUNGER MINISTERS, AND CANDIDATES FOR THE  
MINISTRY, IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED  
STATES.

BRETHREN BELOVED IN THE LORD:

Many of you have been my pupils, whom I have followed ever since you left the Seminary with which it is my privilege to be connected, with my best wishes, and fervent prayers; and all of you, I doubt not, are willing kindly to receive from an aged servant of the Church, who is soon to "put off this tabernacle," any intimations which he may deem adapted to promote your acceptance and usefulness.

Unless I mistake, I have observed, from time to time, facts in regard to public prayer which satisfied me that there was a call for



special counsel on the subject. It has even occurred to me to doubt whether the well known doctrine of our beloved Church, with regard to Liturgies, may not have been so rigidly interpreted, and so unskillfully applied, as to lead to practical misapprehension and mischief in regard to the devotional part of the service of our sanctuaries.

It will not surprise me if some of the suggestions found in the following pages, especially in the last chapter, should be considered by some as unexpected, if not as questionable in their character. All I can say concerning them is, that they have not been hastily or inconsiderately made, nor without a sacred regard to those great principles which our venerated fathers regarded as precious, and which were exemplified and recommended by the apostolic Church.

If I had known of any work adapted to occupy the ground and fulfil the purpose contemplated in the present volume, I should have forborne to trouble the religious com-

munity with its publication. But as I am not aware that any such work exists, I am impelled to attempt the service here respectfully offered, which I humbly commend to the patronage and blessing of Him who alone can make it useful.

To the *younger* Ministers of our beloved Church, and to the Candidates for the sacred office *alone*, do I venture to present this volume. With regard to the more advanced in life, and the aged, I should be glad, old as I am, to sit at their feet as a learner; and can only beg their candid examination and indulgent estimate of the following attempt to benefit their younger brethren.

I am, my beloved young friends, your affectionate brother in Christian bonds,

SAMUEL MILLER.

Princeton Theological Seminary,  
October 31st, 1848.

