

is admirable. How many high-flowing, pompous words are used in prayer by those who will break off short, and then repeat the plain, expressive, modest language of the Savior. Reader, notice the contrast. There is a deal of sin committed in many eloquent prayers! How many seek for eloquent language, in which to submit their petitions to the Lord. They would not dare to speak in such a manner, presenting a petition to Sir John Harvey!

We have some excellent essays on prayer laying by us, which we shall give to our readers soon. They are written by an able hand—and will be worth a careful perusal.

EDITOR.

DEVOTIONAL—A SOLILOQUY BEFORE PRAYER.

BY A. CAMPBELL.

“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will hear my prayer.” Now about to fall upon my knees before my Heavenly Father, does it not become me to examine how I feel disposed to all his children? If I forgive not from the heart every brother that has trespassed against me, my Heavenly Father has said by his Son that he will not forgive me. Ought I not, then, to search my heart diligently how it stands affected to all the holy brethren, and towards all mankind? Am I at variance with one of my Father’s children, for whom he has as much affection as for me? If so, is it enough that I am satisfied that I am in the right and that he is in the wrong; that he is the aggressor and I the aggrieved? Say not, O my soul, that it is enough? Thou must feel for him as for an erring brother! thou must carry up his case to thy Heavenly Father, and plead with him that thy brother may feel that he has erred, and be converted to God and thee. Thou must not only speak for him, but thou must *feel* for him, or thy Father cannot feel for thee.

But does it seem doubtful whether thou mayst not have been the occasion of the estrangement of his affections from thee, and consequently of his aggression against thee? then be humbled, O my soul; expiate thy own fault; extirpate the bitter root of this discord: for if thou do it not, how canst thou speak to God for thy brother! The errors of thy heart, thy secret wanderings from the way of peace, he will set before the brightness of his face, and thou shalt be ashamed before him.

But hast thou abundant evidence that he has treated thee unkindly, wantonly, most ungratefully—then remember thy numerous faults, thy own base ingratitude to thy Heavenly Father; how often thou hast feasted upon his bounty, and been satisfied with his goodness, and yet the incense of thy gratitude ascended not to the heavens: nay, thou hast abused his favors upon thy lusts, and forgotten his mercies. Remember these thy wanderings; then resentment against thy offending brother will not agitate thy bosom; neither wilt thou meditate evil against him, but thou wilt plead with God to lead him to repentance, that he may be reconciled to his brother and forgiven his transgressions. And is there, O my soul, on the face of all the earth, one of thy