

PRAYER.

Editor of The Conservative:

In reply to A Worn Out Superstition by Mrs. E. E. Evans, I wish to say that praying is neither worn out nor is it superstition. That the people who believe in the efficacy of prayer make mistakes, through ignorance, is true, and that they fail to some extent is also apparent. Christian people, through want of understanding of the word of God, and consequently of the will of God, make mistakes. Compared with the success of the business of the world, the children of God have not made a great success of their work. The fault is with the workmen, but not with the means nor the work itself. A man will not succeed in serving the Lord unless he knows how to do his work. That there is cause for criticism among those who are ignorant of the word of God, no intelligent man will deny. If the men who claim to be servants of God would reform their ways and let their light shine before men, they would present an array of facts which would silence all gainsayers. If the prayer formulas were all burned, except the one in Matthew which Jesus taught, the world would be better off. The Lord never made a prayer book nor printed a bill of fare in reference to our daily bread. God intends that every man shall do his own praying and that he shall ask for what he needs and for what he ought to have. That men fail very frequently in praying is certain, and for well known causes. "Ye ask and ye receive not because ye ask amiss; ye ask and ye receive not, because ye wish to consume it on your lusts." Very few people know how to pray. They pray to the Lord or to the Holy Spirit (and call him Ghost) instead of praying to the Father in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they dictate to Him regardless of whether it is according to the things of God.

In regard to praying for the recovery of McKinley, I am sure that many utterances, kindly expressed, were misdirected. The same was true of Garfield. While feeling deeply the loss and laying the matter before the Lord, I did not ask for the restoration of either, and felt that praying was in vain.

Yet, while many petitions fail, the history of the world is full of instances where prayer has been answered. George Mueller established an Orphanage, sustained it for years by contributions which he obtained from the Lord by private petitions. Two young girls here in Denver established a Rescue Home for poor and fallen girls and sustained it by money and provisions sent in answer to prayer. I visited them and learned

that many times when the fuel and food were all gone they would retire to the prayer room (they called it "Power House") and tell the Lord what they needed, and in a few minutes some one or more would come in with what they asked for. A book could be written of a thousand pages containing items like these, and find as many truthful witnesses as the book has pages. After the destruction of the Maine, the people were determined to force McKinley into a declaration of war. He knew what the people did not know, that Dewey's fleet was not supplied with ammunition, and a declaration of war would result in disaster. He retired to his closet and plead with the Lord to restrain the people until he could send supplies. If you remember, the Lord had quite a job on his hands, but He held the fierce passions of men until the supply ship arrived at Hong Kong, and with it the message to strike the Spanish fleet wherever you find it. Many instances of this kind are given of Lincoln. You have all seen the picture of Washington at Valley Forge, praying.

Abraham prayed that Ishmael might live before him. Well, Ishmael is there yet, in the wandering Arab. Solomon prayed that the Jews might be restored to Canaan. There is now in Denver a lady representing the Zionist movement for the restoring of the Jews to that land. The Bible says they are going back, and the signs say they are getting ready. After speaking of returning to their land and enumerating the blessings in addition, the Lord says, "yet for all these things will I be inquired of by the house of Israel to do it for them." In short, it will come in answer to prayer.

I might name a man who has made a business of asking the Lord for the understanding of prophecy, who saw the wonderful future of Egypt before he heard of the plans of England to throw the Nile waters over the whole land. He can also tell you the future of the Euphrates valley, where the great city will be built; the change of physical features, where the eastern commerce will center; the people who will build the city. I do not think that infidels know that a railroad has been projected from Constantinople to the Persian Gulf, running through the fertile valley—showing that the Scriptures will be fulfilled. Only the parts which events now show are presented, however, for the consideration of the sceptic.

The influence of prayer is the history of civilization. Jesus taught His disciples to pray, "Thy Kingdom come" and also we are taught in Psalms to "ask of Me and I will give thee the heathen for thine inheritance

and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possessions." Well, they have been asking it and "things are coming our way." We do not reckon time by Olympiads, nor the founding of Rome nor the Hegira of Mohammed. Anno Domini has banished all these modes of reckoning, and the whole world submits to this Christian order. Rather suggestive, is it not, that when Hume, Voltaire, etc., dated their tirades against Christ, they were compelled to say "in the year of our Lord Jesus Christ"? It must be humiliating to an atheist to be compelled to go to schools organized by praying men, and be compelled to listen to the professors pray. Not one school has infidelity ever established, nor institution for the benefit of the race, not even Girard College. The opponents of prayer and the Bible and Christianity seem to be compelled to resort to superstition (as they call it) in order to get names for children. Hume went back through 3,000 years of fog to find David. Elizabeth runs back 1900 years and finds the mother of John and cousin of Mary, the mother of Jesus, both praying women. From Abel to the last priest, prophet and king and the last apostle, the world has found names for its children. Both men and women of prayer have millions of namesakes because they are worthy. The Antis as Cain, Atrithophel, Pharaoh, Herod and Judas Iscariot are left alone. How many namesakes have Hume, Tyndal, Bolingbroke, Porphyry or any of the great infidels? How many children will be named for Wilkes Booth, Guiteau, Leon Czolgosz, for Lucy Parsons or Emma Goldman? They all opposed prayer, practiced anarchy and all were opposed to the marriage relation. They "sink into the waves with bubbling groan, without a grave, unknelled, uncoffined and unknown."

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SCHOOLS.

Editor The Conservative:

It has been on my mind to make a few suggestions about schools, but after seeing your article entitled The School Trust, it appears you only need encouraging.

You are on the right road and will probably "get there." I want you to say that it is wrong to use the public money to give training to a small proportion of the people, in lines that nine-tenths cannot or will not use. Why give help to those who would learn professions and not to those who learn trades? Would you not have a higher education? One would say: Would you not have builders, blacksmiths, farmers, merchants, carpenters, tanners? I answer: Certainly