

more mechanical, and this not through any fault of the teachers, but simply because they themselves are often forced into the position of being merely parts of a huge machine. And to suppose that a Government Department can beneficially control so difficult a work as that of university education is ludicrous in the extreme to those who have had any experience of Government Departments and higher education. First, let the people of Ontario insist that Toronto University shall be free from the domination of a Minister who owes his position simply to the fact that his political party is in the ascendant, in other words, let it be understood that the higher education of the province shall be entirely free from the contaminating influence of party politics, and then it will be time to re-open the question of federation. In the meanwhile let Trinity keep on its course, which has been so beneficial to the Church in Ontario, maintaining the high standard of individual teaching and of examination for which it is justly famed, and it will continue to be in the future, as it has been in the past, the training ground of some of the very best clergymen and laymen in our Church.

#### ANSWERS TO PRAYER.

By Canon Knox Little, M.A.

Prayer is a comprehensive word, and includes, in fact, all communion between the soul and God. It is, however, commonly used to mean the asking for benefits from God. Christians believe that prayer is a power, that it does act in the fulfilment of God's purposes, and that the results of prayer are real results not only in the spiritual but also in the physical world. This is no mere matter of opinion, it is part of the Christian faith. For better, for worse, however difficult the doctrine may appear, the Church is committed to it. As in the case of other difficult doctrines, such as the resurrection of the body, for instance, she, so to speak, "stakes her reputation" on loyalty to this truth. The power of prayer is, of course, a mystery, i.e., a truth, but a truth partly concealed, partly plain. To deal with it, therefore, in a mathematical temper rather than a moral temper is absurd, if not wrong. Mathematical demonstration cannot be given for moral truth, and is, in fact, out of court. The bent of mind formed by constant scientific research—good as it is in its own province—sometimes unfits men for moral and theological research. In this way the "difficulties of prayer" are often exaggerated. 1. It is said God knows already, why tell Him? The same objection would apply to many a request on earth. 2. It is said God foresees, why try to influence what He knows is sure to be? This objection applies to all our actions; to follow out this we should not only not pray, but also never do anything. We are in face of a mystery. A little humility and obedience to revelation helps us out. It has been truly said that when a practical and a speculative truth are in apparent collision, we must remember our ignorance of a good many things, and act, with the knowledge which is given us, on the practical truth. Prayer, we may remember, is not to change the holy counsels of the Eternal, but to accomplish those ends for which it is an appointed instrument. Anyhow, this is certain, the abundant promises to faithful and persevering prayer are kept, and—where God sees it to be good for us—they are kept to the letter. The following are examples which come within the knowledge of the writer of this paper:

1. A family consisting of a number of children had been brought up by parents who

had very "free" ideas as to the Divine revelation and teaching of the Church. The children, varying in age from seven or eight to one or two and twenty years, had, one way or another, been aroused to the teaching of Scripture, and desired to be baptized. The father, point blank refused to permit it. The older members of the family consulted a clergyman. He felt strongly the force of the Fifth Commandment, and advised them not to act in haste, to realize that difficulties do frequently arise from conflicting duties, and above all to pray. The clergyman asked a number of devout Christians to make the matter a subject of prayer. They did. In about three weeks the father called upon this very clergyman and asked him to baptize his children. The clergyman expressed astonishment, believing that he was opposed to it. The father answered that that was true, but he had changed his mind. He could not say precisely why, but he thought his children ought to be baptized. They were, and he, by his own wish, was present and most devout at the administration of the Sacrament of Baptism.

2. A few days ago, a clergyman in London had been invited to visit a friend for one night in the country, in order to meet an old friend whom he had not seen for a long time. It was bitter winter weather, and he decided not to go. Walking in his parish in the afternoon, he believed that a voice three times urged him to go. He hurriedly changed his arrangements and went. The snow was tremendously deep, and the house of his friend was reached with difficulty at some miles from the railway station. In the course of the night the clergyman was aroused from sleep by the butler, who begged him to go and visit a groom in the service of the family, who was ill and "like to die." Crossing a field path with difficulty, as the snow was very deep, they reached the poor man's house. He had been in agony of mind, and longed to see a clergyman. When it was found impossible to fetch the nearest clergyman, owing to the impassable state of the roads, he had prayed earnestly that one might be sent to him. The poor fellow died in the clergyman's arms in the early morning, much comforted, and in great peace.

