



### THE PROBLEM OF PRAYER.

By Rev. H. A. Harrington.  
"Pray without ceasing."—I. Thess. 5-17.

To many it is an open question whether it is worth while or even possible to pray at all, and therefore out of the question entirely to pray continually. Paul's injunction appears even to those who believe in prayer applicable only to the monk and the recluse. Even if it were possible to obey the command in the ordinary sense it is doubtful whether the world would be any better if life were one perpetual prayer meeting.

It is not strange that many have swung away from the practice of formal prayer when the older conception of its meaning is contrasted with the modern conception of life. Once prayer meant the sealing of the eyes and the ears to the scenes and the sounds of this life that one might gaze upon and hold communion with those of another world. It meant, too, almost exclusively the act of ardently petitioning heaven for the things that one could not and often would not get for himself. But life to-day dare not shut its eyes; it counts it a sin to ignore this world of need and sin even for the sake of the bliss of a world where these things are not.

Then, men ask, if prayer is no more than a getting of goods from God without labor or compensation, in what way does it differ from begging? In what way is the man who says "Heaven owes me a living" any better than the one who says "The world owes me a living"? The product of such prayer is pauperization. The logical end of that theory is savagery; all the inducements to toil as well as the restraints of life would be gone; one might ask for calamities on others as well as for blessings on oneself.

But practically all the difficulties of prayer arise from the limitation of its meaning to a petition. They come from the point of view that thinks only of answers, of goods sent in response to prayer orders. The man who says I will work for my bread instead of begging heaven for it may be still a man of prayer. His work may be the noblest prayer, while his heart may go out to God in gratitude for strength and opportunity to labor. Work is prayer, love is prayer, gratitude is prayer, education is prayer. The world needs more men and women who pray with their hands of helpfulness, their feet that speed on errands of kindness, their eyes that look out in good cheer, their ears that listen in sympathy.

Prayer is an attitude rather than an act. It must be without ceasing. It is like love, not an act nor a series of acts, but a relationship. It is as much more than words as love is greater than its deeds. Formal prayers are to prayer itself as the letters of a friend are to the love of that friend. The love goes on without ceasing; the prayer, the aspiration, the longing after the presence of, the knowledge of, the love of God goes on without ceasing.

Prayer is an atmosphere, a habit, a second and higher nature. It is a life that in itself is one long unbroken petition for his likeness and his life. It will find expression in words, but it will not be limited to them. It is the child living with his father; such a life will involve the making of requests and the granting of them, but such things will be only incidental, not essential, to its communion. Living with such a father we shall tell him all our needs, desires, fears, but shall we hide from him our joys, hopes, and aspirations? We shall want him to see our work, to rejoice with us in it. Prayer will not be reciprocal.

The prayer that is no more than petition for provision must be as painful to God as it would be to us who are parents if our children never addressed us save to beg for their meals and their clothes. On the other hand, the life of prayer that found no expression in words, that made no requests and looked for no tangible gifts, would be as strange as if our children were dumb and we were powerless to love them in deed as well as in feeling. The life of prayer is the realization of the perfect relations of the All Father with all his children.

### UNITY vs. UNIFORMITY.

By Rev. William E. Barton.  
God hates uniformity, but loves unity. He makes no two apple blossoms alike, yet the underlying structural ideal is so true that should a freak of nature or device of man make the blossoms blue instead of pink they should be recognizable in certain per-

manent details as belonging to the great family whose finest representatives are the apple and the rose—both of one family. The attempt to make Christian life uniform either by means of creed or ritual is doomed to fail; but the unity of the spirit is characteristic of all true life that belongs to God.

### THE CHILDHOOD OF CHRIST.

By Rev. T. Vincent Tynms, D. D.  
Text—"And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon him."—Luke 11:40.

By humbling Himself to wear the likeness of men the Son of God became a Brother to the whole race of mankind, but, at the same time, He entered into special family relations. By His birth of Mary, He became not only a son of man, but a member of the family of Abraham, a scion of the royal house of David, and a near kinsman of all Mary's kindred. The gospels say little of the feelings with which He was regarded by these relatives, but some facts are recorded which are highly significant and worthy of far more attention than has usually been bestowed upon them by the Christian church.

