

ent results. It may be said, without fear of contradiction, that there is no part of the service of the sanctuary more capable of being moulded to any thing that an intelligent and pious heart can desire, or of having stamped upon it a richness and variety; a solemnity, and tenderness; a force of appeal, and a melting pathos which scarcely any other mode of presenting the great principles of intercourse between God and the redeemed soul are capable of having conferred upon them.

The ministers and members of the Presbyterian Church have reason to be thankful that they belong to a body, which is not restrained by any secular power from making such improvements in their system of worship as the word of God, and more ample experience may dictate; and that they are not tied down by ecclesiastical authority to the rigorous use of forms, which some may find a painful burden to conscience. Whatever is most agreeable to the word of God, and most edifying to the body of Christ, we are, happily, at full liberty to introduce, and progressively to modify. Happy will it be for us if we

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shall be wise enough to make a constant and faithful improvement of this privilege!

If the following pages shall be made by the great Head of the Church, in the least degree to promote an increased attention to this part of the service of the sanctuary; to correct, in a single individual, that negligence which has too often obscured the excellence of public prayer; and especially if they shall stimulate any of those who may peruse them, to aim at that elevated character with which the devotions of the sanctuary ought to be, and might be invested, the writer will deem himself richly rewarded for his labour.

Miller, Samuel. *Thoughts on Public Prayer*. Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication, 1849.