3. A strangely similar case happened more recently. An American gentleman travelling in Europe was taken suddenly and seriously ill in one of our northern towns. The day before this happened, a clergyman, who was at a distance in the country, was seized with a sudden and unaccountable desire to visit this very town. He had no idea why, but prayed for guidance in the matter, and finally felt convinced that he must go. Having stayed the night there, he was about to return home, rather inclined to think himself a very foolish person, when the waiter in the hotel brought him an American lady's card, and said that the lady wished to see him. He was the only English clergyman of whom she and her husband had any knowledge. They had happened to hear him preach in America. She had no idea where he lived, but when her husband was taken ill she and her daughter had prayed that he might be sent to them. On enquiry, strange to say, he was found to be in the hotel, and was able to render some assistance to the poor sufferer, who died in a few hours, and to his surviving and mourning relatives.

4. A still more striking instance, perhaps, is as follows: Some years ago, in London, a clergyman had succeeded, with the help of some friends, in opening a "home" in the suburbs to meet some special mission needs. It was necessary to support it by charity. For some time all went well. The home at last, however, became even more necessary, and more filled with inmates, whilst subscriptions did not increase, but rather slackened. The lady in charge wrote to the clergyman as to her needs, and especially drew his attention to the fact that £40 was required immediately to meet the pressing demand of a tradesman. The

clergyman himself was excessively poor, and he knew not to whom to turn in the emergency. He at once went and spent an hour in prayer. He then left his house and walked slowly along the streets, thinking with himself how he should act. Passing up Regent street, a carriage drew up in front of Madam Elise's shop just as he was passing. Out of the carriage stepped a handsomely dressed lady. "Mr. So-and-So, I think," she said when she saw him. "Yes, madame," he answered, raising his hat. She drew an envelope from her pocket and handed it to him, saying: "You have many calls upon your charity, you will know what to do with that." The envelope contained a Bank of England note for £50. The whole thing happened in a much shorter time than it can be related; he passed on up the street, she passed into the shop. Who she was he did not know, and never since has he learnt. The threatening creditor was paid. The home received further help, and did its work well.

5. Another example is of a different kind. A person of real earnestness in religious questions, and one who gave time and strength for advancing the Kingdom of God, some years ago became restless and unsatisfied in spiritual matters, failing to enjoy peaceful communion with God, and generally upset and uneasy. The advice of a good clergyman was asked, and after many conversations on the subject, he urged steady, earnest prayer for light, and agreed himself to make the matter a subject of prayer. Within a fortnight, after an earnest midday prayer, it was declared by this troubled soul that it had been clearly borne in upon the mind that the Sacrament of Baptism had never been received. Enquiry was made, and after much careful investigation, it was found that, while every other member of a large family had been baptized, in this case the sacrament had been neglected owing to the death of the mother, and the child being committed to the care of a somewhat prejudiced relative. The person in question was forthwith baptized, and immediately there was peace and calmness of mind and a sense of quiet communion with God. Instances of this kind might be multiplied, but these are, perhaps, sufficient. "In everything," says the Apostle, "with prayer, and supplication, and thanksgiving (the Eucharist) let your requests be made known to God." "Cast all your care upon Him, for He careth for you." The power of the "prayer of faith" is astonishing in its efficacy, if souls will only put forth that power. I am able to guarantee, from personal knowledge, the truth and accuracy of the above instances.

#### THE MISSION FIELD.

The whole Church should accept the duty of telling the old, old story. Each of us is his brother's keeper. Every hearer should become a herald.

The Rev. G. F. Fitch, the superintendent of the Mission Press at Shanghai, writes: The demand for books of a scientific and educational character is increasing by leaps and bounds.

Once more that beloved man of God, Canon Christopher, of Oxford, has given his annual missionary breakfast to about three hundred persons, members of the university, local clergy and citizens of the town. As the claims of Uganda had been put before the guests last year by Mr. Pilkington and others, this year the Punjab was prominent. Rev. T. R. Wade, who has for 30 years wrought in this field, made the address. This annual gathering has been, and is one of the greatest occasions at Oxford, and shows what one man can do to further missions who is engrossed by the care of a large home parish, but studiously endeavours to fan the flame of a holy enthusiasm for God's work.

At the last annual meeting of the Church