The verse before us contains in outline the story of twelve years: "And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him." Apocryphal histories of the infancy are full of marvelous tales; but none of these is trustworthy. Our information concerning the earlier years may be summed up in the statement that, after the wise men returned to their unknown country in the East, Jesus was carried into Egypt, and presently was brought back and placed in one of the most beautiful and retired villages of Palestine. In Nazareth He grew up in quietude as a healthy, happy child; dwelling in the home which His heavenly Father had chosen for Him, as the most suitable of all the homes then existent on the earth.

Artists have painted a golden light round the head of the Holy Child, as if a radiance were emitted from His body. The device we may accept as a symbol of the truth that "the grace of God was upon Him," or, in other words, that the beauty of God was seen shining through His daily deeds. The true aureola is one which no painter's brush can show on canvas; and in childhood this light shines most lustroly in the beauty of a loving and obedient spirit. He who in the zenith of His manhood said, "I am meek and lowly in heart," was adorned with this same grace in His earliest years. He would gladly listen while Joseph and Mary kept the law of Moses by talking to Him, in the house and by the wayside of all the works of God in the olden time. Like every other child in Nazareth, He would attend the common school; and just as men and women are comforted and strengthened to bear the heavy burdens of maturity, so boys and girls may have their tasks lightened and their recreations hallowed by remembering Him, who is now the Lord of Glory, but was once subject to the discipline which they are tempted to resent, and is able, as a sympathizing friend, to have compassion upon them and to help them in every time of trouble or sorrow.

It may be said, and said with perfect truth, that we can never be like Jesus in all things. We have already sinned much and grievously, and yet, thank God, we are taught that this fact will not prevent our rising to a heavenly throne at last. Sin may, and evidently must, disqualify for such functions and honors as are joyfully ascribed to Christ, but it cannot hinder the reception of His grace. God will not remember the sins of childhood against those whom He pardons in the name of His Son. Yet surely the holiness of Christ should teach us what a deadly and bitter thing sin is, even in the youngest child. The stains of evil may be washed away; the recording angel may blot out the record from the book of remembrance; but every wrong action will be a source of weakness in after life. Would to God that the Holy Child Jesus might be taken as a pattern by all the little ones who hear of Him to-day! May the grace of God be upon all who hear me now! May all who humbly strive to copy Him become more like Him day by day! May they, while striving faithfully, ever put their trust in Him and in the transforming power of His Spirit! So shall they attain at last to His perfect likeness, and He will write upon them His new name.

### SHORT METER SERMONS.

Sloth makes slaves.

The prodigal are never liberal.

Hungry men ask few questions.

Wait for your worries; but not for your work.



### Insects Fatal to Corn.

As millions of dollars are lost annually through insects injurious to corn, a better knowledge of the subject seems almost imperative. It would pay to devote careful study to the habits of corn insects, and to those who wish to do so it is suggested that they write to the State Agricultural College of Illinois at Urbana for a free copy of Bulletin No. 95, which contains a full description of all the insects in question and many valuable suggestions.

In discussing the effects of insects and the general remedies that may be applied, the bulletin says:

"With few exceptions, the effects of injury to corn by insects where they do not amount to a total destruction of the plant may be compared to the effects of simple starvation. Anything which lessens the store of food laid up in the corn kernel for use in germination and early growth, or damages seriously the roots or the leaves, or draws away the sap before it has served its purpose in the plant, practically amounts to the diminution of the available food supply. An impoverished soil, very dry weather, the capping of cells and vessels of the plant by sucking insects, or destruction of any considerable part of its roots have consequences which may be classed as starvation effects.

"In view of these facts, it follows that any management which helps to maintain and strengthen the plant by furnishing it better or more abundant food will lessen or perhaps wholly prevent losses from insect injury, which must otherwise be serious or complete. A strong, rich soil, well cultivated, watered and drained, may grow a good crop notwithstanding an amount of infestation by chinch bugs, root lice, root worms and white grubs which would be fatal on poor land.

"The good corn farmer may thus escape with a profitable yield under insect attacks which will leave his less intelligent or less careful brother in debt after his crop is harvested. This is not merely because the vigorous plant will easily support an amount of injury under which the unthrifty



THE CORN WORM.

Light and dark individuals, pupa, moth and egg, with injured ear of corn.

one will suffer or succumb. It is an established fact that many insects themselves will not thrive as well or multiply as rapidly on a vigorous, quickly growing plant as on one in feeble condition.

"More special measures are a proper rotation of crops, such that corn will not be exposed to insects which have bred on the same ground the preceding year, either in other crops or in the corn itself; timely plowing to forestall the breeding of insects by destroying them or their food; timely planting with reference to the period of the greatest abundance or greatest activity of certain species; and the use of barriers against the movement of certain destructive species into the corn from fields adjacent, combined with insecticide measures against hordes of destructive insects, which if left to themselves will work great and immediate harm."

