

JOHN KNOX AND THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER: A SHORT NOTE

W. D. Maxwell, in his classic edition of John Knox's *Forme of Prayers*,¹ observes: "An important source also of the *FP* 1556 was the *Book of Common Prayer*, 1552".² This is surprising in view of his earlier comments: "It is indeed difficult to conceive of Knox even in his mildest moods speaking or writing of the *BCP* without prejudice. . . . There is no evidence that Knox ever regarded the *BCP* with any warmth of kindness."³ But Maxwell rightly points out that the Exhortation in The Order of the Lord's Supper "is founded almost word for word on the *BCP*, 1552",⁴ and the same is true of the Exhortation in the Marriage Service, which also includes a number of short phrases derived from the *BCP*.⁵ The purpose of this note is to add to the list of such borrowings. The parallels below are confined to evident use of *BCP* material; there are also many brief echoes which are too insubstantial or insufficiently exact to be included (e.g., "our bonden-dutie"⁶). The numbers in brackets below refer to the pages in Maxwell and in volume II of F. E. Brightman, *The English Rite*. Quotations from the *BCP* are in italics.

The Sunday Morning Service

trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold mercies (First Confession, 86).

trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies (Holy Communion, Prayer of Humble Access, 691).

thou art only the selfsame God, that ever showeth mercy (ibid. 87).

thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy (ibid., 691).

A Prayer for the whole Estate of Christ's Church (88).

Let us pray for the whole estate of Christ's Church (686: 1549 only!).

seeing that our infirmity is able to do nothing, without thy help . . . a careful keeping of all thy commandments (89).

because the weakness of our mortal nature can do no good thing without thee, grant us the help of thy grace, that in keeping of thy commandments . . . (Collect for Trinity I, 463).

by thy holy Apostle we be taught to make our prayers and supplications for all men (89).

by thy holy apostle hast taught us to make prayers and supplications and to give thanks for all men (663).

that all Pastors, shepherds, and ministers . . . may both in their life and doctrine (90).

to all bishops, pastors, and curates . . . that they may both in their life and doctrine (663).

the hearts of rulers are in thy hands, we beseech thee to direct and govern the hearts of all kings, Princes, and Magistrates (90).

the hearts of kings are in thy rule and governance (Second Collect for the King, 647); *we beseech thee to direct, sanctify, and govern both our hearts and bodies* (Second Collect after the Offertory, 711); *all Christian Kings, Princes, and Governors* (665: 1552 only).

that thy religion may be purely maintained (90).

to the maintenance of God's true religion (665).

we be all members of the mystical body of Christ Jesu (90).

we be very members incorporate in thy mystical body (Prayer of Thanksgiving, 708).

The Order of Baptism

made us his children by adoption and received us into the fellowship of his church (95).

to receive him for his own child by adoption and to incorporate him into thy holy congregation (745: 1552 only).

the father . . . shall rehearse the articles of his faith (109).

Rehearse the articles of thy belief (Catechism: 781).

into the number of thy children (110).

in the number of thy faithful and elect children (791).

NOTES

1. *The Liturgical Portions of the Genevan Service Book* (1931, reprinted 1965).
2. p. 75.
3. p. 12 n. 15.
4. p. 129 n. 3.
5. p. 150 n. 3. See also pp. 151 n. 5; 152 n. 7; 153 n. 9; 154 nn. 10, 11; 155 n. 13; 159 nn. 19, 20.
6. p. 90, line 28.

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