

mode of relief from our present embarrassments."

3. The community at large are profoundly interested in this matter. They should agitate it; rouse public sentiment; form leagues everywhere, as they have in New England, in which

all denominations are heartily united petition Congress; offer special prayer. No time is to be lost. The peril is imminent. In striking down the family, you destroy the "foundations;" and the State and the Church must fall with it.

### HINTS AT THE MEANING OF TEXTS.

"It is not always best, I think, to have the frame of a sermon like the frame of a Swiss cottage—all shown on the outside."—R. S. STORRS, D.D.

#### Funeral Service.

##### PRAYER IN DEATH.

*Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.*—Acts vii: 59.

A CHRISTIAN should die praying. Other men die in a way fitting their lives. The ruling passion of life is strong in death. Julius Cæsar died adjusting his robes, that he might fall gracefully; Augustus died in a compliment to Livia, his wife; Tiberius in dissimulations; Vespasian in jest. The infidel, Hume, died with pitiful jokes about Charon and his boat; Rousseau with boasting; Voltaire with mingled imprecations and supplications; Paine with shrieks of agonizing remorse; multitudes die with sullenness, others with blasphemies faltering on their tongues. But the Christian should die praying. For

"Prayer is the Christian's vital breath,  
The Christian's native air;  
His watch-word at the gate of death,  
He enters heaven with prayer."

"Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" This is the prayer of faith, commending the immortal spirit to the covenant care of Jesus.

#### THE CERTAINTY AND PROXIMITY OF THE LIFE BEYOND?

*To-day shalt thou be with Me in paradise.*  
Luke xxiii: 43.

1. *To-day.* No long period of sleep in the grave. No intermediate state. The transition direct and immediate.

2. *Heaven a place,* as well as a blissful state. "To-day shalt thou be with Me in paradise." "With Me"—not in the grave, not in the spirit world simply, or in a sinless state, but with Me in the world of glory. A place so near that it could be entered that day. "I go to

prepare a place for you," said Christ to His sorrowing disciples, "that where I am there ye may be also." "In my Father's house are many mansions." It is a precious thought that we can locate our friends, who have died in the Lord; think of them as actually in heaven, before the throne, and in fellowship with angels and the spirits of the just made perfect.

3. *The ground of this faith.* (1.) We have Christ's own words, "To-day," etc. (2.) Christ knew whereof He affirmed. He came down from heaven and knew all about the spirit world. He knew also His power over death and the grave. At His word Lazarus came forth from the grave, and the widow's son of Nain, while on the way to burial, was restored to his mother. "I am the resurrection and the life!" He proclaimed as a cardinal doctrine of His teaching. We can implicitly trust His teachings, and they illumine the Christian's death chamber and the grave with celestial radiance.

#### Revival Service.

##### REVIVALS AND SINGING.

*I will praise Thee with my whole heart.*  
Ps. cxxxviii: 1.

COTTON MATHER says: "It is remarkable that when the kingdom of God has been making any new appearance, a mighty zeal for the singing of psalms has attended it and assisted it." During the great awakening in this country in the last century, the people so abounded in the singing of praises to God that President Edwards felt there was need of guarding and restraining influences. Hence he wrote some cautions concerning this subject, and discussed the pro-