

**INTROITS: OR ANTE-
COMMUNION PSALMS
FOR THE SUNDAYS AND
HOLY-DAYS**

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Intros: or Ante-communion psalms for the Sundays and Holy-Days by John Henry Alexander

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JOHN HENRY ALEXANDER

**INTROITS: OR ANTE-
COMMUNION PSALMS
FOR THE SUNDAYS AND
HOLY-DAYS**

TO

THE RIGHT REVEREND FATHER IN GOD,

THE BISHOP OF MARYLAND.

OFFERS

OF

AFFECTION AND RESPECT.

—— βροτῶν φρένας

Ἰπὲρ τὸν ἀληθῆ λόγον

Διδαιδαλμένοι ψεύδεσι ποικίλοις

Ἐξαπατῶντι μῦθοι.

To the Reader.

IN the First Prayer-book of KING EDWARD THE SIXTH, printed in 1549, are to be found, appropriated to each Sunday and Holy-day in the Year, certain Psalms; to be said or sung, while the Priest was entering the Chancel to perform the Offices preceding the Communion. From the circumstance of their position, they bore the name of **INTROITS**.

The introduction of this portion of Service has the warrant of a very high Antiquity; and it has been preserved in the Roman CHURCH, so far as epoch and source and name (though not so far as individual selections) are concerned, to the present day.

The American CHURCH, too, has recognized in practice, though not in her Liturgy, the use of such

Psalms: only, their determination being left arbitrary with the Minister, they more generally refer to the Sermon which is presently to be preached, than to the Epistle and Gospel which are to be read, or the Lessons for the Day that have been already heard.

The following pages contain metrical Versions, or Paraphrases, of the INTROITS in King EDWARD'S Book, as (with but one exception) they occur there.

Any particulars as to the motives or aim in composition seem to be unnecessary; unless their expression were capable of atoning for the defects in execution, which are fully perceived and felt: they would be any how out of place; since could good intentions compensate for failure, there would be an end of all criticism.

What here follows, then, is given in the simple hope, that it may not be without interest to such as find pleasure in tracing the Scriptural harmonies and adaptations that are observable in the Services of the CHURCH.

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