

some idea of the inestimable worth of the Sacred Volume, the minister read aloud the 15th chapter of St. Luke, containing the parable of the Prodigal Son. It produced an immediate effect; tears were seen to flow down the cheeks of some of them. Shortly afterwards they were transferred to the prisons of Pau, whither the New Testaments followed them. The minister having occasion to visit that town, was not unmindful of the poor prisoners. The young soldier, mentioned at the commencement, was no longer the same person: though stretched on a bed of pain, he enjoyed unruffled peace, in the perception of that Divine grace of which he has become so striking a monument. A copy of the New Testament is always to be seen on his bolster; and in its pages he finds daily consolation for his soul, and an encouragement to persevere in the faith. At a distance from all that men account dear in this world—from his country, his family, and friends—deprived of liberty, and sentenced to be conducted in chains to Rochefort, he is, nevertheless, happy.”

A little boy had often amused himself by looking over the pictures of a large Bible; and his mother one day said to him, ‘John, do you know the use of the Bible?’ He said, ‘No mother.’ ‘Then, John, be sure you ask your father,’ was the advice his mother gave him. Soon afterwards, when his father came home, John ran up to him, and said, ‘I should like to know, father, what is the use of the Bible?’ His father said, ‘I’ll tell you another time, John.’ The boy appeared disappointed, and walked away, wondering why his father did not answer the question directly.

A few days after, the father took his son to a house where was a woman very ill in bed, and began to talk to the poor afflicted woman, who said she had suffered a great

deal of pain, but hoped that she was resigned to the will of God. ‘Do you think,’ said the father, ‘that God does right to permit you to feel so much pain.’ ‘Oh yes,’ answered the woman; ‘for God is my heavenly Father, who loves me, and I am sure that one who loves me so much, would not permit me to suffer as I do, if it were not for my good.’ He then said, ‘How is it that you find your sufferings do you good?’ She replied, ‘My sufferings are good for my soul, they make me more humble, more patient; they make me pray more, and I am sure all this is good for me.’ John had been very attentive at this conversation, and the tears stood in his eyes while the afflicted woman was talking. His father looked at him, and then said to the woman, ‘My good woman, can you tell me what is the use of the Bible?’ In an instant, John cast his eyes towards the woman, while his face showed that he was extremely eager to hear her answer. The woman with a stronger voice than before, said, ‘Oh, sir, the Bible has been my comfort in my affliction.’ ‘There, John,’ said his father, ‘now you know the use of the Bible; it can give us comfort when we most need it.’

#### THE EFFICACY OF PRAYER.

A lady in New York, who had openly avowed infidel principles, was brought to the verge of the grave. Although she and her husband had professed their attachment to deistical abominations, they had yet been accustomed to attend upon the ministry of that faithful, eloquent, and zealous servant of God, the Rev. Dr. Mason. In the prospect of death she sent for the Doctor, and, upon his arrival, she declared she never felt herself to be a sinner, nor believed in the doctrine of mediation. “Then,” said the doctor, “I have no consolation for you, not one word of comfort. There