

**THE LITURGY OF JOHN
KNOX: RECEIVED
BY THE CHURCH OF
SCOTLAND IN 1564**

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The liturgy of John Knox: received by the Church of Scotland in 1564 by John Knox

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GLASGOW

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1886

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EDITORIAL NOTE.

THERE are few Scotchmen who, being impressed with a sense of regard for the religious history of their country, can fail to look with considerable interest on the series of Confessions, Orders, and Forms which commonly go under the designation of *John Knox's Liturgy*, but more officially termed the *Book of Common Order*, printed in part before 1564, and formally adopted by the Assembly of the Church of Scotland in that year. These formularies were in more or less general use down to the time of the Solemn League and Covenant, when they were superseded by the Confession, Catechism, and Directions, prepared by the Westminster Assembly. Numerous editions of *Knox's Liturgy* continued to be printed, chiefly at Edinburgh and Aberdeen, till 1643. All of which though, strange to say, are exceeding scarce, and a complete copy of any of the editions very rarely to be met with.

In more recent times, three editions have been

issued—one of these in 1831, edited by the Rev. Edward Irving; another in 1840, edited by the Rev. Dr. Cumming, of London; and a third in 1868, edited by the Rev. George W. Sprott and the Rev. Thomas Leishman. These issues, now all exceedingly scarce also, have (unfortunately, as some would think) been modernized in matters of spelling and other features, thus taking from the book much of that quaintness which in the estimation of many ought to be an inherent feature in the work. In the present issue the old spelling and phraseology, as in the 1565 edition, is strictly adhered to, and it likewise contains all that characterizes the best of the older editions.

When in use, the Liturgy was commonly issued along with the Psalms, but in other instances the Liturgy and Psalms were issued separately. This early translation of the Psalms is peculiarly quaint, interesting, and expressive, and differs widely from the more modern one. It was in use down to 1650, when the somewhat recent translation was adopted. This early version will, it is intended, be issued shortly, as a companion volume to, and uniform with, the present one.

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JOHN KNOX