### Poultry Pickings.

Never give sulphur to poultry on a rainy day.

Put chicks on a cracked wheat diet when three weeks old.

Old ducks never get lice. The oily nature of their feathering prevents this.

For scaly legs in fowls an ointment made of sulphur and coal oil is good.

Each breed possesses some characteristic dominant trait in which it excels.

Cut clover is an indispensable article of diet. All kinds of vegetables fill a place in the hen's dieting, but they can hardly be said to be a substitute for cut clover.

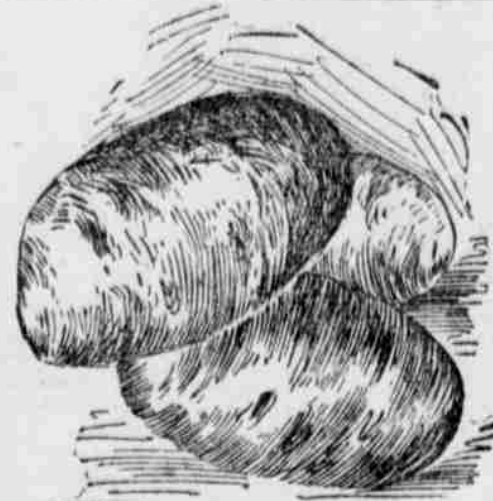
Disinfect the poultry house and runs with a 5 per cent solution of carbolic acid, and repeat this disinfection at least once a week in case of roop.

Keep the poultry houses clean, have ample ventilation, but freedom from drafts of air, and arrange the house so that the sun will shine into it a portion of the day.

If some birds have been to a show, or if new birds have been purchased for the flock, quarantine them at a distance from the home flock for thirty days before they are allowed to go together.

### A New Variety of Potato.

The claims made for the Early Northern potato are beauty and uniformity in form, size and great productiveness, and in the tests made during the last two years in all sections of the country the claims seem to have been borne out. The quality is unusually good for an early sort, the tubers thus far have been free



EARLY NORTHERN POTATO.

from scab and have matured nearer of a size than any other sort we have tested. In the matter of productiveness the new sort is first-class. The writer had ten pounds of seed for testing purposes, and on an average potato ground had a yield of 325 pounds, and all salable in size. From our tests we consider the variety one that has come to stay and one which will especially appeal to market gardeners. The illustration, much reduced, shows the form of the tubers.—Indianapolis News.

### Commercial Fertilizers.

There is probably more quibbling over fertilizer prices than anything else that a farmer buys. Unquestionably the cheapest way of buying fertilizers is to buy the several materials and do the mixing on the barn floor, but assuming this is not done, then one should make it a point to see that they buy the fertilizer which will give them the greatest amount of the plant food they want in the smallest bulk, which means, of course, at the lowest price. For example, if a ton of the fertilizer, according to the analysis, contains 6 per cent of potash (or any other plant food may be figured on the same basis), this means 120 pounds of potash to the ton.

If another fertilizer contains 12 per cent, or 240 pounds to the ton, the latter is cheaper than the first by exactly the number of cents it costs less than double the first. Reducing it to pounds, if one costs 5 cents a pound and the other 9, the last is the cheapest, if you get it at the rate a pound for the bulk. If you want potash, and pay \$20 for a ton of fertilizer containing 120 pounds of potash, it is cheaper to pay \$38 for a ton of fertilizer containing 240 pounds of potash.

The same plan of figuring works through all the fertilizer bought, so that it is easy to see that a fertilizer cheap in price is not always cheap when results are figured out. The mere matter of bulk has nothing to do with the case. It might as well be sawdust if it does not contain the elements you want and at fair prices.

### Whitewash the Stable.

Stables are now whitewashed quicker and much more effectively with spray pumps than with a brush, and whitewash is, of course, the cheapest disinfectant known, says Hoard's Dairyman. A bushel of unslacked lime will make thirty gallons of whitewash. The lime should be used before it is air slacked. It should be thoroughly slacked with water, used while fresh, and if a spray is used, strained through a fine wire screen or cloth.

### Keep Young Animals Growing.

All young animals to be profitable should be kept growing from their birth until matured, as it takes a certain amount of food to sustain life, and when an animal is kept in a condition in which it is making no gain all of that feed it consumes in that condition is lost. It is the amount of food consumed over and above what it takes to sustain life that is to the owner a clear profit.

