

perfect state is not reached in the Rest of Paradise ; there is room, yea, there is need for prayer for those who have passed into the Intermediate Life.

On several occasions in our Book of Common Prayer we remember the departed in our prayers. Let me remind you of these occasions.

(a) We remember them when we commit their mortal remains to the grave :

We pray Almighty God, "That it may please Thee, of Thy gracious goodness, shortly to accomplish the number of Thine elect, and to hasten Thy kingdom, that we, with all those that are departed in the true faith of Thy Holy Name, may have our perfect consummation and bliss, both in body and soul, in Thy eternal and everlasting glory."

(b) We remember them, even when we "pray for the whole state of Christ's Church militant here on earth."

In the first Prayer-Book of our Reformed Church, (A. D. 1549) that prayer was offered for the whole of Christ's Church : and the commemoration of the saints departed was followed by this commendation and prayer : "We commend unto Thy mercy, O Lord, all other Thy servants which are departed from us, with the sign of faith, and now do rest in the sleep of peace ; grant unto them, we beseech Thee, Thy Mercy and everlasting peace, and that at the day of the general resurrection, we and all they which be of the Mystical Body of Thy Son may altogether be set on His right hand, and hear that His most joyful voice, Come unto Me, &c.—"

Let me remind you that in the judgment of the Revisors of our Prayer Book in A. D. 1662, "That Book, as it stood before established by law, doth not contain in it anything contrary to the Word of God, or to sound doctrine, or which a godly man may not with a good conscience use and submit unto." (See Preface to the P. B.)

The unfortunate limiting words "Militant here on earth" were added in the Prayer Book of A. D. 1552, owing to the influence of some of the Continental Reformers. The words "here on earth" are happily omitted in the American Prayer Book.

But even now our prayer for the Church militant closes not without a distinct remembrance of the faithful departed in these words : "We also bless Thy Holy Name, O Lord, for all Thy servants departed