

**THOUGHTS ON THE SERVICES,
OR, MEDITATIONS BEFORE
WORSHIP: DESIGNED AS AN
INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY,
AND AN AID TO ITS DEVOUT USE**

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Thoughts on the Services, or, Meditations Before Worship: Designed as an Introduction to the Liturgy, and an Aid to Its Devout Use by A. Cleveland Coxé & Leopold J. Bernays

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A. CLEVELAND COXE & LEOPOLD J. BERNAYS

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DESIGNED AS AN INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY,
AND AN AID TO ITS DEVOUT USE.

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RECTOR OF GRACE CH., BALTIMORE.

ADAPTED TO THE USE OF MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
BY REV. LEOPOLD J. BERNAYS, M.A.
LATE FELLOW OF ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, OXFORD.



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EDITOR'S PREFACE.

WHEN this little work was put into my hands, with a request that I would superintend its passage through the press, adapting it, where alteration was needed, to the use of members of our own Church, I was not aware of the considerable difference which existed in the Lessons selected by the two Churches, of America and England, for the various days of public Service. The existence of this difference has not only rendered the revision of the work more laborious, but has made it, to a certain extent, less complete for the use of English Churchmen than it is for those for whom it was originally designed.

The Collect, Epistle, and Gospel, however, are always the same, and as the Lessons of the American Church, when they differ from those selected by our own, are singularly appropriate to the services of the day, I have thought it better, while adding a short statement of what I supposed to be the object of the framers of our Liturgy, to retain the comments of the author on the Lessons appointed in his own Church, thus recommending those chapters for private reading on the Sundays or holidays on which they occur.

With the exception of a few notes, where they appeared desirable, and some few passages in the text, always denoted by brackets [], the work appears very much in its original form.* Although I do not profess to agree with every expression in it, there appears to me to be so much of sound sense and true piety displayed in it, that I have good hope that it will be acceptable to many an English reader.

The author has visited this country, and has recorded his "Impressions of England," and his deep interest in its Church, the mother of his own community, in an interesting work, containing some valuable opinions and suggestions.

L. J. BERNAYS.

Ellice Hill, June 7, 1859.

* Once or twice, where a word was introduced, needlessly (as it seemed to me), suggesting a controversial feeling, I have ventured to strike it out, as being superfluous in a work entirely of devotion. I am sure I shall have the Author's and the Reader's forgiveness for the very slight liberty which I have taken with the text.



P R E F A C E.

THIS book belongs to that humble sort, which only aims to be useful. It is intended to instruct and edify devout persons, who cannot study learned and critical works. The writer's earliest experiences, as a pastor, convinced him that there are many who require such a help to the full enjoyment of our worship. After delivering courses of lectures on the Services to his congregations in St. Ann's, Morristania, and St. John's, Hartford, he published some of his "Notes" in "The Calendar" in 1845. These are now completed, and constitute this book.

While instructing candidates for Orders in Pastoral Theology, in Trinity College, he was led to believe that in addition to the ordinary textbooks on these subjects, something imbued with the *feeling* of each service, might be highly useful to our younger clergy. The lamented Dr. Crowell, of Boston, had previously urged him to supply this want by republishing the "Notes" from the "Calendar," just as they were; adding,

that he had actually made these scraps into a little book, which he found useful even to himself. Thus encouraged, the writer ought not to have been deterred perhaps by his own feelings of dissatisfaction with what he had written: but, after long waiting for time to make it better, he now sends it forth, with very little alteration, to do what good it may, by God's blessing on its insufficiency.

The object is to beget habits of close attention to the Psalms and Lessons, and their bearing on the subjects of each particular service. The young, more especially, need to learn that the Church's arrangement of the Lessons and other portions of Scripture is a commentary of itself, and that *the Word*, thus *fitly spoken*, is indeed "like apples of gold, in pictures of silver." The following hints may be necessary to a full understanding of the plan of this book:—

I. THE LITURGY, strictly speaking, is the Communion Service, with its Collect, Epistle and Gospel. The key-note of all the appointments for any day is therefore found in this part of worship. In this Service also the Decalogue, or Moral Law, is read on every Festival, as part of the Penitential System of the Church; and because it is written—"He that turneth away his ear from hearing *the Law*, even his prayer shall be abomination."

2. **THE DAILY PRAYER** of the Church grew out of the Synagogue worship, which consisted of Psalms and Lessons. These Psalms and Lessons, on Sundays and Holidays, were conformed to the higher solemnities of "the breaking of Bread," for which chiefly the primitive Faithful were gathered together.

3. **THE INTROITS** are the Psalms which are sung before the Communion Service begins. They are commonly sung in *metre*; but in this book the version of the Psalter is cited, as more suited to point out the inspired purpose and meaning.

4. **ANTHEMS** are sung after the third Collect, in the Church of England, by rubric; but, in the American Church, before and after the Sermons, at the discretion of the Minister. Though the places where they are constantly used are comparatively few, they are frequently spoken of in this book, to supply the mind with a thought for the day, to be used as St. Paul suggests, "singing and making melody in your hearts to the LORD."

The Clergy, by giving emphasis to the characteristic portions of the Lessons and Gospels, often preach **CHRIST** most powerfully, even when there is no Sermon. But, nothing can make up for the lack of a genuine relish in the people's hearts, for each "portion of meat in its season."

The writer has avoided a dry and technical manner of arranging his comments, believing that a more uniform method of treating the services