

A Book of Mr - Common Prayer.

That write, ~~and first life's ascension~~, not
as young as I once was nor as old
as I hope to be. Since my youth I have
been what is termed in the language of
Protestant ecclesiasticism, "an accepta-
ble member" of an orthodox church.
This is not a matter of judgment
or inference, on my part. I have the
word of some half dozen pastors who
have from time to time, certified me
to others as such.

The pages which follow are ~~the~~ the fruit
of many Sabbath day's labor. They have
been written prayerfully, tearfully, with
the brain-sweat of earnest conviction
and the blood-sweat of insupportable
grief. They are published anonymously
both because I do not care to have them

effect upon the minds of those who may
read endorsed or diminished by a
knowledge of their authorship and also
because I do not care to ~~be the recipient~~^{for mine}
~~of~~ my notoriety or for any censure
that such personal might awaken. It is
curious, what ~~of influence~~ ^{circumstances} ~~we are~~
we are. A bishop's word concerning Christian
duty is much more cordially received than
a cobbler's though it may well be that the
cobbler's be much the truer, better consid-
ered and better expressed. So too, what a Bishop
might say with impunity, ^{would} a cobbler
braving down upon a cobbler's head the
wrath of the Church and, possibly the up-
braiding of all his neighbors.

I have endeavored to live at peace with
all men, though I will confess that I have
sometimes found it needful to engage in

contribution to secure the peace & comfort,
I may say however, that I am not a minister
nor a reformer. I state this merely that
it may be understood, that I have no contri-
bution with regard to the faith ^{once delivered to the}
saints; nor any specific ^{method} remedy for the cure
of human ills. In fact, I suppose, the chief sin
of which I will be accused when these pages
see the light, is that I incline to the belief that
we have already too many methods. It is
^{no reason} any ~~more~~, the Kingdom of God will never come
on earth through the application of any par-
ticular method, or the prevalence of any
specific theory, or the perfection of any or-
ganization. In my view, the Church, whatever
its form or character, is in its true function,
merely an instrument for the promotion of
the common purpose of those who constitute
it. That purpose may be a selfish and unworthy
one or a high and noble one;—it may be

the mean desire to secure eternal salvation or
immunity from peril or punishment, or an
earnest desire to "do the will of the Father"; - to
secure for ~~the~~ oneself the delights of Paradise or
to cause "the Kingdom of God to prevail on earth."
~~will of God "to be done on earth.~~
Kingdom of God to come and this will
to be done on earth."

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