### Stock Relish Bromo Grass.

It has been found at the Kansas Experiment Station that stock relish bromo grass. It starts early in the spring, coming on nearly a month earlier than the ordinary pasture grasses. It is also a good pasture in the late fall. It can withstand a good deal of dry weather, and when cut for hay is greatly relished by both horses and cattle.

Remember that work well done is the highest testimonial of character you can receive.



### Mock Turtle Soup.

Stew a shank of veal weighing five to six pounds in a large earthen jar, with two cow heels, two onions (suck with one clove each, one bunch of herbs, three blades of mace, a few peppercorns, a little salt and a glass of sherry, for about six hours in four quarts of water. Allow this to cool in the jar, and when quite cold remove the fat from the top, strain the soup, cut the meat into small squares, and put all back except the onions and herbs into a stewpan, with about eighteen small forcement balls and the juice of a lemon. If liked, a little mushroom catsup may be added.

### Stewed Beef Kidney.

Cut some nice fresh beef kidney into small slices, avoiding the white part or root, which is tough and indigestible; then put one-quarter pound of butter into a stewpan upon the fire, and, when very hot, but not brown, put in the pieces of kidney, stirring them round with a wooden spoon three minutes over a brisk fire; then add, for each half-pound of kidney, half a tablespoonful of flour, a saltspoonful of salt, and pepper to taste; stir in a gill of water; let simmer for five minutes and serve.

### Nice Supper Dish.

Three hard-boiled eggs, one tablespoonful of cream, one dessertspoonful of Worcester sauce, one dessertspoonful of vinegar, one dessertspoonful of anchovy sauce, salt and pepper to taste, six slices beetroot. Cut the eggs carefully in half; pound the yolks, add the cream. Mix all the other ingredients together and fill the half-cups of eggs. Place each on a slice of beetroot and garnish with curled leaves of lettuce or endive.

### Canned Peas.

Shell the peas and lay in cold salted water for fifteen minutes. Drain and put on the fire in salted water and boil until tender, but not broken. Drain carefully, returning the liquid to the fire. Pack the peas in heated fruit jars, being sure that the tops and rubbers are in good condition. Bring the liquid to a hard boil, fill the cans to overflowing with this and seal immediately. String beans can be put up in the same way.

### Prune Pudding.

Take one-half pound beef suet, one pound stale bread, two tablespoonfuls of flour, one-half pound best prunes, one-quarter pound sugar, three eggs. Chop the suet very fine and crumble the bread; also chop the prunes; mix all the dry ingredients well together; then add the eggs well beaten, and, if necessary, one gill of milk. Boil in a buttered mold for three hours; serve hot with sweet sauce.

### Graham Gems.

Heat a pint of milk until warm, but not hot. Pour it gradually upon three unbeaten eggs, whipping this hard as you do so. Now beat in a tablespoonful of melted butter and a teaspoonful of sugar and add gradually a cup and a half of graham flour. Beat hard for five minutes. Turn into heated gem pans and bake in a very hot oven. Serve as soon as baked.

### Rice and Strawberry Mold.

Boil three ounces of rice in a pint of milk with a little sugar and flavor with vanilla essence. When the rice is cooked add the yolk of one egg, well beaten, a few strawberries, and pour into a fancy mold. When cold turn out and garnish with strawberries. Falling fresh fruit, strawberry jam provides a satisfactory substitute.

### Cheese Cake.

Rub a pint of cottage cheese to a paste with three tablespoonfuls of cream and two teaspoonfuls of melted butter. Now stir in gradually four beaten eggs, three-quarters of a cup of sugar and the grated rind and juice of a large lemon. Pour into an open crust and bake.

### Lemon Wafers.

Cream one cupful of butter with two cupfuls of granulated sugar. Add three eggs beaten light and stir in enough lemon juice to favor delicately. Add sufficient flour to make a dough that can be rolled out. Roll as thin as possible, cut into rounds and bake.

### Chocolate Cake Filling.

Grate a half-cake of vanilla chocolate and wet it to a paste with three tablespoonfuls of milk, beat in an egg that has been whipped light with a cup of powdered sugar and boil, stirring steadily, until thick. Flavor with vanilla to taste.

### To Remove Labels.

When it is difficult to remove a label from a bottle soak it very thoroughly in water, then hold it for a minute over the gas flame, and the steam thus generated will loosen the label so that it can be stripped off without any further trouble.