

November 30th.

SECRET PRAYER.—Matt. vi 5-15.

In this lesson we are taught not only the place but the form of personal prayer. We are not to imitate the prayers of the heathen, who love to pray in prominent places that they may be seen of men. (See "Good News" for 1862, page 322, for illustration of the conduct of the heathen.)

In contradistinction to this, we are to retire to a secret place, where no human eye can see us, and there "alone with God" spread out our case before Him. Observe our Lord assumes that his disciples pray. It is natural to pray. The general practice of the heathen proves it. But man requires to be taught by the Spirit of God to pray to Christ. Observe further, our Lord assumes that we have a place to pray. It is sometimes difficult to find a place where we can be sufficiently retired for worshiping God, yet where there is a will there is a way. A sailor engaged in whale fishing spoke to his mother on his return from the voyage, of the enjoyment he experienced in communing with God away far upon the deep. She exclaimed, "and where could you, John, amidst the bustle of ship-board find a place to pray?"

"I used to retire to the *must-head*. There I had communion with my God."

We are not to use vain repetitions. Repetitions are not forbidden. Our Lord prayed thrice; Matt. xxvi. Paul sought the Lord thrice; 2. Cor. xii. 8. Eminent saints have been so full of desire for one thing that they could not but ask the same thing; but the repetitions of the heathens are vain, inasmuch as they expect to be heard by their much speaking.

The form of prayer is well known. Almost every one, young and old in lands where the Bible is circulated, can repeat it.

We cannot better illustrate this part of the lesson than by publishing the following, which we found in the form of a tract.

OUR FATHER. Isa. 63: 16.

1. By right of creation. Mal. 2. 10.
2. By bountiful provision. Psal. 145: 16.
3. By gracious adoption. Eph. 1: 5.

WHO ART IN HEAVEN. 1 Kings, 8: 43.

1. The throne of thy glory. Isa. 66: 1.
2. The portion of thy children. 1 Pet. 1. 4.
3. The temple of thy angels. Isa. 6: 1.

HALLOWED BE THY NAME. Psal. 115: 1.

1. By the thoughts of our hearts. Psal. 86: 11.
2. By the words of our lips. Psal. 51. 15.
3. By the work of our hands. 1 Cor. 10: 31.

THY KINGDOM COME. Psal. 110: 2.

1. Of providence to defend us. Psal. 17: 8.
2. Of grace to refine us. 1 Thess. 5: 23.
3. Of glory to crown us. Col. 3: 4.

THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN. Acts 21: 14.

1. Toward us, without resistance. 1 Sam. 3: 18.
2. By us, without compulsion. Psal. 119: 36.
3. Universally, without exception. Luke 1: 6.
4. Eternally, without declension. Psal. 119: 92.

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD.

1. Of necessity for our bodies. Prov. 20: 1.
2. Of eternal life for our souls. John 6: 34.

AND FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES. Psal. 35: 11.

1. Against the command of thy law. 1 John 3: 4.
2. Against the grace of the gospel. 1 Tim. 1: 6.

AS WE FORGIVE THEM THAT TRESPASS AGAINST US. Matt. 6: 15.

1. By defaming our characters. Matt. 5: 11.
2. By embezzling our property. Philemon 18.
3. By abusing our persons. Acts 7: 60.

AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL. Matt. 26: 41.

1. Of overwhelming afflictions. Psal. 130: 1.
2. Of worldly enticements. 1 John, 2: 15.
3. Of Satan's devices. 1 Tim. 3: 7.
4. Of error's seduction. 1 Tim. 6: 10.
6. Of sinful affections. Rom. 1: 26.

FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, THE POWER, AND THE GLORY, FOR EVER. Jude 25.

1. Thy kingdom governs all. Psal. 103: 19.
2. Thy power subdues all. Phil. 3. 20: 21.
3. Thy glory is above all. Psal. 148: 13.

AMEN. Eph. 1: 11.

1. As it is in thy purposes. Isa. 14: 27.
2. So it is in thy promises. 2 Cor. 1: 20.
3. So be it in our prayers. Rev. 22: 20.
4. So it shall be to thy praise. Rev. 19: 4.

AN ARAB HEARING THE LORD'S PRAYER

I remember, on one occasion, travelling in this country with a companion who had possessed some knowledge of medicine; we had arrived at a door, near which we were about to pitch our tent, when a crowd of Arabs surrounded us, cursing and swearing at the "rebellers against God."—My friend, who spoke a little Arabic, turned round to an elderly person, whose garb bespoke him a priest, and said, "who taught you that we were disbelievers? Hear my daily